



## NEWSLETTER

February 2013

### Drought of climate action in Doha

by Rashmi Mistry (Oxfam)



(Photo: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>)

In the deserts of Doha we saw a drought of climate action with developed countries coming to COP18 with no intention of agreeing to what developing countries needed from a deal. They offered no new emissions cuts, only keeping open the possibility of cutting them later, and – with only a couple of exceptions – no guarantees of new scaled-up finance in the next years. They also refused to commit to a new international mechanism to address loss and damage from climate impacts to which it is not possible to adapt.

After the fanfare of COP17 in Durban and the launch of yet another track of negotiations that will bring all countries under an international agreement called the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP), Doha was expected to be a “transitional” COP. This was the one where the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol would be sealed and processes would be agreed with small but progressive steps towards averting the climate crisis.

The new Kyoto deal only covers 18% of global emissions and there was no sign in the Doha outcome of the level of emission cuts needed to keep temperature increases below 1.5C. So, when we are hurtling towards a 5 degree world, threatening to push millions more people into poverty and hunger, adaptation is ever more urgent. Rich countries, being historically responsible for most of the green house gases causing climate change, promised \$100bn per year by 2020 to support developing countries adapt and develop along a low carbon pathway. The Fast Start Finance period, which was supposed to deliver \$30bn by 2012, ended at the end of December, making COP18 the last chance for developed countries to commit to scale up climate finance from the new year.

But we came out of Doha with no commitments within the COP to increase finance beyond 2012 – just an announcements from individual countries. In fact [Oxfam's research](#) suggests total climate finance could drop this year. The Africa Group, Oxfam and a number of NGOs asked for a mere \$60billion (or double Fast Start Finance levels) to be committed to begin the vital work of adaptation and low carbon development, but we got pushed back with lamentations of austerity measures and fiscal squeezes in the north. Yet at the very same time in the United States, President Obama raised \$60 billion to put New York back on its feet after hurricane Sandy, to the dismay of developing

countries, not least the Philippines who during COP18 experience another onset of extreme flooding killing over 30 people.

“There’s nothing for us here, we have no voice” was the sad reflection from an African finance negotiator as he left the Doha conference room to catch his flight, exhausted and deflated after days of round the clock negotiations that once again ran into overtime and were seemingly stalled in the final plenary.

Despite holding out for a commitment on scaled up finance, emission cuts and a mechanism for addressing loss and damage, in the extended hours of the negotiations, when most African Ministers and negotiators had left it was clear that they had been pushed into accepting an outcome that had only had weak references to any of these. As we left Doha, the emotional call of the Philippines lead negotiator that was chanted by activists around the corridors of COP18 will echo on: “If not us, then who? If not now, then when? If not here, then where?”

### **The ICLEI African Cities Adapt Tool: A long-term adaptive management support tool for local governments**

*by Sarah Birch (ICLEI – Africa)*

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability – Africa’s completed 5 City Network Project, funded by the IDRC and DFID, contributed to the development of an interactive online Adaptation Tool: **The African Cities Adapt Tool**. The tool outlines, identifies and tests the process for African local governments (from small towns to cities) to develop adaptation and climate resilient strategies, plans and actions that are locally appropriate to the risks and impacts faced at the local level. The tool is based in part on an ICLEI tool that has been developed over the past decade in different regions of the globe, tested and approved by local governments for local governments. Unique characteristics of the interactive tool are that it is driven by local governments themselves, and it is rooted within the Participatory Action Research (PAR) methodology.



A five milestone process was successfully undertaken through the consultative processes of the 5 City Network Project and used in the development of the tool and tailor-made climate resilient handbooks for each of the 5 cities. The tool allows the local government to, i) undertake interrogation of climatic variables; ii) assess climate risk; iii) identify and prioritize locally appropriate adaptation options, related actions and responsibilities; iv) strengthen capacity of community members, private sector and local decision-makers; and v) develop a set of SMART Goals that can then be integrated into the relevant local government planning processes. Most importantly, this is a process tool, enabling local governments to continuously learn in a feed-back loop as their decision-making evolves and changes with increasing evidence-base and knowledge on adaptation responses. ICLEI - Africa invites and welcomes other local governments to apply to participate in utilising the tool, from April 2013, and to learn more about how this can help to develop and strengthen their adaptation and climate resilient strategies, plans and actions.

*For further details contact Sarah Birch ([sarah.birch@iclei.org](mailto:sarah.birch@iclei.org))*

## The Drylands Fund

by Julie Clarke and Sandile Ndawonde

The Drylands Fund was created to address landscape and livelihood needs by preventing and reversing land degradation and the related poverty cycles. The focus of the Fund is on promoting pro-poor (social justice) responses to sustainable land management, and on developing a biodiversity rich rural green economy. It thus aims to promote the green economy and to increase the resilience of rural landscapes, infrastructure and communities to climate change. The Fund was designed to be an efficient and effective finance vehicle to all sectors of society for the delivery of incentives and payments for pro-poor ecosystem services. It can receive money derived from both the market (private sector), as well as from other donor, government and Corporate Social Responsibility funds. The Fund is governed by a Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), the Fund custodian, and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), which hosts the Fund.

