

## Accessing and Engaging on Local Adaptation Finance workshop

Kirstenbosch, Cape Town, 27-28 February 2023

To engage with local stakeholders on the topic of local access to adaptation finance [Adaptation Network](#) (AN), the [South African National Biodiversity Institute](#) (SANBI), and the [Strengthen National Climate Policy Implementation: Comparative Empirical Learning & Creating Linkage to Climate Finance Project](#) Team at the University of Cape Town (SNAPFI–UCT) collaborated to organize an interactive two-day workshop in Cape Town on 27-28 February 2023.

The workshop aimed to offer facilitated peer learning experience, knowledge exchange and share research findings. The workshop discussed experiences associated with accessing adaptation finance at the local level and gathered feedback relevant to SANBI's development of funding proposals.

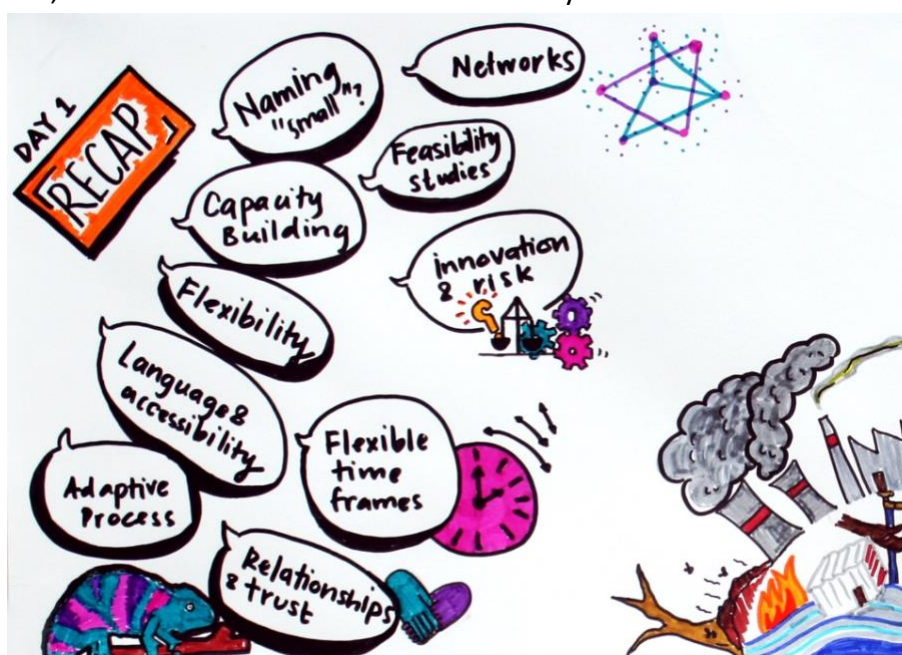
More than 20 mainly non-government organisation participants attended as well as representatives from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), the South African Earth Observation Network (SAEON), the South African Weather Service (SAWS), and the Western Cape Province Climate Change Directorate.

The energising two days yielded rich learning and network building, and feedback on small granting modalities. Participants collaboratively highlighted focus areas for efforts to enhance local access to adaptation finance.

### Day 1: Peer learning and knowledge exchange on accessing adaptation finance

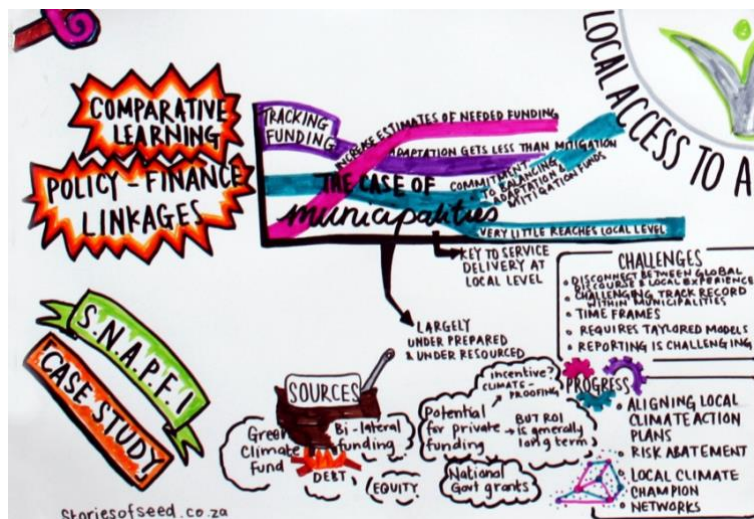
The Adaptation Network led the proceedings on the first day of the workshop with participatory information-sharing and training under the AN's Civil Society Organisations Skills Enhancement and Excellence Development (CSO Seed) project. The training covered civil society organisation experiences with accessing and facilitating access to adaptation finance, with inputs from SaveAct, CHoiCe Trust and Gender CC. Publicly available tools to access information needed to

develop adaptation funding proposals were presented, including the DFFE's 'Let's Respond Toolkit', the South African Risk and Vulnerability Atlas (SARVA), and local climate and weather information available from the South African Weather Services (SAWS).



