



# DURBAN ceba

COMMUNITY ECOSYSTEM BASED ADAPTATION  
*Africanising Adaptation*

Official voluntary offset programme for COP17/CMP7

## THE DURBAN CEBA INITIATIVE

The eThekweni Municipality and the Wildlands Conservation Trust will be profiling a new community climate protection model, the Durban CEBA Initiative, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (**COP17/CMP7**) to be held in Durban from 28 November to 9 December 2011.

### WHAT IS CEBA?

CEBA stands for "Community Ecosystem Based Adaptation" and focuses on the link between communities and the ecosystems that underwrite the welfare and livelihood of these communities.

### HOW DOES THIS CONCERN YOU?

- Ecosystems; our rivers, forests, grasslands, wetlands and oceans, provide us with fresh air, food, water and the raw materials which we use to build our society. They also help to increase our city's resilience to climate change. For example, wetlands help to control flooding and reduce siltation, rivers provide water and grasslands and forests help to sink carbon dioxide
- We have allowed these ecosystems to be overused, polluted and, in many cases, destroyed. Global warming and climate change are placing additional pressures on these systems and on the communities and the broader city residents that depend on them
- These changes threaten our food and water security and will make us more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change
- Impoverished communities, who are immediately dependent on these ecosystems (our natural resources) for their basic needs, are the most vulnerable
- All people, businesses, infrastructure and investments face risks if the earth's life supporting ecosystems continue to be degraded by human activities and threatened by climate change.

[www.durbanceba.org](http://www.durbanceba.org)

## HOW IS CEBA GOING TO COUNTERACT THIS ENVIRONMENTAL DILEMMA?

The Durban CEBA Initiative involves impoverished and vulnerable communities restoring their natural ecosystems, creating cleaner and greener neighbourhoods less dependent on costly utilities and services, and so participating in and benefitting from the development of a new sector of the green economy in Durban.

Through this important work, ecosystem services are enhanced, resulting in increased adaptive capacity to climate change, as well as mitigation of carbon emissions through natural sequestration processes. CEBA therefore provides a mechanism to simultaneously address the issues of climate change adaptation and mitigation, restoration of ecosystems and promotion of the green economy.



## WHAT DOES THIS INVOLVE?

Important elements of the CEBA model are:

- The **UPLIFTMENT** of local communities through the establishment of “green jobs” for the poor and unemployed
- The **RESTORATION** of the ecosystems that underwrite the welfare of these communities and which reduce our collective vulnerability to climate change
- The establishment of delivery **PARTNERSHIPS** between the eThekweni Municipality, other spheres of Government, Businesses, Non-Government Organisations and local communities.

## WILL CEBA BE HAPPENING IN MY AREA?

As a catalyst project, a natural habitat restoration project has been initiated in the uMbilu catchment, west of Durban, ahead of **COP 17/CMP 7**.

The restoration of this area will involve the removal of alien plants, planting and care of indigenous trees, and restoration of the associated riverine, wetland and grasslands systems. The idea will be to expand the number of projects and communities that are involved in the initiative.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Visit **[www.durbanceba.org](http://www.durbanceba.org)** and make a contribution to this initiative.  
For **COP 17/CMP 7**, the Durban CEBA Initiative will be the official voluntary offset mechanism for delegates and others who would like to offset the climate and ecological impact associated with their attendance at **COP 17/CMP 7**.
2. Create awareness within your community around the pollution and over usage of our natural resources and ecosystems.
3. Recycle, grow trees and organic foods, conserve water and use power sparingly within your own household.

