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Climate Change Unit 18/02/2012

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Financial Partners:



Content Partners:



Project Steering Committee:

- Indalo Yethu
- British Council
- COPART
- Germany Embassy
- PRASA
- Metrolink EMS
- Linkd Environmental Services

The Climate Train

1. Introduction

In December 2011, the City of Durban, South Africa hosted the 17th Conference of Parties (COP 17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Parallel to the conference was a Climate Change Response Expo (CCR Expo) also held in Durban. The COP 17 and the CCR Expo presented Indalo Yethu, the South African Environmental Agency with an opportunity to raise awareness and education, advocacy, social mobilization and engagement on climate change, and to showcase climate change response innovation.

In the lead up to and during COP 17, Indalo Yethu with the support of the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), the National Lotteries Distribution Trust Fund, the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA), the Embassy of the Republic of Germany and the British Council and in collaboration with its content partners implemented the Climate Train project. The Climate Train was a vehicle and platform to facilitate a national conversation within towns and villages on the impact of climate change on communities and to give them an opportunity to tell their climate story, document their responses, expectation and aspirations. The main purpose of the climate train, officially launched in Cape Town on the 28th of October 2011 was to:

- Provide a platform to raise awareness and promote dialogue among stakeholders such as Faith groups, labour, women, youth, community and government. Climate action pledges by key stakeholders were recorded and discussions on a climate charter held;
- Be a resource hub showcasing low-carbon technologies, and also to present information and learning experiences regarding climate change mitigation, adaptation, and innovation;
- Complete the dialogue facilitated between communities and the conference, by returning to the communities with the outcomes and messages from COP17 and serve as an on-going climate change awareness and educational vehicle (legacy project).

The train arrived in Durban on the 27th of November 2011 having traversed through 16 towns and cities and some villages covering 8 provinces (Annex 1). Indalo Yethu facilitated climate change dialogue sessions in Grahamstown and Port Elizabeth in Eastern Cape Province, being the province that the train did not reach. The climate train offering at each station included roundtable discussions community and town hall meetings, tree planting, performing and creative arts, and exhibitions. The train stopped for an average of 2 days in each town during which time it was open to the public. The train was also open to delegates and the public for the duration of the COP 17. Many schools from the Durban environs visited the train during the period.

In most towns, the climate train was received by high ranking public officials including MECs and Mayors. In Durban, the train was received by the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, the Mayor of EThekweni Municipality and Speaker of the KZN Provincial Legislature (Fig 2) as well as senior executives of partner organizations, government agencies and civil society organizations.

The train presented an opportunity to involve the public in the national and global discourse on climate change (many of whom did not have the opportunity to participate at COP 17 but experience the effects of climate change). The train was an enormous opportunity to mobilise the public to respond positively to climate change response actions. The question *“What are the climate impacts and what can we do in this town”* was the clarion call to action.



Figure 1 Hon MP Zikhalala and Ms June Josephs- Langa at the official launch of the climate train, Cape Town



Figure 2 James Nxumalo, EThekweni Exec Mayor, Hon Logie Naidoo, Speaker of Provincial Legislature, June Josephs-Langa, CEO Indalo Yethu and Christina Figueres, UNFCCC Executive Secretary welcoming the climate train at Durban station

1.1. Key Objectives

The Climate Train project was premised on the following objectives:

- Climate education and dialogue: bringing about awareness and education on climate change impacts and responses
- Mobilising for climate action: encouraging actions by schools, civil society organizations, faith groups, local businesses and municipalities and the general public e.g. tree planting, energy

- efficiency, alternative energy technologies, climate change resilient development planning
- Stakeholder/community involvement and participation in national climate change response policy and strategies
- Mobilization and advocacy for climate justice
- Vehicle for engagement and collaboration: providing a platform for understanding how towns, communities and livelihoods are being affected and how they are responding to climate change

1.2 Expected Outcomes

Key outcomes expected of the Climate Train and its legacy projects are:

- Information sharing and dissemination leading to increased awareness
- Increased awareness and education resulting in positive behavioural change and uptake of green products and services
- Data gathering of climate vulnerability, mitigation and adaptation efforts and challenges to determine needs and responses of communities, as well as to inform research agendas of local universities
- Encouraging local and national response actions
- Networking and exchange for climate change response e.g youth forum on climate change, faith leaders initiative on climate change, women in environment to showcase job creation and income generation opportunities in the green economy
- African Climate Change Charter and Climate Pledge
- Innovation and creativity to promote energy efficiency and showcase affordable alternative energy solutions
- Enhance material and energy efficiency
- Climate change policy advocacy
- Legacy projects for continued awareness raising, education and social engagement on climate change

1.3 Project Management

The design and planning for the climate train was overseen by a Project Steering Committee (PSC) comprising Indalo Yethu, the British Council, COPART and Linkd. The Germany Embassy and the event management company Metrolink EMS were later co-opted onto the Project Steering Committee. The PSC met on a regular basis to review functional designs, resource requirements, logistics and programme content. Frequency of PSC meetings increased to weekly meetings as dictated by demand for such towards the launch of the project.

The PSC held regular consultations and meetings on technical, operational and logistical issues with the relevant departments/units at the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa. Indalo Yethu chaired the PSC and provided overall project leadership including resource mobilization, procurement of service providers, contracting and town activation. COPART facilitated the creative art programme content for the climate train.

