



South African
National Implementing Entity
of the Adaptation Fund

PROTECTING WHERE PEOPLE LIVE:

Climate-proofing settlements



Buildings, bridges, roads, transport networks, water and sanitation systems, and even natural systems like wetlands or grasslands, in both informal and rural settlements, are extremely vulnerable to climate-related disasters such as storms and flooding.

Climate change will make these disasters happen more often, and with greater intensity in many places. Designing, building or adapting infrastructure in these settlements, so that it can absorb the shock of these extreme weather events, is an essential, proactive part of disaster management in the face of climate change.

There are many ways to climate-proof settlements so that the built environment is better able to cope with extreme weather events. These include installing lightening conductors on buildings, placing buildings outside of areas that could flood, increasing the size of storm water pipes so that they can cope with increased water volumes, and rehabilitating wetlands so that they slow down the water in flooding rivers. Climate-proofing processes can be applied to existing infrastructure, and can also support spatial planning and new building design processes. In all cases, climate-proofing activities are designed to be long lasting, environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable.

Investing in climate-proofing settlements helps to reduce loss of life, and tries to stop physical damage to property which is costly and disrupts social services.

For more information, email info.NIE@sanbi.org.za