

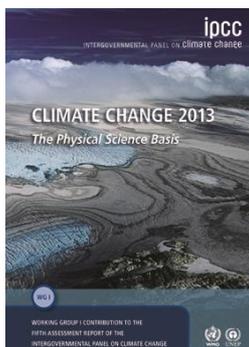


NEWSLETTER

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Publication of the first contribution to IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report

by Katinka Waagsaether and Candice Arendse



According to the close to 300 scientists of the International Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Working Group I, warming of the climate system is unequivocal. This was a key message in the Working Group I contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report, "*Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis*," recently released by the IPCC.

The report highlights a startling increase in the Earth's average surface temperature reflected in historical data, with the last three decades being the warmest observed since 1850. The assessment is based on multiple lines of independent evidence, and states that in addition to the warming of surface temperature, evidence shows that the oceans have warmed and snow and ice mass has diminished. The report further highlights how the global mean sea level has risen by 0.79m over the period 1901-2010, which is greater than the rate of sea level increase observed during the two previous millennia.

For the drivers of climate change the report states that CO₂ concentrations have increased by 40% since pre-industrial times, along with increased concentrations of other greenhouse gasses such as methane and nitrogen. On release of the report Co-Chair of the IPCC, Thomas Stocker, further highlighted that "As a result of our past, present and expected future emissions of CO₂, we are committed to climate change, and effects will persist for many centuries even if emissions of CO₂ stop."

Future climate change projections outlined in the report indicate that most of the observed climate trends will continue and worsen over the coming centuries, with temperatures increasing, heat waves becoming more likely and more frequent, yet with wet regions receiving more rainfall and dry regions receiving less. Continued warming of the oceans, retreating glaciers and ice sheets and increasing rates of global sea level rise are other important projections highlighted.

Indications what the current trends and future projections mean for systems, sectors and regions will be dealt with in the next report of the IPCC, "*Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*," which is due to be released by the IPCC Working Group II in March 2014.

Sharing research findings more broadly – Illustrative and easy to read booklets

by Katinka Waagsaether and Gina Ziervogel (University of Cape Town)

Through the recent publication of two booklets, "Rising Waters" and "Cape of Storms," the research project "*The power of collaborative governance in managing the risks associated with flooding and sea-level rise in Cape Town*" aims to share its research findings beyond the academic arena. Working together with the project researchers, science journalist Leonie Joubert has built on academic findings to capture information that is accessible for a broader audience. The publications, which provide illustrative and easy to read information, are mainly aimed at practitioners, residents of flood affected areas, civic leaders, government officials and local politicians.



The two booklets focus on two somewhat different aspects of the research findings. “Rising Waters” takes a broad perspective, looking at the effects of winter flooding, mainly in the Cape Flats, in the context of the diversity of challenges facing the City of Cape Town. It argues that one cannot ignore the governance context, and that in order to address the ongoing flooding crises bureaucrats and politicians have to work in collaboration with civil society and community leadership structures. “Cape of Storms” looks at the Cape coastline in more detail, through focus on the interaction between stormy seas, rising sea levels, ecological sensitivity and urban development. It emphasises the need for a holistic approach to coastal policy and management, where institutional and ecological measures for buffering coastal risks should be prioritized ahead of more hard engineering solutions.

The project, and thus the publications, were made possible with funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Department for International Development (DfID), and formed part of the Climate Change Adaptation in Africa programme. The work brought together researchers from the University of Cape Town’s African Centre for Cities, The Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, Centre for Criminology, Geomatics, the Stockholm Environment Institute and officials from the City of Cape Town.

For more project information contact Gina Ziervogel, gina.ziervogel@uct.ac.za or look at <http://africancentreforcities.net/programmes/applied-urban-research/flooding-in-cape-town-under-climate-risk-flicccr/>. The publications can be accessed under *Resources* on the Adaptation Network website (<http://www.adaptationnetwork.org.za/resources/>).

