

Durban Adaptation Charter: Climate Change Learning Exchange/Study Tour - eThekweni Municipality

8th- 10th October 2014

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Introduction

A Climate Change Learning Exchange was hosted by eThekweni Municipality's Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE), Energy Office, and Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department (EPCPD) from the 8th-10th of October 2014 in Durban. The exchange was well attended by colleagues from surrounding local municipalities, Provincial departments, the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), as well as the Department of Environmental Affairs, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability – Africa, and tertiary institutions. The exchange consisted of a number of presentations from eThekweni Municipality, group discussions and site visits.

The main objectives of the learning exchange were to exchange learning on climate change institutional structures between municipalities; to share challenges, needs and successes of the municipalities; to identify opportunities for partnerships between municipalities; and to identify actions towards the establishment of a climate change knowledge network for KwaZulu-Natal municipalities. This document is aimed at documenting the proceedings and lessons learnt.

The local and district municipalities that participated in the exchange included:

- EThekweni Municipality
- Umfolozi Municipality
- KwaSani Municipality
- Hibiscus Coast Municipality
- KwaDukuza Municipality
- uMhlathuze Municipality
- Harry Gwala Municipality
- iLembe District Municipality
- Umzimkhulu Municipality
- Ugu District Municipality
- Umzumbe Municipality
- uMkhanyakude Municipality

Other organisations represented included:

- ICLEI Africa – Local Governments for Sustainability
- The National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)
- The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) KZN
- The KwaZulu-Natal Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
- The KwaZulu-Natal Cooperative Governance Traditional Affairs (KZN COGTA)
- Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT)
- Ntuzuma Environmental community members
- MILE- Played the leading role in organising and facilitating the exchange
- FutureWorks- played a role of documenting the proceedings
- Inanda FM, and The New Age (Print media and radio)

Overarching lessons learnt

There were a number of overarching high level lessons that came out of the exchange. These have been grouped together and are important for municipalities to take into account when addressing climate change issues.

1. **Partnering** with other institutions (academia, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), business, and other tiers of government) can provide access to resources such as data, human capacity and funds.

The importance of partnerships was raised throughout the three day learning exchange by the presenters and participants alike. Many local municipalities have limited capacity and the case studies showed that municipalities don't have to "go it alone" and that by partnering with other institutions can respond to climate change more effectively. This was illustrated in the case study on the Bergrivier Municipality's development of a climate change adaptation plan. The development of this strategy was driven by the Western Cape Government but drew on the expertise of local academics, NGOs, local government officials, councillors and an enthusiastic municipal manager. With very little capacity and budget, a climate change adaptation plan was developed for the Bergrivier Municipality and has been incorporated into their Integrated Development Plan. The success of the plan was due to multiple stakeholders coming on board and partnering on the project. The benefit of this kind of partnering arrangement was also highlighted in the case study on the rehabilitation of a wetland in Riverhorse Valley in eThekweni Municipality. This case study highlighted the importance of including business in initiatives where funds and capacity are limited. It also created employment through the project for unemployed people in the area, thus ensuring that the local residents benefit from, and are informed about, the project.

2. Joining a **network of cities** focusing on climate change can assist with sharing of knowledge and accessing funding collectively.

The Durban Adaptation Charter provides an opportunity for cities to learn from each other as part of a global network of cities. As indicated by a participant it is important that we learn from our colleagues and that we are "not always looking up" to national government and higher authorities for guidance and rescuing. Local governments are the institutions that are working on the ground in the climate change field and have the practical experience that is worth sharing and learning from. The Regional Hubs and Local Compacts which have been formed by the Durban Adaptation Charter encourage practical learning and sharing of knowledge. In addition to the learning component, being part of a network of cities is extremely useful in applying for funding for climate change projects as a collective. The KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact has been identified as an effective platform for cities and towns in Central KwaZulu-Natal to learn from each other regarding the implementation of projects, enhancing technical capacity, and applying for funding. Furthermore platforms such as these can assist national and provincial government in the roll out of tools designed to support implementation and other similar opportunities.

