

ADAPTATION FUND NGO NETWORK BASELINE MAPPING SERIES

Insights from South Africa

by Katinka Waagsaether and Bettina Koelle



Supporting the most vulnerable to climate change.

Brief Summary

South Africa's two Adaptation Fund Projects, the Community Adaptation Small Grants Facility (SGF) and the uMngeni Resilience project, were both approved on the October 9th, 2014. Funding for the projects is USD 2,442,682 (Community Adaptation Small Grant Facility (SGF)) and USD 7,495,055 (uMngeni Resilience project), respectively. Implementation for both projects is scheduled to begin in April 2015. The Community Adaptation SGF is a small granting mechanism aimed at ensuring that local communities in the two project areas, the Mopani District and Namakwa District, have reduced vulnerability and increased resilience to the impacts of climate change; and the uMngeni Resilience project aims to reduce the climate vulnerability of communities and small farmers in the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Province in eastern South Africa. Specific components for these projects include measures such as installing early warning and response systems, establishing better infrastructure, introducing the use of climate resilient crops and continuing to build capacity.

Although the project has not yet reached its implementation phase, many progressive steps have already been taken to ensure that implementation will be effective in April. For example, many workshops, debates and information sessions have been held for both projects, and all involved parties have been invited to participate give feedback during the projects' developments. An inception workshop will also be held in April 2015 to ensure that everyone's role for project implementation is clear. Lastly, the governmental policy in South Africa has generally already begun to address climate change adaptation, which will hopefully also ease the implementation of this project and further generate support within the communities.

Imprint

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Publisher: ADAPTATION FUND NGO NETWORK
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November 2014

This publication can be downloaded at: www.af-network.org

Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Building and Nuclear Safety

This project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.

based on a decision of the German Bundestag

Germanwatch is responsible for the content of this publication.

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1. The Adaptation Fund and the Adaptation Fund NGO Network

The Adaptation Fund (AF) was established by the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol of the UNFCCC to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. The AF is innovative in the way it is funded, managed and governed: Developing countries have a majority in the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB), the governing body who manages and supervises the AF. Moreover, the AF is financed with 2% of the Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) issued for projects of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). Lastly, the AF offers the opportunity to access to its resources through direct access, which is a unique approach in the realm of international climate finance.

The Adaptation Fund NGO Network is a coalition of NGOs and interested stakeholders following the development of the Adaptation Fund and its funded projects. It strives to provide a sustainable and dynamic influence on politics and promote the engagement of civil society. It believes in the great chance to contribute to a successful implementation of projects funded by the Adaptation Fund (AF) in developing countries, especially for the benefit of people and communities particularly vulnerable to climate change. The Network directly supports NGOs in a number of developing countries, with a focus on AF direct access countries, by increasing their capacity to escort all relevant issues around the implementation of the project throughout the implementation period.

The Adaptation Fund NGO Network was established in 2010. The first phase lasted from 2010 to 2013, and the second phase is currently running until 2016. The Network is a supporting facility forum for NGOs in developing countries. Through this channel, developing countries can follow the development of the AF and specifically observe direct access and the implementation of the projects through National Implementing Entities. This approach aims to enable multi-stakeholder participation in the AF procedures. Through this open exchange and participation, the Network assists its NGO partners to contribute to a successful outcome of the funded projects in their own countries. Their participation during all stages of the project – from its design to its implementation – is in the interest of improving the conditions of those less privileged and most vulnerable to climate change.

Currently, the Adaptation Fund NGO Network is comprised of ten active partners in their respective countries: Fundación Vida in Honduras, Panos in Jamaica, ENDA in Senegal, Indigo in South Africa, Forum CC in Tanzania, Practical Action in Kenya, The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan, Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement in Benin, Association pour la Conservation de la Nature in Rwanda and NGO Forum in Cambodia. In addition to these active members, the number of Adaptation Fund NGO Network members is constantly growing. To date, there are more than 115 member organizations that associate themselves with the Adaptation Fund NGO Network.

This Baseline Mapping has been produced by Indigo, our Adaptation Fund NGO Network partner in South Africa. It aims to inform the climate adaptation and climate finance community about the Adaptation Fund project in South Africa as well as to provide insight into the overall climate change policy landscape and civil society's perception on climate change issues in the country.

