

CITY KNOWLEDGE STRATEGY

Adaptation – eThekweni (Durban)

Last updated: July 23rd, 2019

eThekweni (Durban) – Sihlanzimvelo Programme – South Africa

The project: The CFF is supporting Durban to develop a business case for managing 7,400 km of Durban's watercourses. The business case will include upscaling the Sihlanzimvelo project for clearing of litter and alien vegetation by local co-ops. The city plans to complement and extend the Sihlanzimvelo project with partnership-based solutions to manage all the city's streams and rivers. The goal of the business case is to significantly increase the city's resilience to climate change through ecosystem-based transformative adaptation of the riverine system.

- **Kick-off:** August 2018
- **Management:** Lisa Junghans (City Coordinator), Shahid Solomon (SPA)

Knowledge gap assessment: This assessment is primarily relevant for ecosystem-based adaptation projects in Africa. Durban is already considered a regional and global leader on the topic. On top of interactions with the SPA and city coordinator, it is based on conversations with Pedro Ribeiro (C40 UF NM) and Kamlesh Pillay (C40 FSCI Adaptation Finance Manager).

From progress report: The capacity development plan developed through the capacity gap assessment outlines 10 priority action areas which were well received by the city. Its implementation is expected to reduce the project risk and increase efficacy. Further, the CFF is supporting the city in a prototyping exercise on river catchments.

The key knowledge and learning areas are:

- **Financing options:** The project explores how cost-benefit analyses can be used to develop business cases for transformative riverine adaptation projects for different types of funding, including the municipality, local businesses, property owners and global climate funds and investors. The Durban case suggests that this is best linked with a vulnerability assessment and developed through stakeholder engagement. Moreover, cities have limited experience in mainstreaming the costs of climate adaptation in municipal budgets. The Durban projects aim to encourage the adoption of accounting practices based on avoided losses rather than just paying for damages caused by increased extreme events due to climate change.

Funding partners:



Implementing agencies:



- **Partnership-based riverine management model:** Cities are keen to engage communities, particularly low-income or informal communities, in the process of adapting to climate change. This engagement may be around flood prevention but may also encompass other ways of including communities in sustainable economy practices, such as food, ecosystem benefits, etc. The cooperative model of the Sihlanzimvelo programme is highly replicable. Further information on how the cooperatives were established and on their benefits is needed to facilitate replication in other contexts.
- **Data on benefits, including green economy:** There is limited data on the social, economic and environmental benefits of a community-led and ecosystem-based approach to adaptation. Cities lack the information necessary to decide on alternative project options with respect to climate change adaptation. A related challenge is over how to monitor benefits over time, particularly given difficulties in establishing a ‘unit of risk reduction’ and a detailed MRV system. The Durban project will explore how value chains linked to riverine adaptation can be developed, through job creation, skills development, enterprise development, work-integrated learning and “closing the loop” through recycling and product development.
- **Governance:** Climate change adaptation is not generally the responsibility of one department or team, but instead relies on a balance between different institutions. New models of how to achieve inter-institutional coordination or how to create new, more responsive institutions are needed to address this. The Durban project will provide a good practice on how to create a sound institutional structure for these types of projects.
- **Water as an asset:** Durban’s aim to shift how water is viewed, from a resource to be exploited to a valuable infrastructure asset, is potentially transformative. The theme of transformation is also included in various reports about Durban’s activities and a reason why the city is seen as a leader on this topic.

Outputs achieved:

- **Session on adaptation and finance, C40 FSCI Africa Forum:** The FSCI, an initiative within the C40 Finance Programme, hosted a regional Forum in Johannesburg on June 10-12. After an official, high-level conference, there was a parallel session aimed at practitioners on adaptation. Durban’s experience was disseminated to attendees from 9 African cities.

