



NAMAKWA

DISTRIKSMUNISIPALITEIT
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Namaqualand District Municipality: Lets' Respond Workshop

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SAPD Sports Club Hall, Springbok

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY: A LEARNING EXCHANGE AMONG MUNICIPALITIES DOING ADAPTATION PLANNING

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BACKGROUND

Working in partnership with Conservation South Africa (CSA), the Namakwa District Municipality (NDM) has been leading a long-term process of integrating climate change response and ecosystem-based adaptation into their discourse, policy documents, and planning activities. To date, this process has included developing a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for the District that was launched in 2012, including a description of climate change and its impacts, as well as number of goals, into the 2012-2016 Integrated Development Plan (IDP), and integrating climate change and climate response into the Districts' Disaster Management processes. The NDM has co-hosted 2 high-level Partners' Conferences on climate change, vulnerability, and ecosystem-based adaptation in Springbok, launched a Renewable Energy Spatial Planning Tool to guide the location of wind and solar facilities in the District, and hosted a training session on the Let's Respond Toolkit for relevant officials. The Northern Cape Province has also developed a draft Northern Cape Climate Change Response Strategy as a guiding document which is currently under review.

Engaging with the Let's Respond Toolkit has led to a deeper partnership with local government authorities SALGA and COGTA, as well as with other involved in the design of the Toolkit from within DEA and the GIZ. Several other municipalities around the country have also been using the Toolkit and have achieved much in terms of climate change responsive planning and integration. Thus, a learning exchange was planned to provide an opportunity for local government officials working on climate change response to learn from each other and share their experiences. Various different levels of government were included: National, Provincial, District, and Local, as well as supporting agencies and partners.

WORKSHOP AIMS

- To provide the national context and policy framework on climate change adaptation
- To introduce the Let's Respond Toolkit and SALGA and COGTA's support for local government adopting a climate responsive approach to planning
- To give several local governments from around the country the opportunity to share their achievements, challenges, and experiences with climate responsive planning with peers in a similar position to themselves
- To create a positive environment for learning from and sharing with each other, with lots of opportunities for interaction and discussion
- To showcase climate response projects in the Namakwa District

ATTENDANCE

The workshop was attended by 38 people on the first day and 29 people on the second day. These participants represented the following institutions and organisations:

Alfred Nzo District Municipality (8)

City of Cape Town (1)

Conservation South Africa (7)

National Department of Environmental Affairs (3)

Heinrich Boell Foundation (1)

Kamiesberg Local Municipality (2)

Nama Khoi Local Municipality (2)

Namakwa District Municipality (2)

Northern Cape Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs (2)

Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (5)

Richtersveld Local Municipality (1)

South African Local Government Association (1)

West Coast District Municipality (2)

Western Cape Province (1)

WORKSHOP MATERIALS

The following workshop materials were distributed:

- Adapting to Climate Change: Maintaining ecosystem services for human well-being in the Namakwa District Municipality, South Africa; Brochure
- Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment: Building resilience to climate change in the Namakwa District; Factsheet
- Ecosystem-based Adaptation: Building resilience to climate change in the Namakwa District; Factsheet
- Veepos newspaper
- A small number of Let's Respond Toolkits

PRODUCTS OF THE WORKSHOP

During the course of the workshop, information was collected through a variety of group work processes to inform the following:

- Namaqualand District Municipality Lets' Respond Workshop: A learning exchange among municipalities doing adaptation planning; Workshop Report

SESSION SUMMARIES: DAY 1 PRESENTATIONS

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Mr Ronald Newman: Manager, Namakwa Field Office, Conservation South Africa

Ronald Newman welcomed the group to the Namakwa District, welcomed guests and partners, and thanked those who had traveled large distances to be there. He provided a brief introduction to the Namakwa District and its key challenges and resources. Mr Newman gave short background to key concepts for the day and emphasised the urgent need for those present to open themselves to collaboration and working together to address the changing and complex impacts of future climate change for their constituents. Finally, he ran through the learning exchange aims and objectives, as well as the programme of the day.