3. Climate change should be **mainstreamed into the existing work** of line departments through champions.

As mentioned above, many local government authorities in South Africa experience capacity issues in the climate change field and do not have the resources to develop environmental or climate change departments. This does not however mean that a local municipality then cannot respond effectively to climate change. Through the identification of climate change champions in line departments, climate change can be introduced and mainstreamed into their existing work. EThekwini Municipality's example of developing municipal adaptation plans for three areas, water, health, and disaster management, worked well as relationships with individuals in these three departments were developed. These individuals have become climate change champions or ambassadors and are making small changes to their daily work to take climate change into account. These champions have also formed partnerships with other line departments on specific projects and are effecting change in these departments through their knowledge on climate change issues.

4. Climate change projects often have **co-benefits** and if demonstrated effectively can help to motivate for funding.

Projects aimed at mitigating or adapting to climate change often have other benefits too, which if communicated effectively with the likes of National Treasury, political leadership and other funders will be more likely to receive funding. For example eThekwini Municipality's community-based adaptation projects have the co-benefits of natural system restoration, job creation and skills development in local communities. These projects employ local people to assist with the restoration of the natural environment by, for example, planting trees, removing alien plants or stewardship for river health. In this way the natural systems are restored to provide free ecosystem services efficiently and local people are provided with an income. Furthermore other cumulative impacts of healthy ecosystems are also experienced down the line, such as improved water quality and prevention of damage to infrastructure which can have an impact on the finances of the city in providing services to its citizens.

5. It is important that **political leaders** are engaged with when planning for climate change as they are the decision makers.

Councillors, city managers and city mayors are extremely influential and have the power to make decisions so that cities respond more effectively to climate change. It is crucial therefore to engage with political leaders so that they can understand the negative impacts that climate change may have on service delivery, and the multiple positive impacts that climate change projects can have, especially in the areas of job creation, social development and financial savings to local municipalities. EThekwini Municipality's Mayor James Nxumalo's support for climate change is a great example of how the support of leadership promotes the climate change agenda within the City. During the learning exchange the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) proposed the inclusion of a climate change module to their municipal manager course that they offer to newly appointed municipal managers. MILE also highlighted their capacity to conduct learning sessions through their seminars aimed at councillors and senior management practitioners.

6. Engaging with communities provides an opportunity for **co-learning** – Accessing indigenous knowledge and sharing scientific data.

Many participants raised the importance of engaging with communities to both impart scientific knowledge and to learn from both local and indigenous knowledge. In order to engage successfully with communities and other stakeholders existing programmes and forums should be used. For example COGTA has established engagement forums for traditional leaders in each district municipality that could be used to engage with Amakhosi and Induna. Similarly, local business forums provide the opportunity to engage with business.

7. Make use of **existing human and natural resources** and **start small** in the most vulnerable areas.

Municipalities that have limited funding and staff to respond to climate change were encouraged to think about the resources that they do have and to start with small projects that can be replicated. The natural environment for example provides us with ecosystem services such as water filtration and flood attenuation for free. Through the protection of the natural environment climate change risks can be reduced without the expenditure that would be required if man-made infrastructure had to be developed. For example, investing in the protection of coastal mangroves can help to reduce the impacts of coastal storms and sea-level rise. The costs involved in protecting these resources are far less than if a city was to build a man-made sea wall to perform the same function. The other resource that municipalities have is their local people. EThekweni Municipality's Sihlanzimvelo project demonstrated the value of involving local people to look after streams and the impact that their work has had on the quality of water and the reduced damage to stormwater infrastructure. Local people are employed to look after sections of rivers on a daily basis by removing litter and alien plants and reporting sewer leaks. The Municipality doesn't have sufficient staff to be able to do this on a daily basis but by employing local people the streams are kept in a good state as they monitor the sites daily.

8. **The development of baselines and gathering reliable data** is vital in preparing for climate change.

In order to identify the most appropriate climate change response areas it is vital that baseline studies are done to understand what the most vulnerable areas will be and to understand the sources of your highest emissions. In this regard as a first step it is important to conduct a vulnerability and risk assessment, as well as a greenhouse gas inventory. These exercises can be costly and so it is important to determine if there is existing information that is available and if your municipality can draw on the knowledge of academics and other research institutions to assist with the research that is required. Furthermore a platform like the Central KZN Climate Change Compact can provide an opportunity for local municipalities to learn from others that have completed these exercises. For example eThekweni Municipality has learnt how to compile a greenhouse gas inventory and can share this knowledge with the other cities.

9. Rigorous reporting of climate change interventions and cost savings made can help to leverage funding internally and externally.