Planned outputs:

- **Workshop in Q4 2019 on key learnings from Sihlanzimvelo project:** The workshop is planned for Q4 in Durban. 10-12 cities from South Africa (including Cape Town, which has expressed interest) and the region, Dar es Salaam and (potentially) Mombasa will be invited to attend. The workshop will focus on the main challenges outlined above and on some of the replicable solutions from Durban, e.g. the findings of the upcoming cost-benefit analysis.
- **Knowledge product in advance of workshop:** This knowledge product should be a summary of technical assistance provided to Durban so far. It may cover the cost-benefit analysis, institutional coordination mechanisms, etc. It is meant to be presented in advance of the workshop as a teaser for the attendees.
- **1st section of the Durban case study (tbc):** The Durban case study will be structured in 3 parts (context/enabling environment, technical studies, financial analysis) similar to the CFF projects in Bogotá and Mexico City. The first section could be completed by Q3 2019, given the vast existing literature on Durban's programmes and projects. It should cover Durban's context, the city's flooding issues, its existing adaptation strategy, previous partnerships, the Sihlanzimvelo pilot and the current institutional set-up.

Partners: Potential partners are categorised according to (a) Durban-focused networks, (b) universities, (c) national government programmes and (d) other NGOs.

(a) Durban-focused networks: These networks can be leveraged to identify interested municipalities and act as convening spaces.

- **Kwa-Zulu Natal Climate Change Compact (KZNCCC):** The Compact is a collaborative effort to share climate change information and experience amongst local governments in the province of KwaZulu-Natal in order to build capacity in the climate change field. Its members include 19 municipalities. A workshop with KZNCCC cities will be hosted by Durban on March 29th. It aims to gauge interest in replication of the Sihlanzimvelo project and to present both the potential clustering approach and the knowledge sharing.
- **Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC):** The DAC commits local governments to implement local climate measures that will assist their communities to respond to and cope with climate change risks. It has fostered the KZNCCC and similar networks such as the Compact of Coastal Cities of Northern Mozambique. Previous city-to-city exchanges e.g. a Lusaka-Durban exchange in March 2018 and a mooted exchange with Mombasa in 2019 were done under the DAC.

(b) Universities: The CFF will build upon existing partnerships between Durban and local universities. The ultimate objective is to ensure that the CFF's knowledge is used and built upon by academia.

- **LIRA2030:** Part of broader initiative called Future Resilience for African Cities and Lands (FRACTAL). This programme is focused on transformative adaptation actions in Harare and Durban, linking the issues of justice, equality and inclusivity with the climate change agenda. It held a workshop in Durban in November 2018. They can play an important support role in knowledge transfer and can be a useful vehicle for Durban-related publications.
- **Durban Research Action Partnership (D'RAP):** Broad-based partnership between the University of KwaZulu-Natal and eThekweni Municipality (EM). D'RAP may also play an important support role in knowledge transfer.

(c) National government programmes: The CFF can link to existing programmes and policies (e.g. National Adaptation Strategy) to ensure its experience can feed into national sectoral dialogues.

- **South Africa Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA):** A strong relationship with the DEA could ensure that the CFF's work is incorporated in national dialogues. Events or conferences organised by the DEA would be a primary place to influence policies and programmes based on the CFF's experience in Durban.
 - **Source to Sea and Commonwealth Litter Programme (CLIP):** Source to Sea is a programme by the South African government, currently trialled. It is being expanded globally with the support of the British government (DEFRA) and CLIP: it now works in 5 countries to take action on plastics entering the oceans. Some river systems in KZN have already been identified as priorities for waste management interventions. Also potentially linked with IUCN and UNEP.
 - **South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI):** Previously identified as potential partners, particularly in connection with the DEA. SANBI is also the Accredited Entity for funding from the Adaptation Fund and the GCF.
 - **South African Local Government Association (SALGA):** Partners of the Durban Adaptation Charter. Recommended because of their connections with cities in South Africa. They have worked on municipal infrastructure financing before and they partnered with Urban Earth on a GIZ-funded climate change strategy development in district municipalities throughout South Africa.
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- (d) **Other NGOs:** These NGOs can amplify the lessons learned by the CFF, can partner for specific knowledge product and can help to ensure that the CFF's knowledge is built upon by other institutions.
- **Global Water Partnership (GWP):** The GWP is a global network of more than 3,000 partners. It advocates to make water a top policy priority, developing institutional capacity and sharing resources on water management through its IWRM ToolBox. Alex, based in South Africa, has expressed interest in collaborating.
 - **ICLEI:** Partners of the Durban Adaptation Charter. More focused on biodiversity conservation in South Africa. Should be kept informed.