

CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERSHIP SERIES

Bringing science, people,
and policy together



Topic 1: What is climate change all about? Issues and implications for sub-Saharan Africa

We have all heard about “climate change,” but what is it and what causes it? Why is it important, and how will it impact us living in Africa?

Science shows us that increasing CO₂ levels in the atmosphere leads to rising global temperatures, which in turn impacts on the global climate. As a result, ambient temperatures, rainfall, and the frequency and severity of extreme weather events are projected to change. The models project that Africa, and particularly sub-Saharan Africa, will be one of the most severely affected regions, even though this region is one of the lowest per capita CO₂ emitters globally. In this first part of this 10-part multi-disciplinary series, our outstanding first presenter will introduce the science behind climate change, why sub-Saharan Africa will be particularly severely affected, and the expected impact on our climate and society.



PRESENTER:

Prof Francois Engelbrecht, Distinguished Professor of Climatology, Global Change Institute, University of the Witwatersrand

Profile in brief: Prof Francois Engelbrecht is Distinguished Professor of Climatology at the Global Change Institute of the University of the Witwatersrand. He specializes in climate model development and the simulation of African climate variability and change, and currently leads the development of an African-based Earth System Model. Prof Engelbrecht’s research has led to new insights into the changing temperature, rainfall and circulation patterns over the continent under anthropogenic forcing. He

served as an invited Lead Author of the IPCC’s Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C published in 2018, and currently serves as an invited Lead Author of Assessment Report Six of the IPCC. He is an invited member of the Working Group on Numerical Experimentation of the World Climate Change Research Program (WCRP), co-chair of the World Meteorological Organisation’s Joint Expert Team on Earth System Implementation and a Scientific Steering Group Member of CLIVAR of the World Climate Research Programme.

DATE: 15 April 2021

TIME: 17h30 – 18h30

VENUE: Zoom Meeting

RSVP: Please RSVP to naomi@saifac.org.za if you would like the Zoom link for the seminar.

Please feel free to forward this information to others who may be interested – participants are welcome to join from anywhere in the world. There is a maximum of 100 participants in the Zoom seminar but the seminar will also be live streamed on the Facebook page of SAIFAC (<https://www.facebook.com/SAIFAConline/>)

THE SERIES CONTINUES WITH TOPIC 2 ON 6 MAY 2021. SAVE THE DATE!

Below are the other topics that will be covered together with provisional dates:

TOPIC 2:	The discomfort of uncertainty and the certain uncertainty of scientific research	6 May 2021
TOPIC 3:	How do people and societies respond (or not) to climate change? Navigating the complexities of human behaviour	27 May 2021
TOPIC 4:	Looking back, looking forward - can law change the climate change trajectory?	17 June 2021
TOPIC 5:	Who produces CO2 and why? What are the options and technologies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions?	8 July 2021
TOPIC 6:	Increasing pressure, increasing implications for business?	29 July 2021
TOPIC 7:	We, the people - climate change and civil society responses	19 August 2021
TOPIC 8:	Jobs or the environment? How can climate change responses address the interests of labour?	2 September 2021
TOPIC 9:	Preparing for COP 26 - What does South Africa want from the COP negotiations?	30 September 2021
TOPIC 10:	Where to from here? The role of the next generation and their views on a safe and human world for all	14 October 2021

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