

Transformation in a nutshell

The Durban Adaptation Charter Hub and Compact approach seeks to advance an integrated approach to climate change adaptation and governance in Africa. Cities leading regional efforts at implementing climate change adaptation action connect through knowledge sharing exchange visits focusing on shared climate change challenges and adaptation approaches. Implementation of outcomes emerging from exchanges are implemented at a City Region scale through the establishment of Compacts (partnerships with municipalities neighbouring each Hub to extend the scale at which adaptation is implemented). Surrounding Compact members are typically small poorly resourced municipalities that benefit from increased capacity and access to resources, whilst each Hub benefits from resolving climate change challenges that are often within shared catchments, for example. Implementation is guided by Compact scale transdisciplinary research partnerships using innovative and cost-efficient approaches.

Key Components of the evidence-based research

Research guides implementation of the City's climate change adaptation response. An example is the development of a long term biodiversity monitoring programme to track indicators of change in Durban ecosystems as a result of climate change and other environmental impacts.

The long term vision is for the establishment of Compact partnerships throughout Africa guided by transdisciplinary research partnerships.

Benefits to eThekweni Municipality:

Besides research that guides implementation of our Durban Climate Change Strategy, the support for surrounding municipalities in the Central KZN Climate Change Compact will have downstream benefits as activities occurring higher up in catchments like the uMngeni impact upon Durban.

By establishing the Hub and Compact network, Durban is leading regional climate change adaptation transformative governance efforts. There is, therefore, reputational benefit, as well as an improved ability to secure international funding for projects.

Expanded summary

Councillor Zandile Gumede, Mayor of eThekweni Municipality, hosted a climate change knowledge exchange from 6 – 8th March for a delegation of mayors and city officials from the three Mozambican Cities of Quelimane, Pemba and Nacala. The exchange, funded by the Global Adaptation Network and organised by the Durban Adaptation Charter Secretariat (DAC) sought to build capacity and extend the deepening partnership between these four cities in order to advance climate change action in the region.

This second leg of the Exchange followed on from a successful first leg where eThekweni Municipality officials visited Pemba to discuss sea level rise, catchment management and climate governance issues. The focus of the return trip was community-oriented biodiversity planning and water governance approaches, Community Ecosystem-based Adaptation (CEBA), environmentally-sensitive solid waste management systems and renewable energy. At the conclusion of this exchange the cities agreed to cooperate on the development of a climate change funding proposal for submission to international funding organisations. Mayor de Araujo of Quelimane also extended an invite to Her Worship, Mayor Gumede to visit these Mozambican cities in support of the development of this proposal.

This was the eighth such exchange organised through the DAC Secretariat. The DAC emerged as an advocacy platform out of Durban's hosting of the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) in 2011. During this time the Secretariat successfully lobbied for the inclusion of climate change adaptation within the Paris Agreement in December 2015. One of the DAC's key principles for

climate change adaptation is the development of partnerships across city regions, tiers of government and sectors for an integrated response to climate change. The DAC prioritises action to build resilience in the most vulnerable communities of the Global South through implementing CEBA interventions, amongst others.