



POST LEARNING EVENT REPORTING TEMPLATE

As part of eThekweni Municipality's commitment to strengthen our organisation's culture of learning and sharing, this form presents information on a recent out of town trip, visit, learning exchange undertaken by an official from the municipality. This information will be posted on the MILE website (www.mile.org.za) in the interest of advancing our **KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT** agenda. Thank you for taking the time to complete the form.

1. What was the NAME OF THE EVENT?

National Climate Change Dialogue

2. The DATE attended:

10th – 13th November 2014

3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand

4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?

Ms Lisa Guastella-Smith: Climate Protection Scientist, Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department

5. What area of expertise did the event cover?

Culture, heritage and sport	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering and the built environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IT and Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Economic development and Tourism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Health and Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	City strategy and planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Energy and the natural environment	X	Good governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Other:

6. What was the PURPOSE OF THE EVENT, THE BROAD OBJECTIVES, AND THEMES? Why was it of importance?

The 2014 National Climate Change Dialogue was convened to consolidate South Africa's vision, common purpose and develop a roadmap for an effective climate change response and a just transition to a climate resilient and lower carbon economy and society.

Against the backdrop of the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), with discussions facilitated by lead authors of the IPCC, the broad objectives of the National Climate Change Response Dialogue were to:

- Facilitate an interactive dialogue with all stakeholders on progress, challenges and opportunities in South Africa's just transition to a lower-carbon and climate resilient society.
- Strengthen the vision and common purpose towards a systemic approach of transformation.
- Strengthen the roadmap for scaling up implementation.
- Engagement on South Africa's position in the international arena from the Durban Platform in 2011 to the finalisation of a new multilateral agreement at the 21st Conference of the Parties in Paris in December 2015.

Key themes included:

- Engaging the science, and visioning a future lower carbon and climate resilient South Africa

- Policy, governance and the interface with science and society
- Resourcing and scaling up the transition to a lower carbon and climate resilient South Africa
- Monitoring and evaluating the outcomes, and engaging internationally

7. What in your opinion are some of the KEY LEARNINGS that you came away with? In other words, what stood out for you? Were there any "aha!" learning moments that you can share with colleagues? What were some of the KEY OBSERVATIONS that were important or different?

Africa has a data deficit in terms of monitoring, therefore we are often relying on global circulation models. But is the output verified or ground-truthed?

There is uncertainty wrt future climate impacts and there is a need to improve understanding of climate risk scenarios.

Climate Change (CC) adaptation needs investment in Disaster Management and there is a need for risk assessment and management. It makes good economic sense to plan better.

Only 30% of farmers are insured, yet agriculture is the most negatively affected sector from CC.

The poor are most vulnerable to the effects of CC, but contribute the least to CC.

Indigenous knowledge is an important resource and information from this sector can be used to help protect ecosystem services and strengthen disaster preparedness and response.

There needs to be more investment in long-term research, especially to assess rural CC.

CC knows no boundaries.

Increased CO₂ has resulted in bush encroachment; this then decreased grazing potential . Soil is a very important pool of C in dry forests.

8% of land in SA generates 50% of run-off, therefore these sources need to be protected because that is key ecological infrastructure

The focus is on CC, but we are impacted by weather. Are floodlines being updated, e.g. the current 1:50 year floodline could now be the 1:20 or 30 year?

8. As a result of this event, what is the ONE CHANGE that you may consider making backing back at work, if any? What follow ups are envisaged?

EThekweni still needs to improve its long term monitoring & should collaborate with WeatherSA

9. Please indicate details of useful CONTACTS AND NETWORKS that were established during the event?

- Prof. Guy Midgley, Dept of Botany and Zoology, University of Stellenbosch.
- Gray Mguire, Community Engagement Facilitator, Project 90 by 2030
- Dr Ben du Toit, Dept Forest & Wood Science, University of Stellenbosch.
- John Dini, SANBI.
- Amanda Bourne, Conservation SA (N Cape)
- Peter Lukey, Department of Environmental Affairs, Pretoria.

10. One of the key functions of our MILE website is to serve as a repository of LEARNING DOCUMENTATION, VIDEOS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND OTHER RESOURCE MATERIAL. Please can send such material to mile@durban.gov.za so that it can be uploaded onto our website.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO BUILD A LEARNING ORGANISATION