

# Rural Action for Climate Resilience

## LEARNING FESTIVAL REPORT

2022



# Acknowledgements

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**Rural Action for  
Climate Resilience**



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the European Union**

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Rural Action for Climate Resilience

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# Introduction and Objectives

The Rural Action for Climate Resilience project (RACR) is a partnership project between Social Change Assistance Trust (SCAT), Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI) and Heinrich Böll Foundation which aims to increase climate resilience and so protect livelihoods in rural communities. It is co-funded by the European Union and the Heinrich Böll Foundation.

The Learning Festival took place at Cape Town Lodge in Cape Town from the 18th to the 21st of October 2022. The event was attended by 62 representatives from rural community based organisations as well as faith leaders from rural communities. The participants travelled from rural parts of the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape in order to attend the event.

The purpose of the Festival was to bring together the project participants from the three provinces in order to exchange information on climate change and the impacts thereof, to share expertise, to network and to develop skills. The Festival also marked the first occasion that all participating CBOs were invited to be in a shared location. From a group of over 40 participating CBOs, 29 CBOs and faith leaders attended the event.

The objectives of the Learning Festival were:

- To share information on local government engagement strategies
- To provide an opportunity for sharing and networking
- To demonstrate practical approaches to adapting to climate change
- To demonstrate innovative approaches of responding to environmental pollution
- To showcase projects of Micro Grant recipients





# Project Partners

## **Social Change Assistance Trust (SCAT)**

SCAT is a veteran South African non-profit organisation that has worked for 39 years with over 500 CBOs in rural communities, to strengthen their capacity as agents of social change and justice. SCAT targets women, children, and youth and has made a significant impact regarding access to justice, gender equality, youth, and food security. Currently, SCAT supports 53 CBOs with grants, capacity building, and mentorship. SCAT also monitors, and supports these CBOs on and off-site and, through this model, has strengthened agency in rural communities.

## **Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI)**

SAFCEI is a regional institute of people of many faiths, which through collaboration, networking, research, and action, confronts environmental, climate, and socio-economic injustices to facilitate effective, responsible, and ethical action; reviews and formulates policy and guidelines; and raises awareness to address our environmental impact. It advocates for better governance in energy planning through engagement with policy processes and has made an important submission to the Zondo Commission regarding energy procurement.

## **Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF)**

HBF is the German Green Political Foundation affiliated to the 'Alliance '90/The Greens' political party. As part of a global green network, HBF works with more than 100 project partners in over 60 countries and currently maintains 32 international offices. In the Southern African region, HBF has actively promoted the consolidation of democracy and human rights, advancing gender and social justice, and supporting the shift to ecologically just and sustainable development models.



# Workshop Programme

For the PDF version of the programme click [here](#)

Date	Item	Facilitator
<b>Day 1</b> <b>18/10/2022</b>	Registration Welcome and rules of engagement	Workshop team
<b>Day 2</b> <b>19/10/2022</b>	Official welcome  Policy and climate change session  Waste-Ed Eco-brick session  Micro grant presentations  Reflection session  Evening panel discussion: Youth and climate change	Seth Tladi (SCAT)  Nkosikhulule Nyembezi and Claire Tapscott (SCAT)  Candice Mostert (Waste-Ed)  Claire Tapscott (SCAT)  Nkosikhulule Nyembezi  Moderator: Indiphile Matini Panellists Gabriel Klaasen Mitchelle Mhaka Geronimo de Klerk
<b>Day 3</b> <b>20/10/2022</b>	Compost making demonstration at the Phillipi Horticultural Area  Water Management Session  How to be an activist session	Nazeer Sondag (PHA (Philippi Horticultural Area))  Brigett Matomela (SCAT)  Tshisimani Centre for Activist Education
<b>Day 4</b> <b>21/10/2022</b>	Workshop reflection session Closing session	Claire Tapscott (SCAT)

# Session Highlights

## Waste-Ed Eco-brick Session

Candice Mostert from Waste-Ed

In the session led by Candice, the participants learned about compost making, recycling and how to create an eco-brick. To make compost, participants were taught to collect organic waste such as fruit and vegetable scraps, eggshells, coffee grounds, and dry matter from the garden in a pile or wheelie bin. Candice explained how to mix the materials and maintain the proper moisture level by turning the compost regularly to aerate it and speed up the decomposition process.

