

Panel 3: South Africa

Introduction

Richard Saunders (Political Science):

Adele Amends works in the environmental field of South Africa's public and NGO sectors. She is the Director of SouthSouthNorth Africa (SSN A). Adèle's key achievements to date focus on researching and developing potential alternative livelihoods, particularly in the context of the threat of desertification and as a result of trade and environmental governance. Adèle has also worked in the field of pollution policy and prevention, specifically in piloting the promotion of cleaner production in the hospitality sector in South Africa's Western Cape. More recently, she has been involved in the design and development of funding proposals as well as in implementing community-based adaptation to climate change projects as part of an international adaptation to climate change programme.

The adaptation programme has a strong poverty alleviation focus and thus all projects aim to sustain and enhance livelihoods in the context of a changing climate. She has also had experience outside the country on the continent in Uganda. She worked in 2005 with the MPG monitoring with Sustainable Watch International.

Rhoda Malgas is a lecturer at the University of Stellenbosch in the Department of Conservation, Ecology and Entomology. She currently teaches on sustainable natural resources and works on community-based natural resource management. She works partly in the Suid Bokkeveld and Swartland, which is in the Western Cape, on issues of land use, climate change and small scale farming. She has been working in this area for nine years now so I am really looking forward to what she has to tell us about her work with small-scale farming communities.

Finally, Bettina Koelle works in the Northern Cape of South Africa. She is a founding member and Executive Director of Indigo Development and Change, which is an NGO based in the Northern Cape. For the past 15 years, she has been working with marginalized rural communities and partly the Heiveld Co-op. Canadians will have recently learned about rooibos red bush tea. It comes from South Africa and some of the harvesters of the rooibos tea are from the Western Cape and rural small-scale farming communities. One part of her work has been looking at the sustainability of harvesting of rooibos in the Western and Northern Cape. I am very keen to hear about this as well.

Welcome. We also have a film, which will occupy part of the space of a case study. It is a film of the Heiveld rooibos farmers and it is called 'Everybody's Cup of Tea.' It is a really interesting film. That will be in the middle of the presentations. To kick things off, Adèle will give us more of an overview of policy and the situation in South Africa in the broader context. Thanks very much. Adèle...