Cities that are able to demonstrate the cost savings of a climate change project to their council and Treasury can help to leverage funding for additional projects. For example eThekweni Municipality's Energy Office was able to access funding for energy efficiency projects from a national fund. By demonstrating the cost savings of these technologies, they were able to access additional funding from their local Treasury department for climate change mitigation projects and for additional staff. It is important therefore that cities report on their climate change projects regularly and that both the climate change impacts and cost savings of these projects are recorded. Reporting to a formal body such as the carbon_n Cities Climate Registry can help cities to demonstrate their commitment to climate change and the current needs that they have which is important when trying to access funding from international bodies.

10. Value of human interaction in the climate change field

The value of person to person and face to face interaction amongst colleagues in the climate change field was highlighted throughout the exchange in order for effective learning to take place. There is a need for regular conversations to take place amongst practitioners in the field as climate change is a relatively new field. The Durban Adaptation Charter and the KZN Climate Change Compact will help to facilitate these interactions and promote learning exchanges but as one participant stated, "It will only work if we work it". Each individual needs to make an effort in contacting others to learn from each other and access the resources that are available.

11. Start small and act now

There is a great deal of uncertainty regarding the possible impacts that climate change may have on our cities and towns in the future. However, if we do not do anything to prepare for possible changes we could place our people and infrastructure at great risk. By making changes to existing infrastructure and processes, municipalities can reduce the potential impacts that climate change may have at a lower cost than if they were to respond once a disaster had occurred.

Day One

Session one and two: Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact

Sessions one and two of the Climate Change Learning Exchange were dedicated to the meeting of the Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact (CKZNCCC), a sub-regional compact that has been formed by eThekweni Municipality to exchange information and share knowledge between the city and its neighbouring municipalities.

Session three: ABC of Climate Change Learning Exchange

Welcome and Introductions, Programme Overview and Objectives

Dr Sean O'Donoghue and Mr Derek Morgan from eThekweni Municipality's Environmental Protection and Climate Planning Department (EPCPD) and Energy Office (EO) began the three-day exchange, by welcoming all participants to the Study Tour, including Municipalities, organisations and DAC partners. They handed over to Mr Sogen Moodley from eThekweni Municipality's Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE), the facilitators of the exchange, who shared on the roles of MILE, one of which is to improve knowledge sharing between cities to enhance service delivery through learning exchanges. Mr Moodley thereafter facilitated a session where all participants were asked to share their expectations of the learning exchange, which were then grouped into five categories (Partnerships, information sharing, mitigation and adaptation processes, technical support and disaster management), with the aim of achieving and answering these during the course of the exchange. The full list of expectations can be found in Appendix Two as documented by MILE.

Once the introductions were completed, Dr O'Donoghue explained that the main objectives of the learning exchange were to:

- Build capacity and take information back to municipalities.
- Learn from each other's examples and continue the conversation going forward
Implement what has been learned

Sharing the Journey- Formation of the Energy Office

Mr Derek Morgan from eThekweni Municipality's Energy Office delivered a presentation on the journey and formation of the Energy Office. The Energy Office was set up using international funding from DANIDA, who also assisted with the development of an energy strategy for the City. Mr Morgan explained that when the Energy Office was initiated, its core focus was on municipal energy efficiency that was driven by the national power conservation programme. The Energy Office has since evolved and broadened its focus to include residential energy efficiency, renewable energy, non-motorised transport, and the green economy. Mr Morgan highlighted that the department has been able to motivate for funding from Council because of the development of the Energy Strategy and through the development of greenhouse gas inventories and other monitoring systems which have been able to demonstrate the cost and emissions savings that have been made through the various interventions.

Sharing the Journey: Formation of the Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department

Dr Sean O'Donoghue from eThekweni Municipality's Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department (EPCPD) gave an overview of the climate change adaptation work that the EPCPD have done over the last few years, including the development of a vulnerability assessment of the city, municipal adaptation plans, ecosystem and community based adaptation projects, a climate change strategy for Durban, various tools, and working with other departments to mainstream climate change into their activities. Dr O'Donoghue emphasised the role that ecosystem based adaptation projects can play in providing jobs and training for local communities and emphasised the importance of forming partnerships with organisations outside of the Municipality to protect ecological infrastructure and benefit people.

