

# THE ADAPTATION NETWORK

*We're up to the climate challenge!*



## Newsletter July 2019

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### **Message from the Secretariat**

*By Mark New*

As many of you know, the African Climate and Development Institute (ACDI) has taken over responsibility for the Adaptation Network (AN) Secretariat in 2019, as agreed at the 2018 AGM. We have inherited a well-run network from EMG and have been working to keep the ship on course.

The Secretariat currently consist of me, as Secretariat Manager, and Dania Petrik, who continues to provide support to the Network and the Secretariat on a part-time basis (one day a week) as Coordinator, until we are able to source more funding to expand the AN Secretariat capacity.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been drawn up between the Secretariat and the Steering Committee (SC) in order to document what ACDI originally offered in terms of Secretariat support, and what is feasible at the moment given the available resources. The ACDI is currently using its own resources to support Secretariat activities – including the Coordinator role – as an in-kind contribution to the Network.

The main support the Secretariat provides to the SC and the AN are as follows:

- Supporting planning, reporting and logistics of SC meetings and the AGM;
- Maintaining the AN web platform;
- Maintaining membership databases;
- Managing the paperwork for new membership;
- Maintaining AN social media platforms and mailing list;
- Disseminating information and queries to the SC and other AN members;
- Publishing newsletters; and
- Supporting the Steering Committee with fundraising for the Network.

On behalf of the Network, the Secretariat would like to thank the SC members for giving their time and capacity to continue to drive the Adaptation Network forward in all its endeavours and according to its mandate of inclusivity.

The members of the SC are:

- Kgaugelo Chiloane (KEC Consulting/Adaptation Institute of SA);
- Romy Chevallier (SAIIA);
- Mpfunzeni Tshindane (SANBI);
- Sentle Thabe (KGB);
- Sarshen Scorgie (CSA);
- Elin Lorimer (Indigo);
- Siya Myeza (EMG);
- Katinka Lund Waagsaether (CSAG); and
- Ian Little (EWT).

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## Adaptation Network Update

*By Dania Petrik*

As the current Coordinator of the Network, I continue to support the Network through general administration and housekeeping of the Network, as well as management of the Google Group

(which is currently the main form of communication between Network members) on a part-time basis. Activities that continue under the commitment of the Secretariat, with support from myself include:

- Support logistics of SC meetings and the annual AGM;
- Maintenance of the AN web platform.
- Management of the membership databases;
- Maintenance of the AN social media platforms and the mailing list;
- Supporting the SC in executing their duties, particularly related to the Network Portfolios;
- Feeding relevant queries, news, calls, events and updates to the SC and the AN members;
- Development of periodic newsletters as a mechanism for feeding key news, resources, opportunities, and AN activities back to members, and requesting inputs; and
- Support the efforts of the Steering Committee (SC) to apply for funding applications for the AN.

In addition to the above, and while constrained by limited resources, the Coordinator and Secretariat continues to support the SC and AN members' representation and participation at relevant events and committees, as well as national bodies such as the Adaptation Fund and Green Climate Fund Committee (s) – i.e. the Project Advisory Group (PAG) and the National Adaptation Funds Advisory Body (NAFAB), hosted by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) as the Accredited Entity of the Adaptation Fund and Green Climate Fund.

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## Request for Members to update their details (deadline: 31 August 2019)

The SA Adaptation Network (AN) is in the process of updating and expanding its membership database to increase representivity, activity and involvement of all interested South Africans (and members of the SADC region) to become members of the Adaptation Network (AN). The SA Adaptation Network is founded on inclusivity and we therefore encourage and welcome all individuals and organisations involved in the climate change adaptation and related fields to become members of the Network.

On behalf of the Steering Committee and the AN Secretariat, we would like to formally request you to update your membership to either ORGANISATIONAL or INDIVIDUAL MEMBER by completing the Commitment Form (link below):

- **ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** This category may include civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations, faith group organisations, business/private sector corporations, academia, research institutions, financial institutions (banks), etc. Organisations formalise their membership as an institution by signing [this Commitment Form](#) as a pledge to upholding the agreed values and principles of the Adaptation Network as an organisation.

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP:** This category may include community members, professionals/practitioners, etc. Individuals formalise their membership in their own capacity by signing [this Commitment Form](#) as a pledge to upholding the agreed values and principles of the Adaptation Network, and submitting it to the Secretariat of the Adaptation Network.

