



## Event Report:

### **Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC)'s first Southern African Regional Workshop convened under the auspices of ICLEI Africa's Local Climate Solutions for Africa (LOCS4Africa) Initiative**

## **Executive Summary:**

The first Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC) Southern African Regional Workshop was held in Durban, South Africa from 14-16 October 2015 under the auspices of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability’s Local Climate Solutions for Africa (LoCS) Initiative. This was the first time that the DAC co-hosted this event with ICLEI. The workshop was attended by a total of 207 participants which included, 169 delegates , 11 ICLEI staff, 17 Climate Reality Project and Climate Reality Leaders, and ten volunteers. A total of 20 different countries were represented, of which 18 were from the African continent with 58 African Local Governments represented. There were also six representatives from African National Local Government Associations, eight representatives of the South African National Government, three South African Provincial Government representatives, four full-time academics and two representatives from Development Aid Agencies. LoCS 2015 also presented an opportunity for students from Durban’s tertiary institutions to attend the training sessions. Amongst the volunteers were a dedicated group from *Future Leaders of Change*, a youth advocacy group who dedicated their time to volunteer for the duration of the workshop.

The workshop aimed to build the capacity of the participants in climate change adaptation and this was done through training sessions and side-events. The workshop covered a wide range of topics including Community- and Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (CEBA), climate finance, climate change-focused communication, and aligning adaptation and mitigation responses. Field trips were also organised for participants to visit two of Durban’s award winning projects that align mitigation and adaptation objectives with community development. The aims of the workshop were achieved as participants renewed their commitments to advance climate adaptation action within their organisations. With regards to the signing of the DAC, Mayor Abel Langsi from Bafut, Cameroon signed the Charter during the workshop.

A key pre-event of the workshop was a Compact Operationalisation Training Workshop that was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October. The Compact training workshop aimed to train local government practitioners on how to establish Compacts within their own organisations. Compacts are partnerships formed between neighbouring sub-national governments to

address issues of climate change collaboratively within a specific region. The aim of Compacts is to address climate change at a scale that is greater than any single member of a Compact. This advances a regional approach to addressing climate change. The session was facilitated by the founder of the South East Florida Climate Change Compact, Ms Susanne Torriente from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA. The workshop was attended by 12 Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact (CKZNCCC) members (the compact formed in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa), five Tanzanian DAC signatories, one member of the Association of Local Authorities in Tanzania (ALAT), six South African Metropolitan Municipality officials and officials from two Mozambican DAC signatories. The Compact Training Workshop was followed by a formal launch of the CKZNCCC during the LoCS gala dinner on 14<sup>th</sup> October where four CKZNCCC member mayors were present to sign a commitment to engage with the Compact. In addition to the Mayors, the local youth advocacy group for climate change, Future Leaders of Change, signed the Compact.

Another highlight for LoCS 2015 was a climate change communication-focused training session facilitated by former USA Vice-President, Mr Al Gore's Climate Reality Project team. This session received positive feedback from participants as it allowed for delegates to engage with one another in valuable discussions. This was the first time that the Climate Reality Project had conducted training without the Vice-President, and it was a pilot for a new model of implementation. As a result of the successful event, this model will be pursued again, most likely in Nigeria in 2017 where the DAC West African Regional Workshop is being planned.

One of the key outcomes of LoCS2015 was the announcement of the South African National Department of Environmental Affairs' (DEA) Cities Resilient Forum, by Mr Vhali Khavhagali from the DEA, which will host Compacts convened across South African Metropolitan Municipalities, like the CKZNCCC. This platform will link local and national government adaptation action.

LoCS2015 also provided delegates from a number of different countries the opportunity to network with each other and share experiences. One example of this was the opportunity provided for African cities who are part of the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Programme to meet for the first time during a formal side-event.

A substantial number of delegates were able to attend LoCS 2015 through the USAID Southern African Mission's generous contribution towards supporting travel and accommodation. The Mission was present at the workshop and used the opportunity to announce the launch of their Low Emissions Development (LED) South Africa Programme. The French Embassy also provided funding to support five Francophone participants from five African countries.

## **1. Introduction**

This report has been produced in fulfilment of the reporting requirements of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed by eThekweni Municipality and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability – Africa (ICLEI Africa), in May 2015. Please refer to sections 4.7, 5.1 and section 7 of the MoA for the detailed Terms of Reference that guided development of this report.

