

# Durban Adaptation Charter

## Steering Committee

Quarterly Newsletter – November 2014 to January 2015

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### *DAC News and Updates*

#### **Implementing the DAC Regional Hub partnerships**

- ✚ The first DAC East African Regional Workshop was held in Kinondoni Municipality, Dar es Salaam in mid-November 2014. This three day event, opened by the His Excellency Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete President of the United Republic of Tanzania, was organised and run by a partnership between the DAC, Kinondoni Municipality, the Association of Local Authorities Tanzania (ALAT), the CityLinks Programme of the International City County Management Association (ICMA), ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and was funded by USAID. This was accompanied by a two-day training workshop for Tanzanian coastal engineers on coastal processes, management and sea level rise. This workshop was presented by Dr Andrew Mather from eThekweni Municipality and was an outcome of the two learning exchanges that were completed between Dar es Salaam and Durban earlier in 2014. The engineer training used a case study approach to explore the negative impacts of the sea wall on beach replenishment at Kunduchi Beach in Kinondoni Municipality.

The Regional Workshop was attended by Mayors and City Managers from 149 Local Authorities from ALAT and focused on capacity building, partnership development and understanding ALAT members' climate change challenges and adaptation needs. In his opening address, Dr Kikwete instructed all local authorities in Tanzania to sign the DAC and to make provision in their budgets for its implementation. The Mayors duly responded by developing a resolution for each authority to form climate change committees, and for these to organise into compacts. The level of political support that the DAC received in Tanzania, and the energy displayed by the Local Government Authority leaders in developing the resolution to form compacts, shows the success of the regional hub/compact model of implementation for the DAC. In a parallel session, the city managers became the first signatories to begin reporting their adaptation efforts in the new carbon registry.

- ✚ The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 20th Conference of the Parties (COP20) took place in Lima, Peru, from the 1st - 12th December 2014. Councillor Loganathan Naidoo, eThekweni Municipality Speaker, represented Mayor James Nxumalo at the event. He was accompanied by DAC Secretariat members Dr Sean O'Donoghue and Ms Penny Price from the Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department (EPCPD) of eThekweni Municipality, who attended as part of the ICLEI delegation. Their presence and activities as part of ICLEI's 'Lima Dialogues - Raising Global Level Ambition through Local Climate Action' programme provided an opportunity to continue to grow the implementation of the DAC, particularly in this case in the Latin American context. Highlights of these engagements included Dr O'Donoghue presenting on the DAC at the High Level Event hosted by Lima Mayor, Councillor Susanna Villaran, at the Lima City Hall, where the new adaptation reporting component of the carbon Climate Registry was launched. The DAC has played a key role in the development of the adaptation page of this reporting template and already has signatories reporting into it.

Councillor Naidoo represented Durban as a panellist at the Global Environment Facility 'Sustainable Cities and Global Environment' event at which they launched their new \$100-million integrated program on sustainable cities. Another successful outcome of the DAC attendance at COP20 was the announcement by the Bogotá representative, Ms Margarita Pacheco, of the development of the partnership between the Latin American Climate Roadmap and the DAC. This represented a significant move towards the establishment of the DAC in Latin America through partnership and existing networks, and confirms Bogotá as a regional powerhouse of adaptation.

- ✚ The city of Bangkok, Thailand will host the first Asian-based ICLEI Resilient Cities Congress from the 9th to the 15th February 2015. ICLEI Vice-President, DAC leader and Durban Mayor, Councillor James Nxumalo will be represented by Dr O'Donoghue of the EPCPD who will be attending. This will provide an opportunity to showcase the work of the DAC as well as develop a partnership dialogue with the Asian Cities Climate Change Response Network (ACCCRN) for collaboration on adaptation and the extension of the DAC into South East Asia.
- ✚ The premier platform for networking, knowledge exchange and capacity building around climate change action in Africa is ICLEI's Local Climate Solutions for Africa Congress. This Congress is held every two years, with the previous congress being held in Dar es Salaam in 2013. EThekweni Municipality has secured funding to host the next congress, which will be combined with the first DAC Southern Africa Regional Hub Workshop. This combined event, whilst promoting knowledge exchange, capacity development and collaboration, will be primarily focussed on understanding members' climate change challenges and adaptation needs in order to contribute towards post-COP 21 implementation effort.

### Local Compacts

- ✚ Following the last Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact (CKZNCCC) meeting which was held in October 2014, a survey has been conducted of CKZNCCC members to source information on how / if becoming involved in the Compact has influenced climate change implementation in their municipalities. This information will be reported at the next Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact (CKZNCCC) meeting, which will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2015 in the KwaDukuza Local Municipality.
- ✚ The commitment of the ALAT local authorities to organise into compacts akin to the South East Florida Regional Climate Change Compact shows that this form of sub-national organisation through partnerships addresses the need to increase the voice and adaptation capacity of compact members.

### Communicating the DAC

- ✚ A Request for Quotations for the services of a provider to redevelop the DAC website and maintain it for a three year period has been sent out by the EPCPD. The purpose of the DAC website is to act as an information portal on climate change adaptation for local government and to promote participation in the Durban Adaptation Charter. The website should perform two main functions:
  - Provide a system through which cities can sign the Durban Adaptation Charter.
  - Be an information portal covering two categories of information:
    - Information on the DAC itself such as a list of signatory cities, articles on DAC events, DAC reports etc.
    - Information relevant to climate change adaptation by local governments. Examples of types of information include case studies in adaptation, other climate change adaptation events, and climate change adaptation funding or training opportunities.

- ✦ The need to promote and profile the DAC was recognised early, and the Charter has been widely publicised through a number of publications, presentations at international symposia, website articles and direct communication with signatories in order to communicate the achievements of the DAC. The eThekweni Municipality DAC Secretariat has successfully produced a DAC Annual Report for the year 2013 that encompassed all the progress of the DAC thus far. There is now a need to produce the DAC Annual Report for the year 2014, and work has begun on compiling this report, which is expected to be finalised by the end February 2015.

### **DAC Meetings: November / December 2014**

Below is a summary of DAC-related engagements that have taken place in the months of November to January.

- ✦ DAC East African Regional Workshop in Dar es Salaam in November 2014.
- ✦ COP20 in Lima, Peru. Dr Debra Roberts, Dr Sean O'Donoghue and Ms Penny Price of the EPCPD participated in this event held in Lima in December 2014.
- ✦ Teleconferences: Numerous teleconferences were held with Steering Committee members and other relevant stakeholders around planning for both the East African Regional Workshop and the DAC participation at COP20 in Lima.

### **Upcoming meetings and significant events**

Planning for DAC representation at the following events is proceeding:

- ✦ ICLEI Resilient Cities Congress 2015, Bangkok, Thailand from the 9th to the 15th February 2015. The fourth Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact meeting in KwaDukuza Municipality on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015.
- ✦ ICLEI World Congress 2015 in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 8th-12th April 2015.
- ✦ ICLEI Regional Executive Committee Meeting 2015 to be hosted in Durban this year.
- ✦ LOCS 2015, to be hosted in Durban in the second half of this year.

### **DAC Reporting:**

The new adaptation reporting page for the carbonn registry was presented at the DAC East African Regional Workshop (see above). There were 49 Local Government Authorities (LGA's) of Tanzania who became the first DAC signatories to begin reporting on the adaptation page of ICLEI's revised carbonn Climate Registry (cCR), which was subsequently launched during COP20, in Lima, Peru.

### **DAC Steering Committee Constituency and Participation**

Steering Committee members are encouraged to provide the DAC secretariat with updates of any DAC-related activities they have conducted in the period since the last meeting.

**END**



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