

NEWSLETTER

July 2013

The Adaptation Fund approves 2 South African Concept Notes

by Bettina Koelle

The Adaptation Fund is a UN mechanism supporting adaptation projects focusing on the most vulnerable groups through a direct access mechanism. These funds can be accessed through National or Multilateral Implementing entities, accredited by the Adaptation Fund Board. In South Africa, SANBI is the accredited National Implementing Entity (NIE) to the Adaptation Fund.

In order to prepare the call for concept notes SANBI held a consultative stakeholder workshop in October last year to determine strategic directions for the formulation of project ideas to be submitted to the Adaptation Fund.



Photo: The Adaptation Fund Board engaging in the Civil Society Dialogue with the AF NGO Network in Bonn during the last Adaptation Fund Board meeting.

A great variety of very interesting concept notes were submitted following the initial call for proposals from SANBI that demonstrated the range of potential adaptation projects across the country and the need for effective funding mechanisms to support vulnerable groups to adapt to a variety of stressors – including climate variability and change. In order to ensure that identified projects would be eligible for funding by the Adaptation Fund it was crucial to consider the criteria of the Adaptation Fund, the South African national funding priorities (as identified in the consultation process and national policy) and specific technical requirements of the Adaptation Fund Board.

The selection process was challenging – and was supported by the South African NIE Steering Committee with representation of SANBI, DEA, National Planning Commission, Treasury and representation of Civil Society through the Adaptation Network.

Meeting a tight deadline the NIE team managed to put together two exciting proposals that might be South African and international pilots for innovative adaptation projects:

- A Small Grant Facility for Adaptation projects in the Mopani and Namakwa District municipalities (*Requested funding approx US\$ 2 Million*): an innovative approach to promote direct access to adaptation funding, and
- The Greater Umgeni Catchment Project (*Requested funding approx US\$8 Million*): Focusing on an integrated approach to adaptation lead by local government.

Both projects have been approved by the Adaptation Fund Board and are now being developed into full proposals. This process will include further stakeholder consultations to strengthen the final proposals. It is envisaged to submit the proposals for hopefully final approval in 2014.

Further information:

Both proposals are on the Adaptation Fund Website and can be downloaded: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/submittedproposals>

For more information on the Adaptation Fund and projects you can also visit the Adaptation Fund NGO Network website: www.af-network.org

Mainstreaming climate change at the local level part 1: Western Cape Government's Climate Change Municipal Support Programme

by Penny Price

How can we, as provincial government, support local municipalities to mainstream climate change into their master planning and decision making? What is our role? What can we do on a limited budget?

These were some of the questions we asked ourselves as a small and recently set up climate change unit within the Western Cape Government (5 staff in total). As provincial government, one has the advantage of having the perspective of the issues, challenges and interventions at a provincial level while understanding a certain level of detail at the municipal level to ground the broader perspective. This affords us an opportunity to work effectively at the interface between the strategic policies and plans of national government, in our case primarily the National Climate Change Response Policy (NCCRP), and the challenge of implementing these at the local level.

In response to this opportunity, in 2012 we initiated a Climate Change Municipal Support Programme (MSP), which aims to support municipalities in the development of Sustainable Energy Plans and Climate Change Adaptation Plans. As participation in this exercise was to be on an 'only for the willing' basis, we sent out letters from our minister's office inviting an expression of interest from municipalities across the province.

We were overwhelmed at the response as we received a resounding call for interest from 11 local municipalities for BOTH programmes and a plea to be included from 1 of the district municipalities. As both our capacity (two people focused on this programme) and budget (only enough to cover basic travel costs) were extremely limited, we could only commit to supporting four municipalities for each programme. We were hoping to work on both the development of Sustainable Energy Plans and the Climate Adaptation Plans together in at least 1 municipality, but as the response was so big, we split these programmes up so that we could cover more municipalities.



Participants in a multi-stakeholder Climate Adaptation Planning Workshop in Eden, 2013

With information provided by the municipalities on interventions already in place or planned, , and ensuring a geographical spread of support as far as possible, we developed a simple multi-criteria

Adaptation Network Newsletter July 2013

prioritisation tool to assist with selection, which resulted in the following municipalities being selected for support during year one (2012/13):

- Sustainable Energy Planning - George, Mossel Bay, Saldanha, and Cape Agulhas.
- Climate Change Adaptation Planning - Bergrivier, Drakenstein, and Eden District.