The second part of the workshop focused on recycling. Participants learned about the importance of recycling and the types of materials that can be recycled. They were encouraged to reduce their waste by using reusable containers and bags and by avoiding single-use plastics. The workshop also covered how to properly recycle materials, such as cleaning and separating them before placing them in the recycling bin.

Finally, the participants learned how to make eco-bricks. Eco-bricks are made by filling a plastic bottle with non-biodegradable materials, such as plastic bags and packaging. The eco-bricks can then be used for building structures or furniture. Candice explained how to properly compact the materials in the bottle and seal it to prevent the contents from spilling out. Overall, the session provided those in attendance with practical skills to reduce their environmental impact by composting, recycling, and making eco-bricks.



## Youth and Climate Change Panel Discussion

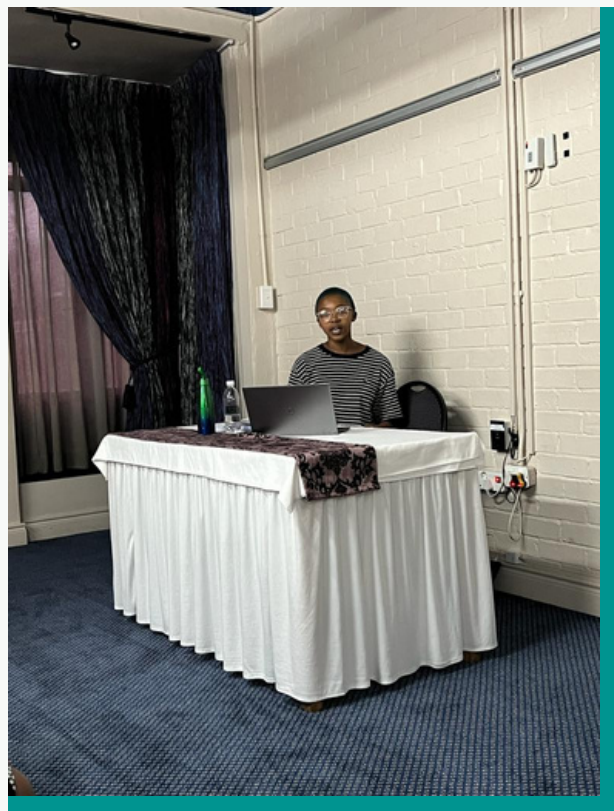
Featuring Gabriel Klaasen and  
Mitchelle Mhaka from the African  
Climate Alliance and Geronimo de  
Klerk from Feed the Future

Moderator: Indiphile Matini

The discussion focused on the role of youth in addressing climate change challenges that are being experienced in South Africa and internationally. The panelists emphasised the importance of youth-led movements in bringing about change and highlighted the need for intergenerational collaboration.

The panelists also discussed the importance of education and awareness - raising around climate change, particularly in schools and universities. They stressed the need for young people to understand the science behind climate change and its impacts, and to learn about sustainable solutions that can mitigate its effects.

Overall, the panel discussion provided a platform for the participants to engage with young activists and to discuss the ways in which they are working to address climate change. It also highlighted the critical role that young people can play in addressing this urgent global challenge and called for greater collaboration and action to create a sustainable future





## Policy and Climate Change Session

Designed by Tara Nair Van Ryneveld

Facilitated by Nkosikhulule Nyembezi and Claire Tapscott

The purpose of the session was to deepen participants' understanding of the localised impacts of climate change and on engaging their local governments on climate change issues

Participants were grouped according to their geographical areas, and were provided with either a drought or flood scenario. Through their own understandings of their local vulnerabilities, the exercise helped participants to identify the long and short term impacts of climate change. They were then given a list of example service delivery targets that could be linked to the identified climate impacts, to practice constructing climate change arguments to use in engaging local government.