After the presentations participants were asked to discuss their main lessons learnt from the session. Some of the lessons included:

- The value of forming partnerships internally with other departments and externally with other organisations (including business, municipalities, and academics) to share knowledge, access funds and human resources, and build capacity.
- It was acknowledged by many of the municipalities that accessing funding can be difficult. The following lessons around funding were highlighted:
 - It is important to have done background research before applying for funding to show your commitment to climate change.
 - Demonstrating cost savings that have been made through climate change projects can help to motivate for additional funding, especially internally.
 - Partnering with other municipalities through partnerships like the CKZNCCC can help to leverage funding collectively.
- Getting political buy-in for climate change projects is essential as political leaders are the decision makers.
- Ecosystem based adaptation projects have co-benefits of ecosystem restoration, employment creation and skills development and should be motivated for.
- It is important for cities to develop baseline assessments to understand where their climate change adaptation and mitigation focus areas should be. Municipalities will require assistance from those that have already gone through these processes.

Day Two

Session One: Bridging the gap for effective implementation

Ms Penny Price from EPCPD welcomed everyone and thanked them for their active participation during the first day. Ms Price then introduced Ms Sarah Birch, from ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability.

Bridging the gap for effective implementation 1

Ms Birch shared some of the lessons that they have learnt from working in the climate change field with local government practitioners. Most of the municipalities that they have worked with lack capacity and Ms Birch highlighted the value of mainstreaming climate change and working with existing line functions to build capacity in the climate change field, rather than confining climate change to an environmental department. Ms Birch also explained that municipalities should work with other departments, start small and focus on the areas that are most vulnerable first. The results of these projects should then be visibly demonstrated to political leaders. She also emphasised the importance of getting political leaders on board and engaging with communities to access their indigenous knowledge on climate change issues.

Bridging the gap for effective implementation 2

Mr Derek Morgan presented a summary of the Energy Office's experience in bridging the gap between theory and effective implementation at eThekweni Municipality. Mr Morgan identified the following five main points as important for implementation of climate change projects: the identification of climate change champions; access to money and funding opportunities; access to information; the development of partnerships and collaborations; and finally support from strong political leadership.

Discussion

Mr Sogen Moodley facilitated a discussion session with the participants. Some of the main points raised were:

- The Durban Adaptation Charter provides a platform for different organisations to work together, learn from each other, and access resources, which can assist with the implementation of climate change work.
- The Department of Environmental Affairs' "Let's respond toolkit" is a useful support toolkit that has been uniquely tailored for the South African context that municipalities can have immediate access to. Training on how to use the toolkit was requested.
- Engaging with traditional leadership can be challenging. Sarah Birch from ICLEI-Africa stated that they have used a scenario approach that uses tangible examples on the ground and works with scenarios of different decisions and outputs when engaging with traditional leaders which has worked well.
- It is important that climate change is mainstreamed into all departments and that the silos between departments are broken down.
- Implementation is challenging but by starting with small projects that are doable, other departments can replicate these projects.

Session Two: Implementing climate change response and co-benefits

Implementing Climate Change Response and Co-Benefits part 1

Mr Magash Naidoo from eThekweni Municipality's Energy Office provided a presentation on the various co-benefits that they have identified from their climate change mitigation projects. Mr Naidoo explained that climate change projects are not a priority for most cities and therefore the co-benefits of these projects need to be clearly demonstrated. He explained that the highlighting of co-benefits can assist in getting local and political buy-in. Mr Naidoo then presented a range of co-benefits which have resulted from the renewable energy, energy efficiency and transport mitigation projects that they have undertaken, some of which included, job creation, stimulating the economy, knowledge transfer, reducing traffic, increasing sustainable thinking and tourism development. He concluded by saying that other municipalities should identify the co-benefits of their own climate change projects which will help to leverage funds and support.

Implementing Climate Change Response and Co-Benefits part 2

Mr Geoff Tooley from eThekweni Municipality's Coastal, Storm-Water and Catchment Management Department delivered a presentation on Catchment Coordinated Interventions which highlighted the co-benefits of climate change projects that they have initiated in their department. At the start of his presentation Mr Tooley provided examples of how heavy rainfall and flooding, as a result of climate change, is already affecting human wellbeing and damaging infrastructure in eThekweni Municipality and that based on research that has been done further damage is expected.