2. Introduction

Two Adaptation Fund projects are due for implementation in South Africa following their approval in October 2014. The first project is a Small Grants Facility (SGF) and will be completed in two District Municipalities in two provinces of the country. The other project focuses on reducing the vulnerability of communities in another District Municipality through a multi-faceted approach led by the District.

Indigo development & change (Indigo) has been part of the Fund Network since 2012 and has thus been following the projects since the initial call for proposals by the South African National Implementing Entity (NIE) the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). The baseline study draws from the experience of Indigo, who has engaged in various NIE related processes for the past two years, and on conversations with other involved stakeholders. Indigo aims to share information about the projects, the project proposal development process, the current status of the projects as well as the broader picture of the South African adaptation landscape and, in that context, reflections on how the progress of the two projects can be measured.

3. Overview of AF Project in South Africa

Project One: “Taking Adaptation to the Ground: A Small Grants Facility for Enabling Local Level Responses to Climate Change”

Approved by the Adaptation Fund Board: October 2014

Implementation due to start in March 2015

Funding granted by the Adaptation Fund: USD 2,442,682

Duration: 4 years

National Implementing Entity: South African National Biodiversity Institute

Executing entity: SouthSouthNorth Trust (SSN)

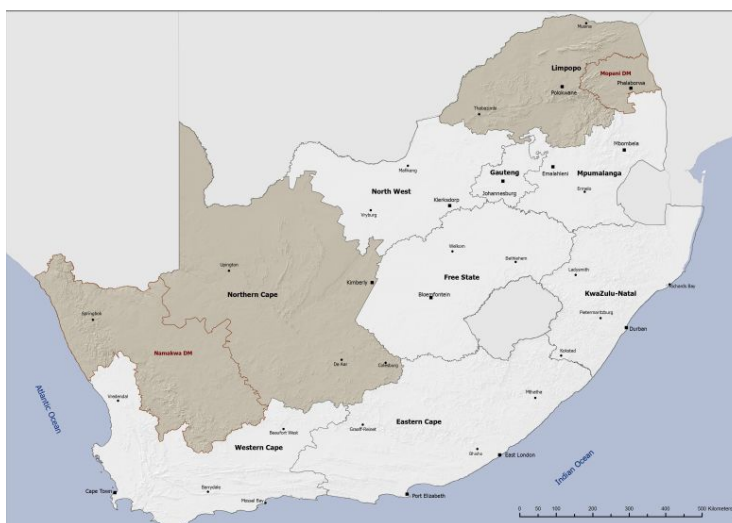


Figure 1: Map of South Africa showing Mopani District (northeast) and Namakwa District (northwest), located in Limpopo Province and Northern Cape Province, respectively.

The project, referred to as the Community Adaptation SGF, aims to ensure that local communities in the two project focal areas, Mopani District in Limpopo Province and Namakwa District in the Northern Cape, have reduced vulnerability and increased resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The Community Adaptation SGF project will be achieved through the following three main components:

Small Grants – Small grants to vulnerable communities deliver tangible and sustainable benefits (USD 1,542,000)

- This Small Grants is the largest component and entails investing in 12-16 small grants for locally-run climate change adaptation projects in Mopani and Namakwa, each in the order of up to USD 100,000. Investments will focus on climate change adaptation interventions that fall within prioritised investment windows: Climate-Smart Agriculture, Climate-Resilient Livelihoods, and Climate-Proof Infrastructure.

Institutional Capacity – Local institutions empowered to identify and implement adaptation response measures (USD 325,000)

- The Community Adaptation SGF will focus on supporting all interested local institutions to identify, develop, and implement small-grant climate change adaptation projects at all stages of the project cycle.
- The process of supporting prospective small-grant recipients helps them identify project concepts and further develop them into applications that can be approved and contracted. Each stage of the five step process will provide support relevant to each step of the process. For example, Stage One "From an idea to a concept proposal" will include a briefing session following the initial call for project concepts. The steps of the process are detailed below in Figure 2:

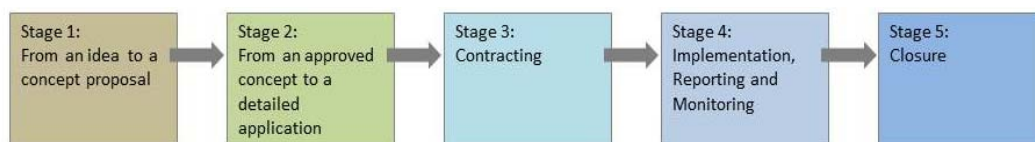


Figure 2: The 5 Stages of the Community Adaptation SGF Small Grant Making Process.

