Sustainability Approach

2. COP17/CMP7 Sustainability Approach

The greening of COP17/CMP7 was made possible though the establishment of the COP17/CMP7 Greening Programme whose overall goals were to host a low carbon event, minimise the event's environmental footprint and maximise the social and economic benefits.It was a collaborative effort involving key stakeholders and activities (as indicated in Table 5 of Chapter 1) leading up to the event. The DEAtook responsibility for the greening of events leading up to COP17/CMP7, hosting of the CCR Expo and developing the national carbon footprint to address, amongst others, delegates' travel to South Africa and domestic transport outside of Durban. It also interfaced with other major work streams to provide greening support where required and to monitor greening initiatives.

The eThekwini Municipality took responsibility for supporting and monitoring the process to minimise the local environmental impact, specifically that of the Durban International Convention Centre (ICC) and the accommodation sector. In managing local transport, the municipality was also responsible for the provision of sustainable transport systems for efficient movement of several thousand delegates and civil society activists. In addition, the municipality also took responsibility for determining and managing the offsetting of the local carbon footprint through itsCommunity Ecosystem Based Adaptation (CEBA) initiative.

2.1 Greening Strategy

The strategy underpinning the greening of COP17/CMP7 was informed by several key principles that were mainly focused on appropriate ways of developing sound working relationships with primary stakeholders.

1. **Stakeholder awareness and understanding:** This involved understanding who the different stakeholders were and gauging their level of understanding of event greening as well as their ability to implement potential greening actions.

2. **Stakeholder sensitivity:** Having appraised the status of the stakeholders and their ability to include greening into their planning, an approach was defined that would inculcate trust and co-operation and therefore receptiveness towards suggested interventions within the realm of available funds and human capacity.

3. **Identification of low-hanging fruit:** In light of time and financial constraints, the principle of identifying 'low-hanging fruit' and initiating small but effective changes was prioritised.

4. **Stakeholder engagement and support:** This included the provision of practical support that the stakeholders required to implement recommended interventions. This support ranged from technical guidance and trainingto supplying communication and awareness materials.

5. **Ensuring effective monitoring, reporting and communication:**It was necessary to monitor all developments that contributed to the sustainability of COP17/CMP7 and to communicate these in appropriate forums using the correct channels and media.

6. **Innovation:** There was a willingness and desire to try out new approaches and to apply greening innovations where possible and practical. This was particularly evident in the design and execution of the CCR Expo.

7. **Cooperation and collaboration:** The Greening Programme was made possible on the basis of co-operation and collaboration amongst a disparate collection of organisations and individuals that shared a common goal of contributing to the hosting of COP17/CMP7 in a sustainable manner.

8. **Commitment to Greening Principles and Continuous Improvement:**There was a strong commitment to implementation of greening principles where possible and included bold stepssuch as the banning of bottled water in both the CCR Expo and UN Precinct as part of a waste minimisation strategy. Whilst there were limitations to the effort to apply greening principles in a consistent and effective manner, the process leant itself to being a learning platform to raise awareness, encouragebehaviour change and support knowledge-sharing.

2.2 Greening Programme

The Greening Programme was based on the strategy outlined earlier, with the following specific aims, objectives, key focus areas and greening practices.

2.2.1 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the COP17/CMP7 Greening Programme was to ensure that the following objectives were pursued through the implementation of greening initiatives:

Greenhouse Gas Management: To reduce the GHG emissions where possible through event greening initiatives. To measure the event's GHG emissions and mitigate these through local mitigation projects.

Energy Management: To encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy through appropriate technologies, management systems and responsible behaviour.

Water Management: To ensure that water was consumed in a responsible manner.

Waste management: To reduce the amount of waste generated prior to, during and post the event.

Biodiversity Conservation: To encourage local environmental protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological systems.

Sustainable Transport: To encourage the use of public transport (availability, accessibility and efficiency), efficient management of transport and the avoidance of non-essential flights in order to reduce air pollution (greenhouse gases).

Responsible Tourism: To maximise sustainable tourism offerings by encouraging venues and accommodation establishments to comply with (or exceed) minimum environmental standards and the minimum responsible tourism standards.

