

South African National Implementing Entity (NIE) and partners rolls out the adaptation carpet for potential SGF project recipients

The South African National Botanical Institute (SANBI) and its partners entered the first stage of the Small Grant Facility (SGF) project by calling for proposals and conducting briefing sessions in the two targeted project District Municipalities.

This project intends to take adaptation finance 'to the ground' through an Enhanced Direct Access model which aims to finance climate change adaptation projects at the local community level.

The project Executing Entity, SouthSouthNorth, issued a call for concept proposals in October 2015 and in support of this, project Facilitating Agencies who are based in the project target Districts (Conservation South Africa in Namakwa District and CHoiCe Trust in Mopani District) hosted Briefing Sessions. The Briefing Sessions brought together different interested organisations from the private sector to NGO's, NPO's, religious organisations, home based care organisations and local government institutions.

The aim of the Briefing Sessions was to provide local organisations with information about the project application process including the concept development stage and the eligibility criteria. Project examples under the three investment windows of the SGF project, which are Climate-smart agriculture, Climate resilient livelihoods and Climate proof settlements, were also provided.

Each Briefing Session was followed by a full-day programme of interactive activities aimed at building local partnerships and making a clear distinction between climate change adaptation and climate mitigation projects. The attendees included fairly equal representations of gender and diversity in age groups from the youth to elderly citizens who showed a great interest in and knowledge of climate change and its current impacts on both Districts. Both Briefing Sessions were characterised by an enthusiastic interest in the project, impressive local knowledge of climate change and the desire to learn new skills and adaptation strategies in order to cope with a changing climate.

Whilst conducting an interview which is aimed at documenting various stages of the SGF project, Mrs Alice Sirakalala from Malila Nombe Agriculture Farming in Giyani was quick at pointing out her experience in attending the two-day Briefing Session in Mopani District.

"After two days of receiving training on the project concept development for the SGF to make an adaptation link, we feel we have already benefited from this programme by the awareness and knowledge development activities. Even if we don't get the funds, we feel we have learnt of new ideas to make our lives better to deal with climate change" said Mrs Alice Sirakalala.

A total of 74 project concepts were received by SouthSouthNorth in response to the call for proposals and the outcomes of the evaluation process will be made available soon.



Images: Left – Potential Small Grant Recipients at the Namakwa Briefing Sessions presenting an ideal project concept for the Namakwa District (23rd October 2015 - Springbok).



Right – Potential Small Grant Recipients discussing an ideal project concept for the Mopani District (29th October 2015 - Giyani).