



# Adaptation News

## Our first newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of newsletter of The Adaptation Network. This edition has been compiled by the Steering Committee as an update to some of the issues raised at the Second General Meeting of The Adaptation Network which was held at the Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens in Roodepoort on 25 March 2010. These include:

- The website*
- The vision statement*
- The pledge*
- The logo*

## The Website

The Steering Committee has given the go-ahead for the development of the website according to the structure of contents agreed by the members. Lookout for the test version - coming soon to your inbox with a request to complete your organizational profile, contact details and contribute resources and substance to the framework. We would like to go live in time for the next training workshop, so be sure to have your say on the form and content before it does.

## The Vision Statement

Following suggestions from the groups who deliberated on the matter at The Adaptation Network's Second General Meeting, and deliberations by a small nominate group, the following vision statement has been developed for your consideration.

**The vision of The Adaptation Network is to have a resilient South Africa which treasures its abundant biodiversity**

*Does this encompass your thoughts? Please send your comments to [wendy@indigo-dc.org](mailto:wendy@indigo-dc.org)*

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*Wendy Annecke is facilitating this email newsletter.*

[wendy@indigo-dc.org](mailto:wendy@indigo-dc.org)

## LOGO

Do you have design talents? The Adaptation Network needs a logo that shows who we are and what we stand for. It could incorporate elements of our vision, slogan, principles and values. It should be light and optimistic!

Reminder: our slogan is We're up to the climate change challenge

Send your design for our logo to [wendy@indigo-dc.org](mailto:wendy@indigo-dc.org)

## The Pledge—Membership with the Network



*Working together on Adaptation Issues*

At the Second General Meeting of The Adaptation Network, participants developed a pledge. The purpose of the pledge is to ensure that all those who join The Adaptation Network subscribe to the same principles of sharing information and experiences and collaborating in strengthening the knowledge and practice of adaptation. Noel Oettle of EMG was given the task of refining this pledge, and circulated the version below.

### **Commitment by Members to the Adaptation Network for the 2010 Calendar Year**

We/ I, ..... hereby commit ourselves/ myself to upholding the agreed values and principles of the Adaptation Network:

**Values:** Mutual respect, honesty, integrity, trust, commitment, caring and compassion, openness, justice, patience and understanding, diversity of belief systems, inclusivity, equality, uBuntu, solidity, creativity, love, civility, transformation to an integrated society and "fun is good!"

**Principles:** Transparency, diversity, accountability, active participation, inter-disciplinarity and exploring synergies, efficiency, inclusivity, sharing/partnerships, straight talk, listening, inspiration, democratic structure, flexibility, effectiveness, keeping harm at bay and support  
We/ I further undertake to contribute to achieving the agreed **objectives** of the Network, which are to:

- Be an open forum for sharing resources, knowledge and ideas and promoting the integration of different kinds of knowledge
- Provide a space to grow partnerships and support one another
- Be a recognised point of contact for consultation, lobbying and advocacy
- Enable members to lobby government at all levels to improve delivery (focus on finding common ground, not joint positions on all issues)
- Provide co-ordination to encourage alignment and connectivity
- Provide a platform for promoting collective positions
- Assist members to promote awareness through education, shared information and shared platforms
- Highlight what is already happening in terms of education and communication
- Be a central point for providing information
- Improve delivery by promoting better planning and evaluation
- Promote activities that build the capacity of communities to innovate and adapt
- Paint a positive picture, and communicate a message of hope to communities that we're up for the challenge

We/ I further undertake to actively contribute to the Network's work and be solution-oriented. In the case of individuals nominated to represent our organisation in the network, we undertake to provide them with the necessary organisational backing to play an effective role within the network and to contribute effectively to its activities.

Name of individual or organisation: .....

Signed at ..... on ...../...../ 2010

Signature: .....

## Adaptation Training Course



*Learning about Community Based Adaptation*

The second Adaptation Training workshop will be held in the second half of 2010 in Cape Town at a venue to be confirmed. The first workshop, held in November 2009, proved to be a valuable learning opportunity for participants. This time the theme will be Adaptation, Tipping Points and Resilience. Among other components, we would like to explore concepts and tools and particularly the stresses on people and their environments which lead to tipping points beyond which recovery is uncertain.

The workshop will be facilitated by staff from Indigo development and change. The participatory approach will include contributions from experts as well as ample opportunity to share your learning. Please be prepared to contribute to the development of definitions of relevant concepts and tools for the workshop.

Participants will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements. A small bursary fund will be available for those who wish to attend but do not have the resources to do so. If you wish to apply for a bursary please send a short motivation saying where you are from, why you would like to attend, and what experiences you could bring to the workshop. Please send expressions of interest to [wendy@indigo-dc.org](mailto:wendy@indigo-dc.org).

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#)

## Next issue

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Newsletter will be issued in August 2010 and all members are invited to submit contributions to this as soon as possible. Send your news and information to [wendy@indigo-dc.org](mailto:wendy@indigo-dc.org)