

Adaptation Network General Meeting

Polokwane, Limpopo - 5- 6 May 2011

Limpopo Department of Agriculture, Temo Towers, 67/69 Biccard Street, Polokwane

PROGRAMME

5th May 2011

- 9.00 Opening
- 9:15 Welcome by Mr Ramugondo (Manager, Adaptive Research and Innovation: LDA)
- 9.30 Report back of member organisations
 - Report back on COP17 and preparations (Sylvester Mpandeli, DEA)
 - Small scale farmers - coping with and adapting to climate variability and change (Katinka Lund Wågsæther, UCT)
 - CBA5 Conference feedback (Bettina Koelle, Indigo development & change)
 - Lessons learned on responses of climatic impacts in Limpopo Province (Dr B Petja: Adaptive Research and Innovation : LDA)
 - Green Economy as a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (Dr A Letsoalo : Environmental Research and Planning Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism)
 - Diphakgane: Farmer-led Bio-pesticide Experimentation (Indigenous Research and Innovation: LDA)
 - Eco-schools in Limpopo (Cathy Dzerefos)
 - Feedback from the various other Network members present
- 11.00 Tea Break
- 11.30 Terms and Concepts of adaptation – towards some working definitions
- 11. 45 Presentation of the Adaptation Network pamphlet for comment
- 12.00 COP 17 – Planned activities of Network members
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 COP17 – the C17 initiative (Rehana Dada, via Skype)
- 14.30 Planning joint and individual action towards COP17
- 15.00 Admin matters
- 15.30 Fundraising
- 16.00 Reflection
- 17.00 Working groups and networking
- 17:30 Vote of thanks: Dr K Liphadzi

6th May 2011

- 9.00 Departure for the field trip: Toowoomba Research Station
- 10:00 Presentations by researchers at Towoomba Research Station
 - Introduction and/or Background on Research in Towoomba Research Station
 - Grassland/ Veld Research
 - Agronomy/ Horticultural Research
- 11:00 Site Visit
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12.30 Departure from Research Station (to either Johannesburg or Polokwane)

1. Opening and welcome

Sandile Ndawonde chaired the meeting. All Adaptation Network members were welcomed by Mr. Ramugondo (Manager, Adaptive Research and Innovation: LDA).

2. Introduction of participants

Bettina Koelle facilitated a round of introductions of participants.

3. Report back from Member organisation

Report back on COP17 and preparations (Sylvester Mpandeli, Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA))

Sylvester Mpandeli gave an update on the state of preparations for COP17. He emphasised that the South African government closely liaises with the UNFCCC bodies, and that one should all bear in mind that this is not a South Africa negotiation process, but rather a UN process. 40-50,000 participants are expected to attend COP17 in Durban.

Accreditation is important and all members of the network planning to attend COP17 should register in time, following the UNFCCC procedures.

The South African Government have selected negotiators from various sectors, also from private sector, making sure that we speak with one voice. All together we are between 150 and 200 individuals in the South African delegation.

With regards to the National Climate Change response strategy, DEA has had provisional stakeholder workshops, and they are currently finalising the white paper. DEA has managed to come up with a framework based on the comments to the Green Paper. There is a lot of pressure to finalise the paper by July, because the plan is to use it as a baseline for the South African negotiations. DEA will proceed to get feedback on the white paper from various stakeholders, and later on also public hearings.

“Small-scale farmers - Coping with and adapting to climate variability and extreme weather events” (Katinka Lund Wågsæther, University of Cape Town (UCT))

Katinka Wågsæther gave a presentation on her MSc research focusing on adaptation strategies and small scale farmers in the Mpumalanga Province.

Feedback from Community Based Adaptation conference (Bettina Koelle, Indigo development & change)

The CBA conference is organized annually by IIED and various partners. This conference is an important event for practitioners and researchers engaging in community based adaptation. The focus of the fifth CBA conference, held in Bangladesh, was focused on scaling up community based adaptation, and on exploring how to move beyond pilot projects.

Lessons learned on responses of climatic impacts in Limpopo Province (Dr. B Petja: Adaptive Research and Innovation : Limpopo Department of Agriculture)

Dr Petja shared some lessons learnt and response strategies implemented in the Limpopo Province.

Green Economy as a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (Dr A. Letsoalo: Environmental Research and Planning Department, Limpopo Province)

Dr. Letsoalo presented the Green Economy Plan and the linkages to climate change mitigation and adaptation. She stressed the importance of a positive vision that is inclusive, and which also integrates young persons and allows them to draw on their energy and enthusiasm. One key element in the Green Economy Plan is to create green jobs and to promote green growth by changing the economic paradigm of the province.

