

NEWSLETTER

April 2015

Adaptation Network moving forward

By Noel Oetllé

Welcome to the first Adaptation Network newsletter of 2015. The old year went out with a flurry of activities, with the election of a new Steering Committee and appointment of EMG as the in-coming Secretariat for the Network at our AGM, participation of many of our members in the National Climate Change Response Dialogue, and finally, COP 20 in Lima, Peru.



2015 started on a high note for the Network, as the Government of Flanders initiated a three-year period of support for our activities. The Steering Committee met in mid March to review the planned activities and to ensure that the Network will be well positioned to achieve its objectives in the coming years. This high-energy event was a first for the Network, and all members of the Steering Committee made inspiring contributions.

With the appointment of Rehana Dada (see news item below) as the Network's Policy and Governance Specialist, the Secretariat team is complete and ready to contribute to taking the Network to new heights. What has characterised the Network since its founding in 2008 has been the high levels of commitment, engagement and contribution from its members, and we anticipate that in 2015 all of our members will benefit from the sound collaborative foundation that we have all created.

Welcome to the team, Rehana!

After an extensive recruitment process, which attracted a number of very interesting candidates, the Adaptation Network has appointed Rehana Dada to the post of Policy and Governance Specialist. She joins the Secretariat team from mid-April.

Rehana is known to many of us from her career as a science and environmental journalist. In addition she brings with her an impressive track record of work in the adaptation sector, and has recently completed her MSc on the topic of 'Climate change adaptation in resource poor communities'. Rehana's key area of work will be advising Network members on policy matters and coordinating input from members for adaptation-related policy processes. In addition, she will research the impacts of climate and adaptation policies, support the communication work of the Network, and contribute to capacity development and training of Network members.



COP 20 Outcomes

By Noel Oettlé

Team South Africa went to Lima following months of preparation and consultation, with the intention of making a contribution, despite the rather dismal expectations from this key conference in the run-up to the “big one” planned for Paris this December.

One of the intentions for the Lima conference was to specify the contributions that countries would make towards addressing climate change. There was much debate about whether these ‘Intended Nationally Determined Contributions’, or INDC, should cover mitigation only, or also include adaptation and support in the form of finance, technology and capacity-building. The

Africa Group and the G77+China want to see commitments on adaptation included, but the language in the final text merely reflected a ‘determination to strengthen adaptation action’ in the Paris Agreement, and the focus for the INDCs is very clearly on mitigation. Industrialised countries want to see developing countries also being forced to make commitments on mitigation and finance.

The South African negotiating team, led by Minister Edna Molewa, did its utmost to promote an equitable outcome that would enable humankind to limit the global warming that it is responsible for to 2°C. The delegation held meetings with all South Africans at the COP to exchange perspectives and to report on progress. In her speech to the COP, Minister Molewa acknowledged the urgent need to address the global climate crisis now, and noted that we need to build on and enhance pre-2020 implementation, as already agreed in Durban, Doha and Warsaw. She referred to the science-based evidence of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 5th Assessment Report, noting that political will and commitment are needed to collectively raise the pre-2020 levels of ambition, which are currently inadequate.

For two weeks they talked. And when no agreement was reached in that time, they extended the talks for another two days. Despite all this effort, developed country governments failed to explain how they will deliver the long-promised US\$100 billion per year in climate finance by 2020. Commitments of only just over US\$10 billion have been made. No commitments to cut emissions prior to 2020 were agreed to, and developed country governments insisted on completely removing any meaningful language about ‘loss and damage’ as a result of climate change. The experience in Lima confirms that the interests of smaller countries are not taken seriously by the world’s mega-powers, who are also its historical ‘mega-polluters’.

What does this imply for the adaptation community? Firstly, catastrophic climate change is occurring unhindered, thanks to climate negotiations outcomes that serve the agendas of the rich and powerful nations and corporations that profit from the current energy regime, as well as the agendas of people who pursue high-energy lifestyles without being willing to pay the externalised costs. Secondly, we must ensure that our people are able to adapt successfully to the changes that are coming, and that the necessary resources are available despite the unwillingness of some northern nations to take on a fair share of the costs. And lastly, civil society and governments who understand what lies ahead should join forces to send a clear message to the Paris negotiators: we need a strong and binding agreement that curbs further warming and secures support for developing countries to cope adequately with climate change impacts.

National Climate Change Response Dialogue

By Candice Arendse

Hosted by the Department of Environmental Affairs, the National Climate Change Dialogue of November 2014 provided an opportunity for policy-makers, practitioners and scientists to discuss the progress and further development of South Africa’s transition to a lower carbon and climate resilient economy. It facilitated engagement



on climate change related themes, and created a space for demonstration of best practice. Held just ahead of COP 20, the conference also assisted in preparing the South African delegation for the negotiations process, and strengthening its position.

The conference structure focused on topics that were grouped under five main themes, which were: Gaining a common understanding; Deepening the understanding; Resourcing the transition; Implementation and scaling up; and Outlook, Monitoring and Evaluation. Under these themes the various sectors, research institutes, and government departments presented their progress reports and proposed future plans. The conference kicked off with a number of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) authors presenting on different aspects of the Fifth Assessment Report, with a focus on Africa and Southern Africa.