Lesson learned – Lessons learned facilitate future up-scaling and replication of small grant-financing approaches (USD 189,000)

- Component three focuses on innovative learning processes that support small grant recipients reflect upon implementation successes and challenges. The component further aims to ensure that these insights are shared and, when possible, developed into policy recommendations. These recommendations have an overall aim of creating a long-term small grant financing to support climate change adaptation in vulnerable communities in South Africa.

Project governance and arrangements for project implementation

The Community Adaptation SGF will be administered through the EE SSN. Site-based support and coordination will be provided through locally based facilitating agencies in Mopani and Namakwa, as illustrated in Figure 3 below. These local coordinators will support small grant recipients throughout the entire process. Conservation South Africa (CSA) will act as the facilitating agency

for Namakwa, while the facilitating agency for Mopani will be identified through a transparent procurement process.

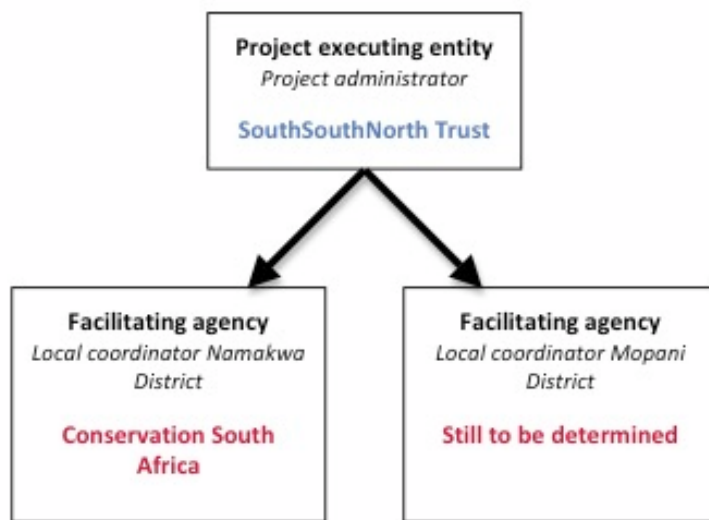


Figure 3: Illustrating the administration arrangements for the Community Adaptation SGF

Local reference groups made up of representatives from the District Municipality, relevant provincial/national sector departments, and experts from tertiary institutions such as the University of Limpopo will be present at both project sites. They will support agencies make sure that projects are: locally contextualised, considerate of local and indigenous knowledge, coordinated with other local programmes of work, and robust and sustainable.

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be set up to provide project oversight and to consider recommendations regarding the approval of the small grants that are the subject of this project. The EE will be the secretariat for this committee, and both the executing entity and the facilitating agencies will take guidance from the PSC processes. The governance structures and the process of appointing the PSC members have not been specified in the project document, but members of the PSC will be representatives as follows: Department of Environmental Affairs, The Adaptation Network, NIE (SANBI), Mopani District Municipality, Namakwa District Municipality, and technical adaptation experts.

Project Two: “Building Resilience in the Greater uMngeni Catchment”

Approved by the Adaptation Fund Board: October 2014

Implementation due to start in March 2015

Funding granted by the Adaptation Fund: USD 7,495,055

Duration: 5 years

National Implementing entity: South African National Biodiversity Institute

Executing entity: uMgungundlovu District Municipality

This Mngeni Resilience Project aims to reduce the climate vulnerability of communities and small-scale farmers in the uMgungundlovu District Municipality (UMDM), which is found in the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Province in eastern South Africa. The project do so by focusing on the following four project components: i) early warning and ward-based disaster response systems; ii) ecological and engineering infrastructure solutions specifically focused on vulnerable communities, including women; iii) integrating the use of climate-resilient crops and climate-smart techniques into new and existing farming systems; and iv) disseminating adaptation lessons learned and policy rec-

The figure consists of two maps. The top map shows the outline of South Africa with its nine provinces labeled: Limpopo, North West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal (highlighted in red), Eastern Cape, and Western Cape. The bottom map is a detailed view of KwaZulu-Natal, divided into its districts: DC21, DC22, DC23, DC24, DC25, DC26, DC27, DC28, DC29, and ETH. DC22 and ETH are highlighted in green. The map also shows the locations of major dams (blue), traditional authorities (shaded areas), and settlements (yellow dots). A legend explains the symbols used: Road Network (N, Blacktop; N, Concrete; P, Blacktop), Local Municipal Boundaries, Major Dams, Traditional Authorities, and Settlements by Type (Rural Farming Communities, Traditional Communities, Urban Communities). A north arrow is located in the bottom right corner.