# Policy and Climate Change session

## Key Learning:

1. Climate impacts from droughts and floods are wide ranging and worsen already existing vulnerabilities in a community.
2. There are both short term and long term impacts from climate change.
3. Local governments are central in responding to climate impacts, through their service delivery targets.
4. If you understand your localised climate impacts and vulnerabilities, you can identify existing service delivery targets in the IDP to build your argument to encourage climate action from your local government.
5. It is important to build a relationship with your local government to hold them accountable to responding to local climate change impacts in your area.
6. There are different ways you can engage with your local government:
  - a. Through the annual IDP review process
  - b. Through direct contact with the ward councilor, mayor or IDP manager
  - c. Through engaging with the IDP representative forum
  - d. Through attending stakeholder meetings during consultations held by municipalities on IDP projects, policies or strategies being developed





## Compost making Session

### Nazeer Soday - Philippi Horticultural Area (PHA) Food and Farming Campaign

This session took place at the Phillipi Horticultural Area where Nazeer led a hands-on compost making demonstration. Nazeer explained the two thirds brown, one, three green system for making compost. "The one third green is your manure and your green material, weeds and grasses and food waste and the brown, is everything that is left in your garden that has gone brown, it's very simple. Green and brown."

To view the session click [here](#); to view the compost making click [here](#)



# Micro Grant Presentations

Ten Micro Grant recipients were invited to present on the projects that their organisations implemented with the funding they had received. To see the presentations given by the CBOs, click on the organisations' names below:

## Eastern Cape

- [CARE Alicedale](#)
- [Entlango Co-Op](#)
- [Flagstaff](#)
- [ILDA](#)
- [Masiphakameni](#)
- [Mount Frere](#)
- [Mount Fletcher](#)
- [Port St Johns](#)

## Western Cape

- [Merweville](#)

## Northern Cape

- [Thuso](#)





# Annexe 1

## Glossary of Terms

### **Weather**

The current conditions of the atmosphere at a particular place and time. Weather conditions are temporary and change frequently.

### **Climate**

The pattern of weather over a long period of time. Weather patterns for about 30 years can be used to describe the climate of a particular place.

### **Climate Change**

The global phenomenon of climate transformation characterized by the changes in the usual climate of the planet (regarding temperature, precipitation, and wind) that are especially caused by human activities.

### **Global Warming**

When more and more greenhouse gases accumulate in the atmosphere, they trap more and more heat near the Earth's surface. As more heat is held within the Earth's atmosphere, the temperature near the Earth's surface gradually warms up.

### **Fossil Fuel**

Made from decomposing plants and animals. These fuels are found in the Earth's crust and contain carbon and hydrogen, which can be burned for energy.

### **Greenhouse Gas**

A natural or human-made gas that traps heat in the atmosphere.

### **Greenhouse Effect**

The process by which greenhouse gases in the atmosphere trap heat from the sun and reflect it back to Earth rather than letting it leave the planet.

### **Adaptation**

The process of adjusting to current or expected climate change and its effects.

### **Mitigation**

Taking actions in order to decrease the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

