

Local Government Climate Roadmap

Strong and Comprehensive
Post-2012 Global
Climate Agreement

Copenhagen 2009
UNFCCC COP 15

Poznan 2008
UNFCCC COP 14

Bali 2007
UNFCCC COP 13

LOCAL ACTION FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION AND ADAPTATION – A SERIES OF LOCAL STORIES

eThekweni Municipality, South Africa

Durban takes the lead in integrating adaptation into development strategy

STORY IN SHORT: Climate change poses huge threats to the city of Durban. Being a coastal city, sea level rise, is likely to endanger municipal infrastructure and services. Having been one of the first cities in the world to investigate adaptation needs and to start reacting to them, Durban is also highly committed to taking a leading role nationally and internationally in combating climate change.

Durban's Municipal Climate Protection Programme (MCP)

The Municipal Climate Protection Programme (MCP) was initiated in Durban in 2004 in order to understand local level impacts of climate change and to use this understanding to inform local level planning and decision making. Such an approach is critical in the Global South, because unless the local developmental consequences of climate change can readily be understood by local governments, it is likely that such issues will be superseded by a range of developmental challenges that are perceived to be more pressing i.e. poverty, lack of services and unemployment.

Three steps to adaptation

1. The first step in the development of the programme involved undertaking a vulnerability analysis (summarised in the Climatic Future for Durban Report) which outlined the likely local impacts of climate change and how this will affect the Municipality's development path and goals.
2. Following this, a Headline Adaptation Strategy was developed which highlighted some key interventions required by the Municipality to adapt successfully to inevitable climate change.
3. This adaptation work stream was further developed through the initiation of a range of projects that address adaptation at both the municipal and community level. These include: reforestation/catchment management projects, community adaptation plans, municipal adaptation plans for the health and water sectors, as well as a green roof pilot project.



Planting of indigenous trees as part of Durban's 2010 World Cup commitment of carbon neutrality.

© Susan Viljoen, Wildlands Conservation Trust

“Africa is the continent most at risk from climate change”

eThekweni Municipality takes climate change seriously. This is illustrated by Councillor Logie Naidoo, Deputy Mayor of Durban, stating that: “Climate change is currently the most pressing development and environmental problem facing the world. We, on the African continent, face significant challenges as Africa is the continent most at risk from climate change.”



The Green Roof Pilot Project
© Clive Greenstone, Green Roof Designs CC.

A tool to evaluate City's strategic plans: Urban Integrated Assessment Framework

One of the most innovative projects within the MCPP has been the development of the Urban Integrated Assessment Framework, which advances the earlier vulnerability assessment work and will culminate in the development of a computer-based tool. This tool will enable the evaluation of the City's strategic plans within the context of climate change and guide mitigation and adaptation planning in the city.

Involvement in international climate initiatives

The Environmental Management Department of the Municipality has established a partnership with the Tyndall Climate Change Research Centre in the United Kingdom, focusing on the development of the Integrated Assessment Framework. The Tyndall research team is currently involved in developing a similar assessment tool for London. The collaboration is beneficial for both Durban and London as peer review for both teams is possible. The capacity of the Environmental Management Department staff has also been strengthened through this partnership, in the areas of climate change science and climate change impact assessments.

Climate neutral 2010 Soccer World Cup

The focus of the MCPP is mainstreaming climate change concerns into city planning and development, with programmes such as the Greening Durban 2010 Programme which has established the goal of a "climate neutral" 2010 Soccer World Cup in Durban. The process of greening World Cup activities in Durban has included undertaking an exercise to evaluate the carbon footprint, and the identification of suitable carbon offsetting projects, as well as the greening of major 2010 infrastructure such as the new Moses Mabhida stadium. The latter has resulted in a 30% reduction in the energy footprint and a 74% reduction in the potable water requirements of the stadium.

For more information on this project, contact:

Nicci Diederichs, nicci@futureworks.co.za, Phone: 0027 - (0)31 764 6449



Located at South Africa's Eastern coast,
Durban may be flooded if sea levels rise

City profile & contacts

eThekweni Municipal Area (EMA) is a district of Kwa-Zulu-Natal province, located on the South-Eastern coast of Africa. The Municipality covers 2 297 km² and is inhabited by almost 3.5 million people. With 97 km of coastline and 4 000 km of rivers, the EMA contains four of the country's eight vegetation biomes and over 2 000 plant species. EMA has an open space system of 64 037 ha that provides environmental services equal to the value of 3.1 billion Rand per annum (ca. 270 Mio. EUR).

Name: Dr. Debra Roberts

Department: Environmental Management Department

Email: RobertsD@durban.gov.za

Website: www.durban.gov.za



www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap
E-mail: climate-roadmap@iclei.org



United Cities and Local Governments
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis
Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos

www.cities-localgovernments.org
Email: info@cities-localgovernments.org

This series of local climate stories is produced within the project "Local Governments' mobilisation and backing for the development and implementation of a global and comprehensive post-2012 climate change agreement", funded by the European Commission (Europe Aid) and the Norwegian Government. The local stories shall enrich the knowledge on local action as contribution to the Local Government Climate Roadmap, a joint activity of local government associations and networks towards COP 15. They represent solely the views of its authors and cannot in any circumstances be regarded as the official position of the European Commission (EC) or as a formal commitment from the EC.

The media are free to use and may download content and pictures at www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap/media.

© ICLEI & UCLG November 2009.

www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap/localaction