Sustainable Procurement: To ensure that the procurement of goods and services was done in a sustainable manner, including the use of local products that would have a minimal negative effect on the environment and greater socio-economic benefits.

Positive socio-economic benefits: To promote local economic development and social cohesion and benefits within the host region.

Responsible Expenditure: To promote a triple bottom line approach by demonstrating fair and responsible spend of public funds as well as using the investment in COP17/CMP7 for the host region's benefit beyond the event.

Marketing and Communications: To ensure that the greening of the event was clearly communicated and marketed to appropriate target groups. It had to encourage participation (exhibitors, visitors and contractors) with the view of behaviour change whilst also raising the profile of the event.

Capacity-Building: To ensure that all role-players including officials, sub-contractors, key suppliers and sponsors receivedpractical guidance on implementing event greening.

Monitor and Evaluate: To monitor and evaluate the greening initiatives so that lessons learnt could be captured, learning facilitated and the enhancement of event greening for future events.

Positive legacy: To ensure a lasting legacy with a positive impact on the local people and environment and one that could be sustained in a practical way.

2.2.2   Key Focus Areas

In order to enable effective implementation of the aim and objectives, the following key focus areas were identified:

1.   Venues (UN Precinct, CCR Expo and side-events)
2.   Responsible Tourism and Accommodation within Durban
3.   Inter-city passenger transportation
4.   Legacy Projects
5.   Marketing, Communications and Awareness
6.   Monitoring and Evaluation.

2.3   Activities

The programme of activities was typically guided by the nature of the support required. This was informed by the identification of stakeholders requiring greening support; development of guidelines that could be used by a variety of stakeholders; awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives; tracking and monitoring of side-events; determining the national carbon footprint of the event; and communications and awareness-raising initiatives. Each of these areas is outlined in greater detail below.

2.3.1   Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement took on several distinct forms depending on the nature of the relationship with the stakeholders as well as the timing of the interventions as there were pre-, during and post-COP/CMP7 activities as follows:

1.   Co-ordination of the Greening Workstream before, during and after the hosting of COP17/CMP7

2.   Interactions with other workstreams before, during and after the hosting of COP17/CMP7

3.   Interactions with event organisers of pre-COP events to apply event greening principles and practices an during COP17/CMP7 when tracking these events

4.   Interaction with event organisers of COP17/CMP7 side events beyond the UN Precinct to encourage them to apply event greening principles and practices

5.   Interaction with CCR Expo Exhibitors, staff and suppliers to reinforce event greening principles and practices.

A list of stakeholder engaged and areas of engagement can be found in Appendix 2.

2.3.2   Development of Guidelines

Leading up to and during COP17/CMP7, a number of related events were held in numerous venues in Durban and around South Africa. Practical guidance was offered to these venues, both within and beyond the UN Precinct, on greening of their events and facilities.

Various guidelines were circulated to stakeholder to facilitate event greening. These included:

1   **Durban Green Event Guideline:** developed by eThekwini Municipality to provide event organisers with guidance to green their events from the perspective of efficient resource use, adequate waste management and green procurement. (Visit www.durban.gov.za for more information).

2   **Event Greening Guideline:** produced by DEA as a generic resource that was compiled for COP17/CMP7 events hosted beyond Durban. It addressed greening principles, objectives and practices that underline a

green event. The document was distributed to various events hosted around the country prior to COP17/CMP7. (Please refer to Annexure 1).

3   **An Exhibition Greening Guideline:** also produced by DEA to encourage the curators managing and exhibitors participating in the CCR Expo to produce green exhibitions through a practical selection of greening actions.(Please refer to Annexure 2). The Exhibition Greening Guideline was supported by the **Responsible Exhibitor Charter,** which was signed by exhibitors in combination with their formal contract.(Please refer to Annexure 3).

4   **Green Procurement Guidelines:** developed by DEA to support sustainable procurement.(Please refer to Annexure 4). An objective of hosting COP17/CMP7 was to ensure that the procurement of goods and services was conducted in a sustainable manner, including the use of local products that would have a minimal negative effect on the environment and to deliver increased performance of social responsibility. The guideline provided an outline of criteria that could be used when preparing for the procurement of goods and services.

