

# THE ADAPTATION NETWORK

We're up to the climate challenge!



## Newsletter July 2019

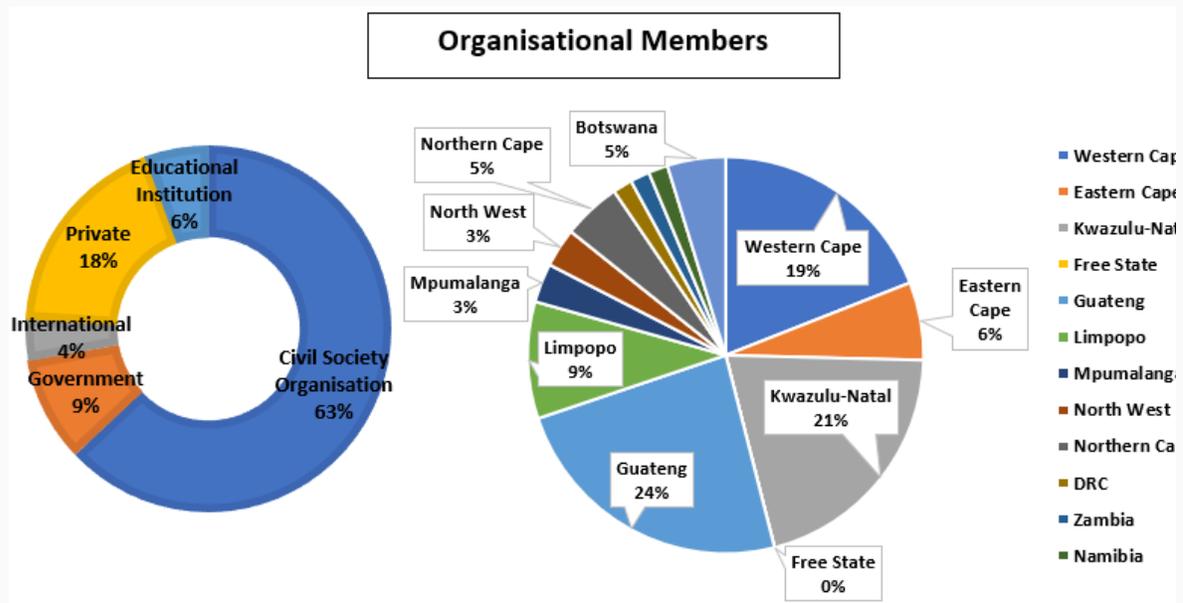
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# AN membership analysis

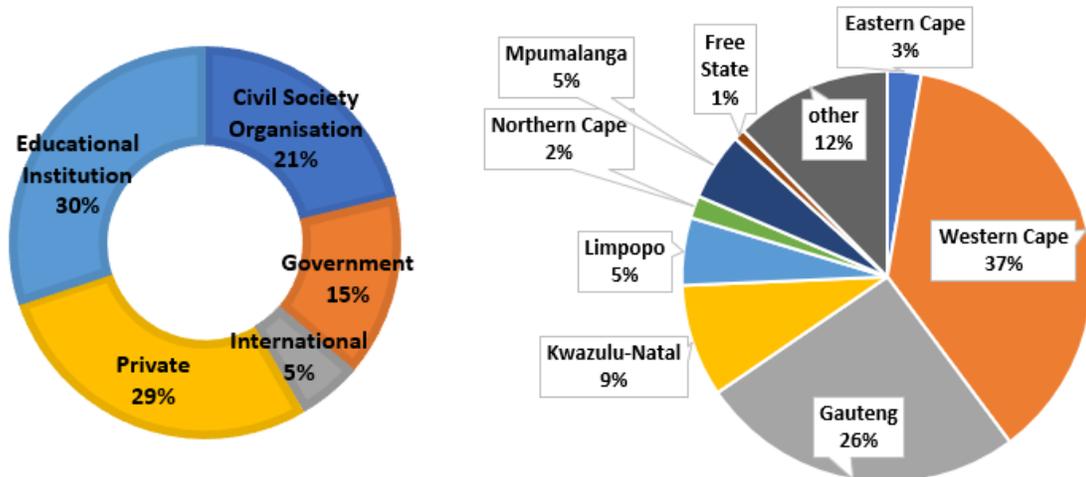
By Waarith Abrahams

The AN has recently migrated to an online membership database. Members were invited to register as either [organisational members](#) or [individual members](#). This article serves to provide an overview of the current AN membership.



