



FRACTAL

FUTURE RESILIENCE FOR AFRICAN CITIES AND LANDS

Talanoa Dialogue Report

Windhoek, Namibia

October 2018

Workshop title:

Talanoa Dialogue, Windhoek, Namibia, 04 October 2018

Attendees:

Primarily local government representatives from Windhoek City Council, national representation from ministries, international representation (World Food Programme) and the Development Bank of Namibia. Representatives from the University of Namibia were also present. Mainly members of the Namibian National Climate Change Committee (NCCC).

Key Statistics: Approximately 18 attendees of which 11 were men

Introduction and Background:

At present, urban communities contribute up to 70 percent of greenhouse gas emissions globally. They are also among the most vulnerable hotspots for climate change impacts. This reality means that urban communities are at the centre of how we achieve global climate targets. It is critical that national, regional and local governments jointly shape, align and implement climate policy at all levels.

What are the cities and regions Talanoa Dialogues?

The Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues – a series of in-country climate consultations starting in 2018 – are designed to kick off a collaborative process involving all levels of government. They convene national, regional and local governments to take stock of, shape and strengthen Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This process also engages other key climate actors within a given country.

The concept of the Talanoa Dialogue was framed during the 23rd United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2017 (COP23) and serves as an initial stocktaking exercise in 2018 to prepare for future NDC submissions.

The word Talanoa itself refers to a style of dialogue practiced in Pacific Island countries, which fosters openness and inclusiveness. This is the spirit of the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues, designed to help make climate action a more ambitious and collective global effort.

Format: What do Cities and regions Talanoa Dialogues entail?

Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue events convene local and regional governments, host organizations and national ministries of climate, environment, and energy among others.

What distinguishes these dialogues is that they examine the local dimension of climate action and look at how multilevel governance – coordinated action across all levels of government – strengthens the NDCs.

The Cities and regions Talanoa Dialogue is guided by three simple questions, tailored to look at the urban and subnational dimensions of climate action:

1. WHERE ARE WE? Participants review national commitments, the current national greenhouse gas emissions profile, the quantitative impact of interventions and subnational commitments and actions. They also look at whether sustainable urban development is adequately reflected in national climate policy.

2. WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO? Participants identify possible links between climate action, the Sustainable Development Goals and national urban development policy. They consider how to strengthen NDCs by integrating commitments and actions by local and regional governments, as well as how local and regional governments can support implementation of current NDCs.

3. HOW DO WE GET THERE? Participants look at how national, regional and local governments can work together to mobilize technical, financial and policy resources to deliver on and strengthen the NDCs. They explore potential models for collaboration across levels of government, through new or existing institutional mechanisms and structures.

What are the outcomes of Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues?

Throughout 2018, Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue events will take place around the world. As focal point of the LGMA – the Local and Regional Governments and Municipal

Authorities Constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – ICLEI will communicate the results to the UNFCCC. Each Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue event will contribute to the broader Talanoa process and will feed into the climate negotiations at COP24.

A Talanoa Dialogue was run in Windhoek, as part of the FRACTAL Governance Dialogue discussions.

Windhoek Talanoa Dialogue:

Participants broke up into smaller groups and answers sub-questions related to each core question under the Talanoa structure.

Where are we?

1. How can local and regional governments help national governments (including ministries of climate change and urbanization) to seize the potential of sustainable and integrated urban and territorial development in the implementation of NDCs?

2. Does the current NDC refer to national urban policy or does it have any specific references to urban sectors like buildings, transport/mobility, waste, demand-side energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable consumption or production, procurement, biodiversity (e.g.: reality check with UN-Habitat document)?

a) If yes, are these consulted with the respective local and regional governments?

b) If not, is there any room to integrate existing plans, actions or commitments of local and regional governments into the current NDCs (e.g. captured at carbonn Climate Registry or GCoM Commitment or others as appropriate), as well as those developed by other ministries responsible on urbanization

Answers:

- At a local level policies contribute to a NDC but the reporting process is currently being developed.
- Issues of coordination and working in silos exist between the three government levels (national, regional and local).
- There is need for “relevant” stakeholder’s involvement in policy decisions, local authorities are invited on occasion but do not attend the meetings.
- The national government does budgeting in terms of the National Development Plans (NDP) e.g. NDP5, if relevant institutions are not represented well at this platform then it becomes a problem as their concerns are not considered.
- A big challenge for the country and the city is the lack of climate projections.
- Additional implementation and enforcement of the NDC is a huge challenge.

Where Do We Want To Go?

1. What are the options to integrate commitments and actions of local and regional governments in to current and future NDCs?
2. How can national commitments integrate existing and future commitments (e.g. captured at carbonn Climate Registry or GCoM Commitment or others) of local and regional governments into current and future NDCs?
3. How can national governments enhance the ability of local and regional governments to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience through their multilevel engagement in NDCs or National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)?
4. How can the Cities mainstream issues to contribute to NDC? Is the City Strategies/policies aligned to NDC National level targets?

Answers:

- Capacity building (individual and institutional level);
- Information sharing (stock-taking exercises and then communication plans);
- More resources to flow to local level for implementation (as well as support in building an enabling environment for the resources to make an impact);
- Improve local and regional level training;
- Alignment of commitments and activities to the NDC;
- Collaboration with other cities within Namibia and elsewhere;
- National and local government need to package their plans in such a way that they can get funding and buy-in from the private sector and larger funding organisations.
- Need bankable projects, e.g. the City of Windhoek Aquifer recharge needs R6 million and the desalination plant & pipeline to Windhoek needs R15 billion. They do not

feel capacitated to enter into negotiations with funding agencies, therefore need upskilling.

How Do We Get There?

1. Which measures and changes are required in order to support local Governments' action towards the achievement of NDCs?
2. How can national governments collaborate with local and regional governments to mobilize appropriate capacity building, technical, financial resources and policy/legal framework to realize solutions addressed in delivering and raising ambition; in 2018, towards 2020, towards 2050?
3. How effectively could Cities priorities be considered as part of national priorities?
4. What steps have so far been taken in ensuring Cities Adaptation requirements are considered in the NAP process?

Answers:

- Increase collaboration with other local and regional governments.
- Share common goals and ambitions at local level.
- Integrated development planning.
- Information to be broken down into specific regional/areas and cities.
- More private sector investment.
- There is a need for awareness and education of not only the community but councillors also.
- There is a need for decentralization of governance.
- There is a need to use local government association platforms

Actions and Way Forward:

- ICLEI Africa to draft a workshop report as well as put the main points from the dialogue into the report template for the UNFCCC. These documents to be shared with the Windhoek FRACTAL Embedded Researcher to be shared widely.



Figure 1: Participants that made up the Namibian Talanoa Dialogue