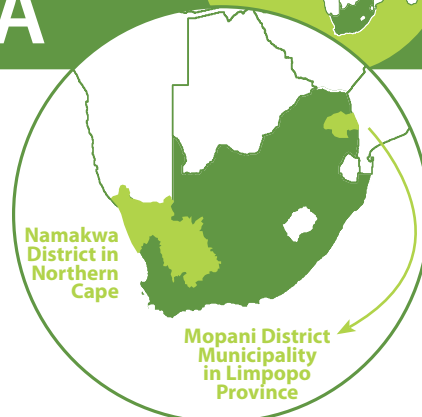




ADAPTATION FUND

Adaptation Story

SOUTH AFRICA



In the rural northwestern Namakwa District of South Africa's rolling Northern Cape, the negative effects of climate change are becoming commonplace.

Recent long drought spells weakened local livestock production and sales. In 2015, 80% of lambs and 10% of productive ewes died in a cold period. Climate projections indicate an increase in temperature to the already arid landscape over the next few decades that will further impact agriculture, settlements and livelihoods.

These challenges have left farming communities increasingly vulnerable to climate change, leading some to form local cooperatives that work collaboratively to promote livestock resilience and sustainable grazing methods. Enter the Biodiversity and Red Meat Cooperative (BRC).

Working in partnership with a local NGO, Gondwana Alive, BRC received a grant to introduce new climate resilient breeds of livestock in the community of Leliefontein over two years through an innovative Small Grants Facility (SGF) project funded by the Adaptation Fund and implemented by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). Some 40 semi-indigenous sheep and nine goat rams were distributed among 36

BRC farmers in November 2016, marking a major step toward building their adaptive capabilities.

"We will now have more resilient livestock that will fetch better market prices and thereby improve our financial security and livelihoods," said Katrina Schwartz, of BRC.

The BRC program is just one example of the unique work of the SGF, which is a US\$ 2.44 million pilot project approved by the Adaptation Fund Board in October 2014 to empower rural farmers and vulnerable communities to identify and implement local level responses to climate change. As an accredited National Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund, SANBI is part of the Fund's pioneering Direct Access modality – which provides developing countries the opportunity

to access Fund resources and develop projects directly while building their own capacity to adapt to climate change. The Adaptation Fund also has a pioneering role in funding the SGF, which takes it a step further by being the first ever "Enhanced Direct Access" project in giving countries the autonomy to select and fund their own local adaptation projects. "This allows us to respond in a multi-pronged way directly to the needs of vulnerable communities," said Mandy Barnett, Project Director for SANBI. "The localized interventions of the SGF are producing climate resilient livelihoods, climate smart agriculture and climate-proofing infrastructure."

In addition to the Namakwa District, the SGF is also working with the Mopani District in Limpopo in the northeastern part of the country – another region that is especially vulnerable to climate change. Both areas are subject to warming temperatures, increasing rainfall intensity and variability, water scarcity, droughts, seasonal and climate shifts and storm-related disasters that negatively impact the health and well-being of already stressed rural and poor communities who have limited capacity to adapt.



Photo by: Mphuzeni Tshindane (SANBI)

Climate smart agriculture in Mopani.

First Adaptation Fund 'Enhanced Direct Access' project, empowering national institutions with autonomy to identify and fund local adaptation projects with Adaptation Fund support

PROJECT details

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

Sector: Multi-Sector

Project Duration: 5 Years (approved in October 2014, begun September 2015)

Adaptation Fund Grant Funding: US\$ 2.44 million

National Implementing Entity: South African National Biodiversity Institute

Executing Entity: SouthSouthNorth

PRIMARY objectives

- Ensure that vulnerable, rural communities in two target regions have reduced vulnerability and increased resilience to anticipated impacts of climate variability and change
- Deliver direct and tangible benefits through implementation of small grant projects
- Empower local institutions to identify and implement adaptation response measures
- Facilitate lessons learned for future up-scaling and replication of small grant-financing approaches



Farmers of the Biodiversity and Red Meat Cooperative (BRC) receiving new climate resilient livestock.

Photos by: Thabang Phago (Conservation South Africa)



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SOUTH AFRICA



Heiveld Tea Court in Blomfontein farm with rainwater tanks, one of four Enhanced Direct Access projects under implementation in Namakwa.

Photo by: Siya Myeza (Environmental Monitoring Group)

There are plans to ensure sustainable, well-planned, carefully monitored and scientifically sound grazing regimens that prevent degradation and enable rangelands to provide adaptation services to farmers.

— Jozua Lambert, Biodiversity and Red Meat Cooperative

By supplying small grants that deliver tangible and sustainable benefits, the SGF implements climate adaptation strategies into local practice while protecting assets, livelihoods and ecosystems from climate risks. It empowers local institutions to identify and implement adaptation responses, and share lessons learned to facilitate scaling up and replication of SGF approaches. Local communities work in partnership on the projects with community-based organizations.

Six small grants have been approved to date in the two districts to reduce climate vulnerability and increase resilience in vulnerable communities.

In addition to the BRC program, the Namakwa District has three other approved SGF programs that are being implemented to help communities adapt to temperature increases and climate change. These include an activity in partnership with the Environmental Monitoring Group to refurbish homes, install 19 water tanks, eight compost toilets, facial boards and drainage elbows to improve water security and storage in the rural Melkraal and Soebatsfontein villages; another with Save Act Trust to mobilize groups from rural communities in Nourivier, Tweerivier, Kharkams, Bergsig, Spoegrivier and Concordia, as well as neighboring villages to establish savings methods and groups that improve financial security in response to climate impacts like flash floods and drought; and a fourth activity where vulnerable farmers of the Heiveld Cooperative designed and implemented climate-smart agriculture mechanisms and infrastructure to improve water security and supplies at the Heiveld Tea Court on Blomfontein farm, climate-proofing a system of small-scale rooibos (indigenous shrub used as tea) production.

Meanwhile in Mopani, the SGF is pursuing a project with World Vision South Africa to enhance agriculture and livelihoods, and another with Tsogang Water and Sanitation to climate-proof settlements.

BY THE NUMBERS

975

RURAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN NAMAKWA DISTRICT BENEFITING FROM FOUR APPROVED PROJECTS TO REDUCE VULNERABILITY AND INCREASE RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

1,128

BENEFICIARIES FROM TWO PROJECTS IN MOPANI DISTRICT ENHANCING CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE METHODS AND LIVELIHOODS AND CLIMATE-PROOFING SETTLEMENTS

8

COMPOST TOILETS INSTALLED

50

INDIGENOUS DROUGHT AND HEAT TOLERANT MEAT MASTER RAMS, AND 15 INDIGENOUS VELD GOATS PROCURED FOR LIVESTOCK FARMERS TO ENHANCE LIVESTOCK RESILIENCE

5

SAVINGS GROUPS ESTABLISHED TO FINANCIALLY HELP RURAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS BECOME MORE RESILIENT TO CLIMATE VARIABILITY AND SHOCKS

100

HA OF ROOIBOS TEA LAND ENHANCED FOR SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE RESILIENCE FARMING

10

HOUSES FITTED WITH GUTTERS AND RAINWATER HARVESTING TANKS

5

VEGETABLE GARDENS INITIATED WITH WATER-WISE AND CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

20

HOUSES WITH AT LEAST ONE ROOM INSULATED FROM EXCESSIVE HEAT IN NAMAKWA DISTRICT