

FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ADAPTATION NETWORK

WE'RE UP TO THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE!



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), CSA and SANBI.

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Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, Cape Town, 29 October 2010

Background

The first Annual General Meeting of the Adaptation Network was held on 29 March 2010 at the Kirstenbosch Gardens in Cape Town. It was attended by 18 members and with 5 apologies. The meeting was co-hosted by SANBI, Indigo development & change, Project 90 by 2030 and the Environmental Monitoring Group, with venue sponsorship provided by the South African Biodiversity Institute and catering by CBAA through Indigo development & change.

1. Opening & Welcome

Malusi Vatsha of SANBI opened the meeting. He welcomed everyone to the First Annual General Meeting of The Adaptation Network the SANBI venue, and gave a brief overview of The Adaptation Network to date.

The concept of an adaptation network emerged from the 2009 National Climate Change Summit where delegates expressed the need for a platform to 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 in climate adaptation. The Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG), in its role as host of Drynet, South Africa, and Indigo development & change (through the CBAA project) invited individuals from a range of sectors to a networking workshop on climate change adaptation 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 second General Meeting was held at the Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens in Roodepoort on 25 March 2010, where the values, principles and objectives of The Network were agreed to. This meeting on 29 October 2010 was the first AGM of the new network, and to reflect this, the meeting took a more formal tone and format than previous meetings.

2. Attendance and apologies

Noel Oettle of Drynet/EMG welcomed everyone

Apologies were received from:

Thierry Alban (REVERT), Emma Archer (CSIR), Geraldine Hochman, Brigid Letty (INR), Penny Urquhart

The attendance list is attached.

There was a round of introductions and members of the Network also mentioned their organizations

3. Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and accepted.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Noel Oettlé reviewed the minutes of the last meeting held on 25 March 2010. The adoption of minutes of the meeting held on 25 March was proposed by Brenda Martin (Project 90 by 2010), and Sarshen Marais from CAP seconded the motion.

5. Reportback from the Steering Committee

Network Website and discussion

Brenda Martin and Hin Wah Li from Project 90x2030 reported the development of the website. Brenda Martin reported that Project 90 by 2030 had completed the design and layout of the Adaptation Network website, which includes a network information section, news and events, resources and links. Hin Wah has spent time on the website including uploading all the project descriptions that members of The Adaptation Network submitted. Hin Wah has put these all in the same abridged format with links to the longer project descriptions. Brenda explained that the website has been designed along the same lines as the Project 90x2030 website, with a database behind it and it is very flexible with a lot of possibilities.

It was agreed that the members need to make the website theirs and make it work by contributing news of events, photos, project information, their top 5 climate adaptation documents, videos, links to other sites such as SAEON etc . The Google ranking depends on links to other sites and hits – so members are encouraged to use and maintain the site including contributing a project to be featured monthly on the home page.

Noel thanked Project 90x2030 for their work and pointed out the usefulness of having The Adaptation, Network site as a host country platform for COP 17.

The CBAA project through Indigo development & change has supported the development of the website. The question of the sustainability of maintaining the site was raised but not concluded.

Finance

Bettina Koelle (Indigo development & change) reported that since the proposal which was submitted to the Open Society Institute was turned down, the network had struggled to raise funds. For the past year funding for the training workshops and the website had been accessed from the CCAA through the Community Based Adaptation in Africa project. However the project ends in December 2010. To date the Steering Committee has not been funded, but had done its work in the interest of developing sound methodologies for adaptation.

Bettina suggested that The Adaptation Network should develop a funding strategy and that this should be the task of a fund raising portfolio. There may be a window of opportunity for funding before COP 17, and HBS was suggested as a possible funder to approach because they have a keen interest in climate change.

Training and capacity development

Bettina Koelle (Indigo development & change) thanked CAP and CI for providing the venue for the Community Based Adaptation Training workshop which was held 27-28 October and the AGM. The training workshop had drawn 25 participants from diverse backgrounds; CBOs, academics, government officials, NGOs and councilors had attended. The workshop had been well received with much creative information exchange taking place. From prior discussions and feedback on the need to share more case studies, it is likely that a field school will be offered next year in Nieuwoudtville where the farmers will be



the teachers and case studies from different organizations can be presented and discussed to explore the hurdles and successes associated with them.

Bettina said that the Network should think about capacity development before COP 17. Copenhagen had offered opportunities for learning and for international organisations and NGOs to listen to each other. We should think about events and learning exchange opportunities to offer in order to build global capacity on adaptation. Sarshen Marais (CAP) said that visual media had made good tools for learning and had been well accepted at COP 15, and Claire Davis from the CSIR suggested that The Adaptation Network should prepare a banner.

Policy contributions

Noel Oettle reported circulating the Draft background document on Climate Change policy and receiving useful feedback from members of The Network so that he was able to make a 6 page submission to the DEA. This is one of the purposes of The Adaptation Network - to be able to respond to requests from government and provide specialist input from our on-the-ground work and experience in a partnership approach. The next challenge would be to draw on the broad base of members to respond to the Green Paper. There were requests from Sarshen Marais (CAP) to all contribute to changes and possibly doing this in a collaborative way, from Noel to engage with the Fair Trade contribution to the climate change debate and from Christy Bragg (Green Connection) to put all comments on documents on the website with a pin or password so that members can benefit from others' experience and insights.