OPENING ADDRESS: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS POLICY FRAMEWORK ON ADAPTATION

Mr Vhalinavho Khavhagali: Director, Adaptation, Department of Environmental Affairs

Mr Khavhagali put the learning exchange very nicely in context by providing the group with the national policy framework on adaptation to climate change, and informing on the discussions and priority area on this issue at the national government level. This gave a strategic framework to the local level actions discussed over the course of the learning exchange. Climate change and climate change response is a major concern at national government level. Specifically he spoke to the contents of the National Climate Change Response Policy and the Vulnerability and Climate Change Assessment Report 5.

Disaster management was a key focus of his talk and extreme events and ensuring that vulnerability to natural disasters is sustainably reduced are some of the aspects being addressed here in the national discussion. Climate change is likely to increasingly bring about natural disasters that will have impacts on infrastructure and the social and economic conditions of South Africa's residents. Extreme events expose people to hazards and lower their resilience over time. Water quality and water quantity are particularly of concern.

He spoke about how access to good scientific information is critical to ensure that good decisions can be made in time, but that the science should also be informed by reality and issues on the ground. Building capacity and synergies across and within different sectors is key. National government is taking a sector-based approach and has focused to date on understanding the core vulnerabilities and adaptation options for the following 6 sectors: water, agriculture, health, natural resources, human settlements, and disaster management. Responding to climate change will involve both adaptation and mitigation, assessments of vulnerability and risk, monitoring and evaluation, finance, and technology. Mr Khavhagali urged each of the participants to consider where they fit in to the policy implementation plan and which of the climate responses discussed they could be implementing locally.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LET'S RESPOND TOOLKIT

Mr. Lesang Daniels: Municipal Infrastructure and Services Advisor, South African Local Government Association

Mr Daniels introduced the toolkit, a result of a national intergovernmental initiative between DEA, SALGA, DCOG and GIZ. PDG. International and local best practice was used in the design and development of the toolkit, which has now been piloted in 5 municipalities in SA: Amatole District (East London), Nxuba Local (Part of Amatole

district), Buffalo City Metro – Eastern Cape; Thulamela Local (Thohoyandou) – Limpopo; and Emfuleni Local (Vanderbijl Park) – Gauteng.

The toolkit has been designed to take municipalities through steps toward climate change responsive planning and provides a set of tools to support the process. The process supports the integrating these priorities into the IDP and related municipal plans (Sector Plans and the Spatial Development Framework), and the presenter made clear that the integration of climate change response into IDP is not a new planning or reporting requirement.

This approach is endorsed in the NCCRS: 'Local government plays a crucial role in building climate resilience... Climate change considerations and constraints will be integrated into municipal development planning tools such as Integrated Development Plans, and municipal service delivery programmes.'

During the presentation, Mr Daniels took workshop participants through each of the 5 phases of the toolkit, from preparation, through analysis, strategy and project development, to integration and implementation. He introduced a couple of examples of the tools available in the toolkit to support each phase.

The key take home message was that climate change response planning is important for municipalities and the Toolkit supports municipalities to do this through the IDP. Climate change response should not be viewed as something additional to service delivery and it can easily be incorporated into achieving service delivery for example: climate change may increase dry periods and intensify droughts, there is a need to have better water management measures in place to reduce the impact of water shortages, like upgrading of piping systems to reduce leakages.

GIZ is currently working on developing a training program that helps municipalities plan for climate change.

CLIMATE GOVERNANCE: AN AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

Mr Farayi Madziwa: Programme Manager, Climate Governance in Africa, Heinrich Boell Foundation

Heinrich Boell's climate governance in Africa programme focuses on policy coherence, strengthening capacity for climate finance, promoting a PAN African consensus on climate change response, encouraging dialogue on the sustainable transformation of African economies, and ensuring that the interests of vulnerable groups are represented in policy. Mr Madziwa's presentation introduced the core activities of the foundation and research that they have completed, including country studies on adaptation preparedness in 4 African countries.

Poverty and equity issues are central to climate response planning. Translating local development priorities so that these are well understood in a national and international context will increasingly become an important function of local government and their partners in order to ensure that climate finance and the governance of adaptation finance proceeds in such a way that it benefits the most vulnerable.