Climate trends and projections

Component 1: Early warning and response systems improve the preparedness and adaptive capacity of local communities and small-scale farmers, drawing on and integrating scientific and local knowledge (USD 945,737)

Component 2: A combination of ecological and engineering solutions to help local communities reduce vulnerability to the existing and anticipated impacts of climate variability and change (USD 3,197,307)

Component Two will support existing development work focused on improving infrastructure's resilience to increased frequency and intensity of flash floods. This project is facilitated by local municipalities within the UMDM and by Umgeni Water, and it will support job creation in low-income areas through labour-intensive construction methods.

As outlined in the proposal, this component will:

- build the climate resilience of rural communities by climate-proofing *inter alia* houses and homesteads, community facilities, storm water drainage and low-level river crossings;
- restore and protect degraded ecological infrastructure to enhance the ability of ecosystems to buffer against climate change impacts; and
- demonstrate how climate change adaptation considerations can be incorporated and mainstreamed into land use planning, service delivery and settlement upgrade processes.

Component 3: Small-scale farmers have improved resilience and reduced vulnerability to existing and anticipated impacts of climate variability and change (USD 1,410,476)

This component is aimed at strengthening the climate resilience of small-scale farmers in the UMDM through a range of interventions resulting in benefits, notably increased yield from farms using climate-resilient crops and climate-smart techniques. This will be achieved by building on and scaling-up a farm trial pilot project that is currently underway, and by creating links between this work and the extension services and climate change adaptation strategies of the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA).

DAEA extension officers and field assistants from University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) School of Agriculture, Earth and Environment Sciences (SAEES) will work with cooperatives of small-scale farmers to introduce and increase the use of climate-resilient crops and climate-smart agricultural practices, and set up market linkages. Additionally, a significant proportion of small-scale farmers in the area are women. The project will therefore pay particular attention to the concerns and needs expressed by this particularly vulnerable group in both project planning and implementation.



Picture 1: Some small scale farmers in Namakwa District are already engaging in adaptation action by monitoring weather conditions and relating this to the seasonal forecasts. The Small Grant Facility can help to put some of these adaptation ideas into practice. (Photo credit: Bettina Koelle)

Component 4: Capacity building and sharing of lessons and policy recommendations facilitates scaling up and replication (USD 698,116)

Component 4 of the project has been designed to enable effective and gender-sensitive participation in the project, to capture learning and to support the sustaining, scaling up and replication of project successes.

A Knowledge Management Strategy will be developed at the outset of the project, and this strategy will detail processes for capturing, sharing and disseminating learnings. The strategy will also outline how learnings from the project will be integrated with existing knowledge, and how this will inform adaptive management of the project itself.