Diphakgane: Farmer-led Bio-pesticide Experimentation (Indigenous Research and Innovation: Limpopo Department of Agriculture)

Insights from the farmer led processes were shared with the audience. The presentation stressed the importance of local knowledge and cultural norms.

Eco - schools in Limpopo (Cathy Dzerefos)

WESSA developed climate change games and is using them as part of the Eco Schools programme. To get hold of climate change games: www.wessa.org.za (Cost: R30)

Feedback from CAP (Amanda Bourne)

CAP (Climate Action Partnership) is currently implementing 14 small projects, ranging from hiking trails to bird parks. The activities include climate monitoring and workshops about climate change and water.

Feedback from ICLEI Africa (Priscilla Roswell)

ICLEI has launched the Mayor's declaration on Climate Change, following the Mayor's Conference. This process will feed into the COP17 process. The declaration is still open for signatories.

ICLEI also has the Five Cities project: Walvis Bay, Cape Town, Maputo, Dar es Salaam and Port Luis. They do baseline study reports from each of the five cities, based on past and current literature, where they identify the climatic risks across five sectors in local government. CSAG has developed a Climate Analysis Report for the entire region for ICLEI, which will be followed by reports with downscaled projections for each of the cities.

Mechal project: Adaptation strategies of small scale farmers in South Africa and Ethiopia (Bettina Koelle)

The project is a collaborative effort of South African and Ethiopian organisations from civil society and Universities of both countries, looking into comparison of traditional and new adaptation strategies in both countries. Visit the website for more information: www.mechal.org

Feedback from EMG (Stephen Law, with input from Noel Oettle)

EMG is currently involved in a project in the Mossel Bay area, focused on understanding how communities/municipalities in the Mossel Bay area are coping with the extensive droughts taking place in the area at the moment. This process includes assessing water resources and water provision for citizens.

In another project, EMG works with five groups of farmers and fishers in South Africa. It is a process of action research, which aims to understand what their adaptation related questions are and what action the farmers and fishers would like to take.

In co-operation with Indigo Development and change and Alterra (Wageningen), EMG recently released a software called SynBioSys Fynbos. It is a platform that can be interesting for those in Fynbos areas in the Western Cape. It also links live to other databases, for example SANBI's databases. The use of the software is free. The software can be downloaded from the website: www.synbiosysfynbos.org. A training and feedback workshop of the software will be held at the Fynbos Forum 2011 taking place in Still Bay in June.

EMG is also works to explore the link between climate change and water services in Cape Town, and is a SA partner in an international network called Drynet publishing a newsletter.

Feedback from the Green Network (Sandile Ndawonde)

The Green Network is an informal network, and they do a lot of work related to climate change. For example, they work with flood victims in KZN. The Green Network has for example produced a video with voices of those impacted, which is available on their website. They have also installed solar water heaters in some households.

The other thing the Green Network does is working with polyethylene tube bio-digester. By using cow dung from three cows one can generate enough gas to cook for one family. The Green Network encourages use of grey water in the digester. The District municipality now wants the Green Network to help them convert some of the sewage stations to produce energy.

4. Unpacking Concepts of Adaptation

Bettina Koelle presented some concepts of adaptation, including adaptation, coping, mitigation and limits and barriers to adaptation. The following discussion made it clear that there is a great need to clarify these concepts and terms further, and to share this with the members of the network.

5. COP17 – the C17 initiative

Rehana Dada joined the meeting via Skype link-up, to share information on the C17 initiative. Civil society organisations started meeting in June 2010 to work towards COP17. A civil society committee, called C17, was elected for COP17 in Durban. The main actions that are to be undertaken by C17 is first of all to organise *The Global Day of Action* on the Saturday in the middle of the COP. The second key action is “The Space”, and open inclusive venue that will accommodate civil society activities.

6. COP 17 - Planned activities of Network members

Members shared planned activities for COP17, and further discussed ways to involve farmers in the COP17 processes. It was suggested that the Adaptation Network hosts a workshop for farmers and fishers and a SADC networking dinner.

7. Planning joint and individual action towards COP17

The meeting participants contributed ideas towards what the network would like to do together related to COP17:

Bettina Koelle proposed hosting a training or learning event in the build-up to, or during COP17. Bettina asked whether any Network members have projects they would like to showcase in the KZN area, as this will be a great opportunity to share what people in the Network are doing.