There are 54 Organisational Members, of which Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) make up 63%. Eighty-eight (88)% of the CSOs are registered NPOs, and the rest are Cooperatives, Faith Based Organisations, Trade Unions and Community Based Organisations. Private Organisations constitute 18% of the membership, including Private Organisations (80%), Corporations (10%) and Social Enterprises (10%). Government Organisation membership (9%) consists of local government from the city of Tshwane and Mahikeng, as well as SOEs and science councils commissioned by the government. The Educational Institutions, which constitute 6% of the membership, include universities and research groups. International organisations constitute 4% of this membership type. The chart on the right illustrates that the AN has a stronger presence in the Gauteng (24%), Kwazulu-Natal (21%) and Western Cape Provinces (19%).

## Individual Members



There are 113 Individual members. These were grouped the same as described for organisational members. Here, most of the members are from Educational Institutions (30%) as either students, researchers or lecturers. Private organisations constitute 29% of individual membership, of which 50% are self employed while the remaining identified as corporations (16%) and private (34%). The 21% CSO membership is made up of individuals from NPOs. The remaining membership is made up of individuals from government (15%) and from international organisations (5%). Here, a similar pattern exists for the geographical distribution of members, with stronger presences of individual members in the Western Cape (37%), Gauteng (26%) and Kwazulu-Natal (9%).

As we work towards building a stronger, more sustainable Network, we urge members to support and share our activities through their networks. Together, we can further our reach and enhance adaptation action.

## Maps and Apps: Mapping a route for adaptation

*By Alexa Brown*

In any environmental field it is important to know where we are focusing our activities because the physical world affects and is affected by human activities. A greater sense of the physical location of your work can enhance a deeper understanding of the environmental interactions. When we speak of climate change, it is especially important to accurately calculate how our physical world may change, like where flood lines may be in 50 years' time. This insight makes it possible to plan for and implement the necessary actions that will reduce or avoid associated

vulnerabilities and risks, like the risk of having your house built below the 50 year flood line.

Mapping is a wonderful and powerful tool to visually orientate and measure changes on the ground. This is not only critical for investigating, planning, and tracking change, but it is also just really interesting! A picture says a thousand words, but a map can tell an entire story.

For this reason, we would like to connect Adaptation Network members to existing mapping tools that are useful for designing projects, informing actions, communicating with stakeholders and useful for reporting or planning frameworks. There is a plethora of tools out there, but for a start lets introduce a set that are used at national level for policy making.

- All government level boundaries and information:
  - National: <https://nationalgovernment.co.za/>
  - Provincial: <https://provincialgovernment.co.za/>
  - Municipal: <https://municipalities.co.za/>
- Search, explore and use spatial biodiversity information using the SANBI hosted [BGIS](#) website.
- Decision Support Tool for ocean and coastal flood risk and coastal management through [OCIMS](#) or the [DEFF Coastal Viewer](#).
- Narrated and interactive urban adaptation online tool, the [Green Book](#), developed by the CSIR to mainstream climate change adaptation municipal planning.

Which other tools exist that you know of? Are you developing a useful tool that needs user feedback, public exposure or that can support the greater community of practice to address climate change? Let us know [adaptationnetworksa@gmail.com](mailto:adaptationnetworksa@gmail.com).

## Policy Updates from the national level

*By Alexa Brown*

The **National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS)** has been approved by cabinet and will be publicly launched soon. The NCCAS supports South Africa's Adaptation NDC and obligations to the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC, and is defined in Chapter 4 of the [Climate Change Bill](#). The NCCAS defines South Africa's adaptation objectives and interventions for an adaptation response in South Africa. Find more information on the NCCAS in the article below, and on the website: <https://www.gov.za/speeches/statement-virtual-cabinet-meeting-wednesday-5-aug-2020-6-aug-2020-0000>

The **2017 GHG National Inventory Report** has been published for public commenting: [https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/gazetted\\_notices/nemaqa\\_draft7greenhousegasinventoryreport\\_g43706gon989.pdf](https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/gazetted_notices/nemaqa_draft7greenhousegasinventoryreport_g43706gon989.pdf)

Members of the public are invited to submit to the Minister, within 30 days from the date of the publication of this Notice in the Gazette, written inputs or comments to the following addresses:

- By post to: The Acting Director-General: Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries. Attention: Mr Jongikhaya Witi, Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Private Bag X447 Pretoria 0001
- By email to: [GHGInventory@environment.gov.za](mailto:GHGInventory@environment.gov.za)
- Hand delivered at: Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083.