Logo for The Adaptation Network

Members had been invited to make suggestions for or design a logo for The Adaptation Network. Bettina Koelle presented several possibilities that had been professionally designed, and after a lively discussion and vote, a design was selected with the request for some modifications to it. The revised designs will be circulated to the Steering Committee who will decide on the final one.

6. Network activities

Research

Gabriel Lekalakala (LDA) gave an insightful presentation on climate change and agro-hydrology which was followed by questions and discussion. He said that farmers and DWAF are keen to monitor ground water re-charge and wetlands. The presentation will be put on the website of The Adaptation Network (www.adaptationnetwork.org.za)

CAP

Sarshen Marais announced the forthcoming knowledge exchange workshop that CAP will host from 10-12 November 2010. It will focus on ecosystem based adaptation, and case studies will be presented by members of the international team. The second day will include monitoring and evaluation. For more information go to www.cap.org.za

Project 90x2030

Brenda Martin told the meeting about the significant roll-out of renewable energy that Project 90x2030 is undertaking at 11 sites across the country in order to demonstrate off-grid possibilities : 1 in Limpopo, 4 in Gauteng, 3 in KZN or the Eastern Cape, one at Kleinmond and 1 at Goedgedacht in the Western Cape.



The thinking is to cut emissions and demonstrate energy independence. If these sites are successful field trips will be arranged. Because of this huge and exciting programme, Brenda has to withdraw from the Steering Committee, but will still be a member of the Network and Hun Wah Li who has been supporting the website, will continue to do so until the end of November 2010. Project 90x2030 is at www.90x2030.org.za

7. The Risk and Vulnerability Atlas

Claire Davis from the CSIR did a short presentation introducing the Risk and Vulnerability Atlas which can be found at www.rvatlas.org or www.sarva.org.za. The atlas is intended to provide a portal where all relevant resources and links may be found. It is not yet live, but promises to be an indispensable resource.

8. Update on National Policy

Nkoseni Ramavhona (DEA) gave a presentation that included an update on the July 2010 Background Information Document (BID). He reported that the National Climate Change Response Policy had been taken to Cabinet and subsequently revised. The revised version should go to cabinet again in the next weeks. He explained the structure in terms of the six broad themes of the upcoming Green Paper which will be forwarded to the network when possible. This useful presentation will also be posted on the website (www.adaptationnetwork.org.za).

9. Election of the Steering Committee

Noel explained the current structure of the Network in terms of it being hosted by three organizations; Project 90x2030, EMG and Indigo development & change, and a Steering Committee. According to the agreement made in November 2009, hosting entails providing services and administrative support. 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. Brenda Martin requested that Project 90x2030 should be the organization to stand down. This was accepted.

The remaining members of the current steering committee expressed their willingness to remain on the committee and were joined by Gabriel Lekalakala from Dept Agriculture, Sarshen Maris of CAP and Katinka Waagsaether from CSAG. The new Steering Committee is:

- Malusi Vatsha (SANBI)
- Gabriel Lekalakala (Dept Agriculture)
- Sarshen Marais (CAP)
- Katinka Waagsaether (CSAG)
- Sylvester Mpandeli (Department of Environmental Affairs)
- Bettina Koelle (Indigo development & change)
- Sandile Ndawonde (GreenNetwork)
- Noel Oettle (EMG)



This Steering Committee was endorsed unanimously by the AGM. Meetings of The Adaptation Network have been held alternatively in the Western Cape and Gauteng. The next meeting will be held in Limpopo.

10. Secretariat

Noel Oettle explained that Elin Lorimer had acted as the Secretariat for The Adaptation Network until about April 2010 when she was no longer able to do the work. Bettina explained that hosting the Secretariat without funding had been a bit of a challenge, but that Indigo development & change had taken this on after April, and in the spirit of collaborative and open learning, and was happy to continue hosting the Network Secretariat for another year unless someone else wanted to take it on. Gratitude was expressed to Indigo for playing this role and to Wendy Annecke of Indigo for maintaining the membership, and sending out the newsletter and notices. Financing had been provided by CBAA via Indigo for the website designer through project 90x2030, and the web designer and Hin Wah had agreed to do some capacity development so that the site could be maintained.

The decision was made that Indigo development & change should continue hosting the Secretariat of the network and will ensure that the website is appropriately managed. EMG will continue to serve the policy function of the Network.

11. Next meeting and closure

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held in Limpopo and that Gabriel Lekalakala (LDA Research/Limpopo Department of Agriculture) should propose an appropriate venue for late March /early April 2011. The next meeting will return to the normal format of interactive, informal learning and sharing.

Noel Oettle thanked the members for their inputs and the meeting closed at 13h20.



Appendix: Attendance Register AGM of The Adaptation Network - 29 October 2010

SURNAME	NAME	ORGANISATION	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
Annecke	Wendy	Indigo development & change	021 7023622	wendy@indigo-dc.org
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Bragg	Christy	Green Connection		christy.porcupine@gmail.com
Davis	Claire	CSIR		cdavis@csir.co.za
Koelle	Bettina	Indigo development & change	027 2181148	bettina@indigo-dc.org
Lekalakala	Gabriel	LDA Research	015 294 3397	lekalakala@gmail.com
Li	Hin Wah	Project 90x2030		hinwah@90x2030.org.za
Malgas	Rhoda	University of Stellenbosch		rmalgas@sun.ac.za
Marais	Sarshen	CAP		smarais@conservation.org
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Oettle	Noel	Environmental Monitoring Group	027 218 1117 / 021 448 2881	dryland@global.co.za
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