

Durban Adaptation Charter

Quarterly Newsletter – April 2015 to June 2015



The Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC) commits local governments to local climate action that will assist their communities to respond to and cope with climate change risks thereby reducing vulnerability. This DAC quarterly newsletter provides an overview of DAC activities during the April to June 2015 period.

PROFILING THE DAC AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Operationalising the DAC and growing the signatory base through developing and strengthening the partnerships that characterise the implementation of the DAC is a focus of the DAC Secretariat. Participation in international events where the DAC can be profiled has been an important component of realising this focus. Below are report backs from the events which the DAC has participated in during the last quarter:

Report back from the ICLEI World Congress in April 2015

DAC representatives, eThekweni Municipality Mayor, James Nxumalo and Deputy Head of Environmental Planning and Climate Protection, Dr Debra Roberts attended the ICLEI World Congress held from the 8th - 12th April, 2015 in Seoul, Republic of Korea together with over 2,500 delegates from 249 local governments around the world. Both Mayor Nxumalo and Dr Roberts are members of ICLEI's Global Executive Committee (GEXCOM). Mayor Nxumalo holds the Resilient City's Portfolio and is the Africa representative on the committee, whilst Dr Roberts serves as a special advisor to the GEXCOM on the Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC). A GEXCOM meeting was held on the 10th of April where a draft work programme for the DAC was presented. The following decisions were made at this meeting regarding the DAC:

- A timetable and plan for the transition of the DAC Secretariat from eThekweni Municipality to the ICLEI Africa office will be developed. An initial report is due in December 2015.
- A Terms of Reference for the DAC Steering Committee will be developed by June 2015.
- Funding sources will be sought for the DAC during and after the transition to ICLEI.
- A work programme will be developed to align the DAC with ICLEI's existing adaptation work programmes by December 2015.

During the meeting, GEXCOM also agreed to a proposal to initiate a global action reporting platform for biodiversity aligned with the carbon Climate Registry: a City Biodiversity Register. The Congress resulted in the approval of the Seoul Declaration, a document that outlines a path for global urban sustainability, as well as the Compact of the Mayors, a coalition of mayors that have agreed to prepare their cities for climate change impacts. Local governments were also given the opportunity to commit to the Charter which resulted in three new signatory cities: the city of Rajkot in India and Indonesian cities Balikpapan and Tarakan committing to local climate change adaptation and mitigation action.

Report back from ICLEI Resilient Cities Congress in Bonn in June 2015

DAC representatives recently participated in the 6th edition of the ICLEI Resilient Cities Congress series which took place from the 8th – 10th June 2015 in Bonn, Germany. This is an annual global urban resilience and climate change adaptation meeting for local governments where the DAC is significantly profiled. The DAC representatives participated in a number of panel discussions and plenary sessions during the Congress, these included:

- A panel discussion on city partnerships that was co-hosted by the International Cities/Counties Management Association's (ICMA) City Links Programme with GIZ;
- A panel discussion with the Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN) on establishing climate knowledge networks and;
- A panel discussion on participatory governance. The DAC 'network of networks' approach was presented during the city partnership-focused session using the examples of the Regional Hub partnerships between Fort Lauderdale, Dar es Salaam and Durban, the city exchanges that occurred within the CityLinks Programme and the resulting emergence of climate compacts. One of the key outcomes from this session was that a Compact operationalisation training session for selected Tanzanian and Southern African officials will be hosted by the DAC Secretariat at the end of 2015. A video of an interview explaining the DAC's Compact approach can be viewed [here](#).
- The city of Quelimane, in Mozambique signed the Charter during a DAC focused session at the congress, becoming the third Mozambican city to commit to the Charter and its principles.

The DAC Secretariat thanks the ICMA for funding the participation of the DAC panellists at the Resilient Cities Congress.

Report back from the Annual DAC Steering Committee Meeting in June 2015

The DAC Steering Committee held its 2nd Annual General Meeting during the ICLEI Resilient Cities Congress mentioned above, to discuss the implementation of the DAC as well as possibilities for the development and formation of more DAC partnerships. Key actions and outcomes from the DAC Annual General Meeting included:

- Pursuing the formalisation of the DAC as a legal entity;
- Aligning the DAC with the ICLEI adaptation work programme; and
- The participation of the DAC in more international events.