5   **Responsible Accommodation Campaign:** The eThekwini Municipality implemented this campaign and developed a supporting toolkit to provide guidance to the hospitality industry as outlined in Chapter 8.1.1. (Visit _ for more information).

2.3.3   Awareness-Raising and Capacity-Building

In order to provide support to stakeholders in enhancing the impact of their respective events or areas of operation from a greening perspective, the following intervention was established to raise awareness of event greening.

This awareness-raising and capacity-building was applied to the following workstreams and sets of activities:

Within DEA		External to DEA, reporting to the IDLC		External to DEA& Governance Structures
CCR Expo	Marketing and Communications	Transport	Safety and Security	COP17/CMP7 Side-Events

Support to these five earlier mentioned areas was tailored according to the specific knowledge and information needs of each area. Support was rendered on an individual basis, through personal contact, presentations to working groups and participation in discussion forums. Awareness-raising and capacity-building were aided by the development and distribution of guidelines discussed in Section 2.4.2. Capacity-building was also of a very practical nature and helped bridge the gap between different operational and functional areas.

2.3.4   Tracking of side-events beyond the UN Precinct

Although the core of the event was the UN Precinct and CCR Expo, many other side-events were hosted in the city in parallel to the official proceedings. These events collectively were expected to have a significant social, economic and environmental impact and were thus tracked from a greening perspective in order to provide a comprehensive analysis of the impact of hosting the event in South Africa.

Once the monitoring and reporting systems at the main venues were in place, the focus shifted to capturing the degree of event greening as well as the type and size of the side events.

The first step was to establish contact with representatives from the various sector groups (civil society, business, government, faith, youth, etc.) to gather information on their respective activities and provide them with information on event greening. The response was mostly positive as organisations planning side events expressed a willingness to implement the guidelines provided to them. Each stakeholder was provided with a resource pack and any further support required to green their events.

The second step entailed the tracking of these events during COP17/CMP7. The goal was to attend as many events as possible and undertake a visual audit of the type and size of event, with specific consideration to their greening aspects. This data has been compiled and included in the Sustainability Report with the aim of encouraging the greater application of greening principles and practices to official and unofficial side events at future COP gatherings. Appendix 1 provides a list of events that were contacted and the outcome of the events that were tracked.

2.3.5   Reporting and Communications

The Greening Workstream prepared weekly reports reflecting the status of the various initiatives comprising the COP17/CMP7 Greening Programme. These reports were distributed to various role-players and key areas of progress were typically presented at the weekly IDLC meetings.

In ensuring that the broader public and related stakeholders were kept abreast of matters pertaining to the event and greening of the event, regular updates were prepared for the DEA and official COP17/CMP7 websites. This process was managed through a content management plan.

2.3.6 Carbon Footprinting

The calculation of GHG emissions linked to the organisation and hosting of large events is important for benchmarking, showcasing good practice and managing emissions. The initial calculations (first pass estimate) were used to control emissions, identify gaps, set boundaries and identify opportunities to reduce the overall emissions of the event.

The carbon footprint has been prepared using the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard methodology; the most widely used international carbon calculation methodology and compatible with other GHG standards such as the ISO14064.

In accordance with the GHG Protocol, clear organisational and operational boundaries were defined and agreed to by all parties. Where appropriate, emission factors have been stated, the majority of which have been sourced from the United Kingdom's Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), August 2011.

Ecological Footprinting

Ecological Footprinting is a method used to calculate whether our activities are within the limits of the productive capacity of the earth's natural systems. It takes into consideration how much food, water and energy is consumed and how much was is generated. It provides an indication of the quantities of resources consumed or waste generated, as well as the demand that this consumption places on natural assets.

The eThekwini Municipality, which is committed to hosting events that do not place unnecessary stress on its natural assets, developed a methodology to calculate the CIP17/CMP7 ecological footprint since the carbon footprint does not take into consideration the impacts of the increased consumption of other natural resources such as water, food and energy.

