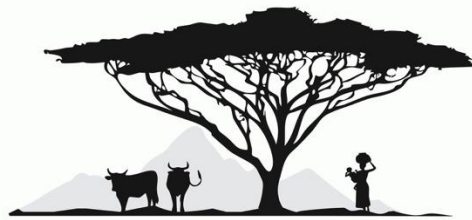


Participatory Assessment Climate and Disaster Risks (PACDR) TOOL TRAINING

Run by the Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA)



AFRA

Association
For Rural Advancement

29 – 30 May 2023 at African Enterprise, Pietermaritzburg



1. Introduction

The uMsunduzi¹ Participatory Assessment of Climate and Disaster Risks (PACDR) training focused on small-scale farmers from peri-urban areas as well as those that reside on privately owned commercial farms within the uMgungundlovu District. The tool intends to help communities raise awareness, assess their climate change and disaster risks. Furthermore, its designed to be self-explanatory to the degree that first-time users with community participation experience and a basic knowledge of climate change can work their way through the modules without assistance. The Adaptation Network (AN) three-year Civil Society Organisation Skills Enhancement and Excellence Development (CSO Seed) project, funded by the Government of Flanders through SANBI, is aimed at building the capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) around climate change adaptation. The Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA) is one of the CSOs selected to implement climate adaptation capacity building and training workshops with their constituencies. AFRA selected a diverse group with the purpose to ensure that AFRA reflects how climate change affects farm dwellers and those that are not on farms (i.e. peri-urban areas) as climate change affects areas differently based on its topographical profiles, soil profile, landscape, wind density and many different environmental factors. This report seeks to unpack the process and proceedings of the capacity building workshop held in Pietermaritzburg on the 29th and 30th of May 2023.

2. Profile of Participants

AFRA STAFF FACILITATORS	
Name	Role at AFRA / Experience
Samkelisiwe Mkhize	✓ Gender officer & youth activist
Sthokozile Ngcobo	✓ Food Systems coordinator & small-scale farmer
Mondli Zondi	✓ Land Rights Fieldworker & youth activist
Lindile Shoji	✓ Land Rights Intern & environmental justice activist
COMMUNITY TRAINEES	

¹ Msunduzi is a local municipal area within the uMgungundlovu District within the KwaZulu Natal province

Farm Dwellers ²	✓ Living on & using land that they do not own but have consent to use from commercial farm owners ✓ Small producers mainly for subsistence
Peri-urban small-scale farmers	✓ Living on & using land held communally under a traditional authority ✓ Members of the Sweethill Organics Cooperative producing a surplus for sale
GENDER & AGE	
All participatory exercises provided for appropriate representation of women and men and were conducted in separate gender groups. There were two different communities represented and each community had two groups (a male only & a female only group) resulting in four groups in total. The participatory exercises were followed by the groups meeting together to discuss their results with each other, and the discussions revealed different realities between genders and totally different realities between two communities within the same municipality. All participants were youth.	

The following link is the attendance register for the two-day workshop which has the names, age & gender breakdown, contact details and the organisation or farm of all the participants;

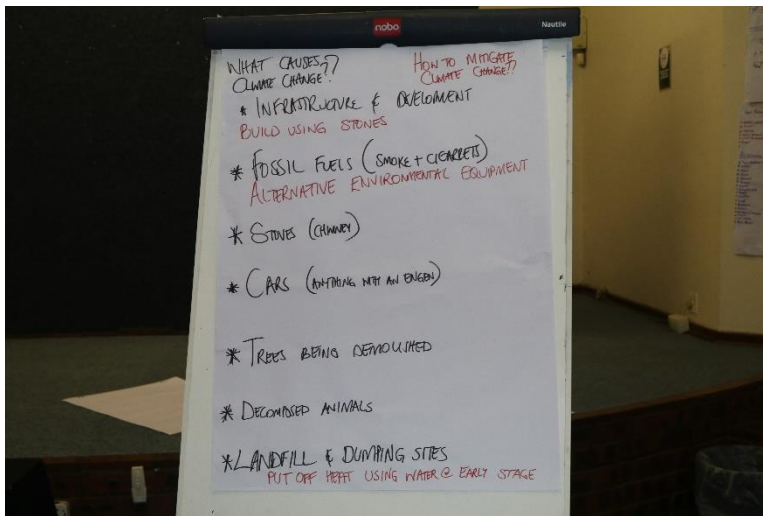
[PACDR TRAINING REGISTERS.pdf](#)

