



GREENING COP17

Concept Note

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the methodology, aims and objectives to encourage the sustainable event management in the hosting of 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, further shortened as COP 17) to be hosted from 28 November to 9 December 2011 in Durban, South Africa. This will also form the basis for the reporting of the event to reflect the same triple bottom line approach of the impacts of the conference.

The content and structure of the final report will follow the guidelines provided by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the global standard for sustainability reporting (www.globalreporting.org). It thereby aspires to follow internationally recognised standards for governance, transparency and reporting. It aspires to help stimulate further discussion dedicated to advancing meeting and event organisation toward a more sustainable future. The carbon calculations relating to the event will be compliant with the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol.

Ethos

Vision

The vision is to host a low carbon event with a positive long-term impact.

Values

The values of the COP17 Greening Programme, as derived from the National Greening Programme, are sustainability, collaboration, participation and communication. These underpin the ten core values in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption as outlined in the UN Global Compact.

Purpose

The purpose of the COP17 Greening Programme is to ensure that the relevant environmentally and climate friendly considerations are integrated into the organization and implementation of the event to the greatest possible extent.

Boundary

Reporting boundaries are drawn on issues and activities over which the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has direct decision making authority. The final report will highlight the performance areas on specific issues that can be measured and controlled by DEA in close cooperation eThekweni Municipality and the Provinces.

Commitment

According to Article 4 of the Host Country Agreement the following has been stipulated:

"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



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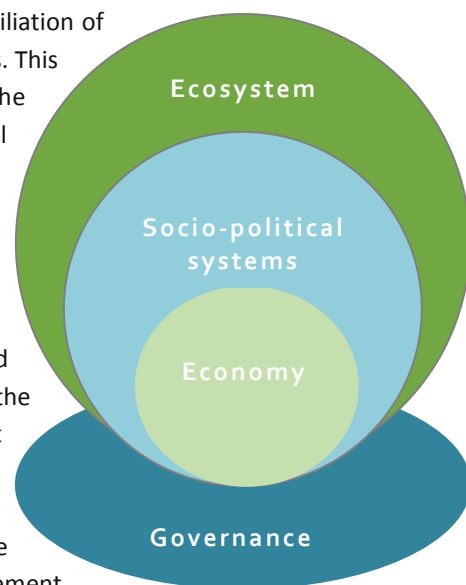
and to suggest ways and means by which the Government can reduce and/or offset greenhouse gas emissions associated with hosting the Conference.

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 traveling and participation and may provide a mechanism that participants may wish to utilise for this purpose.”

Event Greening

The term ‘greening’ is used synonymous with sustainability, which refers to the reconciliation of the three pillars of sustainability, namely environmental, social and economic demands. This view is presented in the illustration alongside, using three concentric circles with the outer layer representing ecosystem services, which embodies the environmental factors, and the sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services. The next layer incorporates socio-political systems and at the centre of the system lies the economy. These layers rest on a governance platform, which supports the system through good corporate and co-operative governance.

Greening requires the incorporation and application of environmental principles and best practice into planning and practice. It means taking into consideration the environmental impacts of decisions taken and investments made, and ensuring that the negative environmental impacts of these decisions are minimized. In so doing, natural resources are conserved; they are also used more efficiently, and less pollution is produced. Furthermore, it seeks to ensure that the impacts of greening are beneficial from both a social and economic point of view through community involvement and local economic development.



Event Greening is a key element of the implementation of COP17, with the vision of hosting a carbon neutral event. The first objective is to reduce the negative impact and to measure the overall footprint of the event, followed by offsetting carbon emissions that could not be avoided. The DEA will provide guidance and support to the various role players in order to enable hosting of the event in a sustainable manner. The DEA is also responsible for the monitoring of the overall greening of COP17 and will provide a detailed report based on Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards. The event greening is based on the principles of the National Greening Brand.