Metrolink Event Management Solutions was contracted at the beginning of October 2011 to provide town event management and publicity functions. Fineline Productions, Rafs Mayet and Black Bench Productions

were contracted to document the journey in audio-visual form. The Green Times Newspaper collaborated with Indalo Yethu to produce the Climate Express newsletter. The exterior graphics and branding were designed by Media in Africa (MIA) Graphics Studio (Fig 3 and Fig 4). Oxfam International's climate change canvas paintings as well as paintings by local young artists were used as the base for the designs. The designs also carried environmental messages in English, Xhosa, Zulu, Pedi. Many other local service providers were engaged to provide catering, equipment and transport services in the towns thereby contributing to local economies.

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Figure 3 Climate train branding and messaging



Figure 4 Climate change posters at Durban train station

1.4 Summary of town engagement activities

TOWN	DATE	GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION	CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION	MAIN ACTIVITIES
Cape Town	27-28/10	<p>Climate train initiative launched in Parliament through Hon Speaker Max Sisulu special parliamentary focus on climate change</p> <p>Launch event presided over by Hon MP Zikhalala as delegated by Hon Johnny De Lange and attended by Honourable Members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Water and Environmental affairs</p> <p>Alderman Belinda Walker representing the Mayor of the City of Cape Town.</p> <p>PRASA Regional Manager Germany Embassy Counsellor Country Director of GIZ SALGA CEO</p> <p>SANBI</p> <p>Over 40 public officials</p>	<p>School children numbering over 600 arranged by City of Cape Town; and Vuyani and Sokhanyo Primary schools from Gugulethu</p> <p>Over 400 members of public and community groups</p> <p>Faith leaders representing SAFCEI, SA Council of Churches Western Cape, Moslem and Indigenous faith groups</p> <p>Western Cape Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities</p> <p>COSATU led by Provincial Secretary National Khoi and San Council Project 90x2030 Lions Club Yizani Sakhe Community Organization</p>	<p>4 roundtable dialogues including COSATU dialogue session on the green economy attended by 20 participants; African Climate Change Charter hosted by the National Khoi and San Council, the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities and the South African Council of Churches</p> <p>Tree planting by AMBUSH group. Trees donated to Lions Club and City of Cape Town. 90 trees and 10 other plants.</p> <p>Painting of town canvas</p> <p>Signing of climate action pledges</p> <p>Theatre performance by Jungle Theatre</p> <p>Platform exhibition by SANBI</p>
Worcester	29-30/10	<p>Basil Kuvido, Mayor of Worcester</p> <p>Councillors and council officials</p> <p>Kleinplasia Museum</p>	<p>School children: 170 including EDEN School for Children with barriers to</p>	<p>Town hall dialogue hosted by Indalo Yethu and the municipality attended by 60 people including farmworkers, local</p>

		Public officials : 20	<p>learning</p> <p>Public : 160</p> <p>Zwelithemba Youth Forum</p> <p>Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE)</p> <p>Mawubuye Land Rights Forum</p> <p>Junior Business Chamber</p> <p>Worcester Reconciliation and Development Group</p> <p>Faith leaders</p> <p>World Wildlife Fund (WWF)</p> <p>Endangered Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Breede River Winelands Chamber of Business</p> <p>Boland Enviro</p> <p>Lions Club</p>	<p>business chamber, faith leaders, and civil society groups</p> <p>Earth Forum dialogue hosted by Kleinplasië Museum and attended by 30 participants including Zwelithemba Youth Forum and the Mayor.</p> <p>Earth Forum led by the TCOE and Mawubuye Land Rights Forum attended by women and farm labour groups from Boland Winelands area on climate change impacts and their vulnerability. The forum was attended by 35 farmworkers.</p> <p>Coral Reef awareness and crocheting by WARP; 4 groups of 10 participants</p> <p>Tree planting by AMBUSH. Mayor planted a tree at the Eden School for Children with Barriers to learning. 14 trees and 50 other plants.</p> <p>Painting of town canvas</p> <p>Signing of climate action pledge</p>
Beaufort West	31/10-01/11	<p>Mayor of Beaufort West</p> <p>Municipal officials</p> <p>Public officials 10</p>	<p>School children: 90</p> <p>Public: 100</p>	<p>Earth Forum dialogues for 3 groups held</p> <p>Story telling at local crèche</p> <p>Townhall council meeting with residents, civil society groups</p> <p>Tree planting by AMBUSH. 4 trees and 40 other plants.</p>

				Painting of town canvas
De Aar	02/11	<p>Mayor's Office- Councillor Miriam Kibi MEC Environmental and Nature Conservation Departmental officials Municipal officials- Emthanjeni Municipal Council, Pixley ka Seme District Municipality South African Weather Services</p> <p>Public officials: 25</p>	<p>School children: 600 Public: 190</p>	<p>Earth Forum Tree Planting 13 trees and 36 other plants. Painting of town canvas Townhall meeting with residents and civic groups Poetry Platform Exhibitions Town hall meeting preceded by awareness raising march</p>
Kimberley	03/11	<p>Northern Cape Premier Hazel Jenkins MEC Environmental and Nature Conservation Sylvia Lucas Mayor of Sol Plaatjie Provincial department officials Public officials: 30</p>	<p>School children: 600 from the following 10 schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molehabangwe • Sol Plaatjie • Punkwesa (Platfontein) • St Bonafice • Flamingo • Pescodia • Green Point • Beacon • Thabane • Tshwarelela <p>Public: 220</p>	<p>Earth Forums Tree Planting. 5 trees and 10 other plants. 40 trees donated to the provincial Department of onward donation to a school in the town. Painting of town canvass Earth junkies session with 30 primary school children Poetry Platform Exhibitions</p>
Klerksdorp	04-05/11	<p>Executive Mayor of Matlosana, Councillor Mike Kgauwe Municipal and Departmental I Affairs and Municipal officials Member of Mayoral Council Public officials : 20</p>	<p>School children: 400 Public: 150</p>	<p>Earth Forums Tree Planting around station and in Kanana township by AMBUSH and community members. 25 trees and 110 other plants for heart shaped gardens. Painting of town canvas Dance and theatre at the platform station by local group Poetry</p>