Plenary meetings and breakaway sessions were facilitated by panels of experts throughout the four day conference. This structure contributed in facilitating open discussion between the participants and the panels to discuss and identify current status and major challenges. The conference covered important topics such as the National Climate Change Response Strategy, the Water-Food-Energy Nexus development, the Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Rural Human Settlements, and the Paris 2015 agreement. The progression of the implementation of the National Climate Change Response White Paper and the National Development Plan Vision for 2030 were also discussed.

In addition to the presentations, the conference facilitated an exhibition space where different organisations and departments could showcase their work and provide more information to interested participants. Overall the conference presented an opportunity for networking and knowledge sharing between various partners and stakeholders. As climate change results in devastating impacts on the ecological and socio economic wellbeing of South Africa, planning for a lower carbon and climate resilient economy and communicating development and progress is of high importance



Kim Meissenheimer hosts the Conservation South Africa exhibition in the exhibition area.



Break away session 9: Building the skills base

Durban Adaptation Charter for Local Governments

By Penny Price and Candice Arendse

The Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC) was the primary output of the Durban Local Government Convention, which ran concurrently with the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) of the UNFCCC, held in Durban in December 2011. The Convention was organised by a Local Government partnership, made up of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the South African Cities Network (SACN), eThekweni Municipality, South African Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability.

The DAC is currently hosted by eThekweni Municipality and has over 1,000 signatories, representing 42 countries, mostly comprising of developing nations. By signing the Charter, Local Government leaders agree to undertake a political commitment to the ten principles of the DAC:

- Mainstream adaptation as a key informant of all local government development planning.
- Understand climate risks through conducting impact and vulnerability assessments.
- Prepare and implement integrated, inclusive, and long-term local adaptation strategies designed to reduce vulnerability.
- Ensure that adaptation strategies are aligned with mitigation strategies.

- Promote the use of adaptation that recognises the needs of vulnerable communities and ensures sustainable local economic development.
- Prioritise the role of functioning ecosystems as core municipal green infrastructure.
- Seek the creation of direct access to funding opportunities.
- Develop an acceptable, robust, transparent, measurable, reportable, and verifiable register.
- Promote multi-level and integrated governance and advocate for partnerships with sub-national and national governments on local climate action.
- Promote partnerships at all levels and city-to-city cooperation and knowledge exchange.

The DAC is organised into a 'network of networks' consisting of a combination of Regional Hubs and Local Compacts which provide a platform for knowledge exchange and capacity building between local authorities. There are currently two African Regional Hubs, namely the Southern African Regional Hub (Durban), and the East African Regional Hub (Dar es Salaam in Tanzania). There are also Regional Hubs in Latin America (Bogotá in Colombia) and North America (Fort Lauderdale in Florida, USA).



Partners from Dar es Salaam visiting eThekweni Municipality, Durban

In addition to Regional Hubs, the Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact is a more local network, consisting of the municipalities surrounding Durban, which is modelled on the example set by the Southeast Florida Compact. The Durban Adaptation Charter works closely with ICLEI in representing the voice of local authorities on the global stage, whilst seeking to support and facilitate implementation at the local level. The DAC, in partnership with ICLEI, will be hosting the 2015 Local Climate Solutions for Africa (LoCS Africa) in October 2015.

As many of the DAC partners are members of the Adaptation Network, there is strong appreciation of the value of working together, as outlined in the 'network of networks' model. This opportunity for mutual support and exchange is facilitated through a member of the DAC Secretariat being co-opted onto the Adaptation Network Steering Committee.

Social learning for adaptation: The development of a handbook from a Rhodes University Climate Change Adaptation research project.

By Nick Hamer and Georgina Cundill

The Jongaphambili Sinethemba Project research project was undertaken between 2010 and 2014, and investigated vulnerability, coping and adaptation in the context of HIV/AIDS and climate change. The project included several research processes being undertaken by 5 masters students, a PhD student and a post doc from Rhodes University and the University of Alberta, Canada.

From the project's inception the need for strong community inclusion was agreed upon, which led to the development of a social learning process, where community representatives engaged with and participated in the research process. A key aspect of social learning is that a change in understanding takes place amongst participants through social interactions. Towards the end of the project it was realised that the enriching experience of the social learning process, for communities and researchers alike, could be shared with others by developing a handbook, which was subsequently completed early in 2014, in English and Xhosa.

The social learning handbook documents and reflects on the learning journey that took place during the course of the project. Although it documents the process of a specific social learning process, the handbook is designed to support practitioners involved in various sorts of social change projects.

The handbook starts by looking at what makes social learning different from other participatory processes. The chapters of the handbook outline the Jongaphambili Sinethema project's journey and describe the importance of engaging community members from the beginning of a process, taking time to deeply understand the context in which people live, before starting to look at how communities are already dealing with the challenges they face and finally how to work towards building on existing strengths that support adaptation. The handbook also gives insight into some of the techniques and processes used to keep the facilitation process engaging and interesting for both participants and facilitators.

