

## URP facilitates site visit as part of DEA-hosted Ecosystem-based Adaptation workshop

In September 2017, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) working in partnership with the Convention on Biological Biodiversity (CBD) hosted a week-long Ecosystem-based Adaptation workshop in Durban. The aim of the workshop was to raise awareness, build capacity and identify opportunities for effective policy coherence, implementation and mainstreaming of nature-based solutions, including Ecosystem-based Adaptation approaches, at the national level. The workshop was attended by over 60 participants from 21 African countries.

In the second half of the week, participants experienced a number of field visits, including to dam and wetland rehabilitation sites in and around the eThekweni Municipality. On the last day of the workshop, participants visited one of the uMngeni Resilience Project (URP) implementation sites, and were provided with an overview of the climate-driven threats to the degraded grasslands and wetlands, and the planned interventions to restore these systems so that they continue to provide ecosystem goods and services to local and dependent communities.

The workshop participants were then shown some of the URP's Climate-Smart Agriculture implementation sites. This included a description and demonstration of the localised weather information provided by the automatic weather station that has been set up at the local high school, and how this feeds into the Agrometeorological Early Warning System that is helping farmers to adapt to unseasonal rains caused by climate change. This unearthed insightful questions and discussions amongst the URP staff and workshop participants on the project's activities that have shown significant positive impacts in building climate resilience for local farmers in the area.



Left: uMngeni Resilience Project and SANBI staff; Right: Demonstration of automatic weather station

The workshop and site visits provided the participants with a greater understanding of the differing viewpoints, opportunities and the challenges of incorporating nature-based solutions, including Ecosystem-base Adaptation interventions, into their respective national programmes of work.

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