				Exhibitions
Krugersdorp	06-07/11	SANBI (Biodiversity visits)	School children: 120 Public: 35	Clean Up campaign- cleaning of waste dumped on open space Tree Planting Painting of town canvas Learning visits to Botanical garden for school children organised by SANBI
Johannesburg	08-10/11	PRASA Johannesburg City Parks	School children: 300 from Diepkloof, Soweto Public: 180 Women in Environment Gender and Climate Change Women for Climate Justice Landless People Movement SACC Youth Forum Love Life Federation for Sustainable Environment (FES) - acid mine drainage Community NGOs	Roundtable dialogues on women and climate change, youth and climate change and acid mine drainage. Earth forums held with youth groups (Lovelife and SACC YF) and informal settlement groups (Landless People's Movement) Painting of town canvas Tree planting around station and in Diepkloof 100 trees and 50 other plants Earth junkies s Photography competition
Pretoria	11-13/11	SANBI (Pretoria National Botanical Gardens) Germany Embassy GIZ City Parks	School children: 240 including Eco- clubs from Garankuwa Ecotown Public: 170 Women in Environment Lovelife Gender CC	Tree planting. 50 trees donated to City Parks project, 50 other plants and 700 tomato seedlings given to school children and visitors. Platform rainforest theatre exhibition WARP coral reef awareness and crochet Biodiversity sessions by SANBI Poetry workshops Theatre by Wellworn Theatre Sessions by Earth Junkies for primary school children

				Earth Forums with the groups Photography workshops
Naboomspruit	14/11	GIZ Germany Embassy SANBI	School children ; 24 Public: 30 Community group from Mokopane	Photography workshops Tree planting: 30 trees and 40 other plants, 700 tomato seedlings handed out. Biodiversity session Painting of canvas Earth Junkies sessions WARP crochet/ coral reefs awareness Roundtable dialogue with the community group from Mokopane: main issues raised were on acid mine drainage.
Polokwane	15-16/11	Deputy Min of Environmental Affairs, Hon Rejoice Mabudafhasi Mayor of Polokwane, Fred Greaver MEC Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Pitso Moloto Speaker of Provincial Legislature Head of Provincial Dept. of Environmental Affairs representing MEC Provincial Departmental officials South African Weather Services Public officials 16	School children: 125 Public: 135 Women in Environment, Women in Agriculture Youth Groups	Roundtable dialogues on climate change and agriculture, women and climate change in which the Deputy Minister participated Biodiversity session Platform exhibition on recycling and renewable energy Tree planting. 45 trees donated to individuals. Poetry WARP coral reefs and crocheting sessions Painting of town canvas Earth Forums Photography workshops
Louis Trichardt	17-19/11	SANBI Officials 45 including Thohoyandou House of Traditional Healers and Makhado Municipality	School children: 280 Public: 150 VaTsongha Cultural Village group	Roundtable dialogues held with the VaTsongha Cultural Group, and then with the Dzomo la Mupo. The dialogues focussed on the protection of water resources and the threat posed by coal mining to the communities.

			Dzomo La Mupo (The MUPO Foundation)	Biodiversity workshop hosted by SANBI painting of town canvas WARP crochet and coral reefs awareness Poetry Tree planting. 80 trees including 30 donated to individuals, 30 other plants and 300 tomato seedlings.
Johannesburg (NASREC)	21-22/11	MEC Agriculture and Rural Development (Ms Nandi Mayathula Khoza) Provincial GDARD officials Mayor for West Rand Region PRASA CEO, Lucky Montana Germany Embassy, Dr Horst Freitag Officials: 40	School children: 235 Public: 300 African Youth Forum Love Life SACC Youth Forum Women in Environment Green Beings Media	Platform exhibition on recycling and renewable energy by Eskom Demonstration on FUNDI system by Energy One Tree planting by SACC YF - at Grace Bible Church, Regina Mundi and Mofolo Park. 500 tomato seedlings handed out to school children. 100 trees donated to Green Beings group for planting in communities the group works in. 40 Trees from PRASA for planting around the NASREC station. 300 trees donated to Indalo Yethu by Hideside Grow a Tree. Media briefing on the Gauteng climate response strategy by the MEC African Youth Caravan Delegates Climate Change youth concert Poetry Photography workshop
Standerton	23/11	Mayor of the town Local Councillors Department of Education Inkomati Catchment Management Agency Department of Water Affairs Water Institute of Southern Africa SANBI Officials 10	School children: 90 from the following schools; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siyalu Secondary • Citha Combined • Sibongimvelo Sec Public: 50 WESSA	Earth Forum Platform exhibition on recycling and renewable energy Biodiversity sessions for the learners and community Tree Planting led by the Mayor. 20 trees and 30 other plants. 60 trees donated to the town.

