

Introduction



1 Introduction

South Africa and the City of Durban were selected to serve as host country and host city for the 17th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Seventh Meeting of the Parties (CMP) to the Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC COP17/CMP7, commonly referred to as COP 17/CMP7) from 28 November to 9 December 2011.¹

South Africa has developed a renowned reputation for hosting large international events in line with globally recognized greening principles and practices, first demonstrated through its hosting of the World Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002. The FIFA 2010 World Cup™ reinforced the country's commitment to avoid unnecessary negative environmental and social impacts associated with the hosting major events by developing national and local greening programmes. The hosting of the 2012 FIFA World Cup™ provided a springboard to host an event that was essentially concerned with sustainability in a responsible manner, building on from the lessons learnt and widening the application of event greening principles and practices. This report thus serves to capture the country's approach to the hosting of COP17/CMP7 as a sustainably organised event.

1.1 Report purpose

The South African Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) undertook to prepare the COP17/CMP7 Sustainability Report, and is therefore the reporting organisation. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Global Reporting Initiative's **G3.1 Sustainability Reporting Guidelines and Event Organisers Sector Supplement** and is consistent with **Application Level C**.

It sets out to document and assess the COP17/CMP7 National Greening Programme that aimed, amongst others, to give effect to Article 4(1) and Article 4(2) of the Host Country Agreement signed between the UNFCCC Secretariat and the Government of South Africa as follows:

Article 4: Climate neutrality

1. In providing the Conference space, premises, equipment, utilities and services referred to in Article 3 above, the Government shall endeavour that climate neutrality is achieved locally for the duration of the Conference. To this end, the Government shall estimate greenhouse gas emissions associated with hosting the Conference consistent with accepted international standards. It shall reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions associated with hosting the Conference to the extent possible to ensure a low carbon event through the implementation of various greening initiatives... The Government may request the secretariat to provide assistance in estimating greenhouse gas emissions and

to suggest ways and means by which the Government can reduce and/or offset greenhouse gas emissions associated with hosting the Conference.

2. In order to assist in hosting a climate neutral or low carbon Conference as required by the above paragraph, the Government may encourage participants to contribute, to the extent possible, to the goal of climate neutrality of the Conference by offsetting emissions related to their travelling and participation and may provide a mechanism.

This agreement contains three main provisions:

1. The estimation of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions associated with the hosting of the event;
2. To reduce or avoid emissions through various greening initiatives; and
3. To find ways of offsetting emissions associated with the event.

This report describes how the three areas were addressed; however, it is not limited to these areas as the DEA saw the event as the ideal opportunity to raise awareness on climate change and to promote climate friendly solutions. This came on the back of the gazetting of the **Climate Change Response Policy White Paper** in October 2011. This White Paper provides a roadmap for responding to the urgency of climate change and to ensure that this is done within a time-frame that allows economic, social and environmental development to continue in a sustainable way. The objectives of the policy can only be achieved through widespread climate action by every facet of South African society and economy whether it is in reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change or stabilising and reducing the emission of greenhouse gases. The white paper can be accessed from www.environment.gov.za

Event greening, or sustainable event management, refers to the process of incorporating socially and environmentally responsible decision-making into the planning, organisation and implementation of, and participation in an event irrespective of scale. It requires the application of sustainable development principles and practices to all levels of event organisation and aims to ensure that an event is hosted in a responsible manner. It represents the total package of interventions at an event and associated activities, planned and implemented in an integrated manner.

The terms 'event greening' and 'sustainable event management' are used interchangeably within this document and are not confined to environmental issues only.

¹ The conference officially came to an end on 11th December 2011 when the last of the negotiating teams left Durban.

There were several levers to spur this all-encompassing response provided by the hosting of COP17/CMP7. These included the Climate Change Response Expo, practical community-based in-situ projects promoting climate-friendly development and a range of innovative communication initiatives to build and sustain climate change awareness. An underlying thread was to apply event greening principles and practices to all organisational aspects.

