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## FIRST GENERAL MEETING THE ADAPTATION NETWORK

**WE'RE UP TO THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE!**

Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, Cape Town, 4 November 2009



This workshop was hosted by Indigo development & change, *Project 90* by 2030 and the Environmental Monitoring Group and funded with contributions from CCAA (a joint initiative from IDRC and DFID), the South African Biodiversity Institute and Conservation International.

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## Background

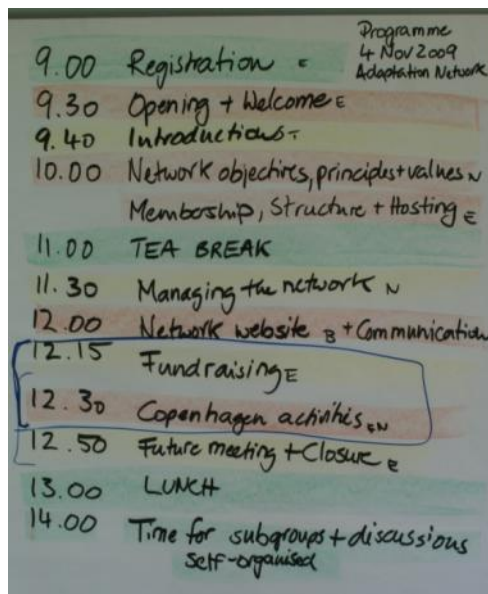
On 4 November 2009 the first general meeting of the Adaptation Network was held in Cape Town at the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, with the aim of formalizing the network and establishing the administrative structure and core direction of the network's work. The meeting was attended by 32 adaptation practitioners from around South Africa, working in a range of fields, who had expressed an interest in becoming members of this new network. Many more had expressed interest in participating in the network, but were unable to attend the meeting.

The concept of an adaptation network emerged from the 2009 National Climate Change Summit where many delegates expressed the need for a platform where those involved in adaptation work could share experiences and practical approaches, and explore the relative value of theoretical frameworks and methodologies that could add value to national and international policy processes. The Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG), in its role as host of Drynet, South Africa, and Indigo development & change (through the CBAA project), took on this challenge and invited individuals from a range of sectors to a networking workshop on climate change adaptation held on 18 June 2009 in Johannesburg, where the decision to form a network was taken.

This first Adaptation Network general meeting was co-hosted by Indigo development & change, Project 90 by 2030 and the Environmental Monitoring Group, with additional venue sponsorship from the South African Biodiversity Institute and Conservation International.

## Opening & Welcome

The first Adaptation Network General Meeting was co-facilitated by Bettina Koelle (Indigo development & change), Noel Oettlé (Environmental Monitoring Group) and Elin Lorimer (network administrator). Elin Lorimer opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. She gave a brief overview of the events that led up to the formation of the network, including the initial workshop held in June in Johannesburg. She thanked Indigo development & change, Project 90 by 2030 and the Environmental Monitoring Group for organising, hosting and sponsoring the meeting, and the South African Biodiversity Institute and Conservation International for sponsoring the meeting venue.



Programme 4 Nov 2009 Adaptation Network	
9.00	Registration =
9.30	Opening + Welcome =
9.40	Introductions =
10.00	Network objectives, principles + values = Membership, Structure + Hosting =
11.00	TEA BREAK
11.30	Managing the network =
12.00	Network website = + Communication
12.15	Fundraising =
12.30	Copenhagen activities =
12.50	Future meeting + Closure =
13.00	LUNCH
14.00	Time for subgroups + discussions Self-organised



## Network Values, Principles and Objectives

The meeting participants broke into small groups to discuss what values, principles and objectives this new network should be based upon. Noel Oettlé (EMG) facilitated a discussion that led to the following values, principles and objectives being unanimously adopted by the Adaptation Network:

### Values

The network should operate based upon the following values:

- Mutual respect (x5)
- Honesty (x3)
- Integrity (x3)
- Trust (x2)
- Commitment (x2)
- Caring and compassion (x2)
- Openness
- Justice
- Patience and understanding
- Diversity of belief systems
- Inclusivity
- Equality
- uBuntu
- Solidity
- Creativity
- Love
- Civility
- Transformation to an integrated society
- Fun is good!



### Principles

It was also agreed that the network will operate in terms of the following principles:

- Transparency (x3)
- Diversity (x3)
- Accountability (x2)
- Active participation (x2)
- Inter-disciplinarity and exploring synergies (x2)
- Efficiency (x2)
- Inclusivity (x2)
- Sharing/partnerships (x2)
- Straight talk
- Listening
- Inspiration
- Democratic structure
- Flexibility
- Effectiveness
- Keeping harm at bay
- Support
- People first
- Human rights
- Creativity
- Cooperation and collaboration
- Fair-handedness
- SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely) goal setting



## Objectives

It was agreed that the network will aim to...