				Theatre by Wellworn Theatre Poetry Climate Classrooms by British Council Painting of town canvas
Ladysmith	24-25/11	Uthukela District Mayor Emnambithi Ladysmith Local Municipality Mayor Environmental Affairs officials Provincial Department of Education officials Transnet Officials 20	300 school children from the following schools: Sqophamithi, Gqama, Damu, Seskhona, Mbulwane, Nkanyenzi Training Centre, Zaaifonteint, Watersmeet, Keate Street, Van Reenen, Brookfield Combined, Nhonhweni, Celimfundo, Sfisokuhle, Nomtshilo, Emmaus, Nsebenzwenhle, Intumbane, Bambanani, Madlala, Emalahleni, Sondoda, Zimisele, Ilenge, Thobezweni, Ecancane, Insikayezwe Combined, KwaMgwabo were confirmed to participate. However only 65 school children were recorded as having participated. Public: 130 Women in Environment WESSA	Earth forum dialogues Platform exhibition' Tree planting led by the Deputy Mayor. 50 trees planted around the station, Isiqophamithi Primary in Ezakheni. 80 trees were donated to the schools. Painting of town canvas Climate for Classroom by British Council Theatre Biodiversity session Town meeting/ dialogue session
Pieter-maritzburg	26/11	MEC Environment and Agriculture, Meshack Hadebe Msunduzi- Pietermaritzburg Mayor- Sizwe Mkhize	School children: 70 from Ekukhanyeni Special School and Mehlokazulu High School	Earth forum Tree Planting at the school for children with disabilities led by Mayor Mkhize. 300 tomato seedlings handed out to school

		<p>HOD Environment and agriculture Dr Mkhize HOD Department of Education CEO of Ezemvelo KZN wildlife Department of Environment and Water Affairs SANBI</p> <p>Officials 15</p>	<p>Public: 150 Women in Environment Lovelife WESSA Haniville Environmental Network Zizamele Khangisa Akhona Youth Skills and Training Gezubuso Youth Elandskop- Esakhiweni Youth Group Eastwood Community Group Andra Sabha Senior Citizens club</p>	<p>children. 50 other plants. Painting of town canvas Town meeting at the platform station WARP Crochet and coral reefs awareness Poetry and theatre Climate for classrooms by British council Townhall dialogue at the station Biodiversity visit to botanical garden arranged by SANBI Signing of climate action pledges</p>
Durban	27/11-10/12	<p>Executive Secretary of UNFCCC Christina Figueres Mayor of eThekweni Hon James Nxumalo Provincial Legislature Speaker Hon Logie Naidoo Germany Embassy Dr Horst Freitag British Council Country Head</p> <p>Department of Public Works Minister, Thulasi Nxesi Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Rejoice Mabudafhasi DPW MECs for Limpopo, Eastern Cape, NW, KZN</p> <p>CEO SA Weather services CEO SANBI</p> <p>Director General Germany Foreign Ministry of</p>	<p>School children: 1400 from the following schools: Buhlebethu, Indanda Comprehensive, Pitlochry, Buffesdale, St Leo, Bothas Hill, Sidelile, Esizibeni, Adams College, Verulam, Chesterville, Kharwastan, Khulangolwazi LSEN, Sompukwane, Ikusasalentsha, Shonkwani CP, Amandawe Junior, Esizibeni, Injabulo, Kwahluzinqondo, NU West, Rietvallei Combined, Nombika, Melville, Kearseny, Ashville,</p>	<p>Indalo Yethu and DPW event on eco-labelling collaboration Lions Club meeting on climate change Germany Climate change political session Durban German Chamber of Commerce meeting</p> <p>Climate for classrooms Tree planting. 30 trees and 10 other plants given to individuals at Umlazi v section. 30 trees planted at Chartsworth lotus primary. 100 trees supplied by GreenPOP for planting at the Bluff EcoPark. 10 trees and 20 other plants planted at Gwamtebeni School. African Climate Charter Dialogue sessions Painting of canvas</p>

		<p>Environment</p> <p>Officials 160</p>	<p>Sizani, Ogwini, Sompukwana, Gobhela, Chatsworth Lotus, Gwamtembeni</p> <p>Public: 850</p> <p>Germany Durban Chamber of Commerce British Council Women in Environment Lovelife Durban Lions Club International and Regional Associations of Architects NUMSA Democratic Left Front Global Alliance for Rights of Nature Dzomo la MUPO Kenchaaan Foundation Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa African Conservation Trust Natural Wonder Legal Resources Centre The Green Times</p>	<p>Signing of pledges</p> <p>Theatre</p> <p>Poetry</p> <p>WARP crochet and awareness on coral reefs</p> <p>Visits by schools and the public including those coming through from the CCR Expo.</p> <p>Participation in Global Day of Action civil society march</p>
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2. Functional architecture and content

The functional architecture consisted of transformed carriages hosting different components for the social engagement and outreach. The train comprised of three functional carriages (exhibition/knowledge, conference, creative /theatre studio), kitchen and dining coaches, a lounge that also served as the field office, bedding compartments, and a storage van. Full board facilities were provided to the practitioners and support personnel that travelled with the train. The station platforms provided additional space for earth forums, exhibition displays, theatre performances, creative arts (town canvases). Based on need Indalo Yethu provided transport and catering to community groups and schools visiting the train.