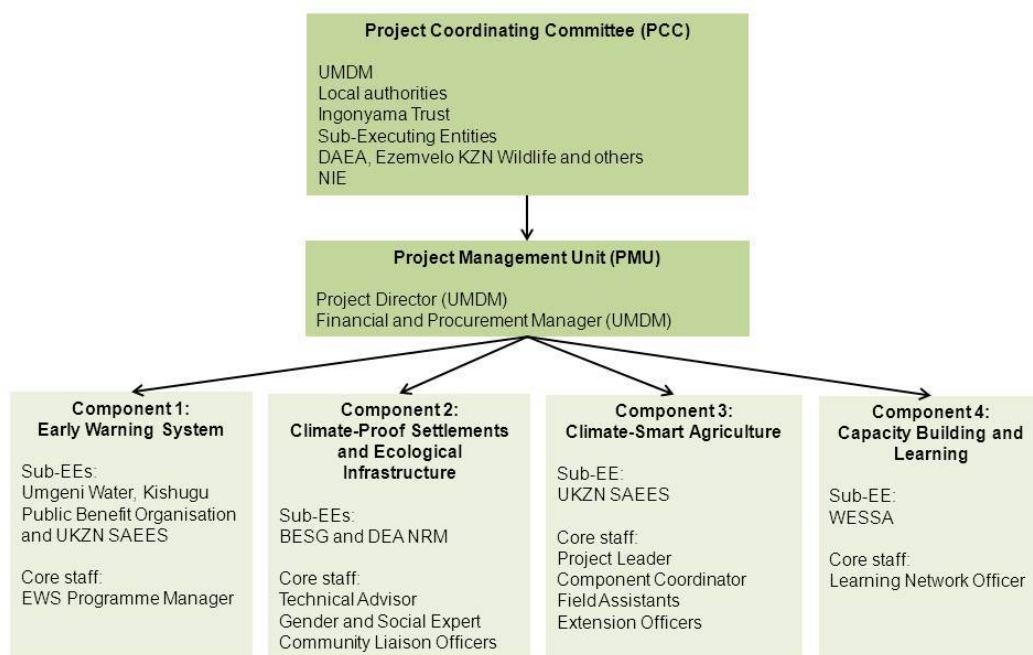


Figure 5: Organogram for the uMngeni Resilience project

Project Governance and arrangements for project implementation

Oversight of project activities will be the responsibility of the Project Coordination Committee (PCC). Under their guidance, the project will be administered by a Project Management Unit (PMU) that is housed within the UMDM (the executing entity). The PMU will be responsible for providing technical leadership to the project, managing and coordinating project activities, reviewing quarterly forecasts and risk assessments and providing oversight on the day to day operations of the project. To support local-level coordination and governance at the four project implementation sites Task Teams will be established for each of the sites.

4. Current Status of the Projects

Now that both projects have been approved, the NIE will spend the months before April preparing for the projects' implementations and its role as project manager by creating financial/technical reporting templates, drafting operational guidelines for the projects, etc.

Community Adaptation SGF

The Community Adaptation SGF has spent the past year working on including stakeholder mapping and engagements, localised analysis of climate change projections, and vulnerability assessment work. The identification of the executing entity (SSN) and the discussion of governance aspects and procedures for the roll out of the fund were important activities.

Contractual arrangements with the executing entity and facilitating entities have to be finalised before April. One important outstanding process is the identification of a facilitating agency for Mopani.

The preparation of the initial call for project concepts will have to be formulated. This will include the development of a transparent process and clear guidelines for project concept submission. During April 2015, an inception workshop will be organised, bringing together everyone with assigned roles in the project organisation structure.

uMngeni Resilience Project

The NIE and the UMDM are working together, conducting field trips to potential project sites, presenting and engaging at various government forums and meeting with local stakeholders. A number of meetings have also taken place within the UMDM in order to develop a framework for aspects such as financial management and the development of roles and responsibilities for implementation. In the phase before April 2015, the UMDM is focused on appointing the appropriate Project Director and the Financial and Procurement Manager. An inception workshop will take place within two months of the project launch.

5. Challenges of the Projects

Community Adaptation SGF

The consultative process has certainly raised expectations of participating organisations to receive funding once the full overall proposal was approved. It will be crucial to ensure that the projects developed under the SGF are carefully crafted to reflect both the need of the most vulnerable communities while addressing an urgent adaptation challenge. A transparent process (from the initial call to awarding the actual grants) will be crucial to ensure that local organisations understand the basis for decision making and awarding of grants.

Timely implementation can be challenging as many details being discussed and defined in the course of the process. While the SGF should enhance the notion of enhanced direct access, the amount of USD 100,000 is a significant sum to manage and requires accounting skills and a good track record of organisational financial management. The selection of the SGF grantees will thus have to carefully consider funding a "micro-grant" project to a capacitated grantee, allowing smaller organisations to access grants up to USD 10,000 each to facilitate a wider spread of funding to local organisations.

Accountability and good governance will be key for a successful implementation of this project. There must be a clear distinction between organisations being part of the management structure the SGF project (such as CSA and SSN), and they must declare conflict of interests. Monitoring impacts and documenting lessons learnt will also be important to guide project implementation and inform the broader discussion on enhanced direct access-- on the level of organisational learning and on the level of grantee project implementation. For the latter, it will be especially important to have a solid innovative learning process that will document implementation and the opinions of the most vulnerable.