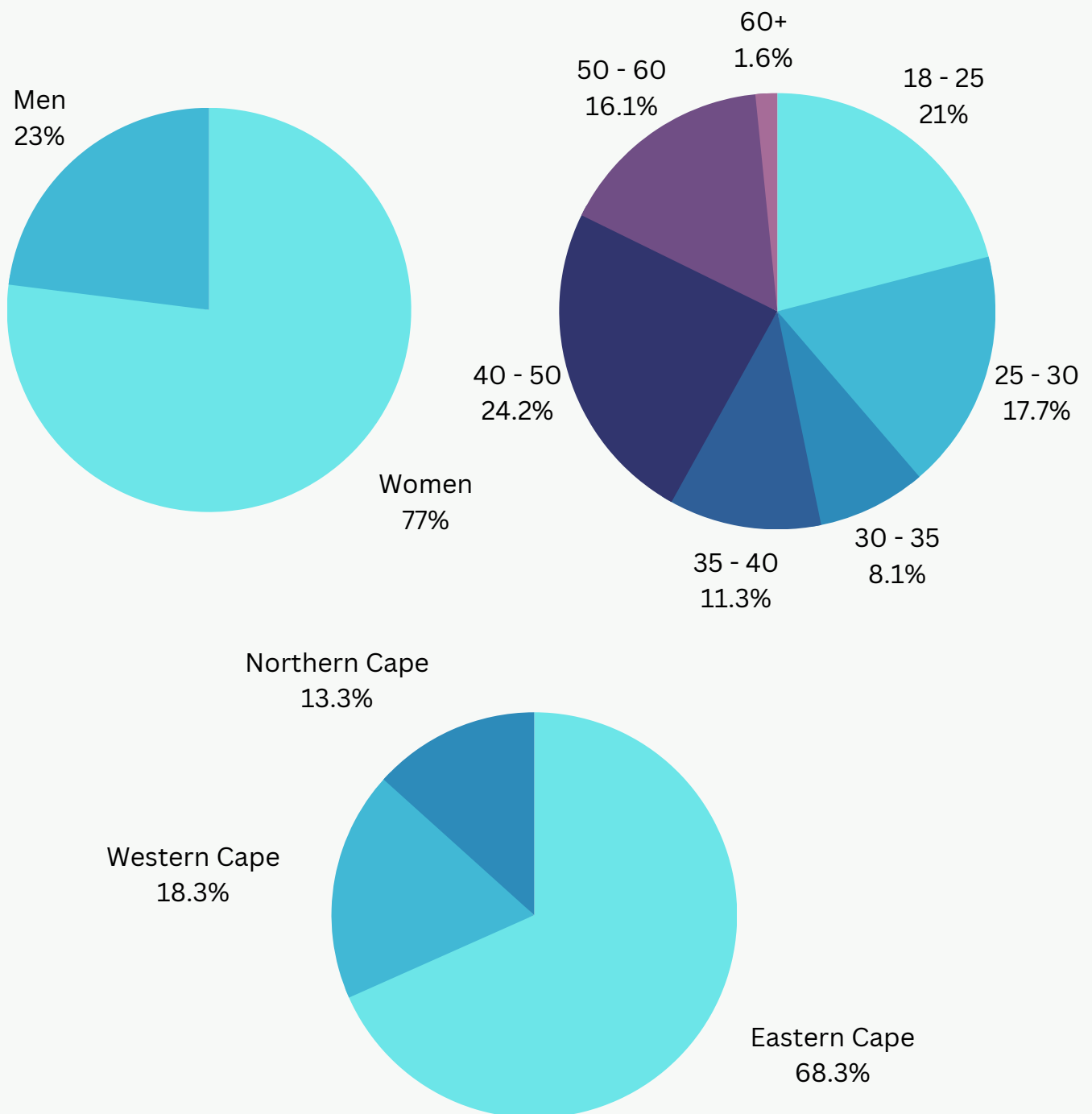
# Annexe 2

## CBOs and Faith Institutions Present

Adelaide Advice Center  
Beaufort West Legal Advice and Development Office  
Berlin Advice Center  
CARE Alicedale  
Diocese of Grahamstown  
Diocese of Mzimvubu  
Dordrecht Legal Advice & Community Development Agency  
Entlango Co Op  
Flagstaff Community Advice Centre  
Harepheleng Community Organisation  
Herschel Legal Advice Center  
interchurch Local Development Agency  
Kgatelopele Social Development Forum  
Lusikisiki Paralegal Advice Center  
Masiphakameni LDA  
Merweville Advice and Development Office  
Mount Fletcher Advice Center  
Mount Frere Paralegal Advice Centre  
Mqanduli Community Advice Office  
Nelspoort Advice and Development Office  
Port St Johns Advice Office  
Reformed African Congregational Church  
Siyanakekela Community Development  
The Sandveld Local Development Agency (SALDA)  
Thuso Advice and Development Centre (Pamierstad)  
Touwsriver Advice and Development Centre  
Tsantsabane Centre of Hope  
Tyinira Rural Development Initiative  
Zanoncedo Empowerment Center

# Annexe 3

## Festival Participants Statistics



# Annexe 4

## Guest Facilitators

**Candice Mostert: Waste-Ed**

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**Nazeer Sondag: Philipi Horticultural Area**

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