Any inquiries in connection with the notice can be directed to Mr. Jongikhaya Witi at Tel: 012 399 9151.

Cabinet has also approved **South Africa's Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS)**, which will be submitted to UNFCCC Secretariat and the **Presidential Climate Change Coordination Commission**. The PCCCC will be chaired by a Presidential nominee and will align South Africa's commitment in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to contribute to the ambitious global goals on emissions reduction, adaptation and finance outlined in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. A preliminary budget of R50 million has been recommended for the five-year term of the Commission. See the media release here:

[https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/climatechange\\_emissionsreduction\\_wastemanagementplans](https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/climatechange_emissionsreduction_wastemanagementplans).

The publication of the National Ecosystems Based Adaptation Action Plan and Priority Mapping Report is coming SOON!

## **Moving towards the implementation of the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS)**

*By Alinah Mthembu and Sibonelo Mbanjwa*

South Africa as a country, and as part of the global community, has acknowledged the need to prepare for climate change and to galvanise South African society to respond accordingly to achieve climate resilience. The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS) was developed with the aim of providing a common reference point for climate change adaptation and climate resilience in the country. The NCCAS is directed at South African society as a whole, including the key relevant sectoral institutions, provincial governments and municipalities, and non-governmental entities including the private sector, the research community and civil society.

The vision of the NCCAS is to transition to a climate resilient South Africa, which will follow a sustainable development path, guided by anticipation, adaptation and recovery from a changing climate and environment to achieve our development aspirations. This vision is anchored on the following strategic interventions:

- Reduce human, economic, environmental, physical and ecological infrastructure vulnerability and build adaptive capacity.

- Develop a coordinated Climate Services system that provides climate products and services for key climate vulnerable sectors and geographic areas.
- Develop a vulnerability and resilience methodology framework that integrates biophysical and socio-economic aspects of vulnerability and resilience.
- Facilitate mainstreaming of adaptation responses into sectoral planning and implementation.
- Promote research application, technology development, transfer and adoption to support planning and implementation.
- Build the necessary capacity and awareness for climate change responses.
- Establish effective governance and legislative processes to integrate climate change in development planning.
- Enable substantial flows of climate change adaptation finance from various sources.
- Develop and implement an M&E system that tracks implementation of adaptation actions and their effectiveness

The cabinet of South Africa approved the NCCAS in August 2020. This paves the way towards the implementation of various strategic interventions to respond to the risks associated with climate change. The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) is now tasked with guiding the implementation of the NCCAS across all spheres of government, private sector and civil society. The successful implementation of the NCCAS depends on the involvement of all key stakeholders, and on the creation of active partnerships. The implementation framework that is associated with the NCCAS identifies key actions that need to be implemented in order for South Africa to become a climate resilient society. Therefore, the DEFF invites all South Africans individually and through their organised structures to be involved in the implementation of the NCCAS through various collaborations and partnerships. The DEFF is planning a series of bilateral meetings and workshops to discuss the implementation of the NCCAS. Further information on these meetings and workshops will be shared with the Adaptation Network membership.

Find the NCCAS document here:

[https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/docs/nationalclimatechange\\_adaptationstrategy\\_ue10november2019.pdf](https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/docs/nationalclimatechange_adaptationstrategy_ue10november2019.pdf)

See the media release here:

[https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/nationalclimatechange\\_adaptationstrategy\\_ue10november19](https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/nationalclimatechange_adaptationstrategy_ue10november19)

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## **The Future Earth Conference on COVID-19 and Sustainability Transitions as a catalyst for action**

*By Felix Kwabena Donkor*

### ***Conference summary***

The COVID-19 pandemic presents uniquely complex challenges to our contemporary society since the Spanish flu a century [ago](#). The principal cost of the pandemic as observed in the loss

of human lives is particularly worrying, however the secondary impacts on the global economy, livelihoods and on sustainable development projections are equally alarming. The prevailing crisis, whilst exposing some of the faultlines in our global system, has also underscored the interdependence of our [world](#). It has highlighted the urgency of global action to satisfy people's basic needs, to protect the earth and to develop a fairer and more secure world.