The results of the pilot attributed toward awareness of the full environmental impact of COP17/CMP7 and the types of interventions that would be needed to offset this and to prompt changes in behaviour from delegates at future events. This methodology leaves behind a legacy of value beyond the COP and that it can be used in future by other event host cities as part of their greening programmes.

2.4 Institutional Arrangements

The execution of the Greening Programme relied upon the establishment of a Greening Workstream. Since the greening of COP17/CMP7 was a multi-pronged process, the Greening Workstream was a multi-stakeholder body co-chaired by the DEA and eThekwini Municipality.

2.4.1 Overview of Governance Arrangements

The Greening Workstream was part of a larger organisational process put in place to manage, execute and monitor the COP17/CMP7 logistical arrangements as presented in Figure 2.

At a political level, an **Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change** (IMC) was established to oversee the preparations for the COP17/CMP7 at a ministerial level. It was therefore the highest governance structure directly responsible for the execution of COP17/CM7. Two of the IMC's prevailing concerns, apart from the routine logistical concerns, was the identification and promotion of the flagship projects (please refer to Appendix 10 for more information) as well as the event's legacy. For information on individual IMC members and their economic, social and environmental responsibilities as well as their representation from a diversity point of view, please refer to Appendix 3.

At a technocratic level, the overall co-ordination of the COP17/CMP7 was managed by the **Inter-Departmental Liaison Committee** (IDLC), which was chaired by DIRCO. This structure met weekly and the Greening Workstream and its activities were represented by the DEA at the IDLC. Recommendations from the IDLC would be presented to the technical IMC. Thus strategic input from the Greening Workstream filtered upwards through the IDLC and where required to the technical IMC for input.

To bring cohesion to a myriad of projects and initiatives that collectively contributed to the greening of COP17/CMP7, a **Greening Workstream** was put in place as documented in Section 2.4.2.

With regard to the GEF/UNIDO Greening of COP17 Programme, a **Project Steering Committee** (PSC) was established for the relevant legacy projects. This PSC comprised representatives of the participating organisations (GEF, UNIDO and DEA), the National Project Manager, and the respective co-ordinators for each of the four programme components. The Greening PMU attended these meetings and similarly, the GEF/UNIDO National Project Manager participated in the Greening Workstream meetings. Furthermore, representatives of the PSC would have regular in situ meetings with its implementation partners in KwaZulu-Natal.

