

SAMRC FCDO WORKSHOP

Air pollution is not only impacting the environment, but also the health of people. Recently, the South African Medical Research Council's Climate Change and Health Research Programme conducted a first of its kind study assessing the health impacts faced by individuals living in district municipalities with coal-fired power stations.

Join us in a discussion on research findings and further recommendations in a technical workshop.

We are very pleased to welcome Prof Rachel Kyte, UK Special Representative for Climate, to give the opening remarks at the workshop.

Programme

Estimating the health impacts from living in district municipalities with and without coal-fired power stations in South Africa.

5 min	Welcome by Prof Rachel Kyte
10 min	DFFE set the scene about air pollution in South Africa by Dr Patience Gwaze
10 min	NGO sets the scene, especially of the Deadly Air Case (groundWork) Ms Ntombi Maphosa
20 min	Project overview and results by Prof Caradee Wright
20 min	Q&A: Dr Thandi Kapwata and Prof Caradee Wright
5 min	Wrap-up and next steps (Prof Caradee Wright)



Thursday, 6 March 2025



11h00-12h30



Hybrid [in-person at the SAMRC Pretoria Lecture Hall / online]

MAP

RSVP closing date: 24 February 2025

ALL RSVPs

(Essential for catering purposes using this link)



Rachel Kyte was appointed UK Special Representative for Climate on 21 October 2024. She is Professor of Practice in Climate Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford and dean emerita of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Rachel was previously Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and CEO of Sustainable Energy for All. She has also served as World Bank Group Vice President and Special Envoy for Climate Change, as well as Vice President for Sustainable Development at the World Bank, and for Business Advisory Services at the International Finance Corporation.



Patience Gwaze is the Chief Director: Air Quality Management and the designated National air Quality Officer in the Department of Forestry, Fishery and the Environment. She has worked in the field of atmospheric science for over 20 years and has been with the department since 2010.

Her main roles are to coordinate, manage and facilitate the development and implementation of air quality management programmes at the national level; as well as to ensure that necessary policy, strategies, and legislation are developed and implemented efficiently and effectively. Dr Gwaze holds a doctorate degree in atmospheric science from the University of Witwatersrand and Max Planck Institute for Atmospheric Science, and a Masters degree in Exploration Geophysics.



Ntombi Maphosa is an attorney at the Centre for Environmental Rights in the Pollution and Climate Change Programme. She works mostly on air quality, health and climate change issues. She holds a Master of Laws from the University of the Witwatersrand.



Caradee Wright (PhD in Preventive and Social Medicine) is a Chief Specialist Scientist at the South African Medical Research Council leading the Climate and Health Research Programme. She is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Pretoria and the University of Johannesburg.

Her research is in environmental health epidemiology to understand climate change and air pollution impacts on human health and well-being to inform adaptation, interventions and policy development in Africa.



Dr Thandi Kapwata is a Specialist Scientist in the Environment & Health Research Unit of the South African Medical Research Council. She holds a PhD from the University of Pretoria. Her research focuses on the health and environmental impacts of air, water and soil pollution

and the health impacts of exposure to climate variables. One of her main areas of interest relates to the health impacts of exposure to temperature extremes in the form of high temperatures and heatwaves, particularly in rural and vulnerable communities because they often lack the resources to combat the health risks of heat. The association between climate change and health is still an under researched topic in Africa and Dr Kapwata's current projects include cohort studies assessing climate change related health impacts (including mental health physiology) and the implementation and evaluation of climate adaptation measures in several African countries.