

SANBI shares lessons with international community on managing environmental and social risks for Adaptation Fund projects

By Mpfunzeni Tshindane

The Adaptation Fund (AF) hosted its 5th Climate Finance Readiness Seminar for its National Implementing Entities (NIEs) on the 28th to 31st of August 2018 in Washington D.C. The Seminar brought together over 25 Direct Access NIEs.

The aim of the Seminar was to offer the AF and its community of NIEs the opportunity to share knowledge, skills, experiences and best practices in project development and accreditation processes.

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) was amongst the Fund's 25 NIEs in attendance. At the Seminar, SANBI shared lessons and experiences on how it screens, manages and reports on the AF's Environmental and Social Safeguards.

In 2017 SANBI made use of an AF Technical Assistance Grant to develop an Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) Toolkit and Guideline Document for the [Small Grants Facility](#) and the [uMngeni Resilience Project](#).

The Toolkit facilitates the identification and management of environmental and social risks in project development and implementation. Lessons learned on the use of the Toolkit and the associated capacity that has been built through its implementation were shared at the Seminar.

Following the Seminar, SANBI has shared the ESP Toolkit and Guideline Document with other NIEs including those representing Bhutan, Micronesia, Benin, Belize, Cook Islands, Panama, Jordan and the Dominican Republic. These NIEs have indicated plans to adopt and tailor the toolkit for use in their respective projects.

In 2017, SANBI shared its ESP Toolkit with the Costa Rican NIE (Fundecooperación of Costa Rica) after the 4th Adaptation Fund Readiness Seminar. During a recent webinar in April 2018, the Costa Rican NIE showcased how they have now adapted SANBI's risk dashboard for their project ([Reducing Vulnerability in Critical Areas of Costa Rica](#)).



Above left: Delegates at the 5th Climate Finance Readiness Seminar; above right: Cost Rican ESP Dashboard

Mrs. Marianella Feoli (Executive Director of Fundecooperación of Costa Rica) expressed her gratitude to the South African NIE for its continuous support in adapting the ESP toolkit. "SANBI's

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ESP Risk Dashboard toolkit helped the Costa Rican NIE to identify and monitor risks through a desktop facilitated step by step process across our portfolio of 30 sub-projects in a user friendly way. We are also translating the toolkit into Spanish to further assist with accessibility” reflected Marianella.

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