Town activation and stakeholder mobilization ahead of the train was undertaken by Indalo Yethu with assistance from local municipalities, environmental departments in the town/province and SANBI (mobilization of schools for biodiversity visits to botanical gardens for some towns). Effective town mobilization was imperative as this determined the potential success of the climate train in the respective town. In most towns the climate train was officially welcomed by the Premier, Mayor or MEC with all these officials welcoming the train in a few of the towns. Official event programmes in the towns were drawn in consultation with local municipalities (Mayor's office) and Environment Departments (MEC's office).

Technical and operational logistics and service teams were provided by PRASA.

2.1 Knowledge (Exhibition) Carriage

The Exhibition/Knowledge carriage was retrofitted as a resource centre showcasing educational and awareness materials, low carbon technologies such as passive solar cookers, FUNDI Energy one system and recycling projects and products among other exhibits. SANBI mounted an exhibition of the country's biodiversity including that which is under threat from climate change. Other materials and projects exhibited were by Women in Environment, Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA), FUNDI Energy One, Sunfire Solutions, Basa njengo Magogo, the British Council's Climate Classrooms.



Figure 5 visitors to the exhibition carriage

The exhibition carriage was the starting point for the educational tours and played an important part in

engaging visitors who included school children, educators, community groups, civil society organizations on climate change response technologies, recycling and the threat to the country's biodiversity.

2.2 Conference Carriage

The Conference or Interactive Carriage was retrofitted as a space to host roundtable dialogue, seminars and earth forum sessions. The conference carriage was also used as a venue for press conferences and media briefings. Some of the roundtable dialogues sessions held in the conference carriage were:

- Earth Forum sessions on the Rights of Mother Earth. These were conducted in all the towns with community groups, youth groups, women groups.
- Women and Climate Change organised by Women in Environment, and Gender and Climate Change Groups.
- Climate Change and Agriculture including impacts on farming communities. The roundtable discussion on climate change and agriculture in Polokwane was led by the Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs.
- Youth and Climate Change. Sessions were led by the South African Council of Churches (SACC) Youth Forum and or Lovelife. At NASREC the local youth groups were joined by the African Youth caravan that was travelling by road from East Africa to Durban. [Fig 6]
- Impacts of acid mine drainage on communities. A group from Mokopane outlined the impact acid mine drainage is having on their community during a session held at Naboomspruit. A seminar on the subject was facilitated by Mariette Liefferink from the Federation for Sustainable Environment (FSE) during the NASREC leg of the train.
- African Climate Change Charter roundtable discussions. Consultative sessions were held with stakeholders on the development of an African Climate Change charter aimed at providing input from the continent to the global Rights of Mother Earth initiative. [Fig 7]
- Impacts of climate change on informal communities with the Landless People's Movement of South Africa, Women on Farms and Ceasefire informal settlement group
- Indigenous knowledge for climate change response. A highly interactive session was held with the Dzomo la Mupo traditional leaders supported by the MUPO Foundation whose object is to protect sacred waters in the Venda community area.[Fig 8]
- Media briefing on Gauteng Province Climate Change Response Strategy by the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Training workshops on environmental awareness using photography conducted by GIZ
- Climate change workshop for educators



Figure 6 Delegates from the African youth caravan at Nasrec station



Figure 7 Participants at the African climate charter roundtable dialogue



Figure 8 roundtable discussion with Dzomo la Mupo community group

In Durban the conference carriage provided an alternative venue for meetings. Meetings held in the conference carriage during COP 17 include:

- Durban German Chamber of Commerce dialogue session
- National Department of Public Works and International Federation of Architects
- Germany governments political statement on climate change
- Durban Lions Club

As the conference carriage provided limited seating capacity, some of the dialogue sessions involving more participants than could be accommodated in the carriage were held on station platforms or town halls [Fig9].



Figure 9 Climate change town hall meeting, De Aar

2.3 Creative/Theatre Studio

The creative studio was designed and retrofitted as a theatre style studio offering a range of materials and tools for creative engagement. The studio was used for showing educational videos to mostly school children and community groups. The facilitators engaged the learners in active question and answer sessions.



Figure 10 Interactive session with school children in the theatre studio

2.4 Radius of art

COPART connective-aesthetics methodology encourages mobilization, dialogue and climate justice by working on an expanded concept of art to enhance public participation and creative exchange. It uses art as a medium/instrument to connect to social and natural systems and inspire ecological citizenship. The programme content included the use of industrial theatre, public participation, film, poetry, visual arts, social sculpture in the form of earth forums and guerrilla gardening (AMBUSH).

All artists and local cultural groups engaged were compensated for their performances and or time input. In this regard the climate train created temporary work opportunities for the resident artists who travelled on the train as practitioners.

2.4.1 Earth Forums

This social sculpture was offered as a way in which participants of any age group, gender or ethnicity meaningfully developed their capacity to imagine, listen and exchange about how they may live on this planet. The essence of the tool was to get participants back in touch with Mother Earth and then relate experiences to the Mother Earth and how individual and collective lifestyles are hurting the very source of livelihoods. The earth forums were the primary connective aesthetic process used to create discussion around the African Climate Change Charter. Earth forum discussions were held in all towns with various stakeholder groups including community groups, informal settlement groups such as the Landless People's Movement, Ceasefire, Women in Environment, Lovelife, school children, educators and traditional groups like the Dzomo la Mupo in Makhado.

2.4.2 Visual Arts

Two visual artists were among the resident practitioners on the climate train. With the help of the resident artists, stakeholders in each town painted their climate change experiences, response expectations and or commitments on the town canvas thereby giving the stakeholders a non-vocal yet powerful medium to express their experiences and expectations. Painting workshops were also held for school children. A canvas painted by stakeholders was produced for each town and all the 16 canvasses were on display at the Climate Change Response (CCR) Expo and the Durban Train station for the duration of COP 17.

