

Application for Winter School, Cape Town 2009

“Using Climate information for adaptation and policy development” 13-26 July 2009

I would like to submit an expression of interest to participate in the above-mentioned course.

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I am one of co-Directors of SouthSouthNorth Africa, an NGO focusing on climate change and sustainable development. Over the past 2.5 years I have been managing the South African component of the SSN Adaptation to Climate Change Programme – aimed at using a project-led approach to defining community based adaptation (CBA) projects.

The SouthSouthNorth project developed and implemented the SSN Adaptation Project Protocol (SSNAPP) that aimed to assist and enable development (& other) practitioners to identify, select, design, implement and monitor & evaluate community based adaptation (CBA) to climate change projects in 6 southern countries from 2005-2008 (Alam and Mqadi, 2006). This methodology is based on accessing and utilizing both climate and other (e.g. poverty and other relevant) information by overlaying it to find ‘hotspots’ for adaptation intervention. This methodology has since been adopted by other implementing agencies, which have renamed it the tool – LOCATE (local options and technologies for communities to adapt and enhance capacity).

In South Africa, the implementation of the SSNAPP/LOCATE methodology, that uses climate impact data and overlays it with poverty data to find ‘hotspots’ for adaptation intervention, led to a collaboration with Indigo-dc to implement the project *Adaptation to Climate Change by small-scale Rooibos Tea Farmers in the Suid Bokkeveld area of the Northern Cape Province of South Africa*. This project (supported by the GEF-Small Grants Programme (2007-2009)) seeks to increase the resilience of communities, through the enhancement of problem solving capacities, against the impacts of climate change. This project uses a participatory action research approach. The components of the project include:

- Qualitative interviews on perceptions of changes in climate and past, current and future coping strategies
- Local climate data collection – temperature and rainfall
- Wild Rooibos propagation trials – greenhouse & on-farm
- Climate Preparedness workshops – a platform for sharing information on the different project components as well as utilizing seasonal forecasts, climate calendars, for discussion and decision-making by land-users.

This project is also being used as a frontrunner for another CBA project supported by the CCAA (Climate Change Adaptation in Africa Programme – co-funded by IDRC and DIFD), entitled Community Based Adaptation in Africa (CBAA) that involves 8 countries in Southern and Eastern Africa. The CBAA project aims to further contribute to the development of the LOCATE methodology by using the South African project as a living lab to apply available participatory monitoring and evaluation tools, that would be shared and selectively applied in the other CBAA country projects.

My goals in participating in the course are to:

- gain an indepth understanding of what climate information is (i.e. the science), how it gets interpreted (i.e. the models, scenarios, impacts, etc.) and used to not only drive strategies for adaptation at a local level but also guide decision-makers to provide an enabling environment to ensure adaptation capacity in enhanced
- learn and understand how we communicate climate information in a 'language' that is understandable by development practitioners – as well as decision-makers?
- understand the core concepts related to adaptation to climate change and what this means for development practitioners working with those impacted by climate change
- share my own personal experiences in the field of climate change adaptation and learn from others

Who are we?

SouthSouthNorth Africa (SSN A) is a South African based NGO and most recently part of the network of 6 southern organisations implementing 5 themes (mitigation, adaptation, capacity development, technological receptivity and policy intervention) under the banner of the SouthSouthNorth project (2000-2008). The mission of SouthSouthNorth seeks to place poverty reduction efforts at the centre of all climate change issues, while addressing sustainable development of poor communities of the South who suffer the most from the impacts of climate change. In doing so, we pioneer new approaches and apply new instruments to address climate change and promote sustainable development. Where methodological gaps exist, SSN undertakes practical, project based learning to find, open up and test new possibilities, build capacity and develop new methodologies and share these for the benefit of the global community.