## **2. Invited attendance and motivation of attendance measures**

The LOCS4Africa initiative is an ICLEI flagship programme designed to bring together sub-national and national government officials, representatives from the private sector, civil society, and academia to discuss challenges and locally appropriate and responsive solutions to addressing climate change challenges. These biennial gatherings provide a unique and accessible platform for leaders to share and consolidate their vision, and forge new and innovative partnerships to accelerate local climate action in Africa.

In 2015, ICLEI Africa partnered with eThekweni Municipality in organising and hosting the Southern African Regional Workshop of the DAC, under the auspices of the LOCS4Africa initiative. The workshop was themed: *Accelerating local climate action through implementation of the DAC*. Local governments who commit to the DAC, agree to enable local climate action in their jurisdiction that will assist their communities in responding to and coping with climate change risks, thereby reducing their vulnerability.

The focus of this event was two-fold:

- (a) To build the capacity of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in attendance, with a particular focus on municipal officials, with regards to climate change.

- (b) To facilitate the acceleration of local climate action through the implementation of the DAC.

In June 2015, ICLEI Africa, in consultation with eThekweni Municipality, identified and invited relevant stakeholders to attend the workshop. Given the technical nature of the programme, stakeholders involved in the technical delivery of services in sub-national and national governments across Southern Africa, were prioritised for attendance. However, requests to attend the event from stakeholders outside of Southern Africa were also accommodated. ICLEI Africa communicated with invited delegates via email, telephone, fax and Skype.

The development of the workshop programme occurred in parallel to the stakeholder invitation process. The programme was designed to promote extensive interaction and networking, and the sharing of both the challenges and opportunities relating to local level climate change adaptation planning and action. The programme included a number of plenary and parallel interactive sessions, which focused on the DAC commitments. Session themes included:

- Mainstreaming adaptation into local government development planning.
- Alignment of adaptation and mitigation strategies and actions.
- The role of functioning ecosystems in building a more resilient society.
- Climate financing and strategic partnerships for accelerating local climate action.

Invitations were extended to selected local authorities to contribute and share experiences in dealing with climate change issues in the sessions outlined in the programme. International and seasoned experts and local government leaders were invited to speak or facilitate sessions dealing with issues of climate change in relation to for example, urban planning and design, and municipal and development finance.

The final programme comprised nine plenary sessions, three thematic breakaway sessions, two site visits and three special side programmes, which were held prior to, post or parallel to the official workshop. Please refer to Annex I for the detailed workshop programme.

The workshop was held from 14 – 16 October 2015 under the patronage of Councillor James Nxumalo, Mayor of eThekweni Municipality and first Vice President of ICLEI. The workshop attracted over 200 delegates from 20 countries. The majority of delegates were from local governments in South Africa, however local authorities from across Africa and the world, were also represented. Please refer to Table 1 below to see the number of participants per country, and to Annex II for the workshop attendance list.

Table 1 Number of workshop participants per country

<b>Country</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>
Benin	1
Burkina Faso	1
Cameroon	5
Cote d'Ivoire	1
Ethiopia	1
France	2
Ghana	1
Guatemala	1
Kenya	3
Malawi	6
Mozambique	7
Namibia	2
Nigeria	2
Senegal	1
South Africa	139
Tanzania	7
United Kingdom	1
USA	3
Zambia	1
Zimbabwe	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>

### **3. Local business involvement**

ICLEI Africa prioritised sourcing service providers from within the eThekweni Municipal area, in order to enhance local economic development and growth. Service providers utilised included:

- For accommodation: Florida Hotel, The Benjamin, Quarters, Bonami, and St James.
- For transportation: Street Scene and Springbok Atlas.
- For venue, catering and entertainment: The Durban International Convention Centre, Bryans Percussion Enterprises.
- For stationery and gifts: Focus Gifts and Clothing, Event World, and Eyako Green.
- For photography: Ocean Driven Media (PTY) LTD.

### **4. Community growth and development platforms and sustainability of these outreach programmes**

In order to promote development of partnerships between local governments, there was provision made in the programme for the DAC compact operationalisation training event (13 October 2015). The compact model is designed to promote sharing of knowledge and capacity between municipalities, and encourages municipalities to develop bankable project proposals for the advancement of climate change activities, which can be used to attract funding.

