

Durban Adaptation Charter

Quarterly Newsletter – July 2015 to September 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 July to September 2015 period.

FACILITATING CITY EXCHANGES FOR ENHANCED ACTION

Providing support to local governments to implement adaptation actions is a key focus area of the DAC Secretariat. Some of the ways that the DAC Secretariat provides support is by facilitating city exchanges and promoting the establishment of regional hubs and sub-national compacts. The aim of the regional hubs and sub-national compacts is to facilitate cooperation between neighbouring local authorities on climate change adaptation action.

Southern African Regional Hub- Durban

The Southern African Regional Hub established the Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact (CKZNCCC) in 2014. This sub-national compact is made up of local governments surrounding eThekweni Municipality. The last CKZNCCC meeting was held in August and was hosted by Msunduzi Municipality. The meeting was attended by representative members from ten municipalities in the region as well as representatives from relevant national and provincial departments, and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA). A key focus of the meeting was an in depth discussion on the importance of bottom up approaches to climate change adaptation and the need for Community Based Adaptation (CBA)... [\[Read More\]](#).

DAC COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

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 through regular emails alerting signatories to significant opportunities, and through its website.

Emails highlighting training and funding opportunities

The following is a list of the latest funding and training [opportunities](#) that were sent out to DAC stakeholders in the reporting period:

Funding opportunities:

- The Future for Nature Award
- The 10th European Funding Programme: Coastal, Marine and Island Specific Biodiversity Management in the Eastern and Southern Africa-Indian Ocean (ESA-IO) region

- The Triodos Foundation Fund: Nature and Environment, People and Society and International Cooperation.
- ICLEI's Transformative Actions Program
- The ADMIRE Project Funding for mitigation and adaptation focused projects
- Canadian International Development Research Centre: Cities and Climate Change Initiative
- The Adaptation Fund: South South Cooperation grants for National Implementing Entities
- GEF Small Grants Programme: Grants for NGOs in South Africa
- The 100 Resilient Cities Challenge: Third round of city applications
- Applications Open for Global ReLeaf Grant 2016

Research and work experience opportunities:

- UNDP Climate Change Storytelling Contest for Young Journalists
- 2016 Environmental Fellowship Program: Environmental Research at Harvard University
- GroundTruth Climate Change Project: Climate Change Fellowship and Editor On The Climate Change Project
- Grant for Ecologists in Africa for Innovative Ecological Research
- Internews' Earth Journalism Network (EJN) Climate Communications Educators Fund.

Training and conference opportunities:

- Local Climate Solutions for Africa Congress
- DAC Compact Operationalisation Training
- Global Carbon Project Workshop on Assessing Urban Resilience: Opportunity for Asian Countries
- Massive Online Open Course on 'Climate Change: A question of Justice?'

For an up to date listing of current opportunities, check the [Opportunities page](#) on the DAC website.

DAC Website and Social Media

The DAC website has been upgraded. As part of this upgrade, the DAC communication channels have been expanded to include a DAC Facebook and Twitter account. Both of these pages 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.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL 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 is some feedback from the events which the DAC Secretariat has participated in during the third quarter of 2015:

Washington Adaptation Community Meeting in September 2015

The United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of International and Tribal Affairs recently invited eThekweni Municipality's Dr Debra Roberts, to deliver a presentation on Durban's adaptation planning and implementation progress at the Washington Adaptation Community Meeting from the 17th – 18th September 2015. Dr. Roberts provided a presentation to USAID staff as well as a briefing on Capitol Hill on the Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC)... [\[Read more\]](#)

DAC SIGNATORIES

During the July to September 2015 period no new signatories signed the DAC. As of the end of September 2015, the DAC has been signed by 340 mayors and local government organisation leaders from 45 countries representing 1068 local governments around the world.

FUTURE PLANS

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

- EThekweni Municipality secured funding to co-host the first DAC Southern African Regional Workshop under the auspices of ICLEI's Local Climate Solutions for Africa Congress from the 14-16th October. A report back on this Congress will be provided in the October-December Quarterly newsletter.
- The DAC is looking forward to the next CKZNCCC meeting which will be hosted by uMgungundlovu District Municipality in November 2015.
- The DAC secretariat has been invited by the US State Department to participate in a side event at COP 21 in Paris in December to share the experiences and outcomes achieved thus far by the Charter. One of the key areas that the side event will focus on is sharing the experiences of cities that have been involved in establishing regional climate change compacts, and cities that have benefitted from CityLinks-funded city to city exchanges on climate change adaptation through the Charter... [\[Read more\]](#)
- The DAC Secretariat will be undertaking a process of verifying the contact details of DAC signatory to ensure all signatories are kept updated with regards to DAC adaptation action. Members of the DAC Secretariat will be contacting signatories in the next few months, please let us know if your contact details have changed.