COGHSTA'S ROLE IN IDP REVIEW AND THE ROLLOUT OF THE LET'S RESPOND TOOLKIT

Mr Jabu Malaza and Mr Mogomotsi Molusi, Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs, Northern Cape

Mr Malaza gave an interesting background and introduction to the IDP and COGHSTA's view on incorporating climate change into this planning document. IDP, he said, should be structured to the services that they provide, and local level planning must respond to the nation's international commitments, as well as local development and

service delivery priorities. The Spatial Development Framework, a municipal planning tool, cannot be an afterthought, and good plans, spatially defined, lead to increased likelihood of accessing finances for project support. He described climate change as 'Everybody's Business' and confirmed that COGHSTA is busy working with local municipalities in the Northern Cape on their annual IDP review. They are busy rolling out revised IDP requirements, linked to the National Development Plan, and also including the use of the Let's Respond toolkit for local climate change response planning. This revised IDP will ensure that local planning documents are 'climate credible', aligned to the NDP and SDF, and take national priorities into account. COGHSTA will be supporting local municipalities with this over the next six months, through personal visits and collaboration. CSA has been invited to participate in this process. They have a District Steering Committee to support local municipalities with implementing and monitoring climate change response. The target audience is senior managers and councilors, as well as Mayors (who report to COGHSTA MEC) and Municipal Managers (who report to COGHSTA HOD).

Mr Molusi revisited the Let's Respond Toolkit, locating it within the current South African legislation including the Constitution, the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act of 2013, NDP, White Paper on Local Government, and the Municipal Systems and Structures Acts. He described the toolkit as a intergovernmental initiative involving SALGA, DCOG, and DEA with the aim of supporting local government to integrate climate change response directly into their integrated development planning. His talk highlighted the tools available to municipalities in the Toolkit, to support and inform each of the phases discussed in detail by Mr Daniels in an earlier session.

CLIMATE RESPONSIVE PLANNING IN THE WESTERN CAPE

Ms Penny Price, Climate Change and Biodiversity Directorate, Western Cape Provincial Government

In this session, Ms Price highlighted some core concerns, lessons learned, and priority areas for climate change response in South Africa, from a provincial perspective. Provincial officials act as the interface between national and local, and Ms Price strongly encouraged provincial colleagues present on the day to engage actively at the national level. National government is developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for the country and provinces will be able to take local level information and feed it into national level decision making using this framework. Ms Price reiterated Mr Khavhagali's point from early that there are often significant gaps in knowledge and information that compromise the ability to make good decisions. Like him, she encouraged officials to liaise with researchers and with the people on the ground to facilitate knowledge sharing widely.

The Western Cape has developed a climate change response strategy for the Province that is currently under review. They also have partially developed sector plans, but have taken a decision to focus rather on integrating climate change into existing sector plans, through quite specific, targeted and strategic inputs. Including deliverables related to climate change response into the job descriptions of key officials would also be a significant outcome, as there are currently no consequences for not implementing climate change responses.

In the Western Cape, as in many other government institutions worldwide, climate change is located firmly within the environment department. This is a severe limitation for climate change response as climate change is a cross-cutting issue, affecting people, infrastructure, and the economy as much or more than the environment. Environment departments are often small and under-funded, making partnerships, sharing information, experiences, and resources, and innovation very important. There is also a common perception in resource-constrained nations that the environment sector is seen, at worst, as an obstacle, actively blocking development, or at best as a 'nice to have' rather than a serious priority in competition with service delivery and employment creation. These perceptions and limitation could have seriously negative consequences for the uptake of climate responsive planning in local government if climate change remains relegated to the environment sector alone.

Ms Price also highlighted climate financing in the private sector, such as in the insurance sector, as critical to removing barriers and promoting innovation. Finally she reflected on the need for a local champion, preferably a Mayor or Municipal Manager, to lead or drive the process, and the importance of political buy-in from the councillors.

CLIMATE RESPONSIVE PLANNING IN THE NORTHERN CAPE

Mrs Nanine van Olmen Phillips: Intergovernmental Coordination, Spatial and Development Planning, Department of Environment and Nature Conservation, Northern Cape

As in the previous talk, climate change in the Northern Cape is currently located in and led by the Environment Department in the Province. Ms van Olmen Phillips discussed current departmental mandates (to create a sustainable and healthy social, economic, and natural environment for the Northern Cape, support Green Economy projects with broad benefits, and position the Province as a national leader in renewable energy) and how these link with climate change response. Following with Northern Cape climate summit, a resolution on climate change was made in which the Department pledged to build their knowledge base and capacity to adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change, especially where this involves the implementation of basic services, water resources management, infrastructure planning, agriculture, biodiversity, green jobs, and the health sector.