Picture 2: The Small Grant Facility should also support engaging with land users from tomorrow Children in Namakwa District help their parents harvest dry-land wheat. (Photo credit: Bettina Koelle)

A more immediate challenge is the identification and appointment of a facilitating agency for Mopani. Finding an appropriate agency will be crucial for the running of the Community Adaptation SGF in Mopani. The Mopani facilitating agency must have a local presence and network and extensive project development/project implementation experience.

The uMngeni Resilience project

The uMngeni Resilience Project has challenges related to managing expectations. A number of organisations and institutions have engaged in the project proposal development process, providing input and sharing perspectives and experience in various ways. This has raised expectations among stakeholders, both in terms of comments and edits being included in the project proposal and in terms of the playing a role in implementation.

While this project is implemented by a district municipality, it is important to ensure transparent and accountable decision making. At the same time it will be important to learn from the challenges that arise in this process, and the learning component of the project will therefore play an important role in the sharing of these lessons learnt. Lastly, it is also important to ensure a transdisciplinary learning process, integrating the different components and to link to municipal management practice.

6. The Role of Civil Society

Indigo's relationship with relevant actors

Indigo has been representing the South African Adaptation Network on the South African NIE SC, and has made constructive input in the course of the proposal development process. Having been part of the Adaptation Fund NGO Network since 2012, Indigo started engaging with the South African NIE already before its initial call for project concepts in December 2012. Indigo has been working closely with the South African NIE since then, developing an open and honest channel for communication. The Indigo is situated in the Namakwa District Municipality and is thus well placed to track developments of the SGF project with some travel to Limpopo Province (Mopani District Municipality).

The executing entity for the uMngeni Resilience project, the UMDM, is based on the opposite side of the country and is a new actor in the adaptation space. Indigo will therefore increasingly interact with the UMDM as the project moves into the implementation phase.

Willingness to share information

The South African NIE is commended for its efforts to bring together stakeholders in the South African adaptation landscape, and its willingness to listen to their input. After inviting an Adaptation Network representative on to the NIE Steering Committee (SC), the NIE showed a willingness to share information around process and decision making with civil society stakeholders. However, it must be emphasised that this is the only seat on the NIE SC that is allocated to civil society. In being open to working in partnership with the Adaptation Network representative on the NIE SC, the national designated authority, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), has also shown a willingness to working in partnership and to being transparent. However, the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting are confidential and are not publicly available.

Consultative processes with stakeholders during project development and implementation

Community Adaptation SGF

For the Community Adaptation SGF, a stakeholder mapping was conducted for both focal areas, Mopani and Namakwa, identifying locally based NGOs, Associations, CBOs and so on. Workshops were then organised for the identified stakeholders in both locations. Following the workshops, stakeholders received a Project Discussion Document, which outlined the Investment Windows for small grants, as well as the governance and coordination aspects of the SGF. They were given the opportunity to provide input on this document, which formed the foundation for the actual Community Adaptation SGF framework and overall proposal.

Unfortunately, some stakeholders also noted that they were not sure about the extent to which their input was taken into account, and that they never received the amended Project Discussion Document or final proposal. Indigo would therefore like to emphasise the need to focus on creating a safe space for stakeholders, particularly those representing vulnerable communities, to engage around project implementation.

CSA will also support the implementation of the Community Adaptation SGF at the local level. The Community Adaptation SGF will also involve working directly with around 12 grant recipients, and many will most likely be civil society organisations.

The uMngeni Resilience project

For the uMngeni Resilience Project, a number of workshops were organised throughout the project proposal development stage. The project development team also conducted field visits and met

with community representatives, councillors and traditional authorities to discuss the project development. The main NGOs and local government representatives involved were also given the opportunity to input on the final draft project proposal document.

For the uMngeni Resilience Project, Indigo would like to emphasise the need to ensure that the participatory aspects of the project components are taken seriously during implementation. Participatory aspects should be facilitated by an organisation willing to listen to and fully engage with the perspective of the community members at the project sites.

Indigo engagements in the role of Adaptation Fund project watchdog

Since 2012, Indigo has been taken part in a number of workshops and processes directly or indirectly related to the AF project. Engaging in a variety of processes and meetings has been important since it provides Indigo with a broad perspective of the South African adaptation landscape, enabling Indigo to evaluate the AF projects in a broader context.

