
THE ADAPTATION NETWORK

We're up to the climate challenge!



Newsletter March 2020

Contents

Welcome note from the Secretariat <i>By Mark New</i>	1
2019 AGM and the 2020 Steering Committee <i>By Waarith Abrahams</i>	2
South Africa / Flanders Climate Adaptation Research and Training Partnership (SAF-ADAPT) <i>By Kate Cronin</i>	5
Invitation for Adaptation Network Members to join Portfolio Working Groups and Reminder to Register Online	6
Insights on Using Small Granting to support Local Adaptation Action <i>By Elin Lorimer, Shannon Parring, Albert Koopman</i>	7
Green Climate Fund Approves SANBI's Ecosystems and Disaster Risk Reduction Concept Note <i>By Mpfunzeni Tshindane</i>	9

Welcome note from the Secretariat

By Mark New

The chairperson, the secretariat, and steering committee members would like to welcome all members to a new year of sustained efforts to share knowledge, build partnerships and foster coordination on national adaptation work.

Amidst the COVID-19 global pandemic, we wish all our members strength and safety as we navigate this global crisis. During this time, the SC will continue its work, and is not slowing down in its commitment to the objectives of the Network. The current crisis highlights how important our collective efforts are and will be in the future. Many of our members work with some of the most vulnerable communities who will be hardest hit and will need to draw on the strength of this Network. Our best wishes to you all for this important work.

This year, the AN Secretariat will continue to be hosted by the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI). The Secretariat currently consists of me, as Secretariat Manager, as well as Kate Cronin and Waarith Abrahams who will provide support to the Network and the Secretariat on a part-time basis as Coordinators. Since 2019, the ACDI and SC members have been using its own resources to support the AN but a new project, the South Africa/Flanders Climate Adaptation Research and Training Partnership (see article below), that has recently been awarded to the ACDI has allowed us to expand the funding available for Secretariat and AN activities.

The main support the Secretariat provides to the AN and to the AN's Steering Committee are as follows:

- Supporting planning, reporting and logistics of Steering Committee 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 Steering Committee and other AN members;
- Publishing newsletters; and
- Supporting the Steering Committee with fundraising for the Network.

2019 AGM and the 2020 Steering Committee *By Waarith Abrahams*

The SA Adaptation Network hosted its 2019 Annual General Meeting in Pretoria on Tuesday 12th November. While the minutes of the meeting would be made available on the Adaptation

Website, this summary serves to communicate the outcomes of a few key agenda items. These include the appointment of the AN Secretariat for 2020, election of AN Steering Committee for 2020 and the AN constitutional amendment adopted at the AGM.

Appointment of the AN Secretariat for 2020

As a constitutional requirement, the AN Secretariat needs to be elected at the AGM each year. At the 2018 AGM, the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI) nominated themselves and were unanimously elected to host the Secretariat for 2019, taking over from the Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG). ACDI proposed to fulfill this responsibility for the following two years until a new Secretariat is appointed. As a result, with no other organisations stepping forward to host the Network for the year 2020, ACDI was, once again, appointed as the AN Secretariat. Additionally, Gender CC, who considered to be the AN Secretariat, intends on working together with ACDI to see how they can support the Secretariat to have a Gauteng footprint.

AN Steering Committee for 2020

The AN Steering Committee members for 2020, as elected at the AGM, are represented in the table below. SANBI, will be represented by Mpfunzeni Tshindane as an observer organisation serving on the Steering Committee. Article 2 of the AN Constitution describes: *“Government Departments or large institutions, for whom it is not legally feasible to sign a pledge, may instead request or be invited to be observers to the Adaptation Network. Observer status will normally require a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), subject to approval from the Adaptation Network Steering Committee, signed by a duly authorised officer of the organisation.”* The SC will follow a process of identifying and approaching additional organisations to serve as observer organisations on the SC.

2020 SC Members		
Name	Organisation	Org. Type
Sentle Tabane (Chairperson)	Kusala Green and Biodiversity (KGB)	NPO
Katinka Lund Waagsaether (Deputy Chairperson)	CSAG	Educational Institution
Felix Kwabena Donkor (Second Deputy Chairperson)	UNISA	Educational Institution
Dorah Marema (Treasurer)	GenderCC	NPO
Shannon Parring	Indigo Development and Change	NPO

Sthembile Radebe	Ananda	NGO
Sarshen Scorgie	Conservation South Africa	NPO
Mpfunzeni Tshindane	SANBI	Public Entity
Nonhuthuko Xaba	Women's Leadership & Training Programme	NPO

Sentle Tabane, CEO and founder of the Kusala Green and Biodiversity Organisation, shares her thoughts of the Adaptation Network as this year's Chairperson:

Her vision is that, "the AN make a significant footprint and contribution in all government spheres and communities, so that the narrative of Climate Change Adaptation (and climate change in general) is well comprehended and appreciated, especially the economic opportunities for women and youth."