The approach was to assist these municipalities in developing draft plans in the first year, and then to assist them with mainstreaming and implementation in the second year, whilst assisting additional municipalities in year 2 with draft plan development. The MSP includes trialing the inclusion of various key stakeholders / partners in the programme, different approaches to engagement and support, as well as working at both the local and district level to get a sense of the most effective and efficient approach to providing support. In this way, we are developing ongoing relationships with the municipalities in the province to support climate change planning, decision making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

This is the first of a series of articles on Climate Change Municipal Support Programme. The follow on article, focusing on the process adopted in the adaptation planning workshops, will appear in the next Adaptation Network newsletter.

Keeping stakeholders up to date: Implementation of the National Climate Change Response Policy

by Katinka Waagsaether

On 20 and 21 June the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) hosted a stakeholder workshop on the implementation of the National Climate Change Response Policy (NCCRP). The workshop provided stakeholders with an update on the national programmes and processes relating to the NCCRP, and gave some space for stakeholders to respond and reflect.

The workshop provided insight into the high level strategic approach to implement the NCCRP, an outline of the initial thinking and structuring of a national climate change response monitoring and evaluation system, as well as more detailed overview of various implementations at the provincial and municipal level. Participants at the Adaptation break-away session were given an update on the progress and some of the phase one results of the Long Term Adaptation Scenarios (LTAS), which form a core part of the National Adaptation Research Flagship Programmes. They were also introduced to the challenging work taking place around policy alignments needed to support climate change adaptation and the piloting of the Let's respond toolkit, which guides the integration of climate change risks and opportunities into municipal planning.

By sharing these initiatives, the workshop provided a comprehensive overview of the implementation of the NCCRP. Time was also given for questions and feedback after the presentations, and presenters were open for inputs and reflections from stakeholders. Yet the general feeling from stakeholders seemed to be that the workshop allow sufficient time for discussion and dialogue. It was therefore suggested, and further acknowledged by DEA, that future events should be structured to include more dialogue and opportunities for government to learn from the initiatives and work of non-governmental actors.

The various presentations that were given at the workshop can be accessed at: https://www.environment.gov.za/climate_change

The future of the Conservation Sector

by Candice-Lee Arendse



On a chilly Tuesday morning in June, I was one of 400 young people queuing outside a conference venue in Johannesburg where the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) was hosting the national induction week for first 400 (of the planned 800) Groen Sebenza Interns. The Groen Sebenza programme is a two and a half year job creation and skills development programme aimed at introducing and training 800 youth for the Conservation Sector. Outside the conference venue the cold air was filled with excitement and enthusiasm of young voices coming from all across South Africa.

The opening speeches were made by the Groen Sebenza project team and various representatives of the 33 organisations participating in this nationwide program. The energy and emotion in their words made me realize that the Groen Sebenza programme is not just a successful proposal being implemented, it is about the 400 young people sitting in the audience, we are the future of the Biodiversity Sector. The applause from the audience, and the reflections by the interns later in the day, gave a clear indication that we all felt their words.

The overall theme of the week was personal and professional development. We were given life lessons, and various training to prepare us for our future. The highlight of the workshop was the engaging and energetic session facilitated by Harambee, a company that works to support young job-seekers and professionals.

It was interesting to see how the reflections and opinions from the Groen Sebenza group evolved over the course of the week, from somewhat irrational perspectives earlier in the week to more constructive and structured inputs towards the end of the week.

With everyone around me eager to meet and greet, I ended up having a chat to anyone standing and sitting next to me at lunch, tea break or passing by in the corridors. I learned about organisations and job descriptions I never knew existed, and of study fields that I could never have imagined forming part of natural sciences. It was fascinating how SANBI was able to find young people from various study fields and incorporated them so well into the Biodiversity Sector.

Another COP on the southern African horizon

by Noel Oettle

This year Namibia will be hosting the 11th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, or UNCCD. The UNCCD is one of the three “Rio Conventions” that were agreed to or initiated at the time of the first WSSD in Rio in 1992, and addresses the global problem of land degradation in the world’s drylands.

Often regarded as a local problem, land degradation (or desertification, which refers to the total loss of productivity of land) is a happening globally, and has huge implications in terms of production of food and fiber, and in terms of loss of livelihoods and displacement of people.

Even if land degradation happens mainly within the borders of countries, the impact of land degradation is increasingly felt globally. People who are displaced by loss of their farming resources, or by strife over who controls an ever-shrinking rural resource, end up seeking alternative livelihoods in cities and in other countries, adding to the pressures there. In Korea, the impact of sand storms originating in degraded lands in China and Mongolia is so severe that factories have to cease production and the transport system is jeopardized.

South Africa is a signatory to the Convention, which makes provision for the participation of land using communities in processes of research, planning and implementation of measures to prevent soil erosion.