Thought provoking artistic impressions were also created at the stations showing visitors that climate change is as a result of human activity but so are the solutions.



Figure 11 Gauteng MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Ms Nandi Mayathula- Khoza and Mayor for West Rand Region painting the Johannesburg canvas after the media briefing on the province's climate change response strategy

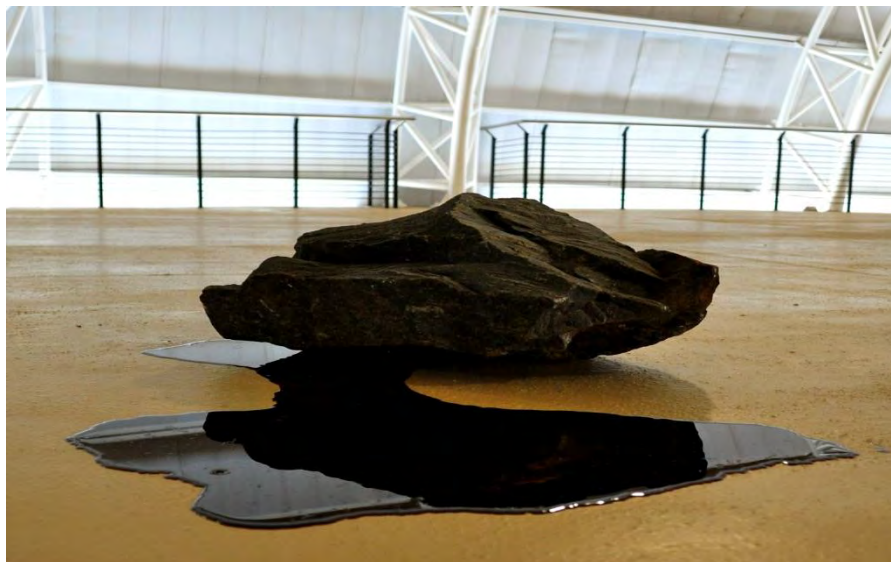


Figure 12 Climate change negotiations are as difficult as drawing blood from a rock, Simon Max Bannister resident visual artist piece at NASREC train station, Johannesburg



Figure 13 Town canvas capturing climate change experiences and expectations

2.4.3 Woodstock Art Reef Project (WARP)

The Woodstock Art Reef Project not only offered connective aesthetic installations and public artwork but public workshops, participation, skills training and dialogue on climate change impact on aquatic ecosystems. The WARP project uses traditional handicraft crochet to create marine invertebrates such as corals. WARP crocheted a symbolic installation of sculptural coral reef structures with the aim of raising awareness on marine related environmental issues. Participants were also taken through crocheting sessions, learning the skill while at the same time learning about aquatic ecosystems.



Figure 14 Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Hon Rejoice Mabudafhasi crocheting "coral reefs" in Polokwane

2.4.4 Poetry

It began with the question:

Is there a Xhosa word for Climate Change

.....

The aunt who has just got electricity for the first time in her life.

For whom it is everything.... It is her first time.

She wants everything on – all the time

She wants to see it, hear it, and feel it. All the time.

What will we say to her

.....

Discussions always held elsewhere. In some other way.

Closed doors, signatures, cameras and uneasy settlements.

While the impact lies in the direction of not what we think

But what is actually required

.....

Listen. See. Think. Speak. Do. Be. Differently

Excerpt from *Is there a Xhosa word for Climate Change Poem*, Mbali Vilakazi, 2011

The climate train resident poet Mbali Vilakazi conducted Poetree workshops for school children who expressed an immense passion for writing and poetry. Her poem, *Is there a Xhosa word for climate change* was a feature on official programmes in all towns evoking strong emotions, reflections and reactions by participants (see Annex 5 for reflections on the poem with the author). The poem inspired by interactions the poet had with community groups visiting the train was recited at many other events in Durban including at the German Embassy function to announce the winner of the photography competition at the CCR Expo and the Greenpeace concert.

2.4.5 Performing Arts

Eco- theatre workshops were conducted by Well Worn Theatre. The workshops and performances focussed on key climate change aspects. The workshops and performances targeted mainly school children. The workshops included music and dance (Greenhouse Gas Rap song by Kyla Davis), story- telling and shows by resident puppeteers from Giant Match Company.

Local cultural dance groups from the respective towns were also engaged to get the climate change message across to participants.



Figure 15 using local cultural dance groups and puppets to communicate climate messages

2.4.6 Earth Junkies

Earth Junkies sessions were primarily targeted at the younger age groups; pre-school primary school children. The sessions focussed on teaching this target group about Mother Earth and climate change through story-telling and picture drawing. The sessions were premised on the principle “catch them young”; and educate them about responsible behaviour from a very young age.



Figure 16 Teaching the young about the environment through painting

2.5 Tree planting

The tree planting component of the climate train was led by AMBUSH Gardening Collective. The group focuses on creating public artworks using plants, transforming neglected open spaces through participatory greening, and imparting skills on permaculture and other sustainable forms of agriculture. The transformation of open spaces in many cases is often preceded by clean-up operations. Species planted are always indigenous to a particular area and the group used the same principle when selecting and planting trees and plants in the 16 towns. Plants were acquired from local nurseries in the towns. The group also displayed its creative artworks using plants in the creative/theatre studio of the train. Throughout the journey the group planted trees and plants around train stations as well as in the townships and schools. The group supported community groups already engaged in related social projects such as the community arts group in Kanana Township, Klerksdorp that joined AMBUSH in cleaning up open spaces and tree planting in the township. AMBUSH uses its intervention as a space to promote dialogue.

