

## Multi-stakeholder Adaptation ‘Think Tank’

*Climate change and extreme events: Linking disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) to reduce social vulnerability and build resilience*

30 - 31 May 2017

Postgraduate Village, Rhodes University

Hosts: Department of Environmental Science, Rhodes University

Co- hosts: Adaptation Network



### Why should we be thinking about the links between DRR and CCA?

The last few years have seen one of the most severe droughts in recent times in the southern African region, and the news at the beginning of 2017 was thick with warnings about cyclones, heavy storms and floods. There is no doubt that extreme hydrometeorological events, and their multiple and potentially disastrous impacts, are at the forefront of the public consciousness at the present time and are one of the key concerns regarding the impacts of climate change in the region. While the links between extreme climate events, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) are recognised in the South African Climate Change White Paper, this is not the case for the whole region. Furthermore, even if there is national recognition of the need to synergise these two spheres of endeavour, this does not always trickle down to effective policy, planning and implementation at the local level. Moreover

“Efforts to reduce disaster risk and poverty go hand in hand. Because disasters impoverish so many, disaster risk management is inseparable from poverty reduction policy, and vice versa. As climate change magnifies natural hazards, and because protection infrastructure alone cannot eliminate risk, a more resilient population has never been more critical to breaking the cycle of disaster-induced poverty”.

*“Hallegatte, Stephane; Vogt-Schilb, Adrien; Bangalore, Mook; Rozenberg, Julie. 2017. Unbreakable : Building the Resilience of the Poor in the Face of Natural Disasters. Climate Change and Development;. Washington, DC: World Bank. © World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/25335> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.”*

the links to social vulnerability and poverty alleviation are not always made obvious in local plans and strategies.

## What is the purpose of the think tank?

The aim of this 'Think Tank' is to further the conversation regarding how to better link CCA and DRR in policy, practice and research. This will be achieved through sharing of research findings and hands-on experiences in the form of invited talks, case studies, panels and dialogues. We are



interested in unpacking some of the major challenges or barriers to improved DRR and CCA coordination, as well as considering solutions to these. Further, given that the next 'Adaptations Futures' conference will be held in South Africa in Cape Town between 11 – 14 June 2018, we hope to work towards some kind of output for this conference, either in the form of a proposed session, a

paper or suggestions for the conference organisers along the theme of this Think Tank.

## Who should come and why?

This meeting will be of relevance to researchers and academics, NGO practitioners and government officials at all levels. Given the low-key, but productive and interactive nature of this meeting and limited funding, numbers will be capped to 40-50 participants and our preference will be for Eastern Cape participants.

As well as sharing knowledge, it is our intention to build collaboration between researchers, policy makers and practitioners, especially in the Eastern Cape, through interactions between multiple stakeholders, in the course of the two days. The Think Tank will follow on from a one day training session offered by the Adaptation Network.



## Logistics and other information

- The meeting will be held at the postgraduate village (just off the N2 and opposite the Settlers Monument), Rhodes University, Grahamstown. **(See E on attached map).**
- Dates are 30 and 31 May, starting at 8:30 am and ending at 4.30 pm .

- A registration fee of R500 will be payable to help cover teas and lunches and to secure your place. Payment details will be sent once the Google Docs registration form has been completed.
- Participants will be responsible for their own transport and accommodation. Follow this link for details of accommodation in Grahamstown: [www.grahamstownaccommodation.co.za](http://www.grahamstownaccommodation.co.za)
- We are able to offer some support to students and community representatives. Please confirm if you need a bursary on the online registration form.
- The programme is being finalised and will be sent in due course.
- If you are interested in participating please complete the online registration form, available here: <https://goo.gl/forms/FILKfLRAPYTan0Z63>

## Contact

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