This article was based on information from the following sources:

<http://weadapt.org/placemarks/maps/view/942>

<http://www.egs.uct.ac.za/> (news item 12 November 2013)

Reflections from COP 19

by Lydia Mogano (Southern African Faith Communities’ Environment Institute)

The opening of COP 19 in Warsaw was ushered by an unfortunate and terrible environmental catastrophe, the typhoon in the Philippines, underlining the urgent need to respond to environmental and climatic change. It was my first experience at a COP event, and the overall experience was not as positive as I had anticipated. For example, although the COP president strongly emphasised the need to facilitate an open, transparent and inclusive process in the spirit of cooperation, the negotiation process did not move fast enough to achieve substantial movement in Warsaw. Moreover, there was no sense of urgency embodied in these processes, let alone emphasis on the much-awaited 5th Assessment report. Although science can investigate and validate climate change causes, impacts and responses, gaining political will to respond accordingly remains the greatest limitation. In the course of the 2 weeks of the COP, frustration and despair became evident among various COP participants, especially civil society representatives (including the youth), since expectations for a positive COP outcome were high. I relied on daily devotional activities as well as identifying positive side events and meetings that could provide messages of hope (including our own faith gatherings). Faith-based reactions to global climate change are scaling up globally. For example, our faith youth constituency initiated a common call to voluntary fasting in solidarity with the victims and survivors of the typhoon in the Philippines and called for intergenerational justice.

Interestingly, although none of the Chairs at COP 19 was female, I was inspired when our minister Edna Molewa was tasked with providing leadership and a way forward on the ADP¹ process. The

¹ Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action

South African delegation also opened its doors to civil society organizations, and I was proud to be South African.

Despite the overall unsatisfactory outcome of Warsaw, I learnt a great deal and I am even more determined to making positive changes and input in my community and country as a whole. May we all find the strength to persevere, and not shrink back from addressing the environmental and socio-economic challenges in our communities.

The latest updates from the work of the South African National Implementing Entity

by Katinka Waagsaether & Mandy Barnett (SANBI NIE)



Dr Mandy Barnett, NIE Director, presenting at the COP 19 side event organised by the Adaption Fund.

The work and processes of the South African National Implementing Entity (NIE) received praise from the international climate change community at the recent UNFCCC COP 19 meeting in Warsaw, Poland. Dr Mandy Barnett, NIE Director, had the opportunity to share an account of SANBI's role as NIE, and associated work processes, at a COP 19 side event organised by the Adaption Fund.

In her well-received presentation, Dr Barnett explained how the South African NIE is governed, how its investment framework had been developed to guide the process for selecting projects and how it is approaching its project development process. There was a lot of excitement around the work of the South African NIE, and the international community is now waiting for the final project proposals with great anticipation.

Accordingly, the NIE is now hard at work in developing the two concept proposals, "*Building resilience in the Greater uMngeni Catchment, South Africa*" and "*Taking Adaptation to the Ground: A Small Grants Facility for enabling local level responses to climate change*" into full project proposals for submission to the AFB, hopefully in the first half of 2014.

Mainstreaming climate change at the local level part 2:

Climate Change Municipal Support Programme – a flexible approach

by Penny Price (Western Cape Government)

In the last newsletter, the rationale and approach behind the Western Cape Government's Climate Change Municipal Support Programme was outlined. This article further explores this programme and gives a brief introduction to the Bergvrievier Municipal engagement, which has emerged as one of the cases of best practice thus far.

Once the municipalities had been selected for year one (as outlined in previous article), inception meetings were set up with key figures in the municipalities. Some of these took the form of presentations to and discussions with the Mayoral Committees, and others involved meetings with key officials. Multi-stakeholder groups were established, expectations and terms were discussed, and timelines and deliverables then set. It is at this early stage that key differences in approach, needs, capacity, etc. were starting to emerge across the municipalities. This was indicative of the limitations of a 'one size fits all' approach characterised by a set methodology, associated templates and toolkits. This presented the challenge of how to accommodate these differences and respond to the unique opportunities presented in order to optimise the engagements and keep them locally relevant.