Rashmi Mistry said that Oxfam is interested in partnering with organisations that are working with climate change adaptation with small-scale farmers. They are running a few workshops in a few weeks time, and Rashmi is hoping that that it will help those working with small-scale farmers to pass knowledge on to the farmers. She also suggested creating a “farm” or a “garden” in the civil society space.

Noel Oettle agrees that the space might be a good place to do this, but points out that the negotiators tend not to venture outside the negotiation space. He suggests bringing the farmers closer. There was great potential for bringing farmers to COP17, and showcasing their products and work.

A question was asked regarding the possible contribution of members of the Adaptation Network to the South African position for the COP17 negotiations, and following discussion it was agreed that a letter will be addressed to Sylvester Mpandeli/ DEA expressing the willingness of the Adaptation Network to contribute to developing the South African position regarding adaptation for the negotiations.

8. Feedback from the Network

Feedback on meeting with Tim Lund from the Norwegian Embassy (Katinka Lund Wågsæther)

Katinka reports that she had a good meeting with Tim Lund at the Norwegian Embassy, where she outlined the aims and activities of the network. Mr Lund was very interested in the Network, especially in the fact that it comprises everything from academics to business to NGOs and government. While the Norwegian Embassy is usually quite strict about funding, and so work with long-lasting, solid partners, there might be potential for funding around COP17 activities. At the end of the meeting at the Embassy it was agreed that the Network will draft a document featuring a background of the Network, current and past activities as well as quite a detailed outlined of the Network’s plans towards COP17.

9. Reflections on the workshop

Bettina Koelle facilitated a reflection on the workshop to inform the learning process of the network.

Things the participants liked:

- I liked to get an inside about the green economy
- Learning what climate change really is
- Liked the presentations, very relevant
- Like the website as a resource
- Food was really good
- Liked the sharing of the website
- Liked everything, especially the discussions and sharing of information – an eye-opening experience

- Enjoyed the presentations
- Enjoyed the diverse participation
- There are more organisations that are concerned about people knowing about climate change
- I feel that there are some loop holes, important to address various levels of climate literacy amongst us
- I liked the exposure of the network to the Limpopo Department of Agriculture
- Enjoyed the presentations and the participation from all, especially the presentation from Cathy
- Enjoyed the presentations, especially Eco schools
- Enjoyed all the presentations, especially Katinka's
- I got an idea of what the network was about, and got to see what is going on in the network
- Liked being in Limpopo and to meet people that I would not have met
- Liked the presentations, especially the focus on the coping and adaptation
- Liked the presentations, and the way we could Skype with someone in Cape Town
- I liked to hear about what is taking place in Limpopo.

Things participants did not like so much:

- I think we all experienced, Gabriel is so busy making things happening for us so he could not actually participate
- I think the session was too long – shorten the day
- The admin in the afternoon was not relevant to everyone
- More group discussions would be good
- There was no specific time allocated to presentations
- I didn't like that the tea arrived late and the set-up was not so good – needs to be improved. More punctual and better organisation.
- Too long and a lot of information (overload). Maybe cut down on content and have more interaction.
- Might be good to have half a day beforehand for people who are interested in learning more about climate change.
- Did not like the lack of participation. I would say maybe we need 2-3 days rather than 1.
- Timing of the presentations should have been allocated
- Presenters should bring summaries/abstract
- Too short time for interactions
- Some of the presentations did not say what they mean and stand for
- Thinking about ways to include people who cannot travel but still want to take part, maybe using skype. I do not agree about handing out summaries, we need to save paper – maybe have a big paper on the wall with programme for example instead of handing out programmes.
- I did not like those speakers who did not use Power Point.
- Being stuck inside a room, without view of any trees
- These were some of the best presentations I have seen in our workshops. Good to have the presentations before the discussion on adaptation. But would have liked to have more time/group work on the concept of adaptation.
- A feeling that most of mindset around adaptation was stuck around farmers, but there is so much more in adaptation that could be discussed (i.e. urban communities)

10. Planning for the next general meeting in the Adaptation Network

It is agreed that the next meeting will take place in KZN, towards the end of the year but before COP17. Sandile suggests September 2011.

11. Word of thanks Mr. Ramugondo

Mr Ramugondo thanked all participants for attending the meeting and emphasised the importance of climate change adaptation in the province as well as the availability of funding to implement effective adaptation measures.

12. Closure

Noel Oettle thanked all participants for joining the meeting and especially the Limpopo Department of Agriculture for hosting the workshop.

Field trip 6 May 2011:

The workshop was followed by a field trip to Toowoomba Research Station, where members of the adaptation network could further interact, network and learn in practice.

We would like to especially thank the Limpopo Department of Agriculture for the excellent and stimulating field trip!