Other than AMBUSH, trees were planted by public officials, community groups and schools. At each station, the public officials officiating at the events/functions planted trees as part of the official programme. The Lions Clubs in Cape Town and Worcester offered to plant trees in their respective towns. Ninety (90) tree trees were given to the club in Cape Town. In Kimberley 40 trees were handed to the MEC for onward donation to a school that was celebrating a milestone since its establishment. Fifty trees were donated to the municipality in Klerksdorp. In Ladysmith, 110 trees were distributed to schools in the town for later planting. PRASA donated more than 40 trees for planting around the NASREC station.

The SACC Youth Forum and the African Youth Caravan planted trees around the Mofolo Park in Soweto. Hundred trees were donated to the Green Beings group for planting in communities they work in around Johannesburg. Indalo Yethu purchased more than 700 trees and plants for the project. A total of 300 trees were donated to the project by Hide Side Grow a Tree Initiative. At the Cape Town Station, SANBI gave visiting school children seedlings to take away and plant back at their schools and or homes. Trees and plants were also procured by AMBUSH from local nurseries along the journey. Peebles Plants donated about 4000 tomato seedlings that were handed out to visiting school children.



Figure 17 City of Cape Town's Alderman Belinda Walker and Lions Club members receiving trees

A fair estimate of the total number of trees and plants planted and or donated to community groups and schools for latter planting would be 978 trees and 460 plants respectively. A total of 4000 tomato seedlings were also handed out to school children. The number of trees planted in each town and or donated to community groups and schools for latter planting were not always recorded by the team. It is also difficult to say with certainty that all trees donated to community groups were planted.

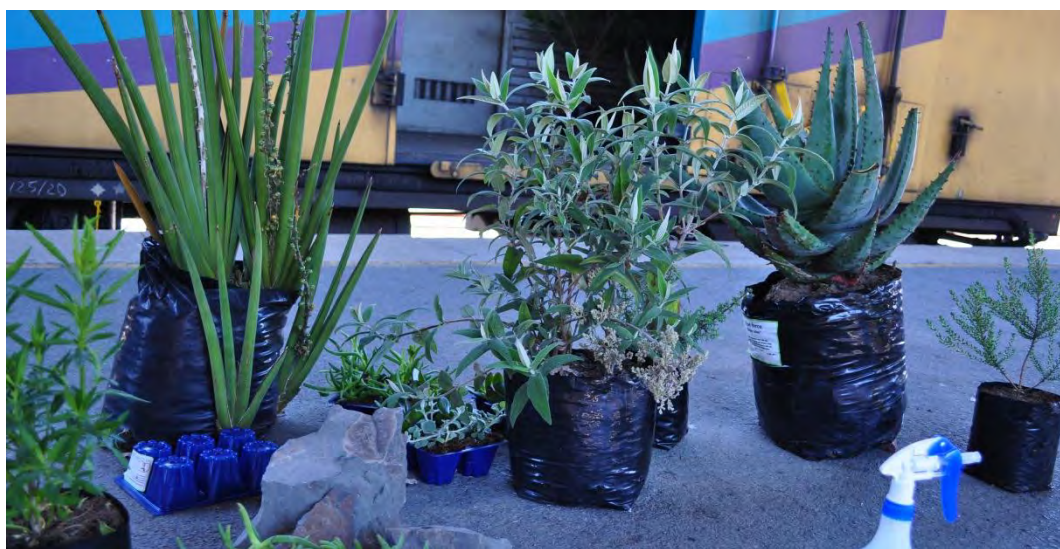


Figure 18 Some of the plant species planted in the towns

2.6 Media and Communications

To reach out to a wider national and global audience, a dedicated website for the climate train was set up (www.climatestrain.org.za). The climate train was also featured on the main Indalo Yethu website (www.indaloyethu.org).

Climate train activities and daily reports were also posted on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ClimateTrainCOP17) and twitter (<http://twitter.com/ClimateTrain>). Some visitors from other countries who came to the train in Durban had followed the train activities in cyberspace. Individual practitioners on the train also used their personal social media accounts to highlight the climate train activities.

The Climate Express newsletters (Annexes 2-5) were compiled and printed on the train. Copies of the newsletters were distributed in the next towns after each publication thereby increasing the outreach and awareness of the climate train activities and climate change message. A solar powered Eco-copier and printer was donated to the climate train by RISO Africa for use during the climate train journey. Copies were printed on recycled paper. The climate train had a resident journalist who filed and posted articles on the social media as well as writing articles for the climate express newsletter.

This report should be read with the Climate Express Newsletter Issues (Annex 2-5) which provide detailed coverage of activities that took place in the towns. The climate train also received good coverage from print and electronic media. Some events and interviews with the climate train team were aired on television (Morning Live and Asikhulume Durban Dialogues) and radio stations SAFM, Ukhozi FM. The climate train also received coverage in the print media including The Star, Green Times and The Witness. The arrival of the train in Durban was covered by many local and international media especially given the high level presence of the UNFCCC Executive Secretary at the event to welcome the train to COP 17/Durban.

The train activities and thus the climate change action message reached a much wider audience through the social media, print and electronic media.

