

Mopani District Climate Change Adaptation Dialogue for the Community Adaptation Small Grants Facility Project

A one-day Climate Change Adaptation Dialogue took place on 21 June 2017 at Ngove village in Giyani, Limpopo Province. The dialogue was hosted by the Mopani District Municipality and the Community Adaptation Small Grant Facility (SGF) Project Facilitating Agency CHoiCe Trust to share the Small Grant Recipient's leaning experiences from the project. The dialogue was attended by 86 stakeholders including applicants for SGF Projects, Councillors from the Mopani District Municipality, Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism Limpopo (LEDET), the Association of Water and Rural Development, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and Civil Society Organisations. The purpose of the dialogue was to provide an update on the project progress and to give proponents of approved projects an opportunity to reflect on their journey with the Small Grants Facility project. The dialogue also provided a platform for other community based organisations to network and engage with the project's governing and implementing organisations and to raise awareness and gather lessons on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in the Mopani District.

CHoiCe Trust presented the project journey since its introduction to the District in October 2015 and shared what lessons had been learnt thus far. Seven organisations from the Mopani District (including those with final approved projects and those who are still developing their full proposals) then presented their proposed projects and expected deliverables and results. They identified lessons that they had learned thus far in the process of developing and planning their projects, including that community engagement and consultation during the design phase was essential in understanding community dynamics, that thorough research is necessary, and that government departments are essential stakeholders in the process to ensure that the prospective projects can access all the support available.



Above left: The Mopani Small Grant Facility Applicants answered questions from the participants at the dialogues. From left: Khanimamba Training and Resource Centre, World Vision SA, Holani Home Based Care, Ramothsinyadi HIV/AIDS youth Guide, Exilite 499cc, Mpfuneko Community Support and Tsogang Water and Sanitation. Right: Members from the National Department of Environmental Affairs and the Mopani District Municipality.

The Department of Environmental Affairs shared detailed information on Climate Change Adaptation, highlighting specifically how it affects those most vulnerable within the Mopani District. This was followed by a Key Note Address by the Mopani District Municipality Councillor who expressed the District's support for the SGF projects and acknowledged the commitment from the successful project applicants to improve resilience to climate change in the District. The participants were thankful for this dialogue as it provided an opportunity to better understand Climate Change Adaptation and interventions that can be implemented in their communities.

The Small Grants Facility is an Adaptation Fund project which is implemented and governed by partnerships between the Department of Environmental Affairs, the South African National Biodiversity Institute, SouthSouthNorth and CHoiCe Trust in the Mopani District Municipality.