

Small Grants Facility project convenes first Inter-District Learning Event in Mopani District

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Financing community-based responses to local climate change impacts requires investments in capacity building programmes. These investments are required to ensure project sustainability, knowledge generation and transfer.

Throughout the development and implementation of the [Small Grants Facility \(SGF\) project](#) in the Namakwa and Mopani District Municipalities, peer-to-peer learning exchanges have been identified as important activities to capacitate community-based organisations. These activities have capacitated Small Grant Recipients by allowing them to address project development and implementation challenges.

Recently, Small Grant Recipients from the Namakwa and Mopani Districts met in the SGF's first Inter-District Learning Event that took place in Mopani. Most of the SGF's community-based projects are nearing completion which has led to the generation of a wealth of experiences and knowledge products. The purpose of the event was to bring together grant recipients across the two Districts to learn about climate change adaptation interventions being implemented in the Mopani District. This exchange visit was also attended by small scale farmers from the uMngeni Resilience Project in KwaZulu-Natal.



Above – Left to Right: Small Grant Recipients attending the SGF Learning Exchange; Demonstration of solar powered food drying system; Refurbished earth dam at Ga-Ntata village.

During the event, Small Grant Recipients in the Mopani District showcased how local communities are implementing climate change adaptation interventions through rainwater harvesting systems, rainwater storage, climate smart poultry production, establishing climate smart communal gardens and refurbishing earth dams in order to provide drinking water for livestock during dry seasons.

Following this Inter-District Learning Event, Ms Linda Nghatsane, who is one of the project's Small Grant Recipients, stated that *"I have learnt that refurbishing earth dams through the clearing of alien plants at the Ga-Ntata village has improved the water holding capacity of the dams. This has ensured that livestock continue to have access to drinking water in dry periods in spite of low rainfall in the village"*.

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.