

ENREFA

Environmental and Natural Resource Economics Research Focus Area

AN INITIATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND ECONOMIC HISTORY IN THE COMMERCE
FACULTY AT RHODES UNIVERSITY

WHY ENREFA WAS STARTED

In the South African context, the sustainable use of environmental resources are closely linked to economic development, food security and poverty eradication, which are major national policy objectives. This is due to, inter alia, habitat transformation from agricultural activities, urban development (especially coastal development), the spread of invasive alien plants, subsistence harvesting and illegal collection of plants for commercial trade.

The declining prominence of ecosystems is a cause for distress as research has shown that their degradation leads to a reduction in ecosystem services such as a reduced capacity to generate clean water and air and a loss of food production. The rural poor are disproportionately affected as they are more exposed to the effects of pollution and are reliant directly on the natural environment for their livelihoods.

Much policy regarding the management of environmental and natural resources, agriculture and rural development, and the use of renewable energy sources, is still in the developmental phase. Thus there is a need for scientific research into policies to address these matters and implement new policies.

ABOUT ENREFA

The motivation behind the focus area is that the Eastern Cape has an extremely diverse environment. This area has a high concentration of biodiversity which is under threat. The entire area of the Eastern Cape can be described as being largely agricultural except for the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality and the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. This consists of both commercial and smallholder sectors which have an impact on the environment and natural resources. Research methods used will focus on the interface between environmental, ecological, resource and institutional economics where the intention is to focus on institutional economics aspects wherever it is possible.

Specific topics within the research area include environment, ecological, and natural resources, agriculture and sustainable development, with a special focus on water management and allocation.

Coordinators:

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[www.facebook.com/
ENREFA](http://www.facebook.com/ENREFA)

CURRENT STUDENTS

2013 REGISTRATION

Juniors Marire (PhD)

Does institutional isolation influence the potential contribution of freshwater recreational fisheries to local economic development in South Africa?

Nqobizitha Dube (PhD)

Invasive alien plants and rural livelihoods: A case of *Cylindropuntia fulgida* var. *fulgida* in Gwanda district, Zimbabwe

Malon Chirara (M.Com)

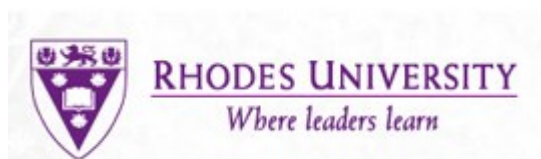
Determinants of farm labour supply: A case study of the Sundays River Valley Citrus Farms

Samantha Munro (M.Sc)

A water footprint assessment of the citrus farms in the lower Sundays River Valley Catchment

Patricia Madigela (M.Econ)

The economics of institutions, institutional governance and efficiency: The case of water distribution in Sundays River Valley Municipality



ENREFA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Juniors Marire (PhD) registered with ENREFA in 2013 won the award for the Best African Student Paper at the Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade (IFET). The paper will be presented at the conference in Australia in June 2014. The prize consists of \$500 (US) in spending money, travel support of up to \$2500 and free conference registration.

Patricia Madigele (M.Econ) registered with ENREFA in 2013 is a second year masters student won one of the prizes in the African student essay competition at the 15th Annual Global Development Network (GDN) conference which takes place in Accra, Ghana in June 2014.

WHAT ENREFA HAS TO OFFER

The ENREFA programme offers supervision from experienced researchers, encourages peer support and a collegial spirit among all the participants. The programme follows a structured style with regular group and individual meetings. ENREFA has a dedicated workspace where students are able to work and interact.

For research degree opportunities contact either of the programme coordinators for more information.

25 July 2014

NEW STUDENTS

2014 REGISTRATION

Sylvia Israel-Akinbo (PhD)

Indoor air pollution, household energy use and behavior in peri-urban settlements: A case study of South Africa

Michelle Browne (PhD)

The economic outcomes of ecosystem restoration in South Africa: the case of wetland rehabilitation

Vuyani Maqanda (PhD)

The use of nuclear energy in the South African economy: Benefits, costs, and environmental impact

Montoeli Rantlo (PhD)

Integration of emerging mohair farmers into the commercial agricultural economy in Lesotho

