



# SECOND GENERAL MEETING THE ADAPTATION NETWORK

**WE'RE UP TO THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE!**

*Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens, Roodepoort, 25 March 2010*



This meeting was hosted by SANBI, Indigo development & change, Project 90 by 2030 and the Environmental Monitoring Group and funded with contributions from CCAA (a joint initiative from IDRC and DFID) and SANBI.

# Second General Meeting: Adaptation Network

The Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens, Roodepoort, 25 March 2010

## Background

The second General Meeting of the Adaptation Network was held on 25 March 2010 at the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Gardens in Roodepoort, in order to confirm and consolidate decisions made at the first meeting and to plan for 2010. It was attended by 22 members and an additional 19 interested people sent apologies. The meeting was co-hosted by SANBI, Indigo development & change, Project 90 by 2030 and the Environmental Monitoring Group, with venue sponsorship and catering provided by the South African Biodiversity Institute.

The concept of an adaptation network emerged from the 2009 National Climate Change Summit where many delegates expressed the need for a platform where those involved in adaptation work could share experiences and practical approaches, and explore the relative value of theoretical frameworks and methodologies that could add value to national and international policy processes. The Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG), in its role as host of Drynet, South Africa, and Indigo development & change (through the CBAA project), took on this challenge and invited individuals from a range of sectors to a networking workshop on climate change adaptation held on 18 June 2009 in Johannesburg, where the decision to form a network was taken. On 4 November 2009 the first general meeting of the Adaptation Network had been held in Cape Town at the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. It formalized the network and established the administrative structure and core direction of the network's work. The meeting was attended by 32 adaptation practitioners from around South Africa, working in a range of fields. Many more had expressed interest in participating in the network, but were unable to attend the meeting.



## 1. Opening & Welcome

Sandile Ndawonde, of Green Network, who chaired the meeting, opened the meeting and introduced Mr Thompson Mutshinyalo, the manager of the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Gardens. Mr Mutshinyalo gave Vatsha Malusi of SANBI's apologies and welcomed the members of the Adaptation Network to the SANBI venue.

## 2. Agenda

Sandile Ndawonde reviewed the Agenda for the day. There were no revisions.

## 3. Introduction to members and their work

During a cheerful energizer conducted outdoors, members of the Network introduced themselves and noted something each thought is significant about the meaning of adaptation. A number of members also sent their apologies, as noted in the attached attendance register.

## 4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Noel Oettlé, EMG/Drynet reviewed highlights of the minutes of the last meeting held on 4 November 2009, noting that the different locations of the meetings meant that there were many different members in attendance. For convenience the values, principles and objectives of The Adaptation Network are repeated here:

### Values

The network will operate based upon the following 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
- Fun is good!

## Principles

It was also agreed that the network will operate in terms of the following 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
- Support
- People first
- Human rights
- Creativity
- Cooperation and collaboration
- Fair-handedness
- SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely) goal setting

## Objectives

The objectives agreed upon at the Kirstenbosch meeting were amended as follows:

### **The Network will aim to...**

1. Be an open forum for sharing resources, knowledge and ideas and promoting the integration of different kinds of knowledge
2. Provide a space to grow partnerships and support one another
3. Be a recognised point of contact for consultation, lobbying and advocacy
4. Enable members to lobby government at all levels to improve delivery through a focus on finding common ground (and not seeking joint positions on all issues)
5. Provide co-ordination to encourage alignment and connectivity
6. Provide a platform for promoting collective positions
7. Assist members to promote awareness through education, shared information and shared platforms
8. Highlight what is already happening in terms of education and communication
9. Provide a central point for sharing information
10. Improve delivery by promoting better planning and evaluation
11. Promote activities that build the capacity of communities to innovate and adapt
12. Paint a positive picture, and communicate a message of hope to communities that we're up for the challenge
13. Work collaboratively with government at all levels, and other partners, so as to support the formulation and implementation of adaptation policies and programs

The revisions to the objectives were debated and accepted by all members present.

Decisions taken by the first meeting of the Network included that meetings should be hosted by member organisations willing and able to do so. Hosting entails providing services and administrative support. Meetings of The Adaptation Network would be held alternatively in the Western Cape and Gauteng, with the possibility of extending this to other provinces should there be sufficient support for this.

In response to a question, Bettina Koelle explained that the Steering Committee was elected for a year with the understanding that at the end of the year at least one of the hosting organisations would step down so that the roles and responsibilities would be rotated within the network. This means that an AGM should be held in November 2010 to elect a steering committee.

