

Author biographies



Martin de Wit (www.linkedin.com/in/martindewit) is director of De Wit Sustainable Options (Pty) Ltd. He holds a DCom in economics and is an Associate Professor at the University of Stellenbosch School of Public Management and Planning. He has a passion for finding real world solutions to Africa's economic, environmental and development challenges, using tools and approaches from ecological and natural resource economics, complexity theory and systems thinking.



Roger Diamond has an MSc in Geology from the University of Cape Town. He has worked as an exploration geologist and hydrogeologist in Australia. Environmental concerns compelled him to work in waste management for the Western Cape government, before moving to Environmental Science Associates (www.escience.co.za), specialising in environmental projects, such as EIA, and legal compliance auditing and training, which has included work for the "green scorpions".



Amanda Dinan is a freelance contributor in the financial services and CDM sectors. Her interest in environmental issues led from a career in town and regional planning to postgraduate studies in environmental science and resource economics. Following 10 years in environmental assessment and management, she joined Frater Asset Management in 2001, where she focused on establishing the firm's responsible investment funds, climate change and shareholder value, and energy security issues.



Morné du Plessis is the CEO of WWF South Africa (www.panda.org.za). He previously headed the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence at the Percy FitzPatrick Institute at the University of Cape Town, and before that was Assistant Director of Biodiversity Research at the former Natal Parks Board. He holds a BSc in agriculture from the University of Stellenbosch, an Honours in mammalogy from the University of Pretoria, and a PhD and an MBA from the University of Cape Town.



Peet du Plooy is Advisor to WWF's Trade & Investment Programme in South Africa, which promotes leadership among developing economies in the provision of environmental goods and services (EGS) and supporting policy. He has authored key reports on foreign investments and corporate attitudes relating to environmental sustainability. Previously he worked for Eskom on process optimisation in their R&D division. Peet holds a degree in mechanical engineering.



Tess Fairweather has lived and set up businesses on three continents and is essentially a practical problem solver (www.tessfairweather.com). Her writing currently focuses on economic and transformational development, utilising all available channels of communication, from business plans to broadsheets and from news media to screenwriting. She is also involved in training and mentoring. Tess is chairperson of the Southern African Freelancers Association (www.safrea.co.za).



William Frater worked for the labour movement and in development and policy NGOs in South Africa. He co-founded Frater Asset Management, spearheading shareholder advocacy on governance and stakeholder issues, and in this capacity has spoken widely at conferences on corporate social responsibility, shareholder activism and changing corporate behaviour. In 2007, he left the field of asset management and co-established CleanSource Energy, which adapts cutting-edge energy-efficient technologies. William studied at the universities of Cape Town and Cambridge.



Yolán Friedmann is the CEO of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (www.ewt.org.za), one of the largest conservation NGOs in southern Africa addressing threats to biodiversity through applied conservation action. She is also chair of the South African IUCN National Member's Committee, was chair of the Regional Advisory Committee of the IUCN's Regional Office and contributed to the 2007 South Africa's Environmental Outlook (SAEO) biodiversity chapter. Yolán's qualifications include veterinary nursing, a BA and an MSc in environmental management.



Andy Horn is recognised as one of South Africa's pioneering green architects and has won a number of local and international awards for his work. Graduating from the University of Cape Town as an architect, he has worked, published, lectured and exhibited locally and internationally. In 1998, out of a life-long concern for the rapidly degrading natural environment and widening social inequalities, Andy founded the Cape Town-based Eco Design Architects and Consultants (www.ecodesignarchitects.co.za).



Andrew Janisch is an electronic and electrical engineer and works as a project manager at Sustainable Energy Africa (SEA, www.sustainable.org.za). Prior to this, he worked in the project management field for five years and pursued a career in music. His concern for the growing planetary crises led him to his current position. Andrew's work includes government renewable energy and energy-efficiency advocacy, solar water-heater mass implementation projects and sustainable transport.



Leonie Joubert is a widely published science journalist and author of *Scorched: South Africa's Changing Climate* and *Boiling Point*. Leonie contributed to the 2007 John Platter Wine Guide and co-authored the new Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the Prince Edward Islands Special Nature Reserve. Leonie has a BA in journalism and media studies (Rhodes), an MPhil in journalism (Stellenbosch) and was the 2007 Ruth First Fellow (Witwatersrand University).