- Be an open forum for sharing resources, knowledge and ideas and promoting the integration of different kinds of knowledge
- Provide a space to grow partnerships and support one another
- Be a recognised point of contact for consultation, lobbying and advocacy
- Enable members to lobby government at all levels to improve delivery (focus on finding common ground, not joint positions on all issues)
- Provide co-ordination to encourage alignment and connectivity
- Provide a platform for promoting collective positions
- Assist members to promote awareness through education, shared information and shared platforms
- Highlight what is already happening in terms of education and communication
- Be a central point for providing information
- Improve delivery by promoting better planning and evaluation
- Promote activities that build the capacity of communities to innovate and adapt
- Paint a positive picture, and communicate a message of hope to communities that we're up for the challenge



## Network Membership

Elin Lorimer (network administrator) facilitated a discussion on who should or should not become members of this network.

It was agreed that network membership should be open and inclusive, including individuals and organisations such as NGOs, government departments, business, research and media organisations based in South Africa and the southern African region. These organisations should be supportive of the individuals nominated to represent them in the network. It should be an easy and inclusive process to join the network.

Membership will be formalised when members annually commit (in writing) to uphold the values and principles of the network. Every member should actively contribute to the network's work and be solution-oriented. There will either be no membership fees, or alternatively a small fee or non-monetary token contribution from members will be required.



## Network Structure, Hosting and Management

Elin Lorimer (network administrator) facilitated a discussion on how the network should be structured, administered and managed.

### Network Hosting

Brenda Martin outlined a proposal that had been developed collaboratively after the initial workshop, in terms of which three organisations would jointly host the adaptation network. This proposal had been circulated to the Steering Committee and was supported. In terms of the proposal Project 90 by 2030 would host the network website, the Environmental Monitoring Group would handle lobbying and advocacy matters, and Indigo development & change would coordinate on methodological issues. Elin Lorimer will be available to assist as network administrator, reporting directly to Project 90 by 2030. Brenda described the joint hosting as a hub for network activities, rather than driving the network independently. However, while the three organisations were happy to contribute in this way, they were all also happy to step down should other organisations have the capacity to take on these roles.



Bettina Koelle emphasised that Indigo was keen for the network to have broad ownership, but the joint hosting arrangement would encourage better facilitation of discussions in the network, working with members rather than for them.

Bettina Koelle emphasised that Indigo was keen for the network to have broad ownership, but the joint hosting arrangement would encourage better facilitation of discussions in the network, working with members rather than for them.

It was **agreed** that the network should be jointly hosted by Project 90 by 2030, Indigo development & change and the Environmental Monitoring Group for a period of one year. Thereafter at least one of the hosting organisations will step down and the role will rotate to another network member. Each of these organisations currently have funding for activities that are in harmony with what the network wants to achieve, although additional network funding will need to be sought to cover additional costs such as the secretariat and additional activities. It was **agreed** that when a member organisation offers to host a network meeting, it should nominate a representative to participate on the Steering Committee of the network for the period leading up to that meeting.

The network should aim to rotate meetings between the Western Cape and Gauteng, and possibly other provinces such as Kwa-Zulu Natal, with member organisations volunteering to host the meeting and provide a venue. SANBI's offer to host a meeting in Gauteng at the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden (Roodepoort) was noted with thanks. Participants noted that the role of hosting a network meeting could provide opportunities for members to obtain funding for the meeting and related events such as field trips and workshops. However, it was noted that venue sponsorship need not entail hosting the network meeting and providing additional activities such as workshops.

The role of host organisations versus a steering committee was debated, and it was agreed that hosting should entail providing services and an administrative centre, rather than guiding the content of the network's work.

## Steering Committee

It was agreed that the role of a steering committee was essential to broaden the ownership of the network and this committee should be elected to take over from the task team. The Steering Committee should provide overall direction and guide the activities, fundraising and secretariat work of the network.

It was agreed that the Steering Committee should include a variety of organisations, including one member from each hosting organisations (three) and two or three other members. There should be an annual rotation of some of the Steering Committee membership with a nomination and electoral process. Nominations should take into account factors such as individuals' availability, commitment, geographical spread, organisational spread, gender balance, and government and NGO participation. The Steering Committee will consist of a number of individuals with their organisation's backing.