Having a representative from government on the Steering Committee was suggested and had been discussed by the Steering Committee. Sylvester Mpandeli, Specialist Advisor: Climate Change Adaptation at the Department of Environmental Affairs, was nominated and subsequently agreed to join the Steering Committee.

The adoption of minutes of the meeting held on 4 November was proposed by Brenda Martin (Project 90 by 2010) and seconded by Sandile Ndawonde (GREEN Network).

## 5. Review of activities and agreements to date

### a. Report back on fundraising activities and next steps

Bettina Koelle reported that at the previous meeting it had been agreed that in order to for the network to function, a strategy to resource activities was necessary. Members of the Steering Committee developed a proposal which was submitted to the Open Society Institute. The proposal was tailored to meet the call to link universities and civil society organisations. It included a budget for the development of a database of the different institutions acting on adaptation; design, hosting and maintenance of a website; funding for a secretariat; bi-annual meetings of the network; subsidised travel costs, and curriculum development for a training course and handbook on Community Based Adaptation. The 3-year proposal was supported by Rhodes and Stellenbosch Universities, and the Universities of Cape Town and the Witwatersrand as well as other members of the network. A hard copy of the proposal was available at the meeting for members and will be available via e-mail on request. This proposal would be used as the basis for seeking funding from other sources should the application be unsuccessful.

Members were urged to look for funding opportunities and to remember the Network when opportunities arose to conduct inclusive work.

Brenda Martin suggested that membership fees and in-kind contributions from members such as flights already made by Network members should also be noted as a source of co-funding for proposals. Bettina Koelle suggested collating this data via a simple form, which Elin Lorimer could e-mail to members.



Lucinda Fairhurst suggested the EU call for proposals should be looked at as a possible source of funding, which had a deadline of 3 May. Emma Archer suggested the Africa Adapt Programme might still be open for proposals for funding networks in southern Africa.

Bettina Koelle reported that at the CBA conference in Dar es Salaam it had been indicated that funding for adaptation and networking would become available and the Adaptation Network should prepare itself for leveraging such funding.

### **b. Network website update and discussion**

Brenda Martin reported that Project 90 by 2030 had completed the design and layout of the Adaptation Network website, although there had been some initial delays in their funding for this initiative. The website will include a network information section, links, a database of members and their contact details, a map and information database. Members were therefore requested to provide links to their websites and their organisations' logos.

Brenda Martin also suggested a visual map of where members are located. Bettina Koelle reminded members that they could contribute information on any Community Based Adaptation projects they were involved in to Google Earth, and suggested that The Adaptation Network could use that instead of maintaining a separate layer.

Indigo development and change offered to provide the bridging funding of +- R10,000 that is needed to for the website to go live and to develop a database of information for the Network, particularly as there were no network offices at present.

Members should start sending Elin Lorimer reports that they think will be *useful* for members of The Adaptation Network to put on the website, if possible including a short paragraph on why this was useful and for whom.

Brenda Martin said that we should prioritise raising funds for the role of coordination given that Elin could do a lot more to drive network activity if she had her time reasonably covered.

Lucinda Fairhurst suggested that she could easily help to extend membership to ICLEI members in southern Africa.

### **c. Annual statement of commitment from members**

Noel Oettlé presented the draft one-page statement of commitment for discussion. It was decided at Smangele Mgquba's suggestion that it should include The Adaptation Network's vision statement, and it was agreed that the Steering Committee should modify the statement to explain its purpose and make it more formal so that members of government in particular would be able to sign it. The statement should include the revised objectives and omit details of principles and values.

Noel Oettlé will manage the revision of the statement and Elin Lorimer will circulate these for signature and submission of faxed or scanned copies to the secretariat within one month of receipt.

## 6. Report back from Copenhagen

Smangele Mqguba reported that COP15 had been a traumatic failure of process, that rules of procedure had been broken, and that the meeting had not fulfilled its mandate to reach a post-Kyoto agreement. She particularly noted the difficulties in the debates around funding climate change activities.

Dorah Lebelo (gendercc) who also attended COP 15 shared these sentiments, noting that many NGOs saw the COP as a threat to the UNFCCC process. The exclusion of civil society groups from the negotiations during the second week had created a lack of trust among the civil society groups. She suggested focusing local efforts on the preparations for South Africa's hosting of the COP in 2011.

Bettina Koelle found some positive aspects in the huge engagement of civil society, government, business and research partners in the green issues on display. She had found the Climate Change and Development side event stimulating and the presentations and videos on climate change and adaptation issues had provided valuable space for raising awareness, interaction and exchange between centres, countries and continents.

Lucinda Fairhurst, representing ICLEI at COP 15, thought the meeting had been successful from their perspective, as their goal was to ensure that local voices were heard by national governments.