Nick King is CEO of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (www.gbif.org) in Copenhagen, Denmark. He is a former CEO of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (www.ewt.org.za) and was an integrative writer of South Africa's Environmental Outlook (SAEO) report. Nick has an LLM in environmental law (UK), a PhD in technology management (US) and an MSc in ecology from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Nick has over 20 years' experience in environmental management and sustainable development research, planning and implementation.



Duncan Miller is a materials scientist and science writer, with PhDs in both materials engineering and archaeological science. He is a Fellow of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain. He has numerous academic publications in archaeology and materials engineering. His current activities include specialist technical editing for various publishers, and writing about sustainability, Earth stewardship science and geology. He also teaches mineralogy and gemmology.



Gordon Pirie is Professor at the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of the Western Cape, where he teaches and researches, mainly in the field of transportation. Gordon has taught and studied at the University of the Witwatersrand, MIT (US) and the University of Salford (UK). He has written extensively about mobility history, especially rail, road and air transport and travel under colonialism and apartheid.



Stef Raubenheimer is a lawyer (BA, LLB), an arbitrator, mediator, facilitator and trainer and is also CEO of SouthSouthNorth (www.southsouthnorth.org), which has played a leading role in climate change since 1999. He facilitates large projects, notably the South African Cabinet-mandated Long Term Mitigation Scenario Planning Project (LTMS). Stef has helped establish several African Designated National Authorities, has undertaken projects for the Development Bank of Southern Africa and is a senior associate of the Cambridge Programme for Industry.



Niël Roux is a Research Project Manager in the Department of Social Development (www.population.gov.za), where he conducts and manages population- and development-related research projects that assist in policy formulation and implementation. He holds a Master's degree in Demography from the University of Pretoria and is interested mainly in the study of internal migration in South Africa, particularly its relationship to health and environmental conditions.



Linda Scott studied epidemiology and genetics at Oxford University, graduating with an MA in 1981. She has earned an MSc in nutritional medicine at Surrey University and is currently conducting doctoral research with the Desmond Tutu HIV Centre and Surrey University to assess the effect of selenium on HIV disease progression. She has co-authored three books on nutrition and has written widely about the role of nutrition in preventing and treating disease in both professional and lay publications.



Mark Swilling is Professor and Academic Director of the Sustainability Institute (www.sustainabilityinstitute.net), and Head of the Division: Sustainable Development Planning and Management at the School of Public Management and Planning, University of Stellenbosch. Previously, he co-founded and directed the Graduate School of Public and Development Management at the University of the Witwatersrand. He has a PhD from the University of Warwick. He is also a member of an international panel of experts on sustainable resource planning.



Lisa Thompson-Smeddle is Research Coordinator at the Sustainability Institute (Stellenbosch University), where she coordinates three United Nations Development Program projects: sustainable future scenarios for the City of Cape Town, biofuel feasibilities and the Sustainable Urban Resources Forum web portal (www.sustainableneighbourhoods.co.za). She has a social sciences degree (Chapman University, California,) a B.Phil in sustainable development (Sustainability Institute) and is currently completing her Masters degree in sustainable settlements.



Johan van den Berg is the founder and CEO of CDM Africa, a specialist advisor to CDM project developers, and presently advises nine projects in South Africa, Kenya and Uganda. He has lectured on CDM courses at conferences and universities and facilitated the first international CDM conference in southern Africa. Prior to this, Johan practised as an advocate at the Cape Bar for 10 years, specialising in environmental law. In 2000, he moved full time into climate-change work.



Jeremy Wakeford is an independent energy and sustainability consultant. He has Master's degrees in economics from the universities of Cape Town and Cambridge. Until recently, he was a senior lecturer in the School of Economics at UCT. Jeremy's research emphasis has been energy and sustainable development, with a focus on the socio-economic implications of global oil depletion for South Africa. He is Research Director of the Association for the Study of Peak Oil South Africa.



Harald Winkler is Associate Professor at the University of Cape Town's Energy Research Centre, here writing in his personal capacity. He holds a PhD and MA (UCT) and an MSc in energy and resources (UC Berkeley). He has worked on long-term mitigation scenarios for South Africa and policies for renewable energy and energy efficiency. Harald was a lead author on IPCC AR4 Working Group III on mitigation and sustainable development, and is a member of the country's delegation for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations.