Within DEA, the Greening Workstream also reported to an overall **Project Management Team** (PMT) appointed to manage the development of the CCR Expo and the various service-providers appointed to render services in relation to the CCR Expo.
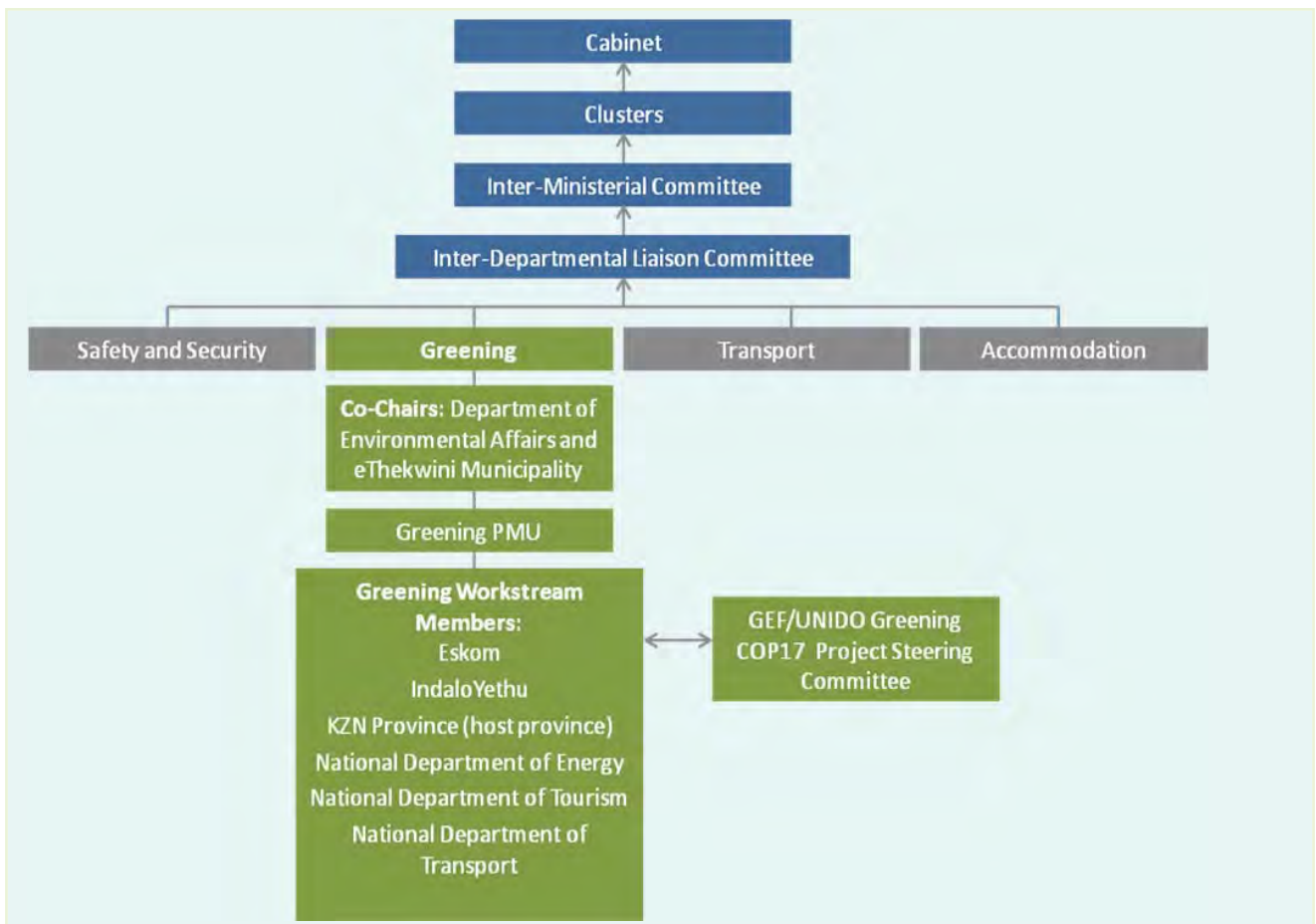
Figure 3: Greening Workstream organisational structure

2.4.2   Greening Workstream Roles and Responsibilities

The Greening Workstream was co-chaired by DEA and the eThekwini Municipality.

The **DEA** was responsible for the CCR Expo, various legacy projects, the overall co-ordination of the event greening and the event's national carbon footprint. It was also responsible for providing greening support to the other workstreams.

The **eThekwini Municipality** took responsibility for providing support to and monitoring of the greening of the UN precinct (excluding the CCR Expo) and other logistical arrangements in the City such as transport and accommodation. The municipality was also responsible for determining, managing and offsetting the local carbon footprint of the actual event, excluding international and regional travel.

A **Greening Project Management Unit** (PMU) was established to provide an oversight and co-ordination role for the Greening Workstream. Areas of responsibility included:

- Overall project management and co-ordination of the Greening Programme, with a specific focus on the synergy between DEA and eThekwini initiatives;
- Co-ordination of the greening initiatives within the different workstreams, which included accommodation, transport, communications, safety and security and the CCR Expo;

- Calculation of the carbon footprint for international flights, national transport and other associated activities; and
- Oversight of carbon off-set initiatives also known as legacy projects.

Informed by the overall aims and objectives, there was a strong focus on capacity-building to enhance stakeholders' understanding and application of event greening principles and practices. Monitoring was also undertaken in order to provide comprehensive feedback to the stakeholders against the various greening initiatives, or lack thereof.

Chapter two has provided the approach to the greening of COP17/CMP7 and the methodologies used to achieve the Greening Programme's goals and objectives. The programme's goal was to raise as much awareness of event greening as possible through the development of resources and provision of practical support. It also aimed to apply greening principles and practices to all aspects of the conference and associated activities and to monitor these so as to gauge the impact of its activities. The next section presents the greening of the Climate Change Response Expo, a dynamic space organised by the DEA to showcase the application of climate-sensitive principles and practices.