Noel Oettlé extended a word of appreciation to those such as Smangele Mqguba who had sat through the tough negotiations without reward. He noted that the South African delegation had been very good at informing the other South African participants at the conference of developments. He noted that the discourse had got stuck in doom and gloom rhetoric, and suggested that network members should focus on the positive contribution South Africa had to make.

Brenda Martin proposed that South Africa should start planning strategies for the 2011 COP in SA.

## 7. Reportback on CBA Conference in Tanzania

Lucinda Fairhurst and Bettina Koelle reported back on the annual Community Based Adaptation Conference that was held in Dar es Salaam in February 2010 (presentation attached). The full report will be available via e-mail from Elin Lorimer on request.

Bettina Koelle pointed out that the Community-based Adaptation Exchange (CBA-X) (<http://community.eldis.org/cbax>) has been collaborating with Google.org to develop a CBA layer on Google Earth, which is available at: [www.weadapt.org](http://www.weadapt.org).

The Africa Adapt website (<http://www.africa-adapt.net/>) is also a useful resource, and members were encouraged to contribute information on the projects there were involved in. Mathew van Lierop (Project 90 by 2030) also pointed out the lack of South African content on the website at present.

The conference saw the launch of the Global Initiative on Community Based Adaptation (ICBA), which the IIED will host. At the conference informal working groups were established on M&E, gender, technology, concepts and eco-systems.

Bettina Koelle reported that there had been interest from neighbouring countries in joining The Adaptation Network. She announced that:

- ❖ there would be further CBA training later this year
- ❖ the 2<sup>nd</sup> CBA African conference would be held at ENDA in Senegal in 2011
- ❖ the 5<sup>th</sup> international CBA conference would be held in Dhaka in Bangladesh in February 2011

There is likely to be more funding available for adaptation, including from the GEF Small Grants Fund for CBA, but we need to build capacity on the ground to be able to take this up, including having sound adaptation methodologies and tools in place.



## 8. Report back of the SACAN meeting

Dorah Lebelo reported back on the South African Climate Action Network meeting held in Cape Town on 22 February 2010. Despite the challenges of the previous year, the membership was enthusiastic about continuing with SACAN and a new attitude prevailed. The members see SACAN's role as critical in raising awareness about climate change, contributing to policy making and constituting part of an important global NGO network. SACAN occupies a unique space and focuses on working in partnership with other organisations. Important activities include organising information sharing sessions and starting



debates on difficult issues such as CDM. The SACAN membership decided that the priority for this year would be domestic policy, both in drafting positions and lobbying for inputs.

New SACAN board members are currently being nominated before the AGM to be held in April 2010. Sandile Ndawonde has agreed to be the coordinator now that Dorah Lebelo has stepped down.

Brenda Martin noted that there had been a question raised within SACAN about whether there was a need for another network such as The Adaptation Network, which had met with mixed responses.

Elin Lorimer responded that it was clear that The Adaptation Network and SACAN had different roles to play, as The Adaptation Network focused specifically on adaptation issues and included other stakeholders such as government, business and research organisations as part of the network.

## 9. DEAT update on national climate change policy process

Dr Sylvester Mpendeli presented an update to the Adaptation Network on the status of the National Climate Change Policy process (presentation attached).

Dr Mpendeli said that an important component of the national policy framework was the cross-sectoral buy-in and the attention paid to cross-cutting issues. He said that each line department was responsible for developing their own climate change adaptation sector plans in parallel to the climate change policy development process, although these were in various stages of development.

The Draft 0 of the National Climate Change Policy was circulated within government at the end of 2009. The draft Green Paper had not yet been circulated, and was running somewhat behind schedule, but they hoped to have it completed and submit this for government comment by May/June 2010 and present a Green Paper to Cabinet in July/August this year. A White Paper would still be available by the end of 2010.

In response to a question Dr Mpendeli said that when the Green Paper was made available for public comment, the Adaptation Network would have an opportunity to comment along with other stakeholders, and all inputs would be considered. It was not clear whether specific discussions with groups such as the Adaptation Network would be possible, but the DG was currently devising a consultation strategy, which might include consultations in each province. The department did not want to be seen to be developing policy on its own.

## 10. Visioning exercise

Smangele Mqguba introduced a visioning exercise for the Network, reminding members that a vision is that statement that drives and inspires the organisation; it should be short, describe the goal (what?), the

timeline (when?) and the process (how?). It should be ambitious and may not be achievable (in our lifetimes) but should express our dream for the Adaptation Network.