A dinner was held on the evening of the 14th of October, to celebrate the official launch of the Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact. The Deputy Mayor of eThekweni Municipality officially launched the Compact on behalf of Mayor James Nxumalo. The DAC Secretariat aims to work with local governments who have signed up to the DAC, to establish further compacts.

In order to raise interest among youth on the topic of climate change, a local youth group “Future Leaders of Change” was invited to contribute as volunteers during the workshop. The group’s representative also signed the Compact during the launch. The volunteers’ duties were to usher delegates, time keep, set up and clear tables. A similar invitation was extended to post-graduate students at the University of KwaZulu-Natal who also contributed by taking notes in the sessions. All volunteers had full access to the training workshop sessions in the

hope that exposure to climate change training and networking with climate change specialists would enhance their ability to communicate climate change issues with the youth of Durban. Each volunteer received a letter acknowledging their contribution to the workshop, which could serve as a reference document for their involvement in future events.

## **5. Media support**

ICLEI Africa shared key messages from the workshop via electronic media. The following platforms were used to disseminate this information:

- The LOCS4Africa website: <http://locs4africa.iclei.org/>
- The ICLEI Africa website (<http://africa.iclei.org/>), facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/africaiclei/>) and twitter accounts (#DAC and #LOCS).
- The Durban Adaptation Charter website ([www.durbanadaptationcharter.org](http://www.durbanadaptationcharter.org))

Over 97 000 twitter accounts were reached over the three days of the workshop. Please refer to Figure 2 for twitter statistics.



