

# First Adaptation Network Policy Engagement Space

9 May 2023 via Zoom

By Elin Lorimer



**Adaptation Network Policy Engagement Space**  
 9 May 2023 | 11:30 am - 13:00 pm

**The topics and speaker details include:**

11:30 am	Opening & Welcome (Dr Darlington Sibanda, AN Policy Chair)
11:35 am	Updating of the DALRRD Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan (Dr Stephen Greenberg, ACB)
11:45 am	Discussion
11:55 am	Updating the Climate Change Bill - National Hearings (Brandon Abdinor, CER & Laurel Oettlé, AFRA)
12:05 pm	Discussion
12:15 pm	PCC Adaptation and Resilience Working Group (Dr Gabriel Lekalakala, AN Chairperson)
12:25 pm	Discussion
12:35 pm	SANBI's National Adaptation Funds Advisory Body (NAFAB) (Siya Myeza, EMG/AN CSO Representative)
12:45 pm	Discussion
12:55 pm	Thanks & Closure

The Adaptation Network invites you to join our discussion on current climate change adaptation policy processes with opportunities for engagement.

This will form part of a series of virtual discussions will allow us to invest more time to:

- Adequately engage on the various current policy-related processes and engagement opportunities
- Receive feedback from and provide input to AN representatives.

Please click [here](#) to join the meeting.  
 Meeting ID: 896 7324 8894  
 Passcode: 482678

The AN's Policy Working Group hosted a successful first online Policy Engagement Space on Tuesday 09 May, which was well attended and received, with 36 registered attendees, 20 of whom were women, largely from the NGO sector, with participants from academia and provincial government and practitioners. The session was facilitated by Dr Darlington Sibanda of The University of Cape Town (UCT's) African Climate and Development Group (ACDI), who serves as co-chair of the AN Policy and Climate Finance Working Group. This first engagement included inputs from Dr Stephen Greenberg of the African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) on the update of the Department of Agriculture,

Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan (CCAMP); Brandon Abdinor of the Centre for Environmental Rights (CER) and Laurel Oettlé of the Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA) on the Climate Change Bill consultation process, Dr Gabriel Lekalakala of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and Adaptation Network Chairperson on the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC)'s Adaptation and Resilience Working Group and Siya Myeza of the Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG) on the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) National Adaptation Funds Advisory Body (NAFAB).

## DALRRD Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan (CCAMP) Review

Stephen outlined the process for updating the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan (CCAMP). This process grew out of the 2011 National Climate Change White Paper, which required the development of sectoral adaptation and mitigation plans, to be reviewed every five years. Stephen has been engaging with a group of around 40 individuals from 17 organisations and two national networks to input into this process. They held an initial meeting with the DALRRD Directorate of Climate Change in April, where DALRRD indicated that the review process was delayed, and would form part of a wider policy review process. The policy review process would begin with an internal review, followed by engagement with provinces and other national departments before a national stakeholder consultation was undertaken. Stephen said that an initial assessment indicated that environmental aspects were more thoroughly included in the current plan, although commercial livestock aspects were missing. There was some coverage of social issues and no inclusion of issues of economic transformation.

### *Opportunities for engagement*

Although the formal stakeholder consultation process would likely only take place in 2024, preparatory work could be undertaken sooner to review the existing CCAMP, research gaps and conducting sector studies, including any preparatory meetings with stakeholder groupings. Stakeholders could participate in the document review process and help to identify areas that required additional research. Reaching out to engage and seek audiences with decision-makers and politicians could also be helpful. Developing written materials such as toolkits and explainers could also assist this process.

There will be a potential to develop draft submissions, including through the Adaptation Network. Stakeholders could also participate in the formal public participation processes through their organisations and network, and draft submissions, which could be submitted jointly or separately. CSOs could also assist in ensuring that stakeholders such as farmers were engaged in the review process and mobilised.

## Climate Change Bill Consultation Process

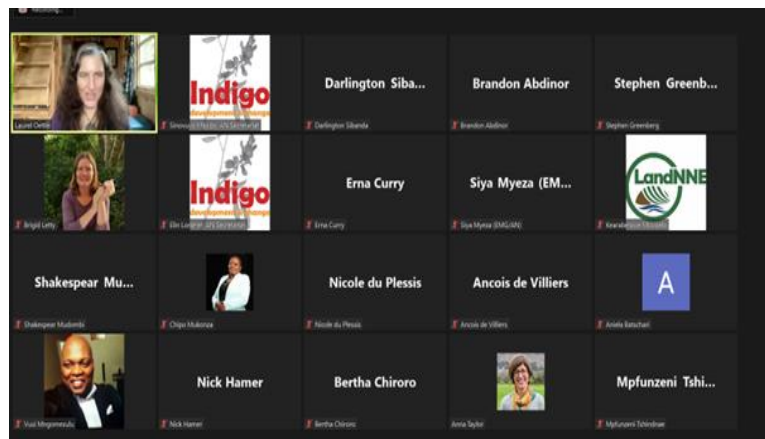
Brandon noted that at the time there were two more rounds of public hearings underway as part of the national consultation process, in the Northern Cape and Western Cape regions. This would take the process of approval to approximately halfway, hopefully concluding by the

end of the year. The Portfolio Committee would then send the draft bill to the provinces to review by September, and there would likely be a further consultation process. If there were further amendments proposed, these would need to be considered by Parliament, and if approved would be submitted to the President for adoption.