He then explained that eThekweni Municipality has developed a number of actions under the Water Municipal Adaptation Plan to prepare for these impacts which include: revising the flood policy and restricting where development can take place; relooking at the bylaws that guide development; designing pipes and stormwater drains in anticipation of climate change; developing master drainage plans; using natural areas to slow down stormwater runoff; re-allocation of informal settlements in vulnerable areas; and incorporating climate change as a risk in their infrastructure planning.

He thereafter provided an overview of the uMhlangane River Catchment and a number of climate change related projects that they are implementing within the catchment. The Sihlanzimvelo project is a key project within this catchment that employs community members in the management of the catchment. Community members help with removing litter, removing alien plants and reporting sewer leaks. In addition to providing community members with employment this initiative has resulted in a number of co-benefits down the line including an increase in water quality downstream, improved health for people using the streams, fewer blockages in culverts downstream; an improved ecosystem which has promoted biodiversity; and reduced stress on municipal departments.

Discussion

Mr Sogen Moodley facilitated a discussion session with the participants. Some of the main points raised were:

- There are different developmental needs amongst municipalities and not all lessons can be translated. There is a big difference between the needs of urban rural municipalities. Municipalities also need to look at ways of development that do not clash with climate change actions, balancing rural development in small municipalities with climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- The importance of working with strategic partners such as business, NGOs and academics was further highlighted.
- Highlighting the monetary value of co-benefits of climate change projects can help to motivate for funding internally.
- Working with traditional leaders presents the opportunity for co-learning on climate change issues.
- Natural resources are free and if looked after can help to provide services that costly manmade infrastructure provide. E.g. Stormwater attenuation.

Session Three: Site Visits

After the presentations, study tour participants were taken to two different sites to demonstrate two of the climate change projects that eThekweni Municipality has implemented.

Implementing Adaptation: Riverhorse Valley

The first site visit was to the Riverhorse Valley where a wetland rehabilitation project is being implemented in the area by the City in partnership with the Riverhorse Valley Business Management Association. Wetland rehabilitation efforts have included the removal of alien invasive species, planting indigenous wetland species, and levelling the furrows that were from the previous sugar cane farming. As a result the water table has been raised and the wetland has been able to perform its role in retaining more water during heavy periods of rainfall and thereby reducing flood risk. Over and above this there has been an increase in biodiversity and birdlife, improved air quality and chemical balances, and improved quality in water flow to the beaches. This project has also aided in job creation by employing community members as contractors in the replanting of the area. The project has also demonstrated the importance of working with business and communities on climate change projects where capacity and funding is limited.



Figure 1: Mr Geoff Tooley sharing on some of the co-benefits of the Riverhorse Valley project (Image: Siphephile Nzimande).

Implementing Mitigation: Architecture Department

The second site visit was to eThekweni Municipality's Architecture department to learn about the various energy efficiency interventions that they have undertaken in municipal buildings. Mr Lindani Buthelezi gave a presentation on interventions and projects in which the municipality is involved. Projects include the installation of energy efficient lighting, solar water heaters and heat pumps in office, residential and industrial municipal buildings to save energy. One of the innovative interventions within the Architecture Department was to introduce wireless lighting in individual office spaces to assist with the saving of energy. EThekweni Municipality has also installed energy monitoring equipment at four of its buildings and Mr Buthelezi demonstrated the software that is used to monitor and analyse the energy usage. Through this software municipal officials are able track their energy usage, identify areas where improvements can be made, and track changes when there is a change in technologies.



Figure 2: Mr Lindani Buthelezi standing over a model of the Durban CBD explains the Municipality's goal to roll out energy efficiency interventions to other municipal buildings (Image: Siphephile Nzimande).

Day Three

Session One: Reflections and discussions session

Ms Masingita Khandlhela from MILE facilitated the Reflections session and presented on the overarching lessons learnt from the first two days of the exchange. The following lessons were highlighted:

- Partnering with other institutions (academia, NGOs, business) can provide access to resources such as data, human capacity and funds.
- Joining a network of cities focusing on climate change can assist with sharing of knowledge and accessing funding collectively.
- Climate change should be mainstreamed into the existing work of line departments and champions identified.
- Cities with limited capacity should focus on the human and natural resources that they do have and work from there.
- Climate change projects often have co-benefits and if demonstrated effectively can help to motivate for funding.
- Engaging with communities provides an opportunity for co-learning – Accessing indigenous knowledge and sharing scientific data
- It is vitally important that political leaders are engaged with when planning for climate change and that they understand the multiple benefits that these projects can have-economic benefits, social benefits etc.
- Start small in the most vulnerable areas and work from the bottom up with the resources that your municipality has.