Thus, in addition to reporting on the fulfillment of the country host agreement, the purpose of this report is also to describe and evaluate these complementary awareness initiatives and in so doing to support the momentum of the implementation of the goals of the Climate Change Response Policy White Paper. It also aims to promote event greening by focusing on the greening of the CCR Expo as well as the tracking of the numerous unofficial side-events that ran in parallel with the official event.

Reporting Parameters

This reporting period for information provided in this report is 2011/2012. Since this was a once-off event, this report is event specific. The Department is required to submit annual reports per the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act but this report is independent of that process.

1.2 Report Scope and Boundary

The DEA and its stakeholders managed the achievement of a low carbon event through the establishment of COP17/CMP7 Greening Programme.

The COP17/CMP7 Greening Programme was a multi-stakeholder process involving a range of organisations and individuals whose combined and paralleled efforts gave rise to the programme. Table 1 provides an overview of the main role-players and their areas of activity and/or influence.

Table 5: Key stakeholders and their contribution to the Greening Programme

Organisation	Areas of activity / influence
National Greening Programme	
Eskom	Renewable Energy & carbon offset
GEF/UNIDO ¹	Greening of COP 17 Programme
IndaloYethu	Climate Train, Green Passport
National Department of Energy	Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency
National Department of Environmental Affairs	CCR Expo; Legacy Projects; Communications and Awareness Initiatives
National Department of Tourism	Responsible Tourism Campaign
National Department of Transport	Sustainable Transport
Provincial Greening Programme	
KZN Province (host province)	Climate Change Summits; KZN Greening Programme
Local Greening Programme	
eThekweni Municipality (host city)	eThekweni Greening Programme

This report reflects the activities and outcomes of all the entities listed above with the main exception being the eThekweni Greening Programme, which is the subject of a separate report. There are, however, three distinct areas of overlap between the two reports. These are passenger transport, accommodation, and the environmental performance of the Durban International Convention Centre (ICC), which served as the United Nations (UN) Precinct. The inclusion of passenger transport and accommodation is informed by the fact that these areas represent the largest source of local carbon emissions and since the host country agreement required commitment to avoid or reduce

emissions, it would be remiss of this report to disregard the initiatives that were put in place to lower emissions. Furthermore, in the case of transport, the National Department of Transport was a member of the Transportation Workstream that reported weekly to the Interdepartmental Liaison Committee (refer to Section 2.4.1). Furthermore, DEA played an important role in accelerating the non-motorised transportation implementation. It was also necessary to include the environmental performance of the UN Precinct as this was the hub of the event and it would also be remiss not to reflect on the greening initiatives put in place to minimise its environmental impact.

The process for defining this report's content was born out the establishment of the Greening Workstream in May 2011 (refer to Section 2.3.2 for further information). The various entities reported progress with respect to their activities and a monitoring tool was developed to stay abreast of these developments. After the event, a table of contents for the COP17/CMP7 Sustainability Report was developed as was a list of indicators. The criteria for the identification and prioritisation of topics and indicators was informed by the host country agreement, the promotion of event greening and sound climate response, and activities that

were within the control of DEA or to which DEA had contributed to in some significant way. The table of contents and indicators were circulated amongst the various stakeholders and refined several times until there was complete agreement on both the topics and indicators. Stakeholders were also notified of the data and information that were required to supply and the process of compiling the report unfolded.

Stakeholders expected to use this report are included in Table 6.

Table 6. COP17/CMP7 Sustainability Report Stakeholders

Stakeholder Category	Application
COP18 host	Qatar
Implementing agencies	Green Building Council of South Africa
Partners	GEF
	UNIDO
	UNDP
	World Bank
	KfW
	British High
Service-providers	Numerous service-providers that assisted with the CCR Expo and the GEF/UNIDO projects
Sponsors	Numerous sponsors that sponsored various goods for the CCR Expo, the GBCSA and GEF/UNIDO Projects
Public Sector	Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change
	Inter-departmental Liaison Committee for COP17/CMP7
Other	Tertiary institutions

The Department of Environmental Affairs as national custodian of the greening of COP17/CMP7

The main responsibilities for hosting of COP17/CMP7 were split between the Department of International Relations and Co-operation (DIRCO) and DEA. DIRCO took responsibility for the logistical arrangements and to act as Conference host whilst DEA's role was to focus on the content of the Conference, which included co-ordinating South Africa's negotiating stance. It was also to ensure that the event was hosted in a low carbon way per the host country agreement. A Greening Workstream was established to effect this agreement in part.

