

The South African National Biodiversity Institute hosts the first Community of Practice for Direct Access Entities meeting in Durban

Author: Mpfunzeni Tshindane

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) recently hosted the first Community of Practice for Direct Access Entities (CPDAE) meeting in Durban from the 5th to the 6th of June 2019. The event brought together 30 Direct Access Entities (DAEs) of the Adaptation Fund (AF) and the Green Climate Fund. The meeting aimed to finalise the governance framework of the Community of Practice and develop an action plan that addresses DAE challenges such as accreditation, project development and implementation, amongst others.



Above: CPDAE workshop participants with event sponsors from the Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund and African Development Bank's African Climate Change Fund.

During the two day meeting, participants of the Community of Practice collectively developed and adopted a governance charter and a workplan which clearly sets out the CPDAE's organisational functioning, membership and programmes of work that will be prioritised over the next year. Furthermore, a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from six DAEs was elected to coordinate the Community of Practice and oversee the implementation of the workplan. The participants also got an opportunity to see climate change adaptation interventions by undertaking a field visit to one of the AF funded uMngeni Resilience Project's implementation sites at the Swayimane village.



Above Left: Demonstration of Early Warning System at Swayimane; Centre: CPDAE participants learning about Climate Resilient Agriculture project interventions; Right: Meeting participants enjoying food grown by farmers benefiting from the uMngeni Resilience Project.

During the site visit, project implementation partners from uMgungundlovu District Municipality and the University of KwaZulu-Natal explained how the project has introduced Early Warning Systems, Climate Resilient Agriculture and climate change adaptation capacity building programmes to the area. Mam Magwaza, a local small scale farmer from the Thembanani Co-operative in Swayimane, stated that "through implementation and capacity building programmes brought about by the uMngeni Resilience Project, food insecurity has become a thing of the past".

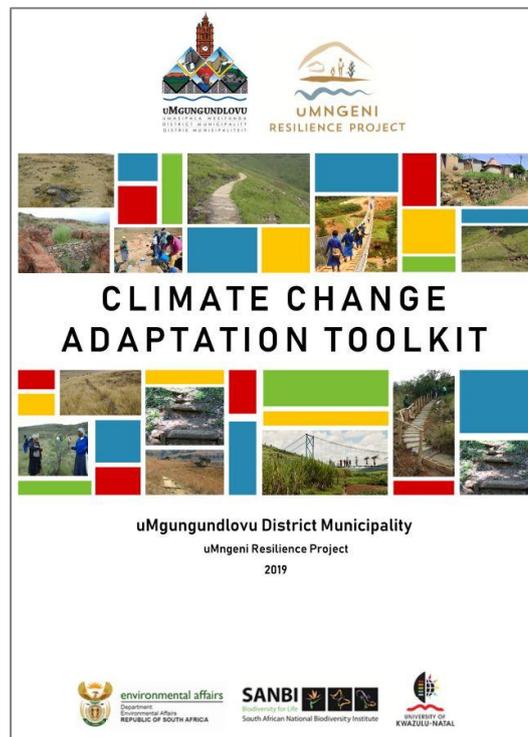


uMngeni Resilience Project develops an Adaptation Toolkit to help decision makers plan and respond to climate change impacts

Author: Mpfunzeni Tshindane

The uMngeni Resilience Project has developed a Toolkit aimed at supporting officials to mainstream climate change into municipal planning processes. This Toolkit is also aimed at helping traditional authorities to better understand the benefits of adapting to climate change.

The Toolkit provides recommendations on how decision makers, traditional authorities and rural communities can adopt new ways of building village and house resilience to the impacts of climate change. This then allows an opportunity to re-think how rural areas can be planned, thereby making them more liveable while also increasing the ability of people to withstand the impacts of climate change. The Toolkit presents a number of adaptation options that render multiple benefits.



The Toolkit is designed to help decision makers take proactive action to minimise climate change impacts, rather than responding to impacts that have continued to negatively affect communities in rural areas of the uMgungundlovu District Municipality.

In addition to the Toolkit, the uMngeni Resilience Project has developed communication material in the form of flyers aimed at building the awareness of community members on a range of climate change adaptation topics. These flyers have been translated to isiZulu to make them more accessible to the community members.

The Climate Change Adaptation Toolkit will shortly be available for download from the UMDM's websiteⁱ. In the meantime please email M.Tshindane@sanbi.org.za should you wish to receive the toolkit via email.

Please email Mpfunzeni Tshindane (M.Tshindane@sanbi.org.za) to join SANBI's NIE mailing list to receive future updates from the Adaptation Fund and GCF programmes of work.

ⁱ http://www.umd.gov.za/Official_Site/index.php/municipal-services/climate-change/umngeni-resilience