

Adaptation Fund Secretariat visits local communities in the Namakwa District

Author: Mpfunzeni Tshindane (SANBI)

It is not often that project beneficiaries from local communities get an opportunity to show how they are building their resilience to climate driven impacts to the international community. Recently, some members of the Adaptation Fund Secretariat and its Board, Germanwatch and the Micronesia Conservation Trust (NIE) visited the Namakwa District. The District is one of two implementation sites that the Adaptation Fund's Small Grants facility (SGF) project is being implemented in South Africa. The visit provided a peer-to-peer learning exchange opportunity for other National Implementing Entities and small grant makers to get an insight of how the SANBI and the Department of Environmental Affairs are helping communities to build local driven responses to climate change impacts.



Auntie Katie Beukes (above left), a livestock farmer in Leliefontein was amongst the Small Grant Recipients and local community beneficiaries that shared how the Small Grants Facility has improved their livelihoods in the face of changing climatic conditions.

"As a member of the Biodiversity and Red Meat Cooperative (BRK) working in partnership with Gondwana Alive, the cooperative has offered me drought resilient livestock to start farming. I will pay back the BRK with ewes over a period of 4 years. If it wasn't for the SGF project I wouldn't have had this opportunity to farm" mentioned Auntie Beukes. She further indicated that she plans to increase her own livestock breeds of indigenous Meatmaster rams in order to sell meat to local markets.



Ms Lena Kotze (above left) and Ms Leen Kotze (above right) from the Melkraal were also quick to point out how they have improved their lives working closely with the Environmental Monitoring Group.

Lena insulated her house from extreme temperatures whilst Leen has installed rainwater harvesting infrastructure to improve her access to water during dry seasons.



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Upon completion of the site visit, members of the Adaptation Fund, Germanwatch and the Micronesia NIE organisations reflected that the projects continue to show the direct successes of Enhanced Direct Access in financing local climate change impacts.

SANBI and GIZ hosts the 3rd EbA International Community of Practice workshop

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The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) recently hosted the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Global Project - *'Mainstreaming EbA – Strengthening Ecosystem-Based Adaptation in Planning and Decision Making Processes'*. During this period, between the 11th and 15th of June 2018, GIZ conducted their 3rd international EbA community of Practice workshop at Kirstenbosch. An additional training session was held on 'Policy advice for mainstreaming Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA).

The event brought together EbA practitioners with different professional backgrounds from around the world, ranging from South Africa and Vietnam to Mexico and Colombia. This enabled the training and the workshop to be informed by the diverse perspectives and experiences that participants could contribute.

In order to contextualise EbA in action in South Africa the workshop paid attention, among other issues, to the Cape Town water crisis and the role that EbA could play. A field trip was organized in association with the City of Cape Town to the Dassenberg Coastal Catchment Partnership (DCCP). This included the Witzands Aquifer Nature reserve, where an overlap of activities includes aquifer recharge, ecosystem restoration and management and recreation and tourism. The group also visited the Atlantis Industrial area where a conservation land bank is in place, and the Blaauwberg Nature reserve. The field trip demonstrated a few local EbA related activities and the potential for future EbA interventions in the area.



Above right and left: participants came from a range of countries and professional backgrounds. Exchanging perspectives and experiences was a key part of the learning process.



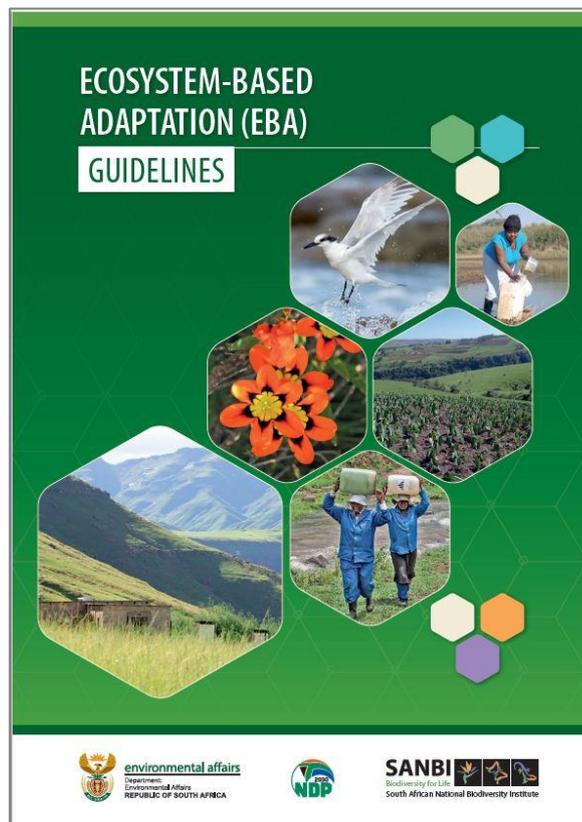
Above right and left: participants visiting different sites within the Dassenberg Coastal Catchment Partnership during the field trip for the CoP workshop.

Introducing South Africa's Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Guidelines Booklet

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The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), working closely with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and a broad range of stakeholders recently finalised the development of a booklet for [South Africa's Ecosystem-based Adaptation \(EbA\) Guidelines](#). The EbA Guidelines were developed through a cross-sectoral consultative process following the development of [South Africa's Ecosystem-based Adaptation Strategy \(2016-2021\)](#).

The newly developed [EbA Booklet](#) is a condensed version of the EbA Guideline Document. It is a user-friendly and accessible tool which gives a more lucid clarity on the scope of EbA, its main principles and criteria for identifying appropriate EbA projects and programmes.



The EbA Booklet is aimed at policy makers, programme developers, potential funders and EbA researchers.

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