



Institute of Natural Resources NPC

TRANSLATING SCIENCE INTO SOLUTIONS

The INR is an applied research organisation that integrates data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and theories from multiple disciplines to develop practical solutions for real-world environmental problems. We have done this for 40 years by partnering with government, civil society, the private sector, and other leading research organisations, making us a leading knowledge provider, strategic and operational supporter, capacity developer, and advocate for natural resource and environmental management in southern Africa. Providing science advice, developing decision-making tools for practitioners, researchers and policy-makers, and building capacity within the environmental sector represents some of our strengths. We are an independent, non-profit, public benefit organisation that brings seasoned and emerging social and natural scientists together to translate science into solutions for people and the environment.

Ecosystems



Intact ecosystems provide a range of ecosystem services and buffer the socio-ecological