- Reliable data is vital in preparing for climate change. Draw on academics and other research organisations to assist with research that is required.
- Make use of existing resources freely available ie DEA “Lets Respond toolkit”
- Rigorous reporting of climate change interventions and savings made can help to leverage funding internally and externally

Thereafter she asked the group to provide feedback on the lessons learnt during the previous day’s site visits.

Lessons from the Riverhorse Valley site visit:

- The importance of wetlands in providing flood attenuation services, improving water quality, and improving biodiversity was highlighted.
- Small areas of conservation / open spaces which are usually neglected have the potential to yield multiple benefits and therefore should be protected and invested in.
- The importance of involving businesses in climate change issues was raised. Businesses can help to provide funding and human resources and also benefit as the project forms part of their Corporate Social Responsibilities.
- The importance of consulting with different stakeholders and conducting good public participation processes was raised. The social aspects of climate change projects, especially in terms of job creation for local communities need to be communicated clearly.
- One of the participants reminded the group that it is better to practice good environmental management now, as rehabilitation is costly.

Lessons from eThekweni Municipality’s Architecture Department visit:

- There are multiple funding opportunities available for municipalities to fund energy efficiency projects including DORA, the Eskom SPP, and the EEDSM.
- Management and behaviour is crucial when undertaking energy efficiency interventions.
- The use of energy monitoring systems can help to identify the source of the highest energy usage in a building and demonstrate the savings made when an energy efficiency intervention is implemented.
- It is important to conduct a baseline before implementing an energy efficiency intervention so that savings can be monitored.

Following this activity, Ms Price facilitated a reflection session for participants to report on their key reflections of the last two days. Some of the take-away points for the participants were:

- There is a need to act now: Climate change is occurring and its impacts are already being felt, it is therefore important for municipalities to start small by identifying areas of need and the low hanging fruit which can help to create momentum and catalyse other climate change work.

- Climate change presents an opportunity for co-learning: Integrating scientific knowledge with local and indigenous knowledge is important when dealing with climate change issues and presents an opportunity for co-learning.
- The importance of platforms for exchange: Municipalities can learn from each other's experiences by joining platforms such as the CKZNCCC. These platforms also provide the opportunity for national and provincial government to communicate with municipalities. Platforms such as this one allow for one-on-one human interaction.
- Involving political leadership: It is important to involve political leaders in climate change issues and to help them to understand the impacts that climate change can have on service delivery.
- The importance of partnerships: Forming partnerships with NGO's, research institutions, and other sectors with resources and expertise can help municipalities achieve their climate change goals, especially where there is limited capacity.
- Climate change strategies take time: There are no shortcuts and municipalities need to acknowledge that developing Climate Change strategies and plans is a lengthy process.
- Toolkits need to be tested: Whilst the value of toolkits was acknowledged, toolkits also need to be tested for applicability in different contexts.
- The value of ecosystem services: Investing in ecosystem infrastructure can lower costs spent by municipalities across sectors.
- The importance of developing baseline studies: Baseline studies, such as vulnerability assessments and GHG inventories are crucial in understanding where the most vulnerable areas are and the sources of your highest emissions. Once these studies have been completed it is easier to direct action.

Session Two: Establishing a productive way forward

Ms Penny Price explained that the vision for the CKZNCCC is to extend to include other municipalities within KwaZulu-Natal. She added that so far the Compact has focused on municipalities but that going forward other organisations will be brought on board, including SALGA, ICLEI, the DEA, KZN provincial departments, and eThekweni Municipality's MILE.

The development of a climate change knowledge network was highlighted by Ms Price as an important platform where information on funding and research opportunities can be accessed. Ms Price stated that the following will be done to get this off the ground:

- The DAC and its partners, as well as the Energy Office and MILE will meet to explore existing resources that are available.
- MILE will host a meeting with the CKZNCCC and research institutions to determine possible areas of collaboration.

As expressed throughout the exchange many of the municipalities are in need of technical support in the climate change field, especially in developing climate change plans and strategies. Ms. Price encouraged participants to engage with the DEA "Lets respond toolkit" as it is immediately available. It was also highlighted that guidance is needed to understand

the toolkit. Ms. Price suggested that perhaps the DEA and SALGA could work together and structure engagement sessions at a District level to explain the toolkit. It was also suggested that the Compact meetings could be used to engage with municipalities on other technically specific areas, such as sea-level rise, GHG inventories, and ecosystem based adaptation.

