

Durban Adaptation Charter

Quarterly Newsletter – October 2015 to December 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 October to December 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.

Local Climate Solutions for Africa Congress

ICLEI Africa and eThekweni Municipality successfully co-hosted the first Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC) Southern African Regional Workshop from 14-16 October 2015 under the auspices of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability’s Local Climate Solutions for Africa (LoCS) Congress. The Congress aimed to explore climate solutions for the African continent and provided the opportunity for discussion which allowed participants to better understand climate change adaptation and the possibilities for action. Highlights of the Congress included a Compact Operationalisation Training Workshop and a climate change communication training session facilitated by former USA Vice-President, Mr Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project team. The Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact (CKZNCCC) was also officially launched during LoCS... [\[Read More\]](#)

Compact Operationalisation Training Workshop

On October 13, 2015, the Durban Adaptation Charter Secretariat hosted a one-day compact training session as a pre-event to the DAC Southern African Regional Workshop. Senior municipal officials were invited to learn more about the Compact approach with the aim of establishing local compacts in their respective municipalities. The training was attended by 32 participants who were trained by Ms Susanne Torriente from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA. Participants included municipal officials from South African, Tanzanian and Mozambican municipalities ... [\[Read More\]](#)

Official launch of the Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact

During the Local Climate Solutions for Africa Congress the Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact (CKZNCCC) was officially launched. The Compact was initiated in February 2014 by eThekweni Municipality in order to develop a platform where climate change information could be shared with neighbouring municipalities and collaborative climate change actions could be implemented in the region. The Compact is currently made up of 12 member municipalities and meets quarterly... [\[Read More\]](#)

DAC Secretariat presents to ministerial delegation from Ghana

The Durban Adaptation Charter Secretariat hosted nine officials from Ghana with the aim of sharing ideas and best practices on climate change and other development issues. The DAC Hub and Compact approach was presented to the delegation together with the climate change efforts being undertaken in Durban. The Ghanaian delegation reported on their own climate change efforts and expressed interest in developing a West African DAC Regional Hub... [\[Read More\]](#)

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:

- Global Environmental Prize Open for Entries
- IRENA/ADFD Funding for Renewable Energy in Developing Countries
- CTI Private Financing Advisory Network: Private Sector Resilience Project Funding

Research and work experience opportunities:

- EThekweni Municipality Job Opportunity: Climate Protection Scientist
- Humboldt Foundation-International Climate Protection Fellowships 2016 for Leaders in Developing Countries
- Internship Opportunity: Climate System Analysis Group
- South African Department of Environmental Affairs Internship Opportunity
- START Executive Director

Training and conference opportunities:

- CityLinks: Call for Innovators to showcase their work and receive training
- IUFN-FNH-UNEP Climate Change Urban Food Initiative
- Climate Reality Project's '24 Hours of Reality and Live Earth: The World Is Watching'
- Call for Papers: Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation in Africa

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 a description of events which the DAC Secretariat has participated in during the fourth quarter of 2015:

DAC participation at COP21 2015

The Durban Adaptation Charter Secretariat attended the COP21 climate negotiations in Paris from 2nd to the 8th December 2015. Mayor Nxumalo represented the City of Durban, the Durban Adaptation Charter and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in His capacity as this organisation’s first Vice President. The DAC Hub and Compact Approach was presented during ICLEI’s Agora Transformative Actions Programme side event and launch of the Urban Climate Change Research Network’s Second Assessment Report of Cities and Climate Change. The DAC was also invited to share their work on city exchanges at a US State Department side event at COP 21 in Paris on 5th December 2015, an online video of this event is available [here...](#) [[Read More](#)]

Dr Roberts elected as co-chair for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Dr Debra Roberts has become the first South African to be elected to co-chair the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Roberts sits on various international bodies and is well known for her achievements in the environmental and climate change arena, her position within the IPCC will be an advantage for the African content as a wide range of climate change responses will be explored for the existing climate change issues the continent is experiencing... [[Read More](#)]

DAC REGISTRY

During the October to December 2015 period, Mayor Abel Langsi from Bafut, Cameroon signed the Durban Adaptation Charter during the Local Climate Solutions for Africa Congress 2015. As of the end of December 2015, the DAC has been signed by 341 mayors and local government organisation leaders from 45 countries representing 1069 local governments around the world.

FUTURE PLANS

The items below provide an outline of the plans for the DAC for the period from January to March 2016:

- The DAC is looking forward to the next Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact (CKZNCCC) meeting (a compact based in South Africa) which will be hosted by uMgungundlovu District Municipality in February 2016.
- The DAC Secretariat will be undertaking a process of verifying the contact details of DAC signatories 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.
- The DAC Secretariat will be engaging in discussions with ICLEI Africa in respect of handing over the Secretariat responsibility to that office.