Currently, DENC has a first draft Northern Cape Climate Change Response Strategy which is under internal review and has been sent to a handful of partners for comment. The Namakwa District has a Renewable Energy strategy, the principles of which could be applied to inform the development of the renewable energy sector across the province. The Department's intention is to mainstream climate change into all activities, and to recognise and re-frame those existing activities that are already linked to climate change response. It was very clear that this thinking is beginning to take root within the department as many projects, including waste management, ecosystem restoration, water management, and air quality control, were listed as critically linked to climate change response.

CLIMATE RESPONSIVE PLANNING IN THE ALFRED NZO DISTRICT

Ms Batsetsana Khathali: Local Economic Development, Alfred Nzo District Municipality

Ms Khathali opened her talk by reflecting on her learnings from the morning. She noted that it appears that they had been doing climate change response in Alfred Nzo all this time, but they had never thought about it that way before. As ANDM is just beginning their climate response journey, Ms Khathali thanked the group for the opportunity to learn from them. In her presentation she described the demographics of the ANDM, contrasting these with those of the large and sparsely populated Namakwa District. She gave an overview of current climate as well as an indication of vulnerable areas in terms of weather related extreme events. Future plans for climate change response include completing a vulnerability assessment, drafting a climate change strategy, and mainstreaming climate change into the IDP, in partnership with CSA and DEDEAT. Partnerships with people and organisations for whom climate change is a high priority will be motivating in the District, where there are many competing priorities. Ms Khathali suggested that one way of effectively integrating climate change would be to have as an indicator in all contracts requiring all service providers and contractors to report on how their proposed project contributes to sustainability in the context of climate change.

CLIMATE RESPONSIVE MUNICIPAL SPEED DATING!

Group work activity facilitated by Rouchet Daniels, Elmariza Smith, and Caroline Carolus-Williams, Namakwa Green Economy Demonstration, Conservation South Africa

Speed dating usually refers to an organised evening where single people meet lots of new people over a short period of time, and see if there is anyone they would like to see again, or 'date'. Men and women are rotated to meet each other over a series of short "dates" usually lasting from 3 to 8 minutes depending on the organisation running the event. At the end of each interval, the organizer signals the participants to move on to the next date.

We adapted this concept to encourage networking and give all of the participants a chance to meet each other in a fairly structured way, ask their burning questions, and decide if they would like to make contact again and work together further, or 'date'. Participants were divided into six groups made up of related members (e.g. Alfred Nzo Municipality, Department of Environmental Affairs, NGO partners) and then given five 15 minute sessions to meet briefly with each of the other groups.

At the end of the session participants reflected that they had found the informal opportunity to interact with the other groups informative and interesting, and that they had identified many opportunities for partnerships and sharing information. They appreciated the creative method.

SESSION SUMMARIES: DAY 2

CLIMATE RESPONSE PLANNING IN THE NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Mr Chris Fortuin, Local Economic Development, Namakwa District Municipality

Mr Fortuin told the group that the Namakwa District had been selected by SALGA as a pilot site for an integrated climate change policy programme. He described the process that the Namakwa District had gone through to date, including integrating climate change into disaster management, and completing the Vulnerability Assessment. He reflected that a vulnerability assessment is so important because it highlights where the vulnerable areas and points are, suggesting what can be addressed first. He also proposed that decisions on how to respond be based on existing vulnerabilities, what we are exposed to, our sensitivity to change, and our capacity to adapt.

He summarised the process of rolling out the Let's Respond toolkit that the District has begun and told the group about a pilot climate responsive housing project the District had completed after their first climate planning workshop in April.

CLIMATE RESPONSE PLANNING IN THE WEST COAST DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Ms Suretha Visser: Disaster Manager, West Coast District Municipality

In this presentation, Ms Visser covered the climate responsive planning that the West Coast District has been engaged in recently. She had found historical climate trends and data very valuable for understanding the likely impacts of climate change and designing climate change response projects from a disaster management perspective. She noted that sometimes what you are responding to and experiencing is sometimes more than you think it is, and they found a research partnership with outside researchers useful to point this out. The key

message from her talk is that often municipalities are doing work that could be climate responsive, projects just need to be thought about differently and tweaked here and there to ensure they respond effectively.