Indigo is hosting the Secretariat for the Adaptation Network, and the Indigo Director serves on the Adaptation Network Steering Committee. The Adaptation Network is a platform that brings together actors from across South Africa and across sectors working in adaptation, sharing knowledge and experiences and, in some instances, providing a joint input on national adaptation policy.

7. Broader Climate Change Adaptation Landscape in South Africa

South African climate change adaptation policy

South Africa's climate change policy, the National Climate Change Response White Paper (NCCRWP), whose aim it is to direct and guide climate change governance in South Africa, was released in October 2011. The NCCRWP looks at both mitigation and adaptation through the lens of climate-resilient development. It states how South Africa will "strive to develop climate change adaptation based on risk and vulnerability reduction." The plan further emphasises the need to balance the climate change response with other South African priorities, including poverty eradication, social equality, improved public and environmental health, sustainable development and job creation.

One concern relating to the integration of climate change adaptation into sectoral plans is that that Government Departments in South Africa sometimes have what is referred to as policy fatigue. There are too many policies that have to be integrated and that have to speak to each other, to the extent that some departments give up on integrating and understanding the cross linkages. Another concern highlighted by a stakeholder working with climate change is that there is currently limited institutional infrastructure for the NCCRWP to link with.

Climate change adaptation debates

While climate change was getting much media attention in South Africa when the country hosted the 17th COP in 2011, climate change adaptation is no longer making headlines or creating national debates. Debates mainly take place among those working in climate change adaptation. Some of these debates take place through the Adaptation Network, which brings actors together from a variety of sectors.

Various workshops organised by the DEA, such as the upcoming National Climate Change Response Dialogue and stakeholder workshops, also form spaces where actors from government, academia and civil society can get together. The challenge is now attracting those not directly working with climate change adaptation to these forums.

Institutional arrangements for addressing climate change adaptation issues

The DEA is responsible for addressing climate change adaptation in South Africa. The Department acts as the focal point to the UNFCCC, and is thus in charge of communicating with the UNFCCC secretariat, and has further facilitated the development of the National Communications¹ and the South African National Climate Change Response White Paper (NCCRWP). The DEA is also involved in overseeing the implementation of the NCCRWP, and the Minister of Environment chairs the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change (IMCCC), which oversees all aspects of the plan's implementation. Furthermore, the DEA provides the technical, analytical and administrative capacity required for the implementation and review of the NCCRWP. Another important national actor involved in the NCCRWP is the Intergovernmental Committee on Climate Change (IGCCC), whose role it is to operationalise cooperative governance, bringing together national and provincial departments and local government.

Main national departments currently addressing the issue of climate change adaptation include the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) and the Department of Health. The provincial governments are also required to develop provincial strategies that will bring the national climate change response to the provincial level. With key departments and all provinces required to prepare a climate change response strategy/action plan, South Africa is ahead of other countries. Yet, with no enforceable control process, the quality of those plans is currently a challenge.



Picture 3: Farmers in Namakwa District have always been innovative when dealing with extreme climate variability. The Small Grant Facility will allow more adaptation measures on the ground through an enhanced direct access mechanism. (Photo credit: Bettina Koelle)

¹ The National Communications form part of the UNFCCC process related to the implementation of the convention to the Conference of the Parties (COP). South Africa's Initial National Communication came out in 2000, and was followed by the Second National Communication in 2011. The development of a Third National Communication is currently in the very initial planning stages.

The DEA also works with local governments to mainstream climate change into local planning through the Let's Respond Toolkit. The toolkit is a guide to integrating climate change risk and opportunities into municipal planning, and is directly linked to the South African Integrated Development Plan (IDP) process that all municipalities go through. The DEA is developing a database for climate change adaptation research and implementation project work, as well as a national Monitoring and Evaluation framework for adaptation.

Lastly, another initiative that will guide the process of mainstreaming climate change into South African development planning is the Long-Term Adaptation Scenarios (LTAS) Flagship Research Programme (2012-2014), which is aimed at developing national and sub-national adaptation scenarios for South Africa.

South African adaptation projects

In terms of national programmes, the NCCRWP (GoRSA, 2011) has identified a number of near-term priority Flagship Programmes that will be implemented as an integral part of the policy. Through the Environmental Expanded Public Works Programme that the South African Government is implementing, adaptation related programmes are underway across the country. The programmes, which are centered on short-term job creation and focus on the health of ecosystems and the importance of well-functioning ecosystem services, did not start out as adaptation projects, but are increasingly recognised as adaptation related programmes.