## Day 2: Research findings on local government access to climate finance

The SNAPFI-UCT project team opened the second day with findings from their study which focused on bringing adaptation finance to the local level, particularly local municipalities, and identified barriers, many of which were common across local actors. The study found that many municipalities in the country are ill-equipped and underfunded to tackle climate change, with adaptation receiving less funding compared to mitigation efforts. The research revealed that funders prefer organisations with a proven track record in climate funding, putting new applicants at a disadvantage. The engaged discussions interrogated how finance is tracked and approaches to build capacity to access finance; they centred on the role of non-governmental organizations alongside local governments.



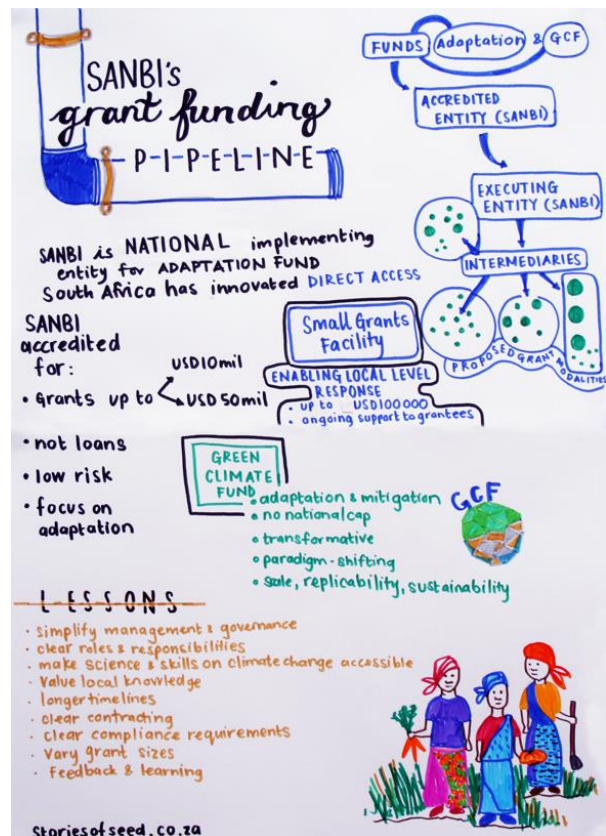
## Day 2: Panel discussion on 'small' granting experiences

SANBI and the Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) led the panel discussion on lessons learned from small-granting experiences, and factors that enhanced success in implementation and relevance for local activities. Key points of discussion included capacity-building approaches and time needs, the use of local and scientific languages, the role of intermediaries between local and national or international funders, inclusive processes for conceiving projects, balancing resource allocation for implementation and compliance activities, and the importance of networks like the Adaptation Network to gather local voices and feedback.



Day 2: SANBI's plans for small granting and opportunities under the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund

SANBI, as the National Implementing Entity (NIE) to the Adaptation Fund (AF) and the Nationally Accredited Entity (NAE) to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), is developing national-level adaptation projects as part of its project pipeline. This includes upscaling a small granting program piloted under a previous Adaptation Fund project, "Taking adaptation to the ground: A Small Grants Facility for enabling local level responses to climate change in South Africa" in the Namakwa and Mopani District Municipalities. SANBI shared information on these opportunities and sought AN member's perspectives and priorities. The development of concepts for these opportunities is in pre-design phase and SANBI is committed to ongoing consultations during the proposal development processes.



The informative presentations, energising exercises, reflective discussions and all round commitment to shared learnings all contributed to the successful event.

Special mentions of thanks go to:

Workshop Facilitator: Penny Price in her role as the CSO SEED project co-ordinator,

Graphic harvester: Claire Roussel of SeedsofChange.co.za,

Lead organisers from the AN Network Secretariat: Elin Lorimer and Sinovuyo Mboobo of Indigo Development and Change,

SANBI's Marilyn Martin-Vermaak for organising the stakeholder consultation, and

SANBI for sharing their lovely venue.



based on a decision of the German Bundestag