3. Training modules

- Introduction to climate change
- Hazards analysis
- Vulnerability matrix
- Responses to the impacts of hazards
- Adaptation strategies
- Co-benefits of adaptation strategies
- Community development plan

² People living on privately owned commercial farms whose rights are protected by the Extension of Security of Tenure Act and have consent to use a portion of the farm for residence, cropping and / or grazing livestock

4. Summary of Proceedings



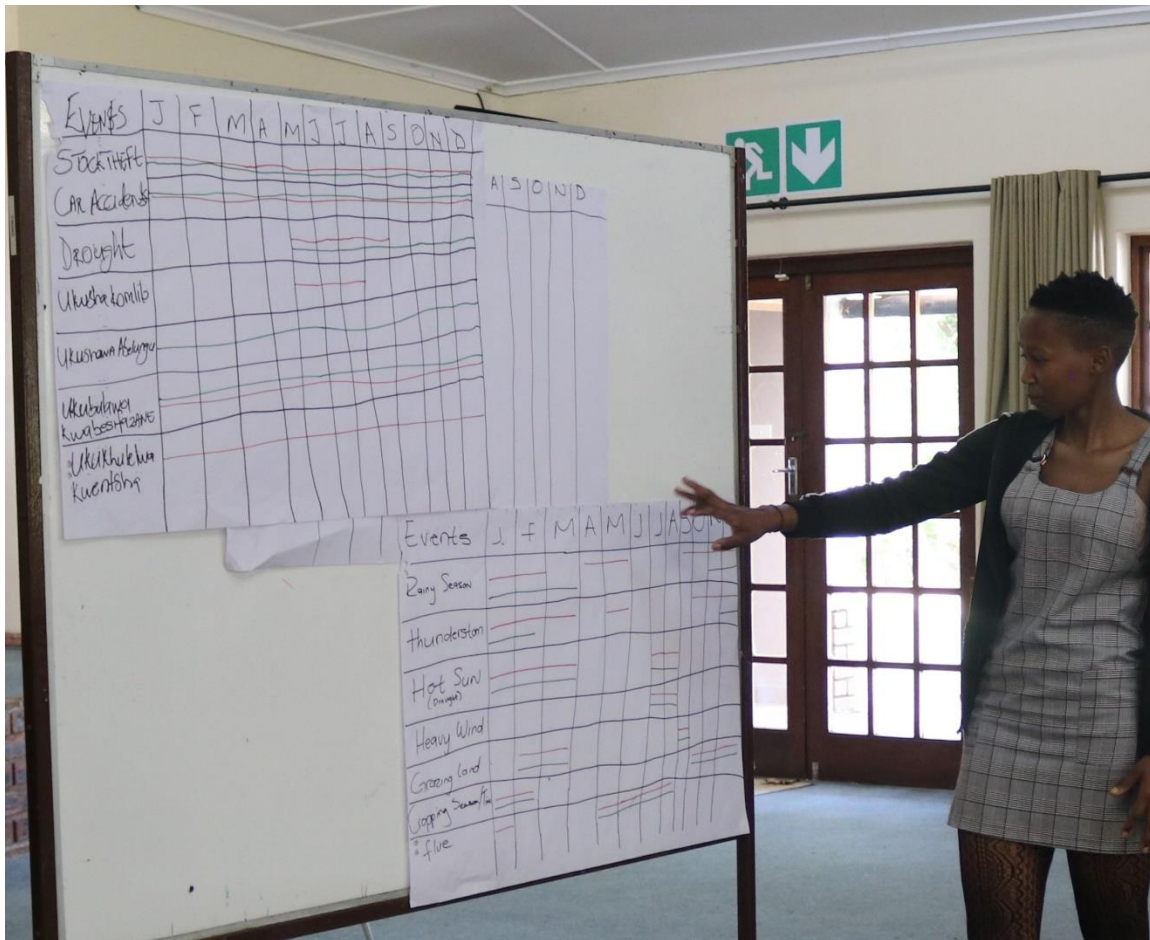
Day 01 of the training focused on the introduction to climate change and hazards analysis. The focal point of the day was to ensure that participants were able to identify hazards that are most relevant to their communities with a focus on the resources that exist in their

communities and to understand the hazards in relation to climate change.



The above two images are an illustration of the mapping of resources and hazards by participants from the Sweethill Organics Cooperative. The two pictures depict their community through the lens of the female and male group respectively.

The two groups both selected heavy rain as a major hazard in both their communities with farm dwellers having the second hazard as strong wind and the small-scale farmers group raising extreme cold as a major factor. Participants were able to map out the resources within their communities, indicate where hazards usually occur and developed a seasonal calendar which depicts the current changes in the way of life of the participants i.e. the changes in their cropping patterns as well as weather patterns.



