

The Hub and Compact approach

Since the signing of the DAC in 2011, eThekweni Municipality, as the Charter Secretariat, has driven the implementation of the DAC, which has resulted in the development of the Hub and Compact approach for implementation. The Hub and Compact approach essentially describes a network of networks engaging in collaborative climate change adaptation action. The development of the Hub and Compact approach started with the establishment of a partnership between two cities (hereafter referred to as Hubs) already advanced in dealing with climate change adaptation: Durban and Fort Lauderdale/ Broward County in Florida, USA. These two Hubs engaged in a series of city-to-city exchanges that enhanced peer-to-peer learning outcomes within areas of mutual adaptation interest.

A direct outcome was Durban's adoption of a sub-national climate change Compact partnership model (hereafter referred to as a Compact), pioneered by the Florida Hub, who developed the South East Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. The establishment of the partnership between these two Hubs, each with its own Compact, was the genesis of the development of the "Hub and Compact" approach. It was envisaged that a number of Hubs, each with its own Compact, would develop partnerships to effectively develop a network of networks across the globe to address climate change adaptation (see Figure 1). During 2015, Dar es Salaam became the third Hub leading discussions where the majority of the local government authorities in Tanzania agreed to organise into Compacts within their sub-national regions.

Figure 1: Hub and Compact approach in implementing the DAC.



By entering into Compact partnerships with a Hub, local and district municipalities agree to work collaboratively in addressing climate change. This provides the opportunity for a coordinated climate change adaptation response that transcends local political boundaries. In South Africa, the relatively well-resourced metropolitan municipalities (Hubs) will each form Compact partnerships with their surrounding local and district municipalities. This will allow for the sharing of skills and capacity within the Compact partnerships and the

development of project proposals, which can be submitted for funding through National Implementing Agents for international funding mechanisms.

A mechanism to enable a horizontally integrated response between the planned South African Hubs and their Compacts has been proposed through the convening of the National Department of Environmental Affairs' (DEA) Cities Resilient Forum (CRF). The CRF will deliver an almost country-wide integrated response to climate change, whilst stimulating vertical integration as the CRF, through the DEA will facilitate co-ordination with other National Government departments and policies.

Planning for the establishment of other country-wide networks of Hubs and Compacts is being pursued in sub-Saharan Africa. For example, cities within Tanzania and Mozambique have agreed to establish their own networks of Hubs and Compacts and to work with their national governments to enhance vertical integration of climate action. If this is achieved, the potential of the DAC Hub and Compact approach to drive transformative action will increase substantially (Figure 2) and could provide the basis for leveraging local and international funding for implementation.

The Hub and Compact approach can also be used to ensure alignment in monitoring and evaluation reporting processes. Local government officials will be more likely to engage with reporting platforms like the cCR as it will provide them with useful products to help track progress with adaptation. A shared mitigation and adaptation reporting platform, like the cCR, will increase the efficiency of reporting, allowing more time to be focused on climate change adaptation action.