Fineline Productions and BlackBench Productions were engaged to document the climate train journey. Short videos of the climate train activities were posted on Facebook and Youtube. The videos can be accessed on Youtube by typing 'Climate Train Cape Town, Climate Train Beaufort West, Worcester, De Aar, Climate Train NASREC, Pretoria and Climate Train Durban Pietermaritzburg' on the search bar.

An hour long production covering the entire journey is being produced. The video will be disseminated to relevant authorities as a way of communicating the experiences and expectations of the various stakeholders and community groups engaged throughout the journey.

2.8 Climate Change at the Eye Level

GIZ facilitated training workshops on photography in five towns/stations- Johannesburg (Nasrec), Pretoria, Naboomspruit, Polokwane and Standerton. Youths from the community were taught lessons in photography before embarking on practical sessions to document climate change/environmental issues in their community. This was designed as an outreach initiative to raise environmental awareness among the youth. All pictures taken were entered into a competition. The pictures were posted on the website of the Germany Embassy. Visitors to the site were requested to vote for the winning entry as well as 24 other entries that were later displayed at the Germany Embassy stand at the CCR Expo. The winning prize was a trip to Berlin, Germany to participate at the radius of art conference on art for social transformation. Below is the winning entry taken by a young lady from Polokwane who had never used a camera before the training workshop.



Figure 19 The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr Horst Freitag (left) with the winner of the photo competition Ms Ngimiselo Masakona, CEO of Indalo Yethu, Ms June Josephs-Langa, Resident poet, Mbali Vilakazi, and Dr Irene Lukassowitz of GIZ holding the winning entry “*And the rain never came*”

2.10 Key challenges

Late confirmation of financial resources resulted in alterations to the trip routing and project timeframes.

Given the high costs it was imperative to re-conceptualise and re-design the initiative to conform to the available resources. As a result the conceptual design of two trains traversing the country from the North and South of the country before being assembled as one train in Johannesburg had to be dropped to pave way for one train travelling South to North before proceeding to Durban (Annex 1). Consequently not all provinces could be reached as originally planned.

Another consequence was that the time the climate train spent in a particular town needed to be reduced thereby restricting activities/events to on average two days in each town. The conceptual design was that practitioners would go into the towns and engage communities within the town and their places of residence. However the support of most municipalities and provincial departments in mobilising stakeholders prior to the train arrival assisted in ensuring best use of the time spent in the respective towns, as well as wider exposure to communities.

The late confirmation of funds also impacted on town activation and stakeholder mobilization. The Indalo Yethu team responsible for town activation literally raced ahead of the train to activate the towns before the arrival of the train.. Some towns did not have adequate time to prepare events and mobilise stakeholders before the train reached the town. Strong leadership was required to keep the committee focused and engaged on the project.

Train carriages and station platforms are confined spaces and for safety reasons only a limited number of participants could be accommodated at the stations at any given time.

3. Post Cop 17 opportunities

Indalo Yethu envisages establishing partnerships with each of the 16 towns and villages that were visited as part of the COP 17 legacy. During the journey we met several women and youth groups who have started some environmental or climate change work, but need additional support to launch into sustainable programmes. A funding proposal is being drafted to build on this work so that at least 16 smaller projects are supported. It is hoped that the climate train partners will form part of these partnerships.

As part of the climate train legacy, Indalo Yethu together with faith leaders is facilitating the development of the African Climate change charter (Annex 6) as the continental input to the global Rights of Mother Earth initiative. The organization will commission a representative working committee to draft the charter and workshop the charter locally and regionally including advocacy to regional bodies (SADC, EAS, AU etc). The target is to have the charter ready for adoption by continental bodies/organizations by the time COP 18 begins

Indalo Yethu will strengthen the Women in Environment project as a reference group on policy formulation and consultation with the aim of engendering such policies and strategies. The organization will work with the network to identify and explore opportunities within the green economy, and to strengthen entrepreneurship by supporting relevant business development training for flagship projects.

The organization will work to strengthen partnerships and synergies developed during the climate train project particularly with the GIZ, British Council, COPART Movement, SANBI, the provincial departments of environment, local municipalities and community groups. The organization will identify and support projects in the climate train towns.

Building on the interactions and engagement with the youth, Indalo Yethu in collaboration with other youth organizations namely SACC YF, DEA, Lovelife, NYDA and SAYC is facilitating the establishment of national and provincial climate change youth forums to grow youth stewardship for the environment, and facilitate greater organization among youth to participate in the green economy.

There is need to maintain the high level of awareness raised in the towns. Indalo Yethu plans to hold and or support events to mark selected environmental days (from the environmental calendar) in the climate train towns.

Implementation of these legacy projects will require financial resources. The organization will engage its climate train partners as well as other potential organizations regarding resources and synergies for the implementation of the foregoing.

4.0 Financial Report

Financial contributions towards the Climate Train project were received from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Germany Embassy, National Lotteries Distribution Trust Fund (Indalo Yethu), and the British Council. The Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) bore much of the cost for retrofitting the carriages.

The detailed financial report is outlined in Annex 7.

Annexes:

Annex 1 Climate Train Itinerary

Annex 2 Climate Express Issue 1

Annex 3 Climate Express Issue 2

Annex 4 Climate Express Issue 3

Annex 5 Climate Express Issue 4

Annex 6 Draft African Climate Change Charter

Annex 7 Financial Report

Working Together Saving Tomorrow Today

Indalo Yethu
SOUTH AFRICA'S ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY
www.indaloyethu.org



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