Four groups reported back their vision statements as:

1. A resilient South(ern) Africa for all
2. A sustainable resilient environment for all
3. Champion the resilience and adaptation of climate change in the southern African region/ South African communities are resilient and able to adapt to the impacts of climate change/ a process of sharing information which will guide us to live in a sustainable way/ safe, healthy community of South Africa/ leading the South African community to a greener environment through networking/ be a leader in coordinating climate change adaptation networking in South Africa and the region.
4. A sustainable South Africa for all in a vibrant partnership to successfully address complex issues.

A small group including Mathew van Lierop, Lucinda Fairhurst, and Wendy Annecke, will draft the vision statement based upon these inputs.

## 11. Brainstorming in fields of Network Activities

Bettina Koelle led the meeting participants in an exercise to map out some of the possible activities of the network and its members.

Suggestions included:

### Representing the network

- Cities Resilience Conference – Bonn (ICLEI)

### Reviewing climate change policy

- Circulate and review climate change policy (EMG)

### Internal capacity building

- Report-backs on meetings
- Guest speakers
- Papers
- Member updates



- Face-to-face knowledge sharing (workshops, conferences, meetings)

#### *External capacity building*

- Community workshops (SANBI, DEA)
- Provincial capacity building workshop (DEA)
- Local capacity building workshops on causes of climate change and local adaptation options (Echoes)
- CBA training in July – 1 week (Indigo)
- Climate change awareness campaign in Limpopo (proposal by LDA – in planning)



### Information

- Create a glossary of terms related to adaptation. Part of handbooks on methodology.
- Using local structures to widely disseminate information relevant to communities (district municipalities, tribal authorities)



### Network admin

- Logo – pleasing and easy on the eye
- Website – projects, profile, studies (all and Project 90x2030)
- Calendar (secretariat)
- Newsletter (Indigo – Wendy Annecke; translated by members)

### Outreach

- Workshops
- Info-sharing sessions
- Publications
- Newsletters
- Communication
- Translating existing information into official languages
- Share information for awareness raising on the website for training (all members)
- Regular slots on community radio (all)
- Regular press briefings on adaptation (steering committee)
- Concert in 2011 – with COP
- Members database
- Facebook site

### Fundraising

- Referrals (database of skills)

## 12. Date and venue of next

There were three proposals for venues for future meetings of The Adaptation Network:

- Gabriel Lekalakala (LDA Research/Limpopo Department of Agriculture) proposed a venue in **Polokwane in Limpopo**, where there are a number of people working on adaptation issues who would be unable to travel to other meetings.
- Brenda Martin (Project 90 by 2030) proposed a venue at the **Goedgedacht Farm** in the Western Cape, where they have a number of relevant community projects to demonstrate.
- Sandile Ndawande (GREEN Network) proposed a **venue in Kwa-Zulu Natal**, which will be investigated as an option for future meetings.

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held in **Polokwane in August/September 2010**, and we hope to include a fieldtrip before or after the meeting date. Gabriel Lekalakala will join the Steering Committee until the time of the next meeting.

The meeting in **Feb-April 2011** will be held at **Goedgedacht Farm in the Western Cape**.

## 13. Evaluation of the meeting

The meeting closed with an evaluation highlighting some positive aspects of the meeting and some suggestions for improvements for the future. Participants expressed pleasure at the networking opportunities for meeting new people and hearing about different projects and ideas. They enjoyed sharing knowledge with interested and sympathetic participants. Participants also appreciated the information provided and there was much appreciation expressed for the lovely venue provided by SANBI.

The participants also suggested that future meetings be planned alongside local activities if possible and that there be more time allocated to inputs from members and experts on specific issues of interest.

**These comments were expressed as follows:**

**What was good?**

- Meeting new people (x 4)
- Opportunity to meet people
- Venue (x4)
- Nice view
- Informative (x2)
- Networking (x2)
- Liked team work
- Good to hear about other projects and ideas
- Getting an inside view on Copenhagen
- Realizing that government has a group to help them
- Government engagement and participation

- Sandile's chairing and the joint facilitation
- Everyone's willingness to participate
- Good spirit and enthusiasm
- Outlining activities to achieve as a network
- Spirit
- Great meeting
- Brainstorming

#### **What was not so good?**

- Commitments to undertaking have not gone far enough yet
- Getting lost on the way to the venue (x2)
- Staring late (x2)
- No strong coffee available
- Need more people – the network is still growing
- Lots of information to absorb
- More time is needed to cover the issues
- It would be better to join meetings onto local activities as an optional extra
- More inputs from members are needed on the agenda
- It would be good to select one work area and select a skilled person to tell the group about it in half an hour

## **14. Closure**

Sandile Ndawonde thanks the participants for their inputs and closed the meeting.