"A genuine bottom-up approach is needed in policy making and implementation. African people have survived many droughts, floods and fires in the past centuries. We need to hear those Indigenous experiences/knowledge stories, to incorporate them into Climate Change Action studies and practices."

Constitutional Amendments

The Annual General Meeting is also a setting where Network members are involved in a process of adopting proposed amendments to the AN Constitution. In accordance with the constitutional requirements, the proposed constitutional amendments were circulated to all the AN members for input, at least two weeks prior to the AGM. The proposed amendments were presented at the AGM and all, except one, were accepted, as follows:

- Additional text to **Article 3: Meetings of the Adaptation Network**, will enable the Steering Committee to have a Deputy Chairperson, in the event the Chairperson is not available.
- Additional text to **Article 3.1: General Meetings**, is meant to ensure that Reporting on income and expenditure at the AGM needs to come from both the Treasurer and Secretariat.
- Additional text to **Article 3.2: Adaptation Network Steering Committee (SC)**, will enable the Steering Committee to co-opt additional members to serve on the SC if the number of SC members drop to a level that compromises the ability of the Steering Committee to perform its tasks.
- Additional text to **Article 4.3: Representation**, will ensure that representation on committees follows a selection and approval process led by the SC and that Network representatives report back to the SC and the Network after attending these events.

- Additional text to **Article 5: Finance and Resources**, will ensure that finances made available to the AN for its activities will continue to be managed by the Secretariat but, with oversight by the Chairperson and Treasurer. And all AN assets should be captured in an asset register. The old AN host organisation should notify and remind the new host organisation to collect assets, failure to do so may result in them claiming the assets. Additionally, placeholder text was put in place to ensure that financial governance guidelines be developed and implemented. Lastly, the Climate Finance and Fundraising Portfolio will continue to assess the practicability of opening a dedicated banking account for the AN.

South Africa / Flanders Climate Adaptation Research and Training Partnership (SAF-ADAPT)

By Kate Cronin

The Adaptation Network has recently been included in a new partnership, the South Africa/Flanders Climate Adaptation Research and Training Partnership (SAF-ADAPT), that was awarded to the African Climate and Development Initiative. The partnership, which also includes the University of Venda, the University of Fort Hare, and KU Leuven in Belgium, will aim to strengthen the knowledge base for innovation in climate change adaptation in South Africa and enhance the country's climate change response by connecting actors across different sectors of society, including government, civil society, local communities, academia and the private sector.

The four and a half year collaborative project will include: 1) research projects undertaken by Masters students, PhD students and postdoctoral researchers, with the aim of filling critical adaptation research gaps and enhancing the capacity of South African students and universities; 2) a research training programme and inter-university student and staff exchanges; 3) knowledge synthesis and communication through support to the Adaptation Network as an inclusive platform for information flow; 4) government and civil society capacity building under the auspices of the Adaptation Network; and 5) networking activities to grow the knowledge and skills base for adaptation in South Africa.

SAF-ADAPT will support the ACDI to continue to host the Adaptation Network Secretariat. The AN will be central to integrating the different components of the project – research, knowledge dissemination and capacity building – and will be the primary vehicle through which climate change adaptation knowledge generated in the project will be shared and discussed within the adaptation community of practice in South Africa.

Invitation for Adaptation Network Members to join Portfolio Working Groups and Reminder to Register Online

The Steering Committee is calling on members of the Adaptation Network to join any of the five Portfolio Working Groups of the AN, in order to continue to drive the priorities of the Network forward.

An overview on each Portfolio is as follows:

a) Capacity Development and Learning Portfolio:

Seeks to broaden and build capacity and knowledge on climate change impacts and adaptation across SA.

b) Communication Portfolio:

Work in partnership with the Internal Strengthening of the Network Portfolio and is responsible for website strategy, newsletter oversight and strategic direction, adaptation and beyond guidance as well as the communication of Network aims and objectives.

c) Internal Strengthening of the Network Portfolio:

Ensures a broad and representative Network that is well governed and has effective internal communication strategies that enable active participation by members.

d) Policy Portfolio:

Ensures constructive engagement with policy by harnessing and collating input and perspectives from the Network.

e) Climate Finance and Fundraising Portfolio:

Provides guidance and management of AN funds, dissemination of climate finance opportunities and developments as well as finding additional funding support for the network.

