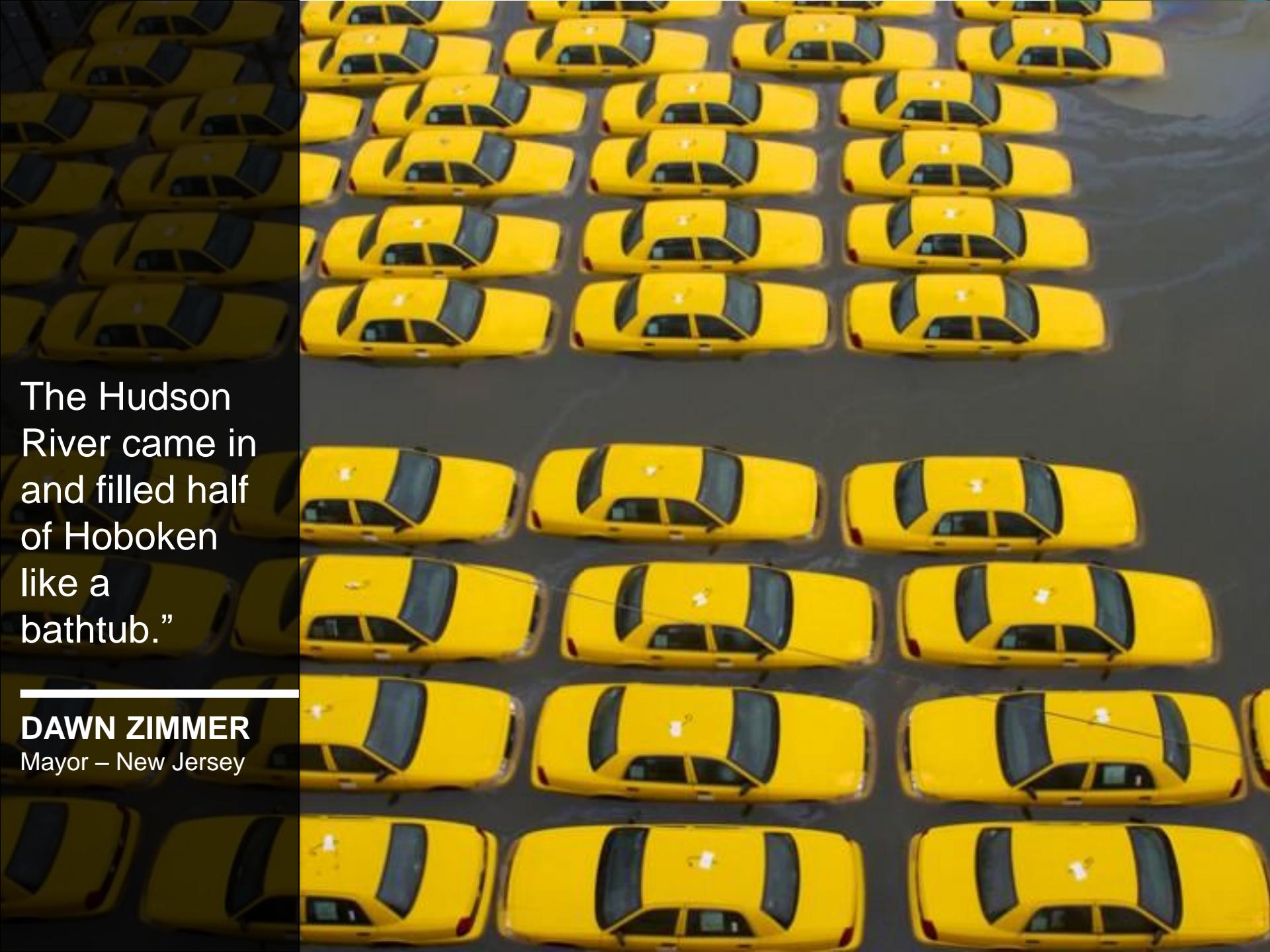




**dac** | durban  
adaptation  
charter

# Dr. Sean O'Donoghue

Manager: Climate Change Adaptation Branch, eThekweni Municipality  
Durban, South Africa

A dense grid of yellow taxis on a wet street, illustrating flooding.

The Hudson  
River came in  
and filled half  
of Hoboken  
like a  
bathtub."

---

**DAWN ZIMMER**  
Mayor – New Jersey



# Shaping the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

- Urbanisation and climate change shape the world.
- The DAC brings together the need to adapt to climate change in an urbanising world.



When disaster strikes, it will be ordinary members of the public, not emergency services, who will be first to respond ... Essentially, individuals, organisations and communities have to own and be responsible for their own preparedness."

---

**NIKKI KAYE**  
New Zealand's Minister of Defence



# IPCC WGI AR5 SPM

## *Quick Facts.*

- Atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases are at “levels unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years.”
- Temperatures are likely to rise by between 0.3 C and 4.8 C by the end of the century, depending on our success at curbing emissions.
- Sea levels rise by a further 26-82 cm.
- Adaptation to climate change becoming increasingly essential, but international debate is still biased towards mitigation.



# A planet of cities.

These changes are of significance because they impact on people and where people live and work:

- 2013: ca. 50% (3.6 billion) people live in cities.
- 2050: ca. 75% (6.3 billion) people in cities.
- Bulk of this urban growth will be in the cities of the **Global South**.
- Concentrated risk to **economies, infrastructure and people**, e.g. nearly 700 million people live in low lying coastal areas <10 meters above sea level, especially in Asia and Africa.
- 600 cities responsible for 60% of the GDP.