The DEA Head Office is situated in Pretoria Central Business District, City of Tshwane, South Africa. It is the national government department responsible for the public administration in relation to the environment. It is led by a Ministry, which is, in turn, subordinate to a Cabinet and President of South Africa. DEA serves the population of South Africa and its role is to protect and conserve the environment for the benefit of current and future generations. It has 1,429 posts and employees 944 people (DEA Annual Report 2010/11).

Before and during the event, the DEA set up a temporary workstation in Durban in close proximity to the Climate Change Response Expo (CCR Expo). The CCR Expo was organised by DEA as a complementary space to the UN Precinct with the key distinction being that it was not limited to the UN Delegates. For more information on the CCR Expo, please refer to Chapter 3.

For further information please visit www.environment.gov.za

1.3 UNFCCC and COP17/CMP7

The UNFCCC is an international convention that came into force on 21 March 1994 with 166 signatories. The aim of the UNFCCC is to provide a global platform to address climate change through country commitments to reduce GHG emission levels and to provide the financial and technical measures to support these commitments as well as manage the impacts of climate change.

The approach to addressing climate change encompasses two major trajectories: **mitigation**, that focuses on reducing GHG emissions in order to reduce the impact of global warming and **adaptation**, which focuses on ways to respond to the impacts of climate change.

Since the UNFCCC came into force, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC meet annually to assess progress in addressing climate change. The purpose of the COP is to adopt decisions and resolutions, published in reports of the COP, that guide, advance and monitor the implementation of the framework. Successive decisions taken by the COP make up a detailed set of rules for practical and effective implementation of the Convention. The first COP was held in Berlin, Germany in 1995 and there has been a meeting every year since then in various cities around the world. This report addresses the 17th meeting of the COP.

The COP also serves as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, which adopts decisions and resolutions on the implementation of its provisions. The Kyoto Protocol, which was adopted on 11 December 1997 in Kyoto, Japan, is an international agreement, linked to the UNFCCC, that sets binding targets for the reduction of GHG emissions by industrialised countries and the European Community. The Kyoto Protocol expired in 2012.

The seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol was also held in parallel with COP17 and known as CMP7. Parties to the Convention that are not Parties to the Protocol were able to participate in the CMP as observers, but without the right to take decisions.

It is customary for the Conference of Parties to annually elect a president. COP17/CMP7 elected Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, the South African Minister of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), as its President.



Figure 1. UNFCCC COP17 Chairperson, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane with President Jacob Zuma.



Figure 2. Aerial view of the layout of the COP17/CMP7 infrastructure

1.4 Conference overview

COP17/CMP7 was officially opened on 28 November 2011 with approximately 12,000 delegates representing 194 countries. A welcoming ceremony to announce the opening of COP17/CMP7 was attended by the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency President Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma; Secretary of Foreign Relations and COP 16/CMP 6 President, H.E. Ms. Patricia Espinosa Castellano; Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa and President Elect of COP 17/CMP 7, H.E. Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane; and other dignitaries.

In his opening address, President Jacob Zuma stated that issues of climate change should no longer be treated as just environmental challenges, but rather as “sustainable development challenges” since “for most people in the developing world and Africa, climate change is a matter of life and death.” These words set the tone for the COP17 as the emphasis on finding workable solutions to redressing the impacts of climate change, particularly felt by the poor and vulnerable, would be prioritised.

The summit’s daily proceedings typically comprised the official plenary sessions, official working group meetings, observer group meetings and press briefings.

The two main venues relating to COP17/CMP7 were the Durban ICC, which became the UN Precinct, and the CCR Expo. As the UN Precinct, the Durban ICC where the main negotiations took place became a UN restricted area for the duration of the event. The CCR Expo was essentially the entrance to the UN Precinct between the Central Transport Hub and the ICC. It included a variety of exhibitions, food vendors, meeting rooms, media and networking areas.

