

uMDM Mayor launches the commencement of climate-proofing of rural infrastructure activities in the iNhlazuka community, Richmond Local Municipality

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The uMgungundlovu District Municipality (uMDM) together with the University of KwaZulu- Natal's School of Agriculture, Earth, and Environmental Sciences (UKZN–SAEES), in partnership with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), hosted an uMngeni Resilience Project Component 2: Climate Proof Settlement Launch at the iNhlazuka Thusong Centre on 30 September 2022. The Launch Event was attended by community members, Ndunankulu M. Mkhize of the iNhlazuka village, uMDM Mayor M. Zuma, uMDM Local Economic Development Head of Department P. Luswazi, Ward 5 Councillor M. Ngongo, representatives from the Local Municipality Disaster Risk Management Centre and the Richmond Fire Protection Association, and the uMngeni Resilience Project teams from UKZN and uMDM. The Mayor's speech was aired on the local KZN radio station as part the daily news report.

The Component 2 programme of work aims to refurbish 300 houses that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in Ward 5 of the Richmond Local Municipality, as well as construct 10km of stormwater drainage and 5 pedestrian bridges over rivers prone to flash flooding. The Launch Event provided a platform to build awareness on what that has been accomplished and is yet to be done, as well as to introduce the project contractors to all stakeholders, especially community members. A household of one of the potential project beneficiaries was visited to conclude the event.

For more stories like this on the uMngeni Resilience Project please follow the project's Facebook page.

2. Dr Mandy Barnett, Chief Director of SANBI's Adaptation Policy and Resourcing Division, was recently involved in contributing to a podcast on locally-led adaptation. The podcast was developed by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and titled 'Make Change Happen episode 19: A spur to action – getting money to the local level for nature and climate'. You can listen to the podcast [here](#)