## Appendix: **Attendance Register**

SURNAME	NAME	ORGANISATION	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
Ah Shene	Carolyn	BirdLife South Africa	011 789 1122	<a href="mailto:advocacy@birdlife.org.za">advocacy@birdlife.org.za</a>
Annecke	Wendy	Indigo Development & Change	021 7023622	<a href="mailto:glo-worm@iafrica.com">glo-worm@iafrica.com</a> <a href="mailto:wendya@sustainable.org.za">wendya@sustainable.org.za</a>
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Davis	Claire	CSIR		<a href="mailto:cdavis@csir.co.za">cdavis@csir.co.za</a>
Fairhurst	Lucinda	ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability - Africa	021 487 2085	<a href="mailto:lucinda.fairhurst@iclei.org">lucinda.fairhurst@iclei.org</a>
Koelle	Bettina	Indigo Development & Change	027 2181148	<a href="mailto:bettina@indigo-dc.org">bettina@indigo-dc.org</a>
Laub	Angelika	EcoHope	011 768 5407	<a href="mailto:ecohope@wilqespruit.com">ecohope@wilqespruit.com</a>
Lebelo	Dorah	CURES	011 720 3773	<a href="mailto:dorahl@cures.org.za">dorahl@cures.org.za</a>
Lekalakala	Gabriel	LDA Research	015 294 3397	<a href="mailto:lekalakalarg@agric.limpopo.gov.za">lekalakalarg@agric.limpopo.gov.za</a>
Lorimer	Elin			<a href="mailto:elin@iburst.co.za">elin@iburst.co.za</a>
Martin	Brenda	Goedgedagt Trust /Project 90x2030	021 674 5094	<a href="mailto:bmartin@90x2030.org.za">bmartin@90x2030.org.za</a>
Mauhunyane	Carolyn	SANBI		<a href="mailto:cmauhunyane@sanbi.co.za">cmauhunyane@sanbi.co.za</a>
Meshak	Vukela	SANBI		<a href="mailto:m.vukela@sanbi.co.za">m.vukela@sanbi.co.za</a>
Mgquba	Smangele	Department of Minerals & Energy (Adaptation researcher)	012 444 4094	<a href="mailto:smangele.mgquba@energy.gov.za">smangele.mgquba@energy.gov.za</a>
Mpandeli	Sylvester	DEAT: climate change adaptation	012 310 3587	<a href="mailto:smpandeli@deat.gov.za">smpandeli@deat.gov.za</a>
Ndawonde	Sandile	Green Network	033 3452045	<a href="mailto:sandile@greennetwork.org.za">sandile@greennetwork.org.za</a>
Ntseki	Ntseki	Ecohope	011 768 5407	<a href="mailto:ntseki@msn.com">ntseki@msn.com</a>
Oettle	Noel	Environmental Monitoring Group	027 218 1117 / 021 448 2881	<a href="mailto:dryland@global.co.za">dryland@global.co.za</a>
Ramavhona	Nkoniseni	DEAT		<a href="mailto:ramavhona@deat.gov.za">ramavhona@deat.gov.za</a>
Rambuwane	T	SANBI		<a href="mailto:T.Rambuwane@sanbi.org.za">T.Rambuwane@sanbi.org.za</a>
Rollin	Christina	African Wildlife Foundation	011 447 2399	<a href="mailto:crollin@awfafrica.org">crollin@awfafrica.org</a>
Setati	MM	LDA Research		<a href="mailto:setatimm@agric.limpopo.gov.za">setatimm@agric.limpopo.gov.za</a>
Van Lierop	Mathew	Goedgedagt Trust /Project 90x2030		<a href="mailto:Mathew@90X2030.org.za">Mathew@90X2030.org.za</a>

**APOLOGIES**

<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
Bragg	Christy	The Green Connection
Cole	Hugh	Oxfam
Esler	Karen	University of Stellenbosch
Henderson	Caroline	EMC2
Law	Stephen	Environmental Monitoring Group
Letty	Brigid	Institute of Natural Resources, Prolinnova
Malgas	Rhoda	Indigo Development & Change/ University of Stellenbosch
Marais	Sarshen	Climate Action Partnership
Menne	Wally	
Pasquini	Lorena	Working on Fire
Powell	Mike	Rhodes Restoration Research Group (R3G); STEP
Roberts	Debra	Ethekwini Environment Dep
Smith	Hendrik	ARC: ISCW
Taviv	Rina	
Thorn	Jessica	Climate Action Partnership
Urquhart	Penny	
Vatsha	Malusi	SANBI
Vogel	Coleen	University of the Witwatersrand
Ziervogel	Gina	UCT CSAG