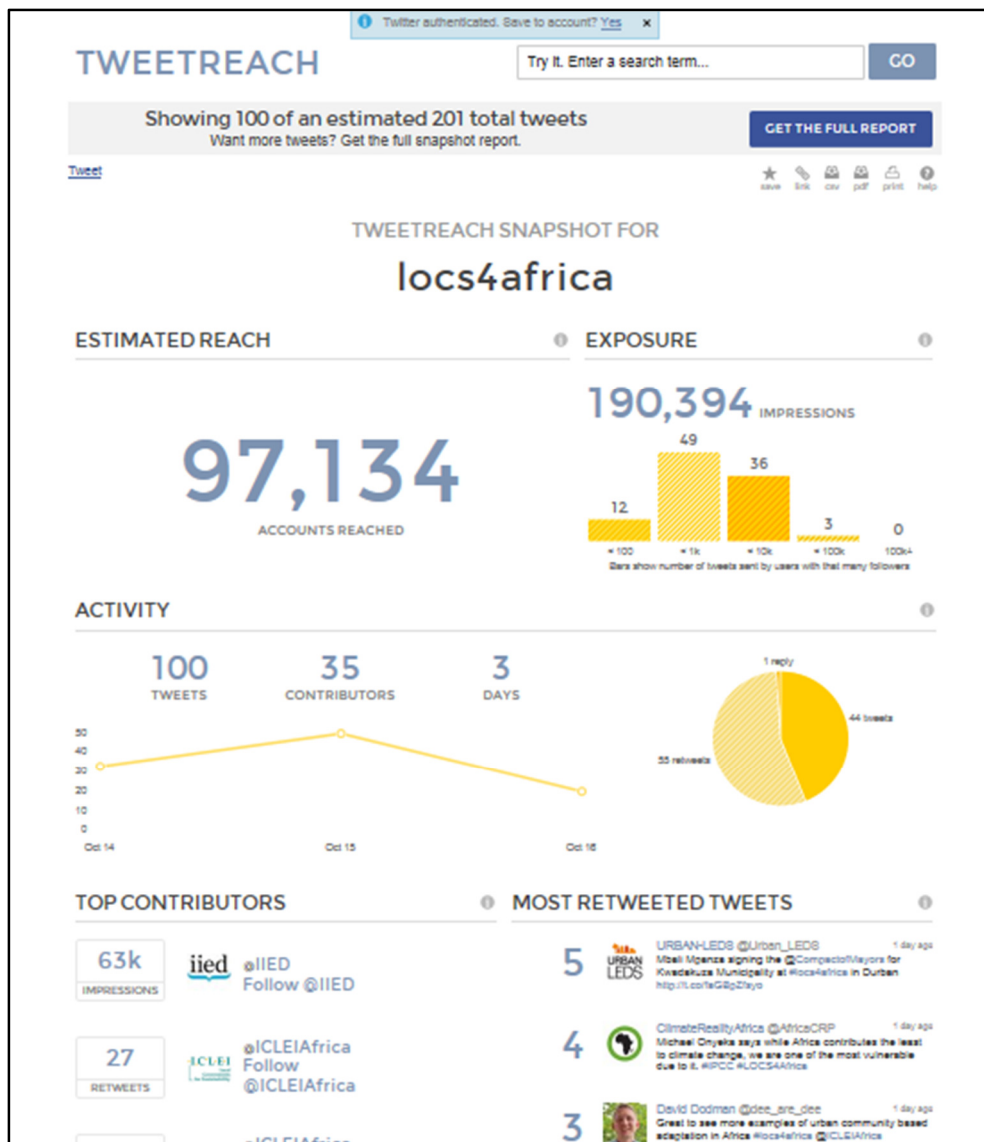


Figure 2 Twitter statistics from 14 – 16 October 2015

Articles reporting on the workshop were also featured on the following websites:

- Durban Adaptation Charter:  
<http://www.durbanadaptationcharter.org/news/durban-and-iclei-successfully-co-host-locs-2015>
- Citylinks:  
[http://icma.org/en/cl/blogs/blogpost/4124/Local\\_governments\\_in\\_Africa\\_commit\\_to\\_accelerating\\_climate\\_actions](http://icma.org/en/cl/blogs/blogpost/4124/Local_governments_in_Africa_commit_to_accelerating_climate_actions)
- France Embassy in South Africa and Lesotho:  
<http://www.ambafrance-rsa.org/COP21-the-Embassy-of-France-supports-regional-workshop-on-the-Durban-Adaptation>

- The Africa Climate Reality project:

<http://climatereality.co.za/reaching-boiling-point/>

## **6. Challenges encountered and future remedial measures**

Event organisation went well due to clear communication lines between ICLEI Africa, eThekweni Municipality and service providers. However, a change of venue needed to occur a week before the workshop commenced, due to the fact that the first choice conference venue - the Greyville Convention Centre - did not possess a Conferencing Licence. Upon realising the error, ICLEI Africa in consultation with eThekweni Municipality secured the Durban International Convention Centre as the venue for the workshop. As a result, the ICLEI Africa team had to contact all confirmed delegates to inform them of the change in venue. This resulted in a substantial number of delegates not receiving timely information about their airport transfers, accommodation and event venue and timing.

Future remedial measures would include, requiring that conference venues that are contacted for quotations must provide proof that they have a conferencing licence and that they produce all documentation confirming their ability to provide a conference venue and cater for the event before a deposit is paid.

## **7. General overview of the event outcomes**

Local government interest and commitment to climate change action was reignited, with local government officials seeking avenues to move the planning and implementation of climate resilient strategies forward, while taking cognisance of Africa's unique context. The challenges that local governments face when planning and implementing climate change actions were discussed, and renewed commitment made to move away from continuous planning cycles, towards implementation. This led to a call to action and greater collaboration between institutions seeking to address climate change. Delegates also agreed that the Durban Adaptation Charter was a unique vehicle through which local governments can advance climate action, feeding information from the bottom up into all tiers of government and ultimately onto international climate change platforms.

### **7.1: Summary of DAC compact training side event:**

The Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC) hosted a Compact Operationalisation Training Workshop as a pre-event to the First DAC Southern African Regional Workshop which was convened under the auspices of ICLEI's Local Climate Solutions for Africa (LoCS) Workshop 2015. The one day training session, which took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2015 in Durban, aimed at increasing the technical capacity of local government officials in forming and operationalising compacts. These are partnerships between neighbouring local and district governments to advance an integrative and collaborative adaptation response to climate change. In Africa, Compacts can potentially share (usually limited) skills and financial resources whilst providing a support network for officials from poorly resourced smaller partner municipalities. They are, therefore, well suited for implementation in Africa.