This demands an understanding of the complexities associated with climate change, feedback and re-assessment of progress and needs, along with a touch of creativity, allows for a flexibility of approach which is clearly required. Although a small team, the Western Cape Government's Climate Change Unit was able to respond in this way, thus enabling the development of various partnerships, and the amendment of the programme as it progressed and the needs arose. One of the key successes which highlighted the benefits of this approach has been the partnerships developed around Bergrivier Municipality. These included the following:

- Merging of a joint CSIR /UCT project (Emma Archer van Gaderen & Gina Ziervogel) focussed on climate adaptation planning in the West Coast area.
- Partnering with UCT's Climate System's Analysis Group (CSAG) who have a programme looking at sustainable methods of sharing quite technical climate information.
- Partnering with UCT's African Climate & Development Initiative (ACDI) on a trans / interdisciplinary applied climate research focus on the Bergrivier Municipality.

These partnerships resulted in three jointly planned and run multi-stakeholder workshops, the outcome of which was a draft Bergivier Climate Adaptation Plan.

This bringing together of scientists, practitioners, officials, community members, councillors, local business, etc. into workshops resulted in a dynamic partnership that continues to this day, with the result that Bergrivier Municipality has access to expertise in the field of climate change that it did not have prior to this process. The current challenge is how to sustain and extend this multi-partnership approach to all the other municipalities in the province.

Southern African Adaptation Colloquium

by Candice Arendse and Katinka Waagsaether

Kirstenbosch Research Centre, Cape Town was the venue for the Southern African Adaptation Colloquium, held 25-26 November 2013. The colloquium was hosted by the African Climate & Development Initiative (University of Cape Town), the South African National Biodiversity Institute and the South African Adaptation Network. The event was aimed at facilitating a dialogue for researchers, academics and practitioners working in climate change adaptation across Southern Africa. Cross pollination was an important aspect, providing practitioners with an update on the latest ideas emerging from the research domains, and providing researchers with insights into the challenges, successes and research needs of practitioners through current on the ground projects.

The Colloquium provided a combination of presentations and dedicated discussion sessions on topics where the audience could actively engage with a panel. Various topics within the climate change adaptation field were covered, ranging from climate data and interpretation, business and local and national Government responses and community focused case studies. A group activity was undertaken by the colloquium participants to collectively map the current state of the South African Adaptation landscape and community of practice, and to identify and discuss the positive aspects, the gaps and priority areas.

The Colloquium outlined important topics concerning climate change adaptation in Southern Africa, and further highlighted the need to explore transformation and broadening of the adaptation community of practice.



Providing feedback on the South African adaptation landscape

Climate Reality Leadership Training

The Climate Reality Project, founded by Nobel Laureate and former Vice President of the United States Al Gore, is planning an exciting training conference that will take place in Johannesburg this March. The Project works towards unleashing a global cultural movement demanding action on the climate crisis, and is offering this conference for young people from across Africa who are passionate about confronting the challenge of climate change. Participants at the conference will learn from Al Gore and a group of scientists, strategists, communicators and organisers about climate science, how to talk to people about the way the crisis affects them personally and what can be done to solve it. The training provides an opportunity to meet and learn from trained Climate Reality Leaders and to engage with the other participants, motivated individuals from across the continent.

The training is free of charge, and will take place in Johannesburg 12 – 14 March 2014. The final deadline for application submissions is February the 7th, but applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

For more information and to apply, see <http://climaterealityproject.org/africa-training/>

Katinka Waagsaether, the Adaptation Network Coordinator, facilitates the production of this Newsletter. To comment on the newsletter or contribute to future newsletters, please contact Katinka on katinka@indigo-dc.org