Getting support to develop improved funding proposals was also highlighted as an area of need and applying collectively for funding under the Compact banner was proposed. Ms Price stated that a database of funding opportunities is being developed and that the DAC secretariat will email any funding opportunities to all members.

Ms Price highlighted the importance of communicating what has been learnt at the exchange to other municipal decision makers. The following points were discussed regarding how this could be done:

- Political Leaders: It is crucial that political leaders are communicated with regarding climate change issues. This can either be done through a MILE master class or through SALGA's existing channels. SALGA conducts training for new councilors and will include climate change as a component of this training.
- Line Departments: Communicating with line departments to get them on board can be done through the "Lets respond toolkit" which also provides guidance on including other stakeholders.
- Traditional leaders: In order to communicate with traditional leaders it was advised that existing engagement forums run by COGTA are used. At a provincial level meetings are also held monthly with traditional leaders and this could also serve as an avenue to communicate climate change information.
- The next Local Climate Solutions for Africa conference will be held in Durban in 2015. This presents a learning opportunity for both municipal officials and political leaders.
- Existing stewardship projects and stakeholder forums should also be approached and communicated with to get support.
- It was agreed that an institutional diagram of stakeholders in the province would be compiled.

Session Three: MILE technical support session

Ms. Khandlhela closed off the exchange by conducting a short session to gather information from each municipality to help determine the areas within the climate change field where technical support is needed. Technical support included the development of climate change strategies, GHG inventories, and vulnerability assessments, research and development in environmental protection and climate change, guidelines on recycling strategies, and guidelines on green roofs.

Appendix One: Climate Change Learning Exchange Expectations

1. MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION PROCESS

- Municipalities have done work to develop climate change adaptation/mitigation plans which is commendable
- Incapacity (shortage of staff seems to be a problem)
- How is this addressed?
- How to mitigate Climate Change special from rural context, and to make Politician aware of Climate Change
- Adaptation Projects Implementation Plans/Strategies for Municipal and local level.
- To be exposed to the mitigation measures being implemented for Climate Change adaptation

2. PARTNERSHIPS

- Partnerships are critical. How can one Municipality maintain long term partnerships with other Sector department to achieve maximum outcomes?
- To establish lasting partnerships formed to find solutions to our complex Climate Change challenges
- Engage with Municipalities on opportunities available to them for Climate Change and on how we as SALGA can support them and capacitate
- Partnership around Climate Change with local Municipal in the KZN Region
- Inspiration to be the driving force in your Sector/space to encourage others and bring about positive changes in climate change response
- What can be done to assist Municipalities in ensuring that Climate Change issues are integrated into their Municipal planning processes?
- I would like to find out more about ICLEI partnerships. Also on how can rural Municipalities be brought on board on the issues of Climate Change adaptation and mitigation?
- Working together to combat the evil Climate Change and empowering those who are less knowledgeable.
- Looking forward to see how Academic Institution could collaborate with this initiative through research
- To determine how Municipalities an access resources so that they can implement Climate Change projects with limited capacity and budgets
- For all participants to have found value in attending this event enough to stimulate action and engagement with the compact
- To see if is there a possibility of doing some Climate response strategy in-house whilst trying to source funding

3. UNDERSTANDING

- Understanding how EThekweni got it right in getting the ball running in other areas
- Better understanding of Climate Change and its impact in our communities
- Understand the need of applied research
- To get more capacity to go and educate my community especially schools, corporate, NGO's around the community
- To better understand how the exchange of knowledge and experience is facilitated between the cities and Municipalities
- To gain knowledge on the challenges of the Municipalities and what they are doing
- Understanding what DAC is +/- (?) and the role of DAC in supporting LG's
- Understand value of KZN compact and how to replicate globally through ILLEI and DAC networks

4. INFORMATION

- Get more information on funding on proposed projects
- How to link energy management with Climate Change
- Who, what, how is out there that we can use to drive and support issues of Climate Change at a local Government sphere
- Design a website for information sharing within compact member

5. DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- How Climate Change impacts on Disaster Management?

6. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- To find out the Municipalities strategies on Climate Change and currently
- Also gain Technical support from other stakeholders