Some municipalities, City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality, eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality and City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality, have climate change assessments and strategies. These all have a varying, though limited, number of associated implementation projects. There are also a few examples of other municipalities implementing various adaptation related projects including the municipalities of Theewaterskloof & Knysna.

Additionally, while it is by no means exhaustive nor recently updated, lists, the *ci grasp* webportal² and the website of the South African Adaptation Network³ both make an effort to provide an overview of South African adaptation projects. By combining the projects outlined on the two websites the result is a list of 60 different projects, which can be used to give some indication of the scope of South African projects. Some of the projects are centered strictly around research while others have a practical implementing component or are focused on facilitating discussion and knowledge exchange.

South Africa is in a relatively unique position financially. It has a fairly well-functioning economy, and, being a middle income country, it is not entirely dependent on donor funding. Yet the country is still developing, so it also receives financial support from external actors (Taylor, 2012). A domestic source of funding for climate change adaptation projects is the South African Green Fund. The DEA set aside over USD 70 million to establish the Green Fund, aimed at providing catalytic finance to facilitate investment in green initiatives. In this context, it can be noted that the finance brought in from the AF through the NIE is substantial, with USD 10 million having been allocated for the two projects, both of which are solely focused on climate change adaptation. Another major international donor is the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The South African lottery is also a large funder that provides funds for climate projects, as are other international organisations.

² <http://cigrasp.pik-potsdam.de/>

³ <http://www.adaptationnetwork.org.za/>

Awareness

The hosting of COP17 in 2011 played an important role in increasing South African awareness around the challenges of climate change. There now seems to be a relatively high degree of consciousness, with people in government, business, NGOs, and community members realising that climate change is an important issue.

Indigo works to increase climate change adaptation understanding and awareness in South Africa by working with stakeholders from the grassroots level to the national policy level. Working with small-scale farmers to collectively develop climate change adaptation responses and sharing the practical on-the-ground experiences in national forums have been ways that Indigo has worked to increase the awareness to explain why climate change adaptation is needed and how responses can be developed.

8. Measuring Progress

The implementation process will begin in April 2015. It is important that sound indicators are developed to track the progress of project implementation and also to support an active learning process. Some suggested indicators are compiled for consideration below. However, it is important to emphasise that in order to strengthen these indicators, it would be crucial to compile impact indicators based defined by the vulnerable groups themselves.

Community Adaptation SGF

- Accountability and transparency of project implementation process:
 - Call for proposals is clear and allows for broad participation
 - The selection process of grantees is transparent and there are grievance procedures in place
 - No conflict of interest: The organisations involved in project management (CSA and SSN) are not benefiting or receiving funding as a SGF grantee
 - Ongoing reflection and effective learning and communication is enabled
 - Organisational development and learning is facilitated as an ongoing process
 - The NIE SC received regular project updates
 - Externally facilitated learning events will reflect on and assess impact as perceived by project beneficiaries
 - Only one SGF project is allocated per main applicant
 - The project is managed transparently and project progress, challenges encountered and financial expenditure are fully and publicly disclosed.
- Effective capacity development of facilitating agency
 - Local organisations in Mopani and Namakwa have the ability to independently develop adaptation project proposals that address the needs of the most vulnerable
 - CSA and the Mopani facilitating agency support all interested organisations in the learning process
 - Project proposals are gender conscious and benefit women and men alike
- Monitoring and Evaluation
 - Monitoring and evaluation of project impact is part of project proposals

- A learning process is included in each project proposal
- Effective baselines have been established for each grantee
- A process is facilitated where local grantees themselves set indicators of successful impact - then engage in a participatory monitoring process

uMngeni Resilience Project

- Early warning systems are more effectively supporting most vulnerable groups in being prepared for extreme events.
- Small-scale farmers are able to effectively combine local and scientific knowledge to have more resilient farming practices
- Trans-disciplinary learning is taking place and involves officials from the department of agriculture, researchers, municipal employees, technical experts and small scale farmers.
- Innovative building techniques are effectively climate proofing local houses while respecting cultural aspects and working in partnership with local beneficiaries
- The project is managed transparently and project progress, challenges encountered and financial expenditure are fully and publicly disclosed.

Resources

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Supporting the most vulnerable to climate change.