



## Users' Workshop - South African Risk & Vulnerability Atlas

Wednesday, 17 June 2009

### **PROF COLEEN VOGEL**

Coleen Vogel is the BMW Professor of Sustainability at Wits University.

She is a climatologist by training and has undertaken research in climate change, climate vulnerability and adaptation, with a particular focus on risk reduction and climate variability of rural communities in southern Africa.

She was one of the key contributors to the writing of the Green and White Papers on Disaster Management and also was a major contributing author for the recent Disaster Management Act.

She has recently been invited to be a co-lead chapter author for the Chapter on Africa in the next IPCC assessment, i.e. the Fourth Assessment of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability.

Her research interests are

- Environmental change
- Extreme events
- Drought events
- Useable science, e.g. the uptake of seasonal climate forecasts
- Disaster risk reduction
- The role of policy in environmental change
- Vulnerability science
- Environmental sciences
- Environmental education

She has introduced a research group in the School of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies, which examines various dimensions of sustainability including:

- Vulnerability to global environmental change (incorporating climate variability and disaster risk reduction).
- Adaptation and mitigation (compromising the institutional arrangements that may be required for effective adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction)
- The implications for coupling such research more directly to planning and practice (including development and disaster risk reduction)

The focus is on Africa, with a particular emphasis on the southern African region.

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