Aim and Objectives

The aim is to host COP17 as a **low carbon event** based on the following objectives:

- To reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions where possible through the **event greening** initiatives. To measure the event’s GHG emissions, including international delegate travel, and mitigate it through local mitigation projects.
- To actively reduce the amount of **waste** generated prior to and during the event. Waste separation should be provided at source to raise awareness and to reduce waste to landfill.
- To ensure that **water** is consumed in a responsible manner. Participants, venues and sub-contractors should be encouraged to implement water conservation principles and protect the country’s natural resources.
- To encourage **energy** efficiency through energy saving technologies, management systems and responsible behaviour. The use of renewable energy sources, as well as the use of natural light and ventilation, should be encouraged in buildings.
- 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) Consideration should be given to the impact of the transportation of the thousands of delegates on the environment and local communities (for example, congestion, disruption, emissions and pollution).

- To maximise **sustainable tourism** offerings through encouraging venues and accommodation establishments to comply with (or exceed) minimum environmental standards and the minimum responsible tourism standards.
- To ensure that the **procurement** of goods and services is done in a sustainable manner, including the use of local products that have a minimal negative effect on the environment and to deliver increased performance of social responsibility.
- To promote **local economic development and social cohesion** and benefits within the host region. A triple bottom line approach should be implemented through demonstrating fair and responsible spend of government money, as well as using the investment into COP17 wisely for long-term benefit to the host region. The multi-cultural and diverse group of stakeholders should be respected, with special consideration to the host city.
- To encourage local **environmental protection** and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological systems.
- To ensure that the greening of the event is well **communicated and marketed** to appropriate target groups. It needs to encourage participation (exhibitors, visitors and contractors) with the view of behaviour change while also raising the profile of the event. Staff, sub-contractors, key suppliers and sponsors need to receive guidance about implementing event greening in a practical manner.
- To **monitor and evaluate** the greening initiatives so that lessons learnt can be captured and improvements made. An open and transparent reporting mechanism should be made available.
- To ensure that a **lasting legacy** is left behind that has a positive impact on the local people and environment, which can be sustained in a practical way.

Key Focus Areas

To enable effective implementation of the aim and objectives of the following key focus areas have been identified:

- Accommodation and Responsible Tourism;
- Communications and Marketing;
- Exhibitions, specifically the Climate Change Response (CCR) Expo;
- Events, such as the Provincial Climate Change Summits and COP17/CMP 7 awareness raising events;
- Meeting Venue, specifically the Durban ICC / Albert Luthuli Precinct;
- Safety and Security;
- Transportation, including local, regional and international travel; and
- General event management (food and beverage; on-site offices; audio/visual and production).

Greening Practices

It is strongly recommended that the following greening practices be implemented:

- Energy efficiency;
- Waste minimisation and management;
- Water conservation and demand management;
- Sustainable procurement;
- Sustainable tourism;
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity; and
- Sustainable transportation.

Methodology

The methodology being implemented is based on a Plan-Do-Check-Act approach with three phases of event management (as outlined in BS8901):

- **Planning Phase:** The first phase requires planning and organization of the event to define its policy and commitment to sustainable development. It requires the identification of key stakeholders, the sustainability issues and setting of key performance indicators for improved event sustainability.
- **Implementation Phase:** Phase 2 requires defining responsibilities, ensuring that staff are sufficiently trained and competent and provision of sufficient resources to implement and operate the event management system. It also requires careful supply chain management.
- **Check and Review Phase:** The final phase requires monitoring, measuring and evaluating the event in relation to the management system and the objectives set, and taking action to continually improve event performance.

Carbon Footprint Assessment

Measuring the carbon footprint is an international, rapidly evolving discipline, although for events such as COP17, there are no detailed standards or accepted methods for defining scope, calculating, making assumptions and presenting results. Consequently, the compilation of a carbon footprint can have many quantitative results, and the differences between the results can vary significantly depending on the choice of scope, method and assumptions. The COP17 carbon footprint is therefore not necessarily directly comparable with other carbon footprint statements and must be read in conjunction with the COP17 footprint approach and methodology. With the initiative of measuring the COP17 carbon footprint, the conference organizers contribute to the development of good practice for the management and estimation of an event based carbon footprint.

Aim and objectives

The aim is to host COP17 as a low carbon event, however this needs to be measurable to determine the impact. The three main objectives are:

- To provide the basis for visualization and communication of individual GHG emissions in the planning and implementation of COP17 and associated events.
- To provide the basis for initiatives to make the conference carbon neutral.
- To prepare comparable calculations of GHG emissions at future COP meetings.