Furthermore, Covid-19 can prove detrimental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as significant successes in dealing with poverty, hunger, health, and inequality, inter alia could be reversed. Moreover, there is the danger of the SDGs and related Leave No One Behind agenda becoming a casualty of policy responses to the pandemic.

In May this year, Future Earth organised a virtual conference on COVID-19 and Sustainability Transitions. The conference sought to explore the societal implications of the changes and to consider pathways toward a sustainability transition. Many scientists, economists, educators and practitioners across the globe were assembled to discuss some of the principal trends in sustainability emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants addressed the possibilities of the pandemic as a catalyst for sustainability transitions.

The conference also highlighted the gendered consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the largely invisible care economy that continues to play a critical role in the optimal functioning of society as well as in subsidizing the paid economy, but is often marginalised in terms of policy focus. Other issues that received attention included the future impact of radical transformations owing to the pandemic such as the push towards remote work, teleconferencing, localising supply chains coupled with COVID-19 palliative measures being introduced by governments and the concept of universal basic income (UBI).

Furthermore, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a massive reduction in commercial activities worldwide with measures such as quarantines and travel restrictions having significant consequences on consumption patterns and the environment. Some positive environmental results have been witnessed in this period and this has led people to consider how some of these could be locked in to facilitate the desired transition to more sustainable ways of living. A clarion call from the event was the need for people to be conscious of the sustainability factor to this crisis, rather than it simply being an accidental event.

### ***Action that has emerged from the conference***

Due to the pressing issues discussed at the conference, working groups were formed to advance some of the themes raised premised on how COVID-19 is contributing to sustainability transitions. The working groups revolve around thematic areas such as designing government action, new lifestyle practices, social solidarity and the care economy, supply chains, and digital automation and remote work. Felix Kwabena Donkor, Cláudia Santos, Marula Tsagkari, Nediana Sarrasanti, and Chadia Wannous form the core of the Care Economy Working Group. The working group is exploring the changing nature of care work in the time of the pandemic and has produced a resource material for captains of industry and policy makers around the world. The group is currently working on a global study addressing the issues of informal migrant workers in the period of the pandemic. Furthermore, the Working Group on Governance has published an open letter

to local governments on advancing sustainability in a post-COVID world. In addition, the Sustainability Transitions in the Global South Working Group is looking at ways of addressing the unique challenges faced by developing nations in the time of COVID-19. Other working groups have looked at how everyday life and social practices have evolved in the period of the pandemic. Participants in this initiative collaborate on a Slack platform. If you would like to join one of the working groups, please reach out to Esthi Zipori at [ezipori@gmail.com](mailto:ezipori@gmail.com).

## **Livestock shelters in an arid environment: an adaptation response to extreme weather events**

*By Conservation South Africa (CSA)*

The Namakwa District in South Africa falls within the Succulent Karoo biome, an arid biodiversity hotspot. Farmers on the Concordia commonage in the Nama Khoi Local municipality, Namakwa District, have been experiencing erratic weather, extreme temperatures, and a decline in rainfall that has resulted in a significant loss of livestock. These farmers depend on livestock farming to generate an income, and the loss of livestock is, therefore, detrimental to their livelihoods.

The farmers of Concordia identified the need for a livestock shelter as an adaptation response to protect livestock from increasing extreme weather events in the area. The sturdy shelters were constructed as part of The Community Adaptation Small Grants Facility (SGF), a four-year community-based adaptation pilot project which aims to ensure that vulnerable, rural communities in two project target areas in South Africa (Namakwa District in the Northern Cape and Mopani District in Limpopo) have reduced vulnerability and increased resilience to the anticipated impacts of climate variability and change.

The Community Adaptation Small Grants Facility (SGF) is funded by the Adaptation Fund, endorsed by the Department of Environmental Affairs as the National Designated Authority (NDA), implemented by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) as the National Implementing Entity (NIE), and executed by SouthSouthNorth Trust (SSNT) as the Executing Entity. In the Northern Cape the project is locally supported by the Namakwa District Municipality and locally facilitated by Conservation South Africa (CSA) as the Namakwa Facilitating Agency.

