



## 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](http://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?

Climate Adaptation 2014: Future Challenges conference

### 2. The DATE attended:

29 September-2nd October 2014

### 3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

Gold Coast Australia

#### 4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?

Deputy Head: Environmental Planning and Climate Protection

#### 5. What area of expertise did the event cover?

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

Other:

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

The conference brought together researchers, practitioners and decision makers to share knowledge and research approaches that inform policy and practice in planning for climate change adaptation which is a priority concern for Africa.

**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?**

Important themes to emerge during the course of the conference included:

- The importance of ecosystem based adaptation as a key response to climate change. This will require that a new priority is placed on protecting indigenous ecosystems in cities.
- Culture of competition needs to move to a culture of collaboration if cities are to remain globally competitive.
- The cost of responding is lower than the costs of not responding.
- The new concept of 'flexible adaptation pathways' was discussed. It refers to adaptation approaches that focus on the uncertain and long-term nature of climate change by employing a risk-based decision framework involving thresholds and trigger points that enable the systematic adjustment of adaptation strategies in response to new information and changing circumstances. It assumes: dynamic futures; proactive rather than reactive responses; is decision-focused rather than impact or vulnerability focused and is applicable across planning paradigms.

**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?**

See below.

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

Made contacts with several Australian scientists working on the adaptation pathways concept – this will be used in the framing of the Durban work that is being documented for a book to be released in 2015 by a group of IPCC authors (including DH: EPCPD).

**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](mailto:mile@durban.gov.za) so that it can be uploaded onto our website.**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO BUILD A LEARNING ORGANISATION**