The handbook includes an array of resource materials that may be useful in institution building at community level, such as a reflection tool for community facilitators, guidelines for writing a co-operative constitution and a checklist on how to build good financial management practices within non-profit organisations.



Leseyton Social Group, with Rhodes facilitators

Progress of the South African National Implementing Entity to the Adaptation Fund of the UNFCCC

By Mandy Barnett

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) was accredited as South Africa's National Implementing Entity (NIE) to the Adaptation Fund in September 2011. Since accreditation, and in support of its intention to operate transparently, the NIE has consulted broadly and established a high level Steering Committee and a set of policies and procedures to guide its work.

The NIE issued a call for concept proposals in November 2012. In response to this call, over 70 diverse proposals were received. With the support of the NIE Steering Committee and an associated task team, these were subjected to a process of careful review and evaluation, and two project concepts were selected for further development. These were submitted to the Adaptation Fund for consideration at the 21st Adaptation Fund Board meeting, which was held early in July 2013. Both projects were endorsed for further development.

A comprehensive project development process followed, culminating in both projects being submitted as fully developed proposals for consideration at the 24th Adaptation Board meeting, which was held on 9 and 10 October 2014. We are delighted to report that the Adaptation Fund Board approved both South African projects.

The first approved project "Building resilience in the greater uMngeni catchment, South Africa" (USD 7,495,055) aims to increase resilience of vulnerable communities through interventions such as early warning systems, climate smart agriculture and climate proofing settlements. This project will be led by the uMgungundlovu District Municipality.

The second approved project "Taking adaptation to the ground: a small grants facility for enabling local level responses to climate change in South Africa" (USD 2,442,682) will develop and implement a small grant finance mechanism in the context of climate finance, to deliver direct and tangible adaptation benefits with a view to scaling up and replicating this model. This project will be led by SouthSouthNorth and Conservation South Africa, and will be implemented in the Namakwa and Mopani Districts in Northern Cape and Limpopo Provinces respectively.

The next few months will see SANBI and the partners who will be leading the projects convening launch events and inception workshops, and preparing for project implementation, which is due to start in mid 2015. There continues to

be notable national and international interest in South Africa's NIE process, and especially in its small grants facility project, which is being recognised as the Adaptation Fund's first 'Enhanced Direct Access' project.

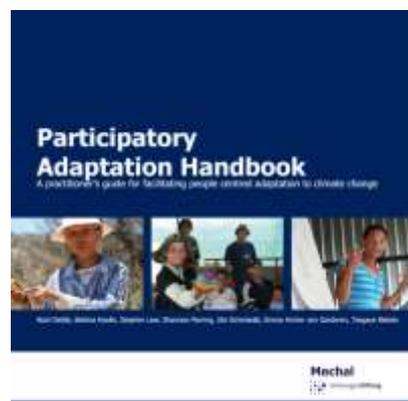
Participatory Adaptation Handbook Release

By Stephen Law

Adapting to changes in our climate and the uncertainty that this brings, is a reality we all have to face. But like most environmental impacts, it is communities who are already marginalised or vulnerable, who are most at risk. And for communities at risk, the best and most sustainable outcome is one where they have become the agents of their own change.

The new publication 'Participatory Adaptation Handbook: A practitioner's guide for facilitating people centred adaptation to climate change' is a valuable contribution to the existing literature on the subject, and is based on years of practical experience, collaboration and learning.

Although styled as a 'manual', this is not a step-by-step 'recipe' for facilitating adaptation processes for community groups. The book recognises that each situation presents its unique challenges, and demands a specific response from the facilitator. Nevertheless there are broad principles that apply – from initiating an adaptation process, to taking action, to reflecting and learning – and the book expands on all of these and more, providing suggestions and guidance to the would-be facilitator.



The Manual comprises 5 sections. Section 1 gives an overview of climate science and discusses some of the broad principles that apply to a community-driven development processes in the context of climate change adaptation. Section 2, the heart of the Manual, outlines key elements in any adaptation process, accepting that this is seldom a linear affair. Section 3 provides three case study examples, while Section 4 outlines just a few of the more useful participatory tools that facilitators can use. Section 5 wraps up with concluding paragraphs, a glossary of terms, and references for further reading.

Accompanying the Manual – or as a resource to be used on its own – is by a set of 34 facilitation cards entitled 'Experiential Learning for Adaptation'. Each card describes one participatory activity, which could form part of a comprehensive adaptation process. Each card outlines the objectives of the exercise, the materials needed, and guides the facilitator through a step-by-step description of how that activity should be run. The cards are colour-coded for easy to reference.

You can download both publications for free from the Indigo or EMG websites:

<http://www.indigo-dc.org/research.html>

<http://www.emg.org.za/programmes/climate-change>

You can order printed copies for R 100 plus postage from Indigo development & change or EMG. Please contact Estholene Moses (estholene@indigo-dc.org) or Raziyah Johnston (raziyah@emg.org.za)

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