The following members of the Steering Committee were elected, with the option to elect one more member from those not present at the meeting (possibly a DWEA representative):

- Bettina Koelle (Indigo development & change)
- Noel Oettlé (Environmental Monitoring Group)
- Brenda Martin (Project 90 by 2030)
- Sandile Ndawonde (GREEN Network - Natal)
- Malusi Vevatshi (SANBI - Gauteng)



Fundraising should provide for the Steering Committee to be able to meet, although the Steering Committee should aim to hold meetings telephonically in the interim.

## Network Activities

The meeting participants agreed that the network's activities should initially not be too ambitious, but should be allowed to grow as the network develops and funding is secured. This should also include virtual activities, and one larger and more ambitious annual event.

## Website

Hin Wah Li and Brenda Martin (Project 90 by 2030) gave a presentation outlining a proposed website for the network. Hin Wah noted that this was still in draft format, and all aspects were still open for discussion. The website main page included links entitled "People", "News", "Events", and "Database".

Suggestions for additional features included:

- An option to subscribe to the list-serve
- A list of members, their contact details and a brief description of each member
- A strapline such as "We're up for the challenge",
- A list of sponsorships (including time and energy contributions and financial contributions for the sake of social responsibility)
- A space for uploading case studies and descriptions of completed and ongoing work (moderated).
- A place to post event reports and podcasts of meetings and presentations and allow people to post contributions to meetings on the website
- Live chat and unedited blog spaces to replace multiple e-mails
- Protocols regarding the website will need to be developed
- A new name, acronym and logo should be developed for the network

## Network Name

Meeting participants voted on the following three names which emerged from discussions: The Adaptation Network – we are up to the climate challenge; South African National Network for Climate Adaptation (SANNCA) and Network for Climate Adaptation.



It was **agreed** that the network should be called: **The Adaptation Network**, with the slogan:

**“We’re up to the climate challenge!”**

## Fundraising

A small group facilitated by Elin Lorimer met after lunch to discuss fundraising options to support network activities.

Core funding is needed for the network to fund a secretary, three annual meetings (catering, transport etc.) and the website hosting. In addition, a larger multi-day annual event was discussed to contribute to organisational development, including study tours, workshops etc. Steering Committee meetings would initially need to take place virtually using Skype and teleconferences.



Fundraising should be based upon the network’s short and long-term objectives, and money should not drive the network’s activities. A multi-year programme should be developed, including key outputs and deliverables such as an annual event, website, information sharing and newsletters.

A legal constitution will be important for fundraising purposes. It should also be clarified which hosting organisation would be applying for funding, as they would need to have a legal constitution, board and accountability to the funders.

Suggestions for funding sources included:

- The Table Mountain Fund (for bridging/seed funding, linked to an event in the Cape (R100 000?))
- DBSA
- Government (Landcare, DWEA, Working on Energy)
- Danish Embassy
- British Council
- Swedish Society for Conservation of Nature (for short and long-term funding)
- Oxfam
- GEF Adaptation Fund (Working on Fire is putting in a proposal, which may be able to be extended to include this: a 3-year proposal to begin in a year’s time)
- Add-ons to members’ proposals e.g. for training – a decentralized approach.



Suggested meeting venues included:

- Nelspruit (Working on Fire has a full venue, available Nov-April annually)
- Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden (Roodepoort/ Gauteng)
- KZN

A Funding Committee was established including:

- Noel Oettlé (EMG)
- Bettina Koelle (Indigo development & change)
- Brenda Martin (Project 90x2030)
- Elin Lorimer (network administrator)
- Val Charlton (Working on Fire)
- Sandile Ndawonde (GREEN Network)
- Geraldine Hochman (The Mvula Trust)
- Malusi Vevatshi (SANBI - Gauteng)
- Possible additional Steering Committee member

A full network funding proposal needs to be completed by February 2010 for inclusion in the GEF proposal by Working on Fire. A first draft should be available by early January 2010.

**Action: Elin Lorimer to co-ordinate drafting of the network proposal with the Funding Committee**

## Copenhagen Activities

A small group facilitated by Noel Oettlé met after lunch to discuss activities planned for the lead-up and during the Copenhagen Conference of the Parties. SACAN is coordinating discussions of a number of member organisations, including CAP. Sarshen Marais of CAP will be attending the COP. Bettina Koelle and Noel Oettle will be participating in the IIED Development and Climate Days during the COP, and will be launching a film about adaptation.

It was suggested that all South African delegates communicate before going to Copenhagen in order to co-ordinate efforts and to share information.

It was also suggested that the Adaptation Network should host a post Copenhagen event – sharing insights and strategies with the Network members in South Africa.

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