



HABITABLE FUTURES: ADAPTING POLICY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

INVITATION

Date: 17 & 18 October 2024

Venue: CSIR International Convention Centre

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/UbKuBcDHGSqP7GDo7>

We are pleased to invite you to an interdisciplinary policy dialogue event, a collaborative effort between CSIR Smart Places and the Horizon 2020 project, HABITABLE – Linking Climate Change Habitability and Social Tipping Points.

The Event

CSIR, as a proud partner of the Horizon 2020 HABITABLE project, is hosting a two-day interdisciplinary policy adaptation event. This event will showcase recent innovations and findings from the HABITABLE project and the CSIR Smart Places cluster, exploring their implications for climate change adaptation policy. Presentations will focus on key interdisciplinary concepts that affect the habitability of social, ecological, and economic systems. Topics will include the impact of climate change on mobility and migration, gender and equity, urban and rural settlement design, and climate change adaptation.

Background

Climate change is fundamentally reshaping our world by intensifying poverty and inequality while exerting complex, far-reaching impacts on socioeconomic development. It disrupts economic activities, diminishes the capacity of ecosystems to deliver services, challenges the resilience of communities, and impacts habitability. **Habitability refers to the inherent capacity of social, ecological, and economic systems to sustain and nurture the lives and livelihoods of their populations.**

As a signatory to the Paris Agreement, South Africa recently enacted The Climate Change Bill into law on 23 July 2024. The Act aims to enhance South Africa's capacity to cope with climate change, by not only reducing greenhouse gas emissions but also promoting climate-resilient social, ecological, and economic systems.



Although significant progress has been made in climate change adaptation research and policy over the last two decades, much of it has been implemented in isolation within specific sectors or departments (Khavhagali *et al.*, 2023). This lack of coordination and integration has led to overlaps, inefficiencies, and gaps in policy coverage.

The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS, 2019) was developed as a guiding document for all sectors, to operate within a shared vision:

“To transition to a climate-resilient South Africa, following a sustainable development path guided by anticipation, adaptation, and recovery from a changing climate and environment to achieve our development aspirations” (Department of Environment, Forestry & Fisheries, 2019).

This interdisciplinary event aims to showcase research and innovations from diverse fields, highlighting the crucial interconnections between climate change adaptation and habitability. By fostering a deeper understanding of these links, the event aims to inform and guide the development of future climate change adaptation policies to promote a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable society.

About the Hosts

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is a leading scientific and technology research organization in South Africa. The CSIR Smart Places cluster addresses unsustainable resource use, transforms built environments for equitable access, tackles infrastructure challenges for sustainable socio-economic activity, and supports decision-makers with effective planning and policy setting tools. CSIR is a proud partner in the Horizon 2020 HABITABLE project.

HABITABLE is a multi-year research project focused on significantly enhancing our understanding of the connections between climate impacts and migration and displacement patterns to better predict future climate-mobility interactions. It brings together 22 partners, including universities, research centres, NGOs, and UN agencies, from seven different countries: Mali, Senegal, Ghana, South Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Thailand. It is the largest research project on climate change and migration ever funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 program. For more information, visit habitableproject.org.

PROGRAMME

17 October 2024	Day 1
08:30 – 09:00	Registration and Tea
09:00 – 09:15	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> <p><i>Dr Brian Mantlana, Leader, CSIR - Holistic Climate Change - Member of the Presidential Climate Commission</i></p>
09:15 – 09:30	<p>Introductions and Setting the Scene</p> <p><i>Dr Samantha Mc Culloch-Jones, Senior Researcher, CSIR – Water Centre and HABITABLE Consortium Member</i></p>
09:30 – 09:50	<p>Presentation 1 – Strategic Insights and EU Policy Recommendations: Lessons from the HABITABLE Project</p> <p><i>Sergio Ampudia, Consultant, UNESCO – HABITABLE Consortium Member</i></p>
09:50 – 10:10	<p>Presentation 2 – An Overview of Existing Policies and Legal Frameworks at the Climate-Migration Nexus in South Africa</p> <p><i>Julia Blocher, Project Leader, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research – HABITABLE Consortium Member</i></p>
10:10 – 10:30	Q&A Session for Presentations 1 & 2
10:30 – 11:00	Tea Break & Group Photo
11:00 – 11:20	<p>Presentation 3 – Gender, Social Equity and the Intersection in the Climate-Migration Nexus</p> <p><i>Dr Sara Vigil, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environmental Institute – HABITABLE Consortium Member</i></p>
11:20 – 11:40	<p>Presentation 4 – Micro- and Meso-level Coping Strategies and Adaptive Solutions: Lessons from HABITABLE</p> <p><i>Dr Diogo Andreola Seraglio, Research Analyst, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research – HABITABLE Consortium Member</i></p>
11:40 – 12:00	<p>Presentation 5 – The Role of the Circular Economy in a Habitable Future</p> <p><i>Presenter 5, Suzan Oelofse, CSIR – Sustainability, Economics and Waste</i></p>
12:00 – 12:30	Q&A Session for Presentations 3, 4, & 5

12:30 – 13:15	Lunch Break
13:15 – 14:30	Dialogue Day 1 – Session 1 & 2 <i>Facilitator - Dr Sam Mc Culloch-Jones, Senior Researcher, CSIR – Water Centre and HABITABLE Consortium Member</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Tea break
15:00 – 15:30	Dialogue Day 1 Cont. Session 3
15:30 – 16:00	Plenary Discussion and Closure of Day 1

18 October 2024	Day 2
09:00 – 09:30	Recap Day 1 and Setting the Scene
09:30 – 09:50	Presentation 6 – Migration, Movement, and Choice Behaviour in Accessing Land Markets and Shelter in African Cities <i>Dr Mark Napier, Principal Researcher, CSIR - Inclusive Smart Settlements and Regions</i>
09:50 – 10:10	Presentation 7 – Evidence-Based Adaptation through the Application of the Greenbook <i>Willemien van Niekerk, Principal Researcher, CSIR - Inclusive Smart Settlements and Regions</i>
10:10 – 10:30	Q&A Session for Presentations 6 & 7
10:30 – 10:50	Tea Break
10:50 – 11:10	Presentation 8 – Mainstreaming Adaptation into Planning and Settlement Design <i>Amy Pieterse, Senior Researcher, CSIR - Inclusive Smart Settlements and Regions</i>
11:10 – 11:30	Presentation 9 – National Coastal Adaptation Response Plan: People and Communities on the Coast (to be confirmed) <i>Michelle Audouin, Senior Researcher, CSIR -</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Q&A Session for Presentations 8 & 9
12:00 – 13:00	Dialogue Day 2 – Session 1 & 2 <i>Facilitator, Samantha Mc Culloch-Jones, Senior Researcher, CSIR – Water Centre and HABITABLE Consortium Member</i>



13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 14:30	Dialogue Day 2 Cont. Session 3
14:30 – 14:50	Tea Break
14:50– 15:30	Expert Panel Discussion
15:30 – 16:00	Closing Remarks and Future Directions

We would be glad to have you with us. Kindly RSVP by October 8, 2024, to confirm your attendance.

Do not forget to register at the following link to be able to attend the event:
<https://forms.gle/UbKuBcDHGSqP7GDo7>