**By submitting this Commitment Form, you (in a personal capacity or as a representative of your organisation) commit to uphold the values, principles and objectives of the Adaptation Network, as follows:**

**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 and “fun is good!”

**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 and support.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- To promote knowledge sharing and partnerships amongst practitioners and institutions engaged in developing and applying the theory and practice of adaptation to climatic variability and change
- Be an open forum for sharing resources, knowledge and ideas and promoting the integration of different kinds of knowledge
- Provide a space to grow partnerships and support one another
- Be a recognised point of contact for consultation, lobbying and advocacy
- Enable members to advocate for improved delivery in climate change adaptation at all levels (focusing on finding common ground, not joint positions on all issues)
- Provide co-ordination to encourage alignment and connectivity
- Provide a platform for promoting collective positions
- Assist members to promote awareness through education, shared information and shared platforms
- Highlight what is already happening in terms of education and communication
- Be a central point for providing information
- Promote better planning and evaluation across the Network
- Promote activities that build the capacity of communities to innovate and adapt
- Paint a positive picture, and communicate a message of hope to communities that “we’re up for the climate challenge”
- Support national processes that support adaptation and the funding of adaptation activities

**Adaptation Network Members have one month to submit their updated commitment to the the Network (deadline: 31 August 2019).**

A reminder that Membership to the Network is open to all who subscribe to the principles, values and objectives of the [Adaptation Network](#) and work in the field of climate adaptation.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### ***Why is the Adaptation Network (AN) asking me to update my details?***

The vast majority of our Members are currently categorised as Associate Members (whereby an "Associate Member is an individual or organisation who subscribed to the Adaptation Network electronic emailing list").

As per the AN Constitution 2018 amendment and unanimous acceptance of this amendment at the 2018 AN Annual General Meeting, Associate Membership is no longer a membership category of the AN.

In addition, many of our Members' details are out-of-date and require an update.

Finally, due to current capacity constraints, the AN Secretariat and SC members would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to all Members to partake more actively in the activities of the Network; using this to grow collaboration and communication between Members.

### ***Why should I become a Member of the Adaptation Network?***

Researchers and practitioners who work with communities that are consciously adapting to climatic change have unique opportunities to gain insights into the challenges experienced by people on the grass-roots level, as well as the emerging strategies that people have evolved and put into practice. All too often these insights are not widely shared, and we lack opportunities to explore their complexity in a free yet rigorous way. The South African Adaptation Network provides a platform where those involved in adaptation work can share experiences and practical approaches, and explore the relative value of theoretical frameworks and methodologies that can add value to national and international policy processes. The Network connects practitioners in a cross-cutting way, allowing for knowledge co-creation, dissemination, and lesson sharing; crucial to understanding the successes, challenges and scaling of climate-adaptive practices that are implemented.

### ***How do I decide whether to become an Individual or Organisational Member?***

If you are able to represent the Network on behalf of your organisation, rather than as an individual, OR if you have your principles consent to act as a representative of your organisation on the Adaptation Network, then it is recommended to become an **Organisational Member**.

**The AN SC and Secretariat would like to encourage as many of our members as possible to become Organisational members.**

If you are acting in your own capacity or interests, as a community member, practitioner, or private individual, it is recommended to become an **Individual Member** of the Adaptation Network.

***What if I belong to a governmental department / large institution, where it is not legally feasible for me to sign a pledge on behalf of my institution?***

In this case, it would be simplest to become an Individual member in your own personal capacity. However, should you believe the interests of your own institution are well aligned with those of the Adaptation Network, you may instead request the Adaptation Network to commit to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), subject to approval from the Adaptation Network Steering Committee. The Pledge or the MoU must be signed by a duly authorised officer of your organisation.

For any other queries, please email Dania Petrik: [adaptationnetworksa@gmail.com](mailto:adaptationnetworksa@gmail.com)

## Invitation for Adaptation Network Members to join Portfolio Working Groups

The Steering Committee is currently seeking members of the Adaptation Network (AN) to join the five Portfolio Working Groups of the AN, in order to continue to drive the priorities of the Network forward.