The UN Precinct provided a selection of venues and facilities to support the different requirements of a conference of this nature. This included a Virtual Participation Centre comprising the Digital Media Lounge (provided a central point for participants to engage with on-line reporters and communications professionals on issues of concern), the Bloggers’ Loft (an on-line work area for bloggers and online communicators from the observer community) and the Climate Change Studio (an innovative collaboration between the UN Climate Change Secretariat and Climate-Change.tv, provided for one-on-one videos with a wide array of stakeholders from the civil society and inter-governmental organisations to Party delegates, discussing the effects of climate change, causes of global warming and possible solutions).

The official Conference began on 28th November and was

“We have taken crucial steps forward for the common good and the global citizenry today. I believe that what we have achieved in Durban will play a central role in saving tomorrow, today.”

COP17/CMP7 President, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane

officially ended on 11th December with a day off on Sunday 4th December although participation figures are only available up until 9 December 2011. Table 7 provides an overview of the different role-players that accessed the UN Precinct on a daily basis.



Table 7. Number of role-players accessing the UN Precinct during COP17/CMP7

	28-Nov	29-Nov	30-Nov	01-Dec	02-Dec	03-Dec	05-Dec	06-Dec	07-Dec	08-Dec	09-Dec
Parties	3187	3592	3908	4144	4494	4853	5782	6098	6248	6291	6300
Observers	2365	2931	3387	3747	4178	4523	5485	5669	5781	5811	5815
Media	694	789	849	878	917	1001	1157	1221	1263	1265	1268
Staff	3553	3681	3763	3807	3850	3882	3954	4010	4024	4030	4034
Entity	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	6	6	6
Total	9799	10993	11907	12576	13439	14259	16378	17004	17322	17403	17423

Table 7 indicates that rate of participation increased daily until by 9 December, which was planned as the final day, the volume of delegates had increased by 77% from the opening of the conference.

Table 8 is a variation of Table 7 as it presents only the number of people attending COP17/CMP7 as official registered delegates.

Table 8. Number of delegates that participated in COP17/CMP7

	States/organisations	Registered Participants
Parties	192	5399
Observer States and entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and maintaining permanent observer missions at Headquarters	3	14
Total Parties + observer states and entities	195	5413
United Nations Secretariat unit and bodies	26	297
Specialized agencies and related organisations	20	258
Intergovernmental organisations	50	484
Non-governmental organisations	665	4772
Total observer organisations	761	5811
Media	507	1265
Total participation		12489

Source: FCCC/CP/2011/INF.3 (Part 1) http://unfccc.int/meetings/durban_nov_2011/session/6294/php/view/documents.php

A number of official side-events took place in parallel with the official negotiations. A description of the events tracked have been included in Appendix 1. A prominent side-event was the Durban Local Government Convention, which proceeded from 2 to 4 December 2011. This culminated in the Durban Climate Change Adaptation Charter, signed by 114 mayors from 28 countries, underlining their commitment to strengthening local resilience against climate change. This Charter later was presented to the COP17 negotiators, with a plea to take the role of local governments in climate change more seriously.

Whilst scheduled to end on 9 December, COP17/CMP7 was extended by a day so that final agreement on the COP resolutions could be achieved. Main outcomes of the conference included a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol effective from 1 January 2013; agreement to adopt a universal legal agreement on climate change no later than 2015 to be co-ordinated by a new

group called the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action; a significantly advanced framework for the reporting of emissions reductions for developed and developing countries taking into consideration common but differentiated responsibilities of different countries; and the full implementation of the package to support developing nations agreed in Cancun, Mexico in 2010.

In summary, chapter one of the COP17/CMP7 Sustainability Report has provided the overall context for the report describing the purpose of the report as well as its scope and boundary. It has also described the history of the COP17/CMP7 and presented an overview of the conference. Chapter two discusses the approach taken to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the COP17/CMP7 Programme.