Members who join the working groups will work closely with the SC members 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.

On behalf of the AN SC members and the Secretariat, we invite interested members to please contact the Adaptation Network Coordinator for more information: adaptationnetworksa@gmail.com

A reminder for all members who are yet to do so, please follow the relevant link, complete and submit our online commitment form to re-register as either of the following:

- **Organisational member:** Organisational membership offers voting rights at the AGM of the Adaptation Network at a ratio of 5:1 in comparison to Individual Membership. Organisations formalise their membership as an institution by signing an Organisational Commitment Form as a pledge to uphold the agreed values, principles and objectives of the Adaptation Network, and submitting it to the Secretariat of the Adaptation Network.
- **Individual member:** Individuals formalise their membership in their own capacity by signing the Individual Commitment Form as a pledge to uphold the agreed values, principles and objectives of the Adaptation Network, and submitting it to the Secretariat of the Adaptation Network.

New members may also use the links above to sign-up. Membership to the Adaptation Network is open to all who subscribe to the principles, values and objectives of the [Adaptation Network](#) and work in the field of climate change adaptation.

Insights on Using Small Granting to support Local Adaptation Action

By Elin Lorimer, Shannon Parring, Albert Koopman

Indigo Development and Change, together with the Adaptation Network, hosted a workshop in Pretoria at the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) to share experiences on using small granting mechanisms to support local-scale climate change adaptation on 11 November 2019. Workshop participants brought a range of perspectives from civil society organisations that had received small grants, to support organisations, academics, government institutions and grant makers.



The workshop focused discussions on smaller grant windows that typically target local organisations such as NGOs and community-based organisations, for shorter timeframes of around one to three years.

Workshop participants highlighted that small grants are key for implementing community-owned projects that provide tangible outcomes at a local level. These types of granting mechanisms bring better exposure and can broaden the reach of adaptation programmes within a region by utilising a range of local implementing partners. Programmes associated with small grants generally target those with limited capacity to access large funding and can help teach these organisations how to access and manage funding better in future.

A few key challenges associated with small granting were highlighted at the workshop. These include the limited institutional capacity of small, local civil society organisations; the burden of reporting and compliance requirements; slow decision-making processes; inflexibility both in terms of project timeframes for implementation and/or changes in the project during implementation as well as poor communication between government and people on the ground. Furthermore, justifying small grants projects and showing how “transformational” they are may be challenging as they are often built in existing projects and take place at a small local scale.

Considering these challenges, participants suggested ways to improve small granting mechanisms. It was agreed that capacity building is particularly important, from assessing local capacity prior to issuing funding, including training needs provision up-front, during and after project completion. Forums and exchanges are also valuable tools for grant recipients to learn

from each other. Speeding up decision-making processes to facilitating advance payments to grant recipients; providing staged and growing funding is also useful for allowing local organisations to grow their work as they prove their successes; improved decision-making mechanisms to achieve faster turn-around times for project approval and for processing project changes during implementation; simplified reporting mechanisms; sharing the load of reporting between the different levels of project governance and building in additional support by using students to track project progress. Improved communication can be achieved by having a suitable local support organisation to communicate on behalf of the grant recipient.

While this article briefly highlights some key aspects of this workshop. Follow the link [here](#) for a detailed version which unpacks these issues in more detail.

Green Climate Fund Approves SANBI's Ecosystems and Disaster Risk Reduction Concept Note *By Mpfunzeni Tshindane*

Following an extensive two-year project identification and development process, the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) recently submitted its first Concept Note proposal to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). A Concept Note proposal is the first step in the GCF's project development process.

The Concept Note proposal is for a USD 50 million project, that requests USD 20 million of GCF support, entitled "*Scaling up ecosystem-based approaches to managing climate-intensified disaster risks in vulnerable regions of South Africa*". This project will be led by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries in partnership with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

SANBI is proud to announce that the GCF Secretariat has endorsed the Concept Note which has now entered a process of development into a full Funding Proposal. The full proposal development process is anticipated to take approximately 12 to 18 months.

Substantial progress has also been made on the development of a second Concept Note which focuses on agroecosystems. Furthermore, discussions about a project that will focus on a just transition to a low carbon economy and climate resilient society have been initiated with the Mpumalanga Department: Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs together with the National Planning Commission (NPC).

SANBI intends to commence with project development processes for the envisaged GCF Small Grants Facility project this year.



Please email Mpfunzeni Tshindane (M.Tshindane@sanbi.org.za) to join SANBI's NIE mailing list to receive future updates from SANBI's Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund programme of work.

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 Kate Cronin at 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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