



NEWSLETTER

October 2012

The Bonn Climate Conference May 2012

by Noel Oettle (Environmental Monitoring Group)

The Bonn Climate Conference was neither a Conference of the Parties (COP) nor a scientific conference in the normal sense of the word, but was in fact a number of parallel meetings of the subsidiary bodies of UNFCCC. The conference was intended to pave the way to COP 18 in Doha towards the end of 2012, and comprised parallel meetings of the subsidiary bodies of UNFCCC. In addition, a number of informative and sometimes controversial Side Events and other meetings were held in the conference venue and in nearby buildings.

The Bonn Climate Conference was intended to start delivering on the undertakings made in Durban, and delegates needed to reach agreements to operationalize the necessary institutions and mechanisms established in Cancun and Durban. Unfortunately the Bonn Climate Change Conference did not proceed smoothly and was marred by mistrust. Severe procedural wrangling prevented progress. A further preliminary meeting (in Bangkok in August 2012) was agreed to so as to advance the process sufficiently prior to the next COP.

The Adaptation Fund – SANBI as a National Implementing Entity (NIE)

by Katinka Waagsaether

The Adaptation Fund was established as a means to finance adaptation programmes and projects in developing countries that are parties to the UNFCCC. Funding proposals for the Adaptation Fund must be submitted through an accredited National, Regional or Multilateral Implementing Entity. These entities are institutions that have been accredited by the Adaptation Fund Board to receive direct financial transfers from the Adaptation Fund.

In our country the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) has been accredited, and thus acts as the National Implementing Entity (NIE). After several months of preparatory work, SANBI is currently operationalising the NIE. As part of this initial phase SANBI is organising an inaugural stakeholder workshop, to be held in Pretoria in October.

For more information about the Adaptation Fund, see <http://www.adaptation-fund.org>

The Adaptation Fund NGO Network

by Katinka Waagsaether

In order to support the successful implementation of projects funded by the Adaptation Fund in developing countries, NGOs have established the Adaptation Fund NGO Network. The Network is hosted by Germanwatch and supports NGOs in developing countries by increasing their capacity to engage with all relevant issues around Adaptation Fund project implementation. It also actively engages in dialogues with the Adaptation Fund Board, providing experience and insights from the civil society sector. Members of the Network include OFEDI Benin (Benin), Fundacion Vida (Honduras), ENDA Third World (Senegal) and Panos Caribbean (Jamaica).

Indigo development & change recently became the South African member of the network. Having attended the latest Adaptation Fund Board meeting, which took place in Bonn in June, Indigo was able to provide input into the dialogue between the board and civil society and to get insight into the Adaptation Fund processes. Indigo is now working with SANBI, the South African NIE, sharing insights from the Adaptation Fund NGO Network and also learning from the South African process. Indigo

intends to share learnings from these processes with NGO networks and other actors.

For more information about the Adaptation Fund, see <http://germanwatch.org/klima/afn.htm>



Photo: Bettina Koelle

University of Cape Town environmental course an online winner

by Daniella Polloack

Going online with one of her courses has won University of Cape Town (UCT) lecturer Dr Gina Ziervogel a major international open-content award.

Ziervogel's third-year course *Vulnerability to Environmental Change* was selected as one of five – out of a possible 17,000 shared by universities worldwide – to scoop the course Awards for OpenCourseWare Excellence in the category for text and still images. Her four-week online course is made up of six modules that covers the concept of vulnerability and its origin, and looks at different methods for undertaking vulnerability assessments and adapting to climate change. The material is presented as PowerPoint slides, and includes references, supporting audio material and teaching activities for each section.

Ziervogel – senior lecturer, researcher and P-rated scientist in the Department of Environmental and Geographical science – says that when she started lecturing in 2009, she could not find material on this subject online, especially in relation to the southern African context. Thanks to open content, which makes such teaching and learning materials freely available online, Ziervogel can now share the material she developed with others who want to teach on vulnerability and adaptation to environmental change.

"I felt very strongly about making my material available online because the field of adapting to environmental change is an urgent one, particularly for Africa, and needs to be part of university curricula"



Photo: Katherine Traut

Link to the course: <http://opencontent.uct.ac.za/Science/Vulnerability-to-environmental-change>

Climate change vulnerability assessment developed for the Namakwa District Municipality

by Amanda Bourne

Conservation South Africa (CSA) is currently participating in a 3-country study, with Brazil and the Philippines, pioneering the implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) efforts in terrestrial and marine areas to buffer the impacts of climate change, improve livelihoods and conserve biodiversity.

In August 2012, the CSA team completed a climate change vulnerability assessment for the Namakwa District Municipality (NDM) in the Northern Cape. The vulnerability assessment focused primarily on terrestrial ecosystems with an emphasis on freshwater systems and communal grazing lands. These systems are under threat from grazing pressure, mining, and the impacts of climate change on average temperature and water availability.

The participatory vulnerability assessment process, completed in partnership with the NDM, enabled the selection of pilot sites in which ecosystem-based adaptation methods will be researched, trialed, and ultimately integrated into a land-use best practice for the Succulent Karoo that will reduce vulnerability and build resilience generally in the face of multiple challenges including the impacts of global climate change. A spatial planning tool and a vulnerability index were developed to assist the District with climate change adaptation planning and decision-making.

The results of the final vulnerability assessment will be presented at a partners' conference in Springbok on 30 October.

For more information, please contact Amanda Bourne, Climate Adaptation Coordinator, Conservation South Africa on 027 7181565 or abourne@conservation.org

Adaptation Network Steering Committee

by Katinka Waagsaether

At the last Annual General Meeting Adaptation Network members agreed to invite the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) to nominate a candidate to join the steering committee. SANBI has now nominated Mandy Barnett, Director of Southern Bioregional Programmes, and the Adaptation Network welcomes Mandy Barnett to the Adaptation Network Steering Committee!

The Adaptation Network would also like to thank Nokutula Mhene from Fairtrade Africa and Lucinda Fairhurst from ICLEI Africa for their past contributions to the steering committee, as they have both moved on from their organisations and are thus no longer serving on the steering committee.

Forthcoming events

Event	Organiser	Date	Location
Adaptation Fund NIE Stakeholder Workshop	SANBI	15. October (by invitation only)	Johannesburg
Towards a framework for national climate finance governance	Heinrich Böhl Stiftung	16. October (by invitation only)	Johannesburg
Session of the 18 th Conference of the Parties (COP18) to the UNFCCC	UNFCCC	26. November – 07. December	Doha, Qatar

Katinka Waagsaether, the Adaptation Network Co-ordinator, facilitates the production of this Newsletter. *To comment on the newsletter or contribute to future newsletters, please contact Katinka on katinka@indigo-dc.org*