In addition, the measurement may provide further insight into and overview of the impact of activities and decisions; assist to prioritize mitigation actions and measure progress; and help to set the standard, inspire and benchmark for other similar events.

Methodology

The COP17 carbon footprint calculation uses a control-based approach. This means that the scope primarily includes activities whose GHG emissions can be controlled to a certain degree by the COP17 organizers or participants. To enable the effective management of the local and national carbon footprint; two separate, yet linked, carbon footprint studies are being undertaken.

- The COP17 Carbon Footprint includes the Durban and the National Carbon Footprint Studies and is being managed by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) through the Greening Workstream PMU:
- The Durban Carbon Footprint Study for COP17 is being done by eThekweni Municipality, which has appointed ARUP Consulting to measure the local footprint. This will feed into the overall carbon footprint.
- The National Carbon Footprint Study for COP17, including international flights, is being conducted by DEA, which appointed *icologie* in partnership with Carbon Calculated.

Process

The process for determining the carbon footprint builds on an 8-step model described below:

Step 1: Definition of scope and identification of preliminary data:

The scope is defined on the basis of existing and emerging guidelines and standards (GHG Protocol, ISO 14064 and BS 8901), using a control-based approach as described in the previous section. The preliminary data is mainly retrieved from normative databases, assumptions and adjusted results from measurement of similar events.

Step 2: First estimate of GHG emissions and preliminary conclusions

The first estimate is a rough calculation that gives an overview of the most significant sources of GHG emissions. With this knowledge, the subsequent calculations can focus on refining those areas that have the most significant impact on the total carbon footprint, while areas with insignificant contributions need less attention.

Step 3: Identification of data requirements

With focus on the most significant sources of GHG emissions, the requirements for data are determined. How and when the data can be retrieved, is also outlined during this step.

Step 4: Pre-conference data collection

Reasonable accessible actual data is collected as defined in step 3. Some data, however, may only be available after the

conference and in those cases preliminary data and estimates are used.

Step 5: Second estimate of GHG emissions

Data for the three areas in the scope and the different sub areas within each area are consolidated in the pre-conference estimate. The results and conclusions are used for communication and awareness building during the conference.

Step 6: Post-conference data collection

After the conference, the remaining data such as actual energy consumption at the conference centre, number of participants and their behaviour are collected.

Step 7: Final calculation of GHG emissions

The final data and the result are reviewed and the differences to the pre-conference estimate are analysed.

Step 8: Disclosure Report

The report describes the methodology, results and guidance for carbon footprint measurements at COP17.

Carbon Reduction Projects

To enable the reduction of GHG emissions that could not be avoided, a range of projects are being implemented at a local and national level. Funding for these projects are from various sources and detail around these projects will be made available in the carbon footprint report. The link between these projects and the offset of GHG emissions for COP17 is, however, managed by DEA and forms an integral part of the event greening strategy. It is essential that the principles and practices of the carbon offset projects be clearly outlined to ensure the integrity of the individual projects and the overall process.

Projects

A variety of projects have been identified by DEA, KZN Province and eThekweni Municipality to reduce the (net) negative impact of COP17, and a few are mentioned below:

- Voluntary Community Ecosystems Based Adaptation (CEBA) programme for delegates (eThekweni Municipality & Wildlands Conservation Trust)
- Durban's Responsible Accommodation Campaign (eThekweni Municipality)
- Durban Waste Management (eThekweni Municipality)
- Durban Public Transport (eThekweni Municipality)
- Non-motorized transport (GEF, UNIDO and KFW)
- Solar Water Heaters on community clinics in KZN (GEF and UNIDO)
- Community Forest Carbon Sinks (eThekweni Municipality)
- Renewable Energy Usage (eThekweni Municipality)

Additional projects will be added to this list and included into the overall event greening report.

Communication

It is important to communicate the greening initiatives and how delegates can get involved. Several communication tools and projects are being undertaken, some of which include:

- Green Passport for COP17;
- Green Volunteers for COP17;
- Greening Guidelines for COP17 Workstreams;
- Ecological footprinting by eThekweni Municipality;
- Durban Green Event Guidelines by eThekweni Municipality; and
- Cleantech Competition.

END