EThekweni Municipality established the Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact (CKZNCCC) as an outcome from a successful exchange visit between officials from Durban and Fort Lauderdale/ Broward County. The DAC secretariat plans to extend the Hub and Compact approach to other South African Metros, Tanzanian and Mozambican municipalities, hence this training workshop. Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Southern African Mission, 32 participants attended the workshop with each attending official charged with leading the development of the compact approach within his or her home municipality. The session was facilitated by the founder of the first Compact, Ms Susanne Torriente from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA. Municipal officials from the CKZNCCC, other South African Metro municipalities as well as the DAC signatory cities in Tanzania and Mozambique engaged on current issues pertaining to implementation and planning for climate change. The discussions reflected that municipalities have been working on climate change actions and this training would provide for better planning and implementation of climate change adaptation responses within their municipalities. During the workshop the following criteria were identified as essential for local governments to develop actions in response to climate change:

- Obtaining commitment from political leadership is critical in order to gain support for local climate change action.

- Identifying climate change champions can help to drive and fast track climate change responses.
- Redesigning local government department structures and job titles can help to create buy-in from staff.
- Local climate change action plans require an integrated effort and need to align with existing strategic local government plans.
- Capacity building and training officials helps to build expertise and confidence.
- Building partnerships with communities and organisations can help to fast track climate change responses.
- Platforms for dialogue need to be inclusive for all local stakeholders.

At the conclusion of the event participants were asked to complete an evaluation form. The majority of the participants (70%) felt that after attending the Compact Training, their organisation could implement the compact approach to address issues of climate change, and all of the participants indicated interest in a follow up session with the DAC. Asked to reflect on their confidence in being able to implement a Compact in their own locations, 65% indicated that they 'were very confident' that they would be able to do so.

*'The strategy we received this afternoon will assist us to improve our own plans.'*

*'I will foster new partnerships and share the experience with other municipalities back in Mozambique'*

Whilst the majority of the participants stated that they were correctly informed about the aim of the workshop, and rated the training as Excellent (45%) and Very Good (36%), a few participants found the aim of the training workshop misleading as in their view the training did not provide details on operationalising a compact but rather on how to mainstream climate change.

*'I found it very useful, but I found it more focused on mainstreaming climate change than on how to set up a compact'*

*'The term 'operationalisation' was ambiguous and hence created assumptions on what the workshop objectives were.'*

*'I had different expectations of the training to what was covered. Today's training was more about integrating climate change into your municipality rather than developing a climate change compact or what I understood to be a climate change compact.'*

Some of the recommendations on how to improve the training included: placing more focus on how to practically operationalise a compact; allowing for more group discussions and sharing of experiences from local governments present; and, relating the concept to the African context by using more African city examples.

## **7.2 Summary of the Urban-LEDS project's Urban Outlook Event:**

The Urban-LEDS project (see: <http://urbanleds.iclei.org/index.php?id=642>) being implemented in South Africa by the ICLEI Africa Secretariat in partnership with UN-Habitat, held its outlook event as a pre-event to the LoCS DAC workshop on 13 October. 30 representatives from participating project municipalities, other interested local governments, and technical NGO partners gathered together to discuss the learnings of the project so far and look to the future of low-carbon development in South African municipalities.

Key activities & learnings presented included:

- The value of [community showcase](#) projects to galvanise support and interest among politicians and local communities.
- That innovative strategic planning processes can encourage different ways of thinking about development and the future of our towns and cities.
- The value of peer to peer learning, especially between South African towns and cities.

Stories were shared on what worked well in the project: (a) engagement with communities and business, (b) the impact of the project on speeding up implementation of low-carbon projects, and (c) opportunities for staff training.

New ideas were discussed to up-scale work further; including linking with regional climate change compacts such as that in KZN, further targeted staff training/skills development,

incentives for green low-cost housing, and using the green building guidelines to create a showcase green building to demonstrate what is possible.

Key project partners such as the Green Building Council of South Africa spoke on the importance of the green building guidelines developed in the project. The USAID SA-LEDS team committed to continuing the good work of Urban-LEDS, in partnership with ICLEI Africa. Sustainable Energy Africa's various platforms and project opportunities were also highlighted.

The Urban-LEDS project is continuing to support the 7 participating municipalities, with the release of new green building guidelines, finalisation of low emission development (LED) strategies and videos to showcase what has been achieved.

To access the Urban-LEDS learning brochure, click [here](#).