Hosting the ICLEI Local Climate Solutions for Africa Congress in October 2015

As announced in the previous quarterly newsletter, eThekweni Municipality has secured funding to host a combined ICLEI Local Climate Solutions for Africa Congress and DAC Southern African Regional Workshop in Durban on 13th -16th October 2015. We are looking forward to welcoming many of our member local authority representatives to Durban for this event. More detailed information on the event will be sent out to members in the near future.

DAC LEARNING EXCHANGES

Providing support to local governments to implement adaptation actions is a key focus of the DAC Secretariat and this is currently achieved through Learning Exchanges.

Mozambican Delegation Regional Exchange Visit to eThekweni Municipality

The DAC Secretariat hosted a Mozambican delegation consisting of mayors and officials from the cities of Pemba and Quelimane, from the 18th to 21st May 2015 in Durban. The USAID-funded exchange visit provided an opportunity for the Mozambican cities to share their current climate related challenges with Durban, and also provided the space for eThekweni Municipality to share their experiences in running climate change adaptation and mitigation projects. Following this exchange, eThekweni Municipality and both Mozambican cities indicated an interest in further collaboration that would assist in addressing climate related challenges through knowledge sharing and capacity building. During the exchange the Mayor of the city of Pemba signed the DAC.

Local Actions: Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact (CKZNCCC)

Another focus of the DAC Secretariat is to support the establishment of sub-national compacts that will facilitate cooperation between neighbouring local authorities on climate change adaptation action. The DAC Secretariat has been active in supporting the establishment of the CKZNCCC that is made up of local governments surrounding eThekweni Municipality.

During the period covered by this newsletter, the DAC Secretariat invited CKZNCCC members to attend and contribute to the Mozambican Delegation Regional Exchange Visit to eThekweni Municipality that is mentioned above. The exchange was attended by four CKZNCCC local governments as well as relevant national and provincial government departments and associations who play an active role in the CKZNCCC. During this event, CKZNCCC member municipality, KwaDukuza Municipality, presented their progress and achievements in addressing climate change as well as their journey towards becoming a more sustainable city. CKZNCCC members who attended the event had the opportunity to engage in cross-border discussions and to discuss the potential partnerships with colleagues from the visiting Mozambican cities.

The next CKZNCCC meeting will be held in August 2015 and will be hosted by Msunduzi Municipality.

DAC COMMUNICATION

Regular communication is key to implementing the DAC as well as optimising the value it brings to signatories. This includes providing information on climate change adaptation and alerting signatories to upcoming events, training and capacity building opportunities as well as funding opportunities. The two communication channels of the DAC are its website and regular emails alerting signatories to significant opportunities.

Website

The DAC website has been upgraded. As part of this upgrade, the DAC communication channels have been expanded to include a DAC Facebook page. Both the Facebook and existing DAC Twitter account are accessible from the DAC website.

News articles posted during the reporting period can be read on the [DAC website](#). In addition to the news articles, the DAC also posts case studies on the website that aim to showcase climate change adaptation actions and projects of local governments. Local governments are encouraged to [contact the Secretariat](#) should they wish to have their case studies or relevant articles, events or other news posted onto the website.

DAC Announcements

The following is a list of the latest funding and training opportunity announcements that were sent out to DAC stakeholders in the reporting period:

- Opportunity to apply for The Conservation, Food and Health Foundation for project grants within the conservation, food and health sectors.
- Opportunity to apply for The European Space Agency (ESA) a free massive open online course (MOOC) on Monitoring Climate from Space.
- Opportunity to attend the 2015 Climate System Analysis Group (CSAG) Winter School.
- Newly released City Links resource on Subnational Approaches for Low Emission, Climate Resilient Development.
- Opportunity for the Swedish Programme for International Climate Change Mitigation - Support for climate change mitigation activities

For an up to date listing of current opportunities, check the Opportunities page on the DAC website

FUTURE PLANS

The items below provide an outline of the plans for the DAC for the period from July to September 2015:

- The DAC is looking forward to its 5th CKZNCCC meeting which will be hosted by Msunduzi Municipality on the 21st August 2015.
- The Secretariat, in partnership with ICLEI Africa, is preparing for the ICLEI Local Climate Solutions for Africa Congress which will be held in Durban in October 2015.
- The DAC Secretariat will be undertaking a process of verifying the contact details of DAC signatory to ensure all signatories are kept updated with regarding DAC actions and developments. Members of the DAC Secretariat will be contacting signatories in the next few months, please let us know if your contact details have changed.