HOW TO BE A MUNICIPALITY THAT IS ADAPTING WELL: LESSONS FROM WITHIN THE CITY OF CAPE TOWN

Ms. Anna Taylor, African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town

Adaptation is not always and only an outcome, such as reduced risk, but also a process or reducing risk overtime and constantly adapting in a context of change. There is therefore a difference between adapting well in a constantly changing sense, and being well adapted which implies a fixed final state. Taylor reflected on her experiences in the Mistra urban futures programme, an exchange between city official and researcher on climate change knowledge building and practice in the City of Cape Town. She suggested that some lessons that could be drawn from the Cape Town experience include:

1. Preventing the climate response agenda from competing with other agenda, rather look for synergies
2. Continuing beyond the drafting of plans to include specific measures in job descriptions and performance criteria
3. Work with councilors and MM's to make the links between climate change and the issues that are priorities for them
4. Accept that this is a long-term process and be willing to experiment and adjust
5. Work at making climate response a funded mandate through budget re-alignment and leveraging funds through partnerships

CLIMATE RESPONSE PROJECTS FIELD TRIP

Facilitated by Amanda Bourne and Caroline Carolus Williams

The group visited NAMPetroleum biodiesel in Concordia and iKhwela Recycling in Nababeep. Both projects are local enterprises operating on the mitigation side of climate change response. NAMPetroleum produces biodiesel from recycled cooking oil for use in diesel vehicles. Biodiesel reduces emissions by ensuring that the carbon dioxide released into the air from burning regular fossil fuel diesel is dramatically reduced. iKhwela recycles paper, plastic, scrap metal, and tins which they source mainly by sorting through municipal rubbish dumps. Recycling contributes to mitigation by reducing the energy requirements for making something from scratch.

CONCLUSION

The learning exchange successfully brought together a great and varied group of senior professionals at various levels of government and in various departments to discuss climate change integration. Having SALGA and COGHSTA represented was very valuable – they contributed a lot to the conversation and have taken things forward after the exchange, drafting a letter to the local municipalities in support of climate responsive planning. Key lessons and discussion points that emerged from the exchange included the following, all of which were presented at the recent African Climate and Development Institute Adaptation Colloquium in Cape Town on 25 and 26 November.

Sensitising

Raising awareness about climate change and its likely impacts amongst decision-makers is really important. As Chris Fortuin has said for Namakwa: 'If I did not know about this, I would not have worried about it at all. But now I am in the awkward position of having to think about how to respond.'

Linking

It is difficult to address the unknown and usually much easier to address immediate needs and concerns, so linking climate change to existing activities, priorities, and budgets, and looking at what climate impacts might mean for these things, is really important and really possible. Another thing that helps is linking climate change to areas of responsibility in municipal planning and implementation that are already well understood

Mainstreaming

Mainstream climate change in a very strategic and targeted way into the key planning documents and management tools of the municipality, such as the IDP, and the various sector master plans. It is very useful to have a science based guiding document like the vulnerability assessment to inform these key inputs, but then using existing plans may be more effective than drafting a separate climate response plan for example.

Spatial representation of information

Spatial prioritising helps to motivate for projects and budgets. You should use sensible political boundaries for these spatial representations – these are easily understood by and useful to decision-makers in government. The CSIR animation of projected temperature rise for Southern Africa is a very effective tool – everyone gets it and can engage with it.

Local champion

Committed local drivers are needed to keep climate change on the agenda. This person should ideally be influential and senior. There needs to also be an emphasis on embedding climate response in job descriptions , performance targets and budgets, so that over-dependence on lone champions does not jeopardise climate change response in the long term.

Funds

'Climate change is an unfunded mandate' is not a strong argument against working on climate change response in local government or anywhere else. A lot can be achieved through rethinking delivery on the funded mandates. Sometime you can just stretch the existing funds through creative thinking and re-alignment, or leverage additional funds can be leveraged through partnerships.

Have Fun

Participatory and interactive methods work better to build practical understanding of the subject as well as commitment to the process.