The COP in Namibia will be the first to be hosted by a southern African nation, and is a good opportunity to promote improved practices in our drylands. Inspired by the contribution of the UNFCCC IPPC, an increasing emphasis on the role in science in the Convention will inform debates about establishing a more authoritative and permanent scientific body to inform the decision making of the Convention.

As climatic change makes its mark on the planet and people start to grapple with the necessity to adapt their land use practices to increasing variability in the weather, the UNCCD offers a valuable framework for addressing these global problems.

IMACC Workshop – Methods and knowledge sharing across seven countries

by Katinka Waagsaether

In mid-June 50 adaptation practitioners from seven countries around the world came together for a workshop in Bonn, under the banner of the Inventory of Methods for Adaptation to Climate Change (IMACC) project.

The project, which is implemented by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), works to support the advancement of tools and methods for climate change adaptation and documents adaptation experience in the seven partner countries: Grenada, South Africa, Philippines, Indonesia, Mexico, India and Tunisia.

The IMACC tools and methods are focused around four thematic areas, vulnerability assessment, monitoring and evaluation, mainstreaming adaptation and climate information and services. The work has been taking place through the development of various methods briefs from the different countries and through regular webinars on the four thematic areas. In South Africa Conservation South Africa (CSA) has supported GIZ in facilitating the consolidation of various methods and the participation at webinars, with inputs from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and from members of the Adaptation Network.



Vhalinavho Patterson Khavhagali from DEA presenting South Africa's adaptation context



Presenting the Philippines' adaptation context through an interactive gaming approach

At the Bonn workshop, where there were three South African participants, two from DEA and one from the Adaptation Network Steering Committee, the aim was to consolidate the IMACC project results, and to further showcase the adaptation work in the various countries and strengthen networks and opportunities for learning. All seven countries presented on the adaptation context of their country, providing interesting insights into policy, governance structures and aspects of implementation. Towards the end of the workshop there were discussions around the desire to continue exchange across partner countries into the future, and monitoring and evaluation of adaptation was identified as a key area of interest for continued exchange across all seven countries.

The inventory of methods that have been captured in the method briefs and webinars for South Africa will be written up in a report in August, and will be circulated to members of the Adaptation Network. A key outcome of the IMACC process has been the identification of the strong South African community of practice around adaptation, and the opportunities to further strengthen this community. Discussions on this will be taken up through the Network and in future forums.

For more information about IMACC, and to access method briefs, webinars and various documentation of adaptation see: www.adaptationcommunity.net

Adaptation learning and knowledge sharing

by Candice-Lee Arendse

Two weeks into my new job as a Groen Sebenza¹ intern with Indigo development & change, I had the opportunity to be part of an Adaptation Network training workshop. The training, taking place on the 15 May 2013 at SANBI Kirstenbosch, focused on Practical Adaptation Process for Vulnerable Groups.

The workshop was facilitated by Bettina Koelle from Indigo development & change and Noel Oettle from the Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG), and was attended by participants from the South

¹ The Groen Sebenza Programme, launched on 1 May 2013, is a job creation and skills development initiative spearheaded by SANBI, to create 800 jobs for youth in a National partnership with 33 organisations in the Biodiversity Sector.

African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), the Department of Environmental Affairs, Government of the Western Cape, Conservation South Africa, the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), Indigo development & change, Environmental Monitoring Group, including a group of Groen Sebenza interns from these organisations.



Photos: The Adaptation Training included experiential learning such as the Farming Juggle (left), the seasonal forecast game (middle) and included a group of energized Groen Sebenza colleagues.

With no Climate Change background, I was pleasantly surprised by the interactive and simple structure of what could have been a workshop filled with complicated jargon and information. The workshop content covered adaptation terms, focused on community adaptation processes and tools and discussed the role of climate science in adaptation planning. These terms and processes were explained in such a manner that the material I have been reading on climate change became less complex and more interesting.

The interactive group energizers, such as the farming juggle and the seasonal forecast game, created an opportunity to experience the uncertainties and concerns that farmers experience in their decision making, in an enjoyable manner and without physically being on a farm. A case study discussion on the community adaptation process of the Suid Bokkeveld in the Northern Cape further provided a practical example of the complexity of community adaptation processes, and helped simplify the explanation of community adaptation processes. At the end of the day we divided into two groups and constructed an adaptation process for a community, using the tools and information we had received during the workshop. It was interesting to experience how complicated the process actually is, and how easy it is to lose track of the focus point.

The participants were very enthusiastic and interactive in sharing information, thereby creating additional learning opportunity for myself and my Groen Sebenza colleagues attending.

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