SOCIAL CHANGE ASSISTANCE TRUST

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HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG CAPE TOWN South Africa | Namibia | Zimbabwe

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Rural Action for Climate Resilience

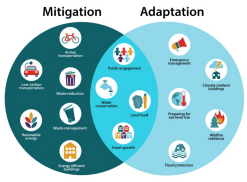
Hello, Friends!

Project Highlights

Welcome to our first RACR newsletter.

There is always a bit of anxiety when a project plan hits the highway of reality. What was crafted in relatively comfortable circumstances gets tested in communities, workshop settings and day to day organisational life. So it was for the *Rural Action for Climate Resilience* (RACR) team at the beginning of the project roll-out amid a global pandemic. Given the realities of life in a pandemic, in-person gatherings were restricted and so we gathered on Zoom for interactions which involved all community project partners.

The first workshops and seminars got underway on 4 & 6 August 2021 with the Inception Workshops for the Western and Eastern Cape respectively. A succession of engagements followed which provided an opportunity for all of us to learn together about climate terminology, conditions and context.



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Learning Together

Colleagues from other organisations and initiatives such as SANBI and the Umngeni Resilience Project shared their knowledge, experience and insights. We learnt about the difference between climate adaptation (adjusting to the current conditions) and mitigation (taking action to

decrease greenhouse gases).

From SANBI's *Mpfunzeni Tshindane*, we learnt about the climate adaptation projects funded in two areas of South Africa. These initiatives are focussed on

* climate resilient agriculture
* climate resilient livelihoods and
* climate resilient settlements

RACR participants could hear first hand from *Lindokuhle Khanyile* of the Umngeni Resilience Project, some of the approaches taken to help a community become more resilient to climate change.

To see a timeline of the RACR activities from August to March click this link

Women's Climate Strike

Microgrant Recipients

What is a Micro Grant?

A micro grant has a maximum value of R8,000 awarded to community partners to create awareness on the impact of climate change in their respective communities. We plan to award 50 grants on a rolling basis over the two year project period.

We featured the following micro grant recipients on our social media recently:

Mqanduli Advice Office is helping rural communities to understand what is meant by climate change, why it affects women more than men, and how they can adapt and respond to climate stressors. Mqanduli Advice Office is choosing to focus their efforts particularly on women and youth.

Dordrecht Advice Office has chosen to focus their micro grant activities on building partnerships with local stakeholders and to promote a clean environment as part of a general awareness campaign on climate change.

Entlango Primary Agricultural Cooperative is located in Qongqotha (also called eQonce), a peri-urban area on the outskirts of King William's Town in the Eastern Cape. The cooperative started in 2007 as an initiative to reduce poverty and provide employment. The micro grant will be used to bring women and youth together to raise awareness about climate change and on actions to build climate resilience. In their area, women carry the burden of fetching wood, water, caring for livestock and maintaining household gardens.

Mount Frere Paralegal Advice Centre is situated in the mountainous area of the Alfred Nzo district in the Umzimvubu Municipality. The area has many families who are subsistence farmers. They plan to use their microgrant to

teach #women and #youth basic #permaculture principles and to make vegetable shelters to protect crops from extreme weather and domestic animals.

The RACR Team

In this and the upcoming quarterly newsletters we will feature members of the team and the Youth Citizen Journalists.

Claire Tapscott

Climate Change Programme Coordinator

We caught up with Claire and asked her to share some highlights and challenges during the first phase of the project.
Claire shared that highlights included the way project participants embraced the initiative and the level of engagement in online conversations. What drives these online conversations is a real desire to learn more about climate change and the need to adapt and mitigate the impact communities are experiencing.
What was challenging was being confronted with the unequal access participants have because of being remote and the reality of electricity outages, poor network connection and sub-standard bandwidth.

Imameleng Masitha

Youth Citizen Journalist

Imameleng is not new to citizen journalism. She has some experience under her belt writing about health issues/community health. She is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Digital Curation at the University of Cape Town. Her interest in climate change and environmental issues led her to the CREA 2019 ReConference in Nepal with the theme "a commitment to building inclusive feminist visions of justice". The ReConference addressed the challenging socio-political issues of the time and "their intersections with feminism, art and technology". It covered themes which included environmental justice and climate change with a feminist point of view. Her goal is to feature women's voices in the climate change narrative. The first workshop with the team left her inspired and she is looking forward to producing her first story which will focus on food security.

Lindiwe Pakati

Youth Citizen Journalist

Lindiwe worked in community radio as a news anchor and producer. Her interest peaked when she saw the opportunity to explore climate change as a citizen journalist. She views it as a challenge to learn about environmental issues and to write stories about how communities are affected. Her first story

focuses on the effects of a recent tornado on a school in the Eastern Cape and the challenges teachers and learners face as repairs to the school have yet to be done. Coming from a news background, her day starts with checking the headlines on the South African news sites. She likes to know what is going on around her. She has an 8 year old daughter and enjoys spending time with her family and going on trips.

What's Coming Up

RACR events - please note that these are in-person workshops and the operations team will be in touch about registrations and travel.

Western Cape Regional Workshop : 12 - 15 May 2022

Eastern Cape Regional Workshop : 23 - 26 May 2022

Things to Watch or Listen To

Watch the 29 March 2022 Presidential Climate Commission's Just Transition Framework Community Consultation in Xolobeni, Eastern Cape via this link.

Listen to the TED Climate Change podcast.
This episode featuring Shweta Narayan is just over 9 minutes and well worth a listen. Listen via this link.

Episode Description

The doctrine of "first, do no harm" is the basis of the Hippocratic Oath, one of the world's oldest codes of ethics. It governs the work of physicians -- but climate and health campaigner Shweta Narayan says it should go further. In this essential talk, she highlights the interdependence of environmental and human health and emphasizes the necessity of placing health at the heart of all climate solutions.

Until next time,
RACR Team

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