These livestock shelters provide shade for livestock during the hot summer months, but they also protect livestock against increasing wind chills and strong easterly winds. Each livestock shelter is also fitted with gutters and two water tanks to harvest rainwater during the winter rainy season. The additional water provides farmers with the opportunity to either plant additional fodder for animals during the dry summer months or to provide drinking water to animals when there is a water scarcity, relieving pressure on natural, underground water sources. Each shelter is also accompanied by a rain gauge, allowing farmers to be able to monitor rainfall which informs their grazing practices. This allows farmers to better plan and adapt to the changing climate, while protecting their livestock and decreasing livestock deaths. This means that these Concordia farmers have one less thing to worry about during the COVID-19 pandemic, knowing that their livestock is protected from the elements and having access to additional water in the

summertime when it is most needed.



Each shelter is accompanied by a rain gauge, allowing farmers to be able to monitor rainfall which informs their grazing practices. Photo: copyright Malherbe Rossouw



Livestock shelter in Concordia, Northern Cape, South Africa. Photo: Copyright Malherbe Rossouw (CSA)



Cattle using the shade of a shelter, still under construction, during a hot day in the Summer in Concordia, Northern Cape, South Africa. Photo: copyright Halcyone Muller

**Small Grants Facility: Strengthening local community organisations sustains project investments and unlocks opportunities to access other financial resources**  
*By South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)*

Communal and backyard gardens are common establishments in South Africa's arid rural areas. These enable community members to form cooperatives aimed at addressing food security challenges and improving livelihoods. Over the years, these community-based subsistence farming practices have been negatively affected by changing seasonal patterns caused by climate change.

Through the implementation of the Community Adaptation Small Grants Facility (SGF) project in the Mopani District, the Ramotshinyadi HIV/Aids Youth Guide established a communal garden in the Mamanyuha village which has introduced climate smart agricultural techniques to improve food security. Since accessing financial resources from the project, the Ramotshinyadi organisation has built its capacity to implement climate change adaptation interventions. These include practices such as agroecology, climate smart water storage, drip-irrigation techniques and poultry farming.

Additionally, accessing financial resources through the SGF project has improved

Ramotshinyadi's organisational capacity to sustain investments beyond the financing period of the project.



*Left: Ms Suzan Mathipa (centre) with farmers at the Mamanyuha communal garden showing a voucher from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD); Right: Tomato harvesting at the communal garden.*

With the prevalence of the COVID-19 Pandemic and subsequent National Lockdown, Ramotshinyadi experienced challenges in transporting locally farmed agricultural produce to sell to retail markets. Additionally, the National Lockdown meant that crop seedlings and poultry feed could not be purchased. This negatively affected crop production and livelihoods of the farmers.

Following an advertisement by the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development on the interventions aimed at supporting smallholder farmers affected by the coronavirus outbreak in South Africa, Ramotshinyadi received relief vouchers to the value of R50 000. This helped Ramotshinyadi and the farmers to access and purchase supplies such as poultry feed, chicks, medication, and seedlings following the relaxation of the National Lockdown Restrictions.

Mr Fhatuwani Nemalamangwa from Ramotshinyadi mentioned that *"this voucher comes as a reward from the capacity building work from the SGF project. Our farmers appreciate the opportunity to implement and deliver a project with a budget that is over a million rand. Our organisation really comes from nothing to a position where we can attract national attention to pressing social challenges"*.

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**Partnership for a Green Transition and Energy Access:  
Strategic priorities for Africa and Europe**  
*By South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)*

This project seeks to amplify African perspectives on the green transition and energy access. It is a partnership between the South African Institute of International Affairs, the Africa Portal and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung's Regional Programme on Energy Security and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa. Through the project a set of ten policy briefings were developed on various topics related to the project theme, together with a synthesis briefing and supporting infographics. Authors included stakeholders from African regional institutions, universities, think tanks as well as the private sector. The project outputs can be accessed on the Africa Portal project page, accessible at <https://www.africaportal.org/features/partnership-green-transition-and-energy-access-strategic-priorities-africa-and-europe-series/>. For enquiries, please contact Alex Benkenstein, Programme Head, Governance of Africa's Resources Programme, South African Institute of International Affairs ([alex.benkenstein@saiaa.org.za](mailto:alex.benkenstein@saiaa.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 Kate Cronin 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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