# Local governments and cities in global processes.

Local governments are well aware of:

- The need to be proactive, e.g. Mexico City Pact.
- The local level vulnerability and risks that threaten development.
- **The need to begin addressing adaptation and increasing resilience.**



# COP17/CMP7 and the DAC.

When COP17/CMP7 was hosted in Durban it provided the ideal opportunity for local government to address the “adaptation deficit” in the discussions.

The outcome was the Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC) – the development of which was facilitated by a National and Local Government coalition.



**Currently the DAC has over 1100 signatories in 35 countries**



Climate change can only be addressed through development that promotes human welfare, ensures ecosystem integrity and promotes a new greener economy, especially at the local level, since one out of two people in the world now lives in cities.”

---

**JAMES NXUMALO**  
Mayor of Durban



# The DAC partnership.

- Durban supports and houses **the secretariat** in the short-term.
- **ICLEI** has committed to the secretariat function in the long-term.
- Current **international steering committee**: representatives from ICMA, USAID, ICLEI, USEPA, MIT, IIED.
- An **MOU** has been signed between the DAC and UCCRN.



Massachusetts  
Institute of  
Technology



Limited resources were used to initiate the DAC and bring it this far – this demonstrates the strength of partnerships and champions.



# DAC mission.

- **Promoting** local government action that advances climate adaptation.
- **Identifying core** actions associated with advancing adaptation.
- **Emphasizing** action as opposed to negotiation.
- **Demonstrating self-leadership.** Africa-based and led.  
Signatories are predominantly from developing country cities.



# Achievements to date:

To date, the DAC's most notable achievements have been gained using limited resources. These include:

- A clear **implementation plan** as an outcome of the Implementation Guidance Workshop.
- **Network development** e.g. a core network of DAC signatory cities engaging in knowledge sharing exchange visits through ICMA's CityLinks Programme.
- **International support** e.g. at ICLEI's annual Resilient Cities Congress and multiple **high-level signing ceremonies**.
- Facilitating **access to training** on adaptation courses and field trips.
- Presentation of the DAC in peer reviewed **publications**, international symposia, reports and the **DAC website**.



# Secretariat functions.

The DAC aims to **co-ordinate and facilitate** access to opportunities. The Secretariat, as the focal point and foundation for action, will provide:

- opportunities for participants through **partnerships** with existing initiatives to meet context-specific goals;
- sponsorship and organisation of **regional meetings** and training sessions;
- **promotion of visibility of local achievements** and will serve as a voice for urban adaptation internationally;
- coordination of **reporting and monitoring** of adaptation progress.
- **Networking** between signatories and other stakeholders.
- An **organizational hub** for identifying funding sources and raising funds to support the Secretariat and DAC activities.

## DAC Regional Model for Enhancing Implementation – The DAC Super Compact Concept

### DAC Regional Partnerships

DAC Durban – Fort Lauderdale/  
Broward County (Florida, USA)

DAC Durban – Dar Es Salaam  
(Tanzania)

DAC Fort Lauderdale/ Broward  
County – Bogota (Colombia)

DAC Durban – Dumangas (Iloilo,  
Philippines)

Others...

### Sub-National Adaptation Compacts

SE Florida Climate Compact

Central KZN Climate Compact

Tanzanian Compact

Bogota Network

Iloilo Compact

### DAC Super Compact





## DAC Timeline to Paris 2015

### ICLEI RC 2014

Mayors' Adaptation Forum

DAC Steering Committee Planning

Launch of the DAC reporting mechanism – carbonn registry

### ICLEI RC 2015

DAC Steering Committee Planning

### COP20 – Lima 2014

DAC agreement with Bogota Network

DAC Signing Ceremony and establishment of Central America Regional Partnership

Establishment and coordination of sub-national compacts

First DAC Latin and South America regional workshop – training and Latin America region declaration for Paris 2015

### LOCS 2015

Establishment and coordination of sub-national compacts: Central KZN Compact, Dar Compact, West Africa?

First DAC African Regional Workshop – training and Africa region declaration for Paris 2015

### SE Asia 2015

Use existing networks to convene a meeting of leading DAC signatory cities to determine a position for Paris 2015



# Countries involved.



Argentina



Bangladesh



Bhutan



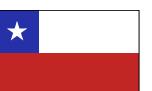
Botswana



Brazil



Canada



Chile



Chinese Taipei



Denmark



Ecuador



Germany



India



Kenya

La Reunion  
(France)

Mauritius



Mexico



Mozambique



Namibia



Nigeria



Norway



Philippines

Republic  
of Korea

Senegal



South Africa



Taiwan



Tanzania



Thailand



The Gambia



Uganda

United States of  
America

Zambia



Zimbabwe





# DAC approach.

- Committing local governments to take action in adapting to climate change.
- Assisting signatories in transforming their **DAC** commitments into local action.
- Providing a mechanism to monitor and evaluate signatories' progress in implementing these actions.
- Representing, engaging, and acting on behalf of cities.



# DAC core elements.

- Support of locally-relevant approaches to adaptation **and the development of networks**.
- **No competition with or duplication of existing programs; facilitate access to existing networks and programs.**
- Establish a system for monitoring the adaptation progress of signatories.
- **Support local action, while providing a voice for signatories internationally.**



# Support for DAC initiatives.

An Implementation Guidance Workshop, **March 2013** identified **that** support **is** needed in:

- Implementation: national support, **developing** local leadership, resources and **improved** stakeholder input.
- Governance: strong governance with a secretariat consisting of staff and programme, DAC visibility, a political board (of mayors), an advisory board and working groups.
- Assessing progress: use existing data and reporting mechanisms, locally relevant indicators.