



Title: Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact



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Context

WHEREAS, there is consensus among the world's leading scientists that global climate change is among the most significant problems facing the world today; and

WHEREAS, the nature of climate change calls for a collaborative approach to both mitigation and adaptation, because neither the causes, nor the projected impacts and adaptation responses can be geographically isolated.

WHEREAS, central KwaZulu-Natal is projected to experience a range of impacts from climate change including temperature increases, more heat waves, increased rainfall and rainfall variability, increase of severe and tropical storms and sea level rise.

WHEREAS, metropolitan, district and local municipalities in central KwaZulu-Natal, are physically adjacent and share in common rich natural and other resources, cultural heritage and a vigorous and interlinked economy; and

WHEREAS, local governments must give significant consideration to adaptation strategies designed to protect public infrastructure, property, water resources, natural areas and basic quality of life; and

WHEREAS, metropolitan, district and local municipalities in central KwaZulu-Natal are signatories to the Durban Adaptation Charter and have committed themselves to take local climate action in their jurisdiction that will assist their communities to respond to and cope with climate change risks thereby reducing vulnerability; and

WHEREAS, while metropolitan, district and local municipalities of central KwaZulu-Natal are independently taking steps to address climate change and to adapt to its projected impacts, all municipalities recognise that coordinated and collective action is the most effective way to respond to climate change.

It is therefore resolved that a formal Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact will be established between the metropolitan, district and local municipalities of the KwaZulu-Natal Central Area.

Compact

Purpose

The purpose of the compact is to provide a forum through which participating municipalities cooperate on reducing vulnerability in our communities and increase resilience of eco and other systems on which we rely through:

1. Sharing information on both projected climate change impacts and best practice in responding to these projected impacts.
2. Collaboratively developing locally appropriate responses to projected climate change impacts.
3. Jointly responding to climate change relevant policy and legislation that is developed at a national and provincial level.
4. Cooperating in the process of building internal climate change capacity amongst municipal staff and councillors.
5. Networking with national and global bodies that can provide information, support and resources.
6. Developing joint funding proposals for cross-boundary climate change response projects.

Representation

Each participating municipality will nominate two staff members who will be responsible for coordinating the participation of their municipality in the compact as well as ensuring continuity of participation in compact events and meetings.

Compact Meetings

Meetings of the compact will be held quarterly and will be hosted on a rotating basis by participating municipalities. Compact meetings will provide a platform to develop common responses on areas of joint interest and also provide a platform for information sharing between the municipalities. Compact meetings will also be complemented by electronic information sharing and additional informal collaboration between partners.

Secretariat Function

Initially eThekweni Municipality will take responsibility for the secretariat function. This will be assessed on an annual basis and may be rotated depending on the available capacity in other participating municipalities. The secretariat function will be responsible for:

1. Convening compact meetings
2. Recording compact meetings
3. Promoting the electronic exchange of information between partners
4. Liaising with the DAC Secretariat to plan implementation of the compact

Funding

Partners will be responsible for funding their own travel and other expenses associated with attending compact meetings. Municipalities will be responsible for funding any of the costs associated with hosting meetings within their own municipal area.