



South African NIE approves first four small grants

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) as the National Implementing Entity (NIE) and its partners, Executing Entity (SouthSouthNorth) and locally based Facilitating Agencies (Conservation South Africa in Namakwa and CHoiCe Trust in Mopani District), have reached an important milestone in the Community Adaptation Small Grants Facility (SGF) project, which is an approximately USD 2.4 million project funded by the Adaptation Fund.

The SGF project is a pilot project in two District Municipalities (Namakwa in Northern Cape and Mopani District Municipality in Limpopo) that aims to increase local adaptation capacity to climate change in production landscapes and socio-economic systems. To achieve this goal, the SGF project aims to channel financial resources to support climate change response measures that are identified and implemented by local communities. The Investment Windows that are supported by the SGF are Climate-Smart Agriculture, Climate Resilient Livelihoods and Climate Proof Settlements.

After issuing a call for project concepts in October 2015 and following a thorough review process against the SGF's eligibility criteria, the first four project concepts have been approved for contracting and implementation by the NIE Steering Committee. The approved projects have a geographical spread within the Hantam, Kamiesberg and Namakwa Local Municipalities in the Namakwa District where local communities in partnership with Community-based Organisations will support communities to build resilience to climate change impacts.

Vulnerable community members of the Suid Bokkeveld and Soebasfontein villages in partnership with the Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG) will build resilience to climate change impacts through the **"Two communities adapting together"** project by responding to increasing temperatures and limited water resources in the area. This will be achieved by insulating houses, enhancing water harvesting and installing water saving techniques through the introduction of compost toilets in the villages.

Livestock farmers in the Leliefontein village will benefit from the **"Biodiversity and Red Meat Cooperative – Land & Livestock Adaptation"** project through an implementation partnership with Gondwana Alive. The project will ensure that farmers in the village will have livestock which is better adapted to current and future projected climate conditions.

Furthermore, vulnerable small scale rooibos farmers of the Suid Bokkeveld community will enhance rooibos production and processing by optimising the sustainable use of land and water resources through the **"Climate proofing small-scale rooibos production"** project in collaboration with Heiveld Cooperative which is a community based co-operative in Nieuwoudtville.

Communities across the Namakwa District will benefit from the SGF through participation in a savings scheme project. The **"Building Resilience to climate change by promoting saving"** project will ensure that vulnerable communities have access to financial services such as savings and credit to build more adaptive capacity through better financial management mechanisms.

Please email Mpfunzeni Tshindane (M.Tshindane@sanbi.org.za) to join the NIE mailing list to receive future URP and SGF project updates.