### *Opportunities for engagement*

Brandon noted some of the issues CSO representatives had raised included the urgency of getting the bill approved, that the current targets were weak, that compliance and enforcement were weak, and that the transparency was not great, but suggested we could live with these, given the urgency of getting a bill approved. The Bill spelled out timeframes for adaptation action after adoption in sequence, meaning that it would be a long time to wait before certain actions were mandatory. Brandon highlighted some materials that CER had developed to assist stakeholders with their review of the Bill, housed in a microsite: <https://climatelaw.org.za>.

Laurel shared some experiences from AFRA in attending a Climate Change Bill public hearing in KwaZulu Natal, highlighting why it was important to engage politicians and build their capacity, why the bill itself was important and how to link on-the-ground realities to policy



discussions. She noted that partnerships were important, as not everyone would have all the necessary expertise, and the importance of learning from experience (noting that all the hearings were available in full online). Video clips from the hearing in Pietermaritzburg provided some insight into what parliamentarians were listening to and looking for and likely to take on board, as well as some problems with not hearing inputs from legitimate groupings due to preconceptions about whom they might represent. This highlighted the disconnect and difficulty in bridging the formal, legal consultation process and rich lived experience. It also highlighted the difference between written submissions and how public participation processes allowed for more diverse inputs, could emphasize the bigger picture and could bring in different voices to assist parliament.

### *Opportunities for engagement*

Key lessons for CSOs to participate in the public consultations on the draft National Climate Change Bill were to be prepared (know the venue and check for changes, allow time for travel, know what the bill says and how to connect what you say to this), use local languages and to speak from one's own experience and relate this to your specific work to help Parliamentarians to link. Laurel suggested that even though this process was not perfect, this could be useful as the relevant Parliamentarians were actively engaging in the hearings.

## Presidential Commission on Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Working Group

Gabriel reported that the Adaptation and Resilience Working Group was recently established and had established terms of reference in 2022. The Adaptation Network was invited to put forward a CSO representative to the group, which Gabriel was attending in the interim on behalf of his department and the network. This working group aimed to facilitate the development of new knowledge, communication on development paths and adaptation and to catalyze access to climate finance. The working group had produced four documents to date, including a recent document on 'Climate Resilient Pathways', developed by UCT. The Working group met quarterly, on short notice.

### *Opportunities for engagement*

The AN had the opportunity to appoint a CSO representative to participate in this body. This would require a good understanding of climate change adaptation science and technical issues, good diplomacy skills, and experience in representation would be helpful, bringing a CSO perspective to the group. As there is often limited time to consult, the chosen representative should be familiar with AN values and positions. However, consultation and reporting back to the AN constituency would remain important.

AN members could provide feedback on the 'Climate Resilient Pathways' document through the chosen network representative. The A&R working group intends to continue to partner on more work, on a sector-by-sector basis, starting with the water sector.

## NAFAB

Siya gave some background to the National Adaptation Funds Advisory Body (NAFAB), which acts as the multistakeholder steering committee providing oversight on a range of SANBI adaptation funding initiatives including funding under the Adaptation Fund and Green Climate

Fund (GCF). The Adaptation Network nominee (Suya) and alternate (Charissa da Costa) to this committee serve as representatives for civil society on this body. Siya noted SANBI's current pipeline of seven projects to submit to the Green Climate Fund, which were still under development at various stages.

#### *Opportunities for engagement*

The next NAFAB meeting was scheduled for 24 May, and Siya invited input to this meeting via the nominated AN representatives.

CSOs can get involved in the project concept note and proposal development process, and there should be opportunities for CSO representation in the committees engaging on each of the SANBI GCF pipeline projects, particularly by nominated subject experts.

Civil society organisations could engage with the government on the opportunity to nominate a second National Implementing Entity under the Adaptation Fund, as SANBI is currently the only national entity accredited to this fund. While the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) is also accredited to the Green Climate Fund as a regional funding entity, it has a large mitigation focus and currently has little engagement with civil society. There are currently few avenues for civil society to direct access this climate funding.

CSOs can get involved in tracking adaptation and mitigation projects and climate finance spending in South Africa. For example, UCT's ACDI is currently engaged in a climate change investment tracking assessment reviewing the past 20 years.