To date the Fund has supported 6 community based sustainable land use projects in the Limpopo, Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu Natal. It is seeking at least one new innovative partnership, hopefully targeting one of the remaining provinces to ensure a fair geographic spread. All those who can contribute to the development of the Fund (financially and or in terms of demonstration projects) are very welcome to contact the Fund's project implementation unit through the office of Muleso Kharika [Jkharika@environment.gov.za](mailto:Jkharika@environment.gov.za) or Julie Clarke [Juliec@dbsa.org](mailto:Juliec@dbsa.org)

The Drylands Fund would like to thank their generous private sector partners and the gifted people they have provided to help the Drylands Fund communities get development action on the ground. The Drylands Fund communities are very proud of the partnerships they are securing with the following quality private sector companies and trust funds: Buffelshoek Trust, 60s club, Sabi Sands Pfunanani Trust, Aurecon, Murray and Roberts and Basil Reed who have agreed to help the Fund during 2013. These private sector actors have significantly boosted the Fund with incredibly generous specialist skills, time, encouragement and resources to get project teams into action.



*The Olifants Thabakgolo project: The Ga Mokgotho community commissioned an asbestos study in school grounds on the edge of the asbestos wastelands. Fortunately the results revealed no trace of asbestos and now the village is proceeding to green their village, save a critical watershed and with the help of Agama Energy they are about to build their first biogas digester at the local school.*

## **Groen Sebenza – skills development and job creation programme**

by Katinka Waagsaether

The Groen Sebenza programme, spearheaded by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) in partnership with 33 NGOs, government institutions and actors from the private sector, was set up to create jobs and develop skills for 800 unemployed matriculants and graduates. Based on an “incubator model,” the programme provides 2 ½ year, paid internships with SANBI and its partners, providing youth with skills development, training and work experience in the biodiversity sector.

Having received a vast number of applications by the deadline on the 31. January, the various organisations and institutions are now in the process of shortlisting and interviewing their candidates, with the selected interns due to start work on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April.

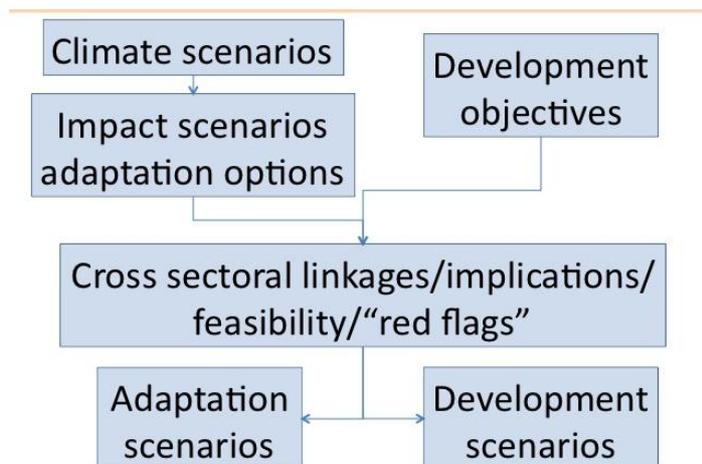
For more information see <http://www.sanbi.org/programmes/education-hcd/groen-sebenza>

### ***The second round of expert task team workshops for the South African Long Term Adaptation Scenarios (LTAS)***

*(by Katinka Waagsaether and Sarshen Marais)*

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and the South African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) facilitated a second round of expert task team workshops from 20-22 February, outlining the methodology of the Long Term Adaptation Scenarios (LTAS) and engaging experts in discussions around progress, content and future process.

The LTAS development is a core part of the National Adaptation Research Flagship Programme, led by DEA and SANBI and funded by GIZ. The aim of the LTAS is to scope sectoral adaptation requirements and costs, and identify adaptation strategies including cross-sectoral linkages, avoided costs and benefits, using the methodological process outlined in the figure below. Currently, the first phase of the LTAS research is developing under two working groups: the climate scenarios working group and the impact scenarios working group. This phase of LTAS, which lasts up until the end of April 2013, is focusing on employing consensus climate scenarios in developing impact scenarios for the health, agriculture, biodiversity, water, forestry and fisheries sectors. Work related to the development of development scenarios and objectives has also started, and a development scenarios task team will begin to advance this. A policy review which aims to provide the baseline for the development scenarios is currently underway, led by Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs. The initial findings of this policy review work were presented at the LTAS workshop on 22 February 2013, and a methodology for synthesizing development scenarios from this information was tested.



The next Technical Working Group meeting for the LTAS will be held in early April, where all the research from the first phase will be communicated together with an explanation of the phase two process. The second phase of LTAS will then commence, where the work will expand to include impacts to the human settlements and disaster risk reduction sectors, as well as further focus on the development scenarios, costs and adaptation scenarios.

### **Forthcoming events 2013**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Organiser</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Second meeting of the Adaptation Committee</b>	UNFCCC	05 -08 March 2013	Bonn, Germany
<b>Least Developed Country Expert Group (LEG) training workshop on adaptation for Francophone LDCs</b>	UNFCCC	18 -22 March 2013	tbc
<b>UNCCD Second Scientific Conference</b>	UNCCD	9 – 12 April 2013	Bonn, Germany
<b>The 7<sup>th</sup> Conference on Community-Based-Adaptation</b>	The Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)	18 -25 April 2013	Dhaka, Bangladesh
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP 2)</b>	UNFCCC	29 April – 3 May 2013	World Conference Center Bonn, Bonn, Germany.
<b>First sessional period in 2013:</b> Meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform.	UNFCCC	03 -14 June 2013	Bonn, Germany
<b>Fynbos Forum</b>	Fynbos Forum Committee	7 - 10 October 2013	Kirstenbosch Gardens, Cape Town
<b>Arid Zone Ecology Forum</b>	AZEF Organizing Committee	2 – 6 September 2013	Kimberley
<b>COP 18</b>	UNFCCC	11 -22 November 2013	Warsaw, Poland

\*To understand more about the different UNFCCC bodies see <http://unfccc.int/bodies/items/6241.php>

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