Detail on each Portfolio is as follows:

**a) Capacity development and learning (training):**

Co-chairs: Kgaugelo Chiloane (AN SC Chair), Sentle Thabane (AN Treasurer)  
Support: Siya Myeza, Elin Lorimer  
Secretariat: Mark New

**b) Communication (website, newsletter, platform management, membership, engagement):**

Co-chair: Mpfunzeni Tshindane  
Support: Siya Myeza  
Secretariat: Dania Petrik

**c) Policy (identifying areas of policy engagement, co-ordination of policy input):**

Co-chairs: Romy Chevallier, Katinka Lund Waagsaether  
Support: Elin Lorimer, Siya Myeza  
Secretariat: Mark New

**d) Climate Finance and Fundraising (financial oversight, budget reallocations, fundraising opportunities):**

Co-chair(s): Sentle Thabane (AN Treasurer), Elin Lorimer  
Secretariat: Mark New

**e) Internal strengthening of the network (recruitment of new members, governance, information sharing with and between members):**

Co-chair(s): Elin Lorimer, Ian Little  
Support: Sentle Thabane, Waarith Abrahams  
Secretariat: Dania Petrik, Mark New

Steering Committee members support a particular Portfolio as co-chairs. The intention of allocating portfolios to Steering Committee members is to enable them to “steer” the strategy and activities of the Network in a more hands-on way that responds to the nodes of knowledge, passion and enthusiasm of individual members. At each Steering Committee meeting each Portfolio will have the opportunity to share its inspirations, activities, challenges or opportunities.

Members who join the working groups will work closely with the co-chairs of each Portfolio in enabling the specific objectives and activities of each Portfolio to be achieved, and will have the opportunity to share learnings, collaborate and co-produce knowledge for the broader Network.

The Portfolio Working Group Charters will shortly be sent out to the AN membership, including the scope and objectives of each Portfolio. On behalf of the AN SC members and the Secretariat, we invite interested members to please contact the Adaptation Network Coordinator, Dania Petrik, for more information: [adaptationnetworksa@gmail.com](mailto:adaptationnetworksa@gmail.com)

## **The South African National Biodiversity Institute begins its Green Climate Fund (GCF) Concept Note development process!**

*By Mpfunzeni Tshindane*

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) issued a call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) in December 2017 for institutions who wish to make use of SANBI’s services as an Accredited Entity of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). At the time of closure, a total of 126 EOIs were received by SANBI in response to this call.

All submissions that were received were subjected to an extensive review against SANBI’s GCF Funding Framework. The outcome of this extensive review process was the shortlisting of six project themes which SANBI will be developing into project proposals for submission to the GCF.

Two of these project themes are being developed into first stage GCF Concept Notes for submission to the GCF before the end of 2020. They are as follows:

1. **Scaling up ecosystem-based approaches to managing climate-intensified disaster risks in vulnerable regions of South Africa**, focusing on droughts, floods and fire that builds on a submission by DEA NRM.
2. **Climate resilient agro-ecological farming systems in rural landscapes** in KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and Limpopo, that builds on a submission by the University of

KwaZulu Natal, in partnership with DAFF

The remaining four project themes have been identified as SANBI's GCF project priorities and will need substantial further development through future technical processes and stakeholder engagements.

The theses are as follows:

- (i) A Strategic Water Source Areas project in Mpumalanga that focuses on vulnerable communities affected by South Africa's energy transition.
- (ii) An aquifer recharge project that focuses on Ecological Infrastructure and the enhancement of natural recharge mechanisms.
- (iii) A coastal Ecosystem-based Adaptation / Ecological Infrastructure that incorporates natural and built infrastructure.
- (iv) A project that seeks to mainstream Climate Change into South Africa's Early Warning System for pests and diseases.

SANBI wishes to thank all its project partners for the support and patience throughout this review process.

If you or your organisation would like more information about how you could become involved in the upcoming projects development processes, or to be added to our stakeholder databases for the upcoming technical and/ or stakeholder engagement processes for any of the project themes, please email: [climatefunds@sanbi.org.za](mailto:climatefunds@sanbi.org.za)

Please email Mpfunzeni Tshindane to join SANBI's NIE mailing list to receive future updates from the Adaptation Fund and GCF: [M.Tshindane@sanbi.org.za](mailto:M.Tshindane@sanbi.org.za)

## A reminder to join the Adaptation Network on social media!

**A reminder to all Adaptation Network members that the main form of communication for Network members is currently the [Google group](#), as well as the [Facebook page](#).**

For inclusion on social media, or should you wish to share stories of change to the Network, please submit your photos and copy (include detailed, relevant information) to Dania Petrik at [adaptationnetworksa@gmail.com](mailto:adaptationnetworksa@gmail.com).

Find us, follow us as per links below, tag us in your projects and keep us abreast of developments in your projects. Let us help you spread the good word on the work that is being done across South Africa by climate change experts, practitioners, policy makers, civil society, communities and businesses involved in adaptation!

## Credits

**This newsletter is produced by the Adaptation Network Secretariat which is hosted by the**

**African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI), at the University of Cape Town.**

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**Articles do not necessarily represent the views of all Adaptation Network members.**

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