Richard Worthington is coordinator of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Project (SECCP) at Earthlife Africa (ELA, www.earthlife.org.za) in Johannesburg and also coordinates the South African Climate Action Network (SACAN, www.climatenetwork.org). ELA is a civil society organisation working on environmental and social justice issues. He has also served on the board of the global Climate Action Network (CAN) from 2003 through 2007. Richard has a BA (University of Witwatersrand) and a BSc (Hon) in energy studies (University of Johannesburg).



Robert Ziplies consults to organisations wishing to deepen their environmental and social commitment. Previously he has worked in venture capital, Internet payment systems, management consulting and the steel industry. However, a growing concern about the state of our environment and society led him to take up sustainability consulting, where, until recently, he worked with Incite Sustainability. He has an MSc in industrial engineering (University of the Witwatersrand) and an MBA (Rotterdam School of Management, Netherlands).

Foreword

Marthinus van Schalkwyk

Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

It is exciting to see a home-grown South African book, such as this, emerging to influence the debate and future course of individual and societal action on climate change. It attests to the gratifying increase in interest and concern on this issue. In this country, world-class research has moved rapidly from the academic arena to that of policy influence – and a book like this injects the findings and ideas that have resulted into the sphere of public response and involvement even more forcefully. I am proud that our government, business and civil society response has placed South Africa amongst the leading voices in the international debate on climate change – *Bending the Curve* will help to raise our response even further.

Whether it is natural disasters, which happen with increasing frequency and severity around the globe, or human conflict arising over the competition for resources, the impacts of climate change are global phenomena that continue to make world headlines. Africa will come under particular pressure due to rising temperatures and shifting weather patterns. But it is sometimes difficult for South Africans to relate these alarming projections to their own lives, and to know what effective options may be available to them.

Let us not delude ourselves. Climate change is here and poses a very real threat to the development of our societies – we know with certainty that this and future generations will live in circumstances dictated by actions taken now. The effects do not respect national boundaries, reminding us that we are part of a global community that must work together to resolve the predicament brought on by two centuries of escalating atmospheric pollution.

Some global leaders have dithered over this issue, while a number of corporate and political voices have downplayed its severity until recently. We now find ourselves with no time to spare. The most recent research available tells us that the “carbon space” is finite. A total of 70% of this has already been used up – largely by developed countries. The dispensation for equitably sharing the remaining 30% of the available “safe” carbon space must recognise historical responsibility for the problem, and the growth imperatives and development aspirations of developing countries.

Climate change with inadequate action would mean a world with increasing flooding, drought, heatwaves, famine and disease. Human suffering, worsening poverty,



and even political and economic instability would affect all global citizens. These effects would be exacerbated in South Africa and the rest of Africa, where many people live in informal settlements, on subsistence agricultural land and on the edge of the formal economy. The changes would certainly harm most those who are least able to adapt and least able to afford the impacts. The wealthy no longer have the luxury of closing their minds to the devastating impact of what is happening in the fragile atmosphere that envelops our planet.

We all therefore have a moral obligation to act now to prevent this climate crisis from becoming unmanageable. The science is clear. Global emissions must peak and decline within the next 10 to 15 years. In order to achieve this, each and every one of us will have to make a contribution.

As formidable as the climate crisis is, it presents us with a tremendous opportunity. It gives us the chance now to make a choice to live in greater harmony with our planet and to strive to create a more balanced society. Economic growth and development is not incompatible with ambitious climate policy. There are many opportunities in the emerging carbon-constrained economy to build new industries that turn our comparative advantages into competitive advantages, to create new jobs and new incomes. I encourage South Africans to read this book and to take its recommendations to heart, as its pages are bursting with suggestions about how we can overcome this problem as part of a pro-growth, pro-jobs and pro-development climate policy.

Our government has already committed to putting in place fiscal, regulatory and legislative policies and measures that will pave the way towards a low-carbon economy and society. Corporations must transform their practices and build new climate-friendly industries. Individuals must reduce their carbon footprints and lobby for change.

I appeal to all of you to assist us in our efforts to reduce the emissions caused by ceaseless consumption, flying, driving and use of inefficient electrical appliances. Let us also ensure that we take responsibility for the members of our society who are least to blame for this problem and are ill-equipped to cope with the impending changes – they are the innocent bystanders.

Let us work towards the greater good of all global citizens and our planet.

Marthinus van Schalkwyk

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