The above picture represents the mapping done by farm dwellers. The two seasonal calendars were done by males and females independently. A significant observation is that the male group identified stock theft and teenage pregnancy as significant events where the female group focused mostly on the hazards and added the flu virus as one of the significant occurrences.

The day concluded with participants compiling a review and evaluation of their community responses, participants had to complete a matrix which lists their hazards as well as their related impacts on livelihoods including the responses that the community may be using to mitigate the negative impacts.

HAZARD	IMPACT	LOCAL RESPONSE	EFFECT- IVENESS	Sustainable VULNERABILITY
Heavy Rain	✓ Crop failed / damage ✓ Roads damaged ✓ Electricity	• High beds & mashing • Infrastructure development (refugee) • Municipality	+++ + ++	+++ + ++
Extreme Cold	✓ Animal diseases ✓ Human Health ✓ Freezing	• Vaccine, sunlight, shelter & animals doctors. • Doctors, clinics, & hospitals or traditional healers. • Green houses / Tunnels	+++ +++ ++	+++ +++ +++

The final day focused on the two groups sharing their adaptation strategies, identification of co-benefits which arise from there adaptation strategies including the development of an action plan. Adaptation sometimes is seen as being a part of resilience as resilience consists of absorbing, evolving, adapting and transforming through strategies that best fits one's day-to-day activities. The activities below project how communities have adapted to extreme weather events and the impacts on their livelihood.

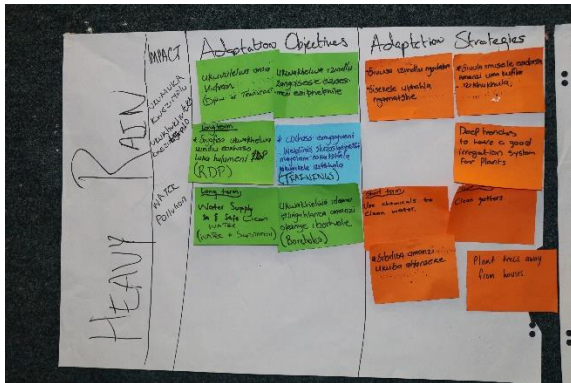


This figure shows one of the female participants leading her group in one of the exercises.

Participants participated in exercise 6: *Community adaptation goals and exercise 7: Adaptation strategies, obstacles and required resources*, these exercises consisted of participants being

clustered into one group of both males & females and separated based on their geographical demarcations in order to create adaptation path sheets with clustered objectives and another adaptation sheet with community response cards. The responses reflected varied significantly between the different demarcations. Both males and females residing in peri-urban areas had agreed on interventions such as the provision of greenhouses, utilising gas stoves & solar

panels and held their local government accountable around issues of damaged infrastructures i.e., schools, as adaptation goals.



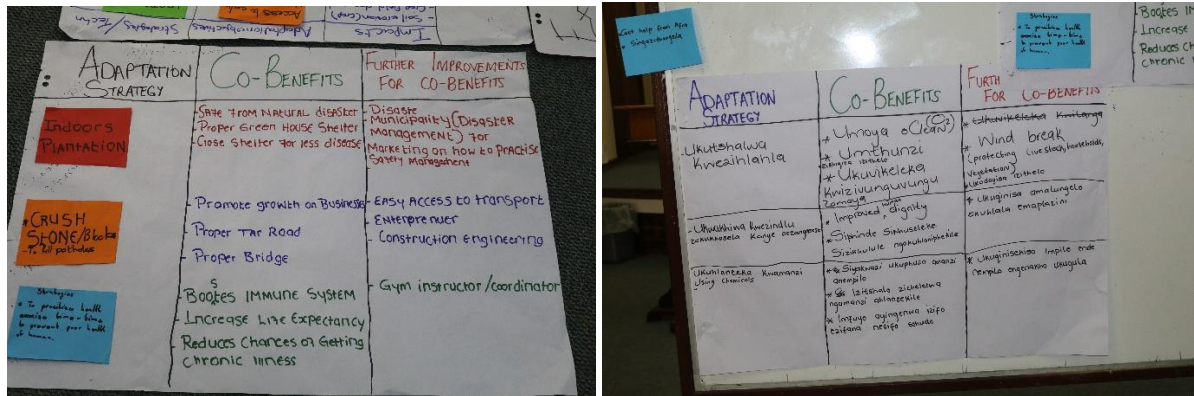
The above photographs represent the responses by the farm dwellers group and peri-urban in response to the heavy rain hazard. The impacts identified by the two communities are mostly common with the most common being damage to houses and crops whereas the different impact was the damage to electricity and road infrastructure. The adaptation objectives identified also had similarities which were centred around having early warning signs mechanics set in place, being built RDP houses, etc whereas the difference was that in the peri urban group they identified having solar panels, green houses etc.



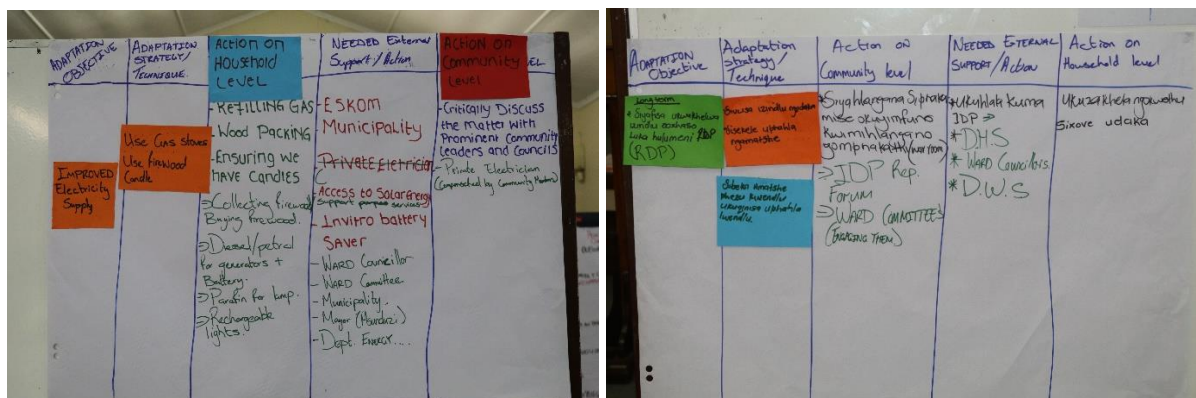
Farm dweller representatives in the photograph on the left and Sweethill representatives on the photograph on the right both presenting adaptation objectives and strategies.

The contrasting difference was that the participants that emanate from farms (both males & females) adapt through physically creating trenches, restoring impacted structures by adding rocks to structures. They have further adapted to droughts or dry seasons by cleaning their gutters as they use this as a strategy to harvest rain water. There was a gap of the local government being able to play its role, as it is seen as being out of their reach due to farm

dwellers residing on privately owned land and resulting in a lack or limited access to basic services.



The above two depictions are the co benefits that the communities could receive from their adaptation strategies. Some of the common benefits were that planting of trees especially fruit trees would provide them with shade, carbon dioxide reduction and for some it would give rise to an opportunity to make income from them. Farm dwellers recognized that these strategies would assist them with strengthening their tenure rights as well as improving their dignity.



The above photographs represent the development plans that the participants shared as a mitigating strategy to one specific adaptation objective. These responses were based on what they would do at a household level, community level and where they would need external help. The two groups both agreed to attending their local municipality Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) fora and War Rooms with the intention bringing into these spaces the impacts of climate change and advocate for possible pro-active interventions from the government. Duty bearers such as the Department of Water and Sanitation, Msunduzi Local

municipality as well as uMngungundlovu District Municipality were identified as some of the crucial stakeholders to be engaged.

The two groups shared that they would advance these discussions by using the existing relationships that they already have established but they also would like to establish new ones with organisations and government departments that deal with climate change.



Group discussions

Participants from peri-urban areas, as a way forward, proposed a session of having learning exchanges to assist the group from farms with capacity building around climate-smart agriculture and utilising eco-friendly materials to make housing infrastructures stronger.

5. Facilitation Team and Process

The facilitation consisted of four AFRA staff member, three females and one male. Each facilitator led a session as facilitator, co-facilitator, minute-taker and visual recorder on a rotational basis. Facilitation allowed facilitators to help each other in areas where one felt limited thus the process of facilitating was flexible. All sessions and exercises allowed for dialogue, which provided opportunities for the groups to communicate and engage on each exercise even if they were not the group presenting.

Facilitators were prepared on the days of the trainings as materials were provided on the day of arrival with writing materials, notepads, pens, a copy of the PACDR tool and flip charts. It was noticeable that through the facilitation groups improved in their communication, consultative decision-making and pro-active brainstorming. Participants were actively listening as clarity was requested when exercises or points were not clear.

Facilitators ensured that leadership roles were rotated, to hear all voices in the group, however, individuals differ in their confidence levels requiring the facilitator to promote the inclusivity of the minority voices. The facilitators ensured good time-management which led to all the planned session and modules being covered over the two-day training.

Below, are the four facilitators from AFRA of which three had attended the training of trainers and the fourth facilitator showed keen interest and capacitated themselves using the information disseminated. All four facilitators were facilitating this training for the first time and therefore gained invaluable experience which they will use going forward.



Above Figure: Images showing AFRA staff facilitators, facilitating during the PACDR training, (starting clockwise from top left: Sithokozile Ngcobo, Mondli Zondi, Lindile Shoji and Samkelisiwe Mkhize).



The team of facilitators included 4 AFRA staff and one PACDR trainee from Sierra Ranch Farm who is now a facilitator. It is important to note and share that her capabilities and skills demonstrated during the training show beyond doubt that the tool is effective, and

one can safely share that it can yield positive outcomes which are beneficial for communities in need.



Facilitator examining the group work

6. Significant Moments & Learnings

- ✓ The shock expressed by the Sweethill Organics participants when the farm dwellers representatives shared the difficult conditions that they have to navigate on farms due to living on land owned by someone else. This moment led to the Sweethill representatives volunteering to visit farming areas to assist with interventions to improve their living conditions.

- ✓ During the adaptation strategies exercise, farm dwellers were sharing some of the blockages that further impact on their livelihoods and these included the lack of support from their ward councillor and municipality officials. This was very different from what was shared by Sweethill Organics participants who had stated that for electricity challenges they engage municipality and relevant stakeholder while farm dwellers don't have that luxury as farm dwellers are only now starting to get some progress on service delivery.
- ✓ The question when Sweethill Organics members asked farm dwellers if they vote and if the case was that they do vote than it seems like they live in a different South Africa because they should be enjoying their rights like everyone else and they should be given basic services like everyone.
- ✓ The interesting and significant points from the discussion is that as much as they both are in the same Municipality; they were able to reflect on the diverse context that shape their realities and furthermore what came as a shock to the Sweethill Organics group is the little development that exists on farms. This allowed the two groups to identify that there is a lot that they can learn from each other with farm dwellers having knowledge around accessing IDP's and influencing what their municipalities service them and Sweethill sharing the knowledge around farming and sharing that a farmer doesn't need a vast area to start farming but they can employ various techniques with the current land they have.

Learnings Articulated by Participants



"I now understand more how some of the things affect climate change, how I contribute to it" Sweethill participant

"it is great to attend a workshop with other communities that AFRA supports, from what transpired we wish to extend the learnings we have to the farm dweller community" Sweethill participant





"I didn't know there is a better way of planting crops, the trench bed system shared by Sweethill is something to do in our community because it will help during heavy rains which normally leaves our crops damaged" Farm Dweller participant

"The importance of maintaining and preserving trees, now I have knowledge that we must avoid cutting trees" Farm Dweller participant



7. Reflections from the AFRA Staff facilitators

Ms Samke Mkhize, Gender Officer & facilitator for the PACDR Tool Training:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ACfjsa8e7mOjuQPjKkA32EHaXDGft6Tm/view?usp=drive_link

Ms Lindile Shoji; Land Rights Intern, Environmental Justice Activist and facilitator at the PACDR Tool training: [L.SHOZI PACDR TOOL TRAINING REFLECTIONS.mp4](#)

Mr Mondli Zondi, Land Rights Fieldworker and facilitator at the PACDR Training: [M ZONDI PACDR.mp4](#)

Ms Sithokozile Ngcobo, Food Systems Coordinator, Small holder farmer and Facilitator at the PACDR Tool Training.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gmuRjPo60Cu5afkfyi7JDdmMjBT3Ph4X/view?usp=sharing>

8. Conclusion

Participants highlighted that they are more informed about what climate change is and how climate impacts/hazards affect their lives and livelihood resources.

They have realised that they have been responding to climate change hazards though they did not know that they are responding to climate change and because now they have learned they feel that they are going to respond better using adaptation strategies learned. They committed to prioritising reducing and limiting their carbon emissions as much as possible to make it easier to adapt to changes that can no longer be avoided.

All participants completed the CSO SEED Project Activity Evaluation forms which are found in the following link [PACDR EVALUATION FORMS.pdf](#) .

Most of the participants shared their appreciation for being part of the training however they shared that the time for the training was short. Most of the participant shared that they are grateful for the knowledge and insights that they have gained.

This intervention was a great success and AFRA will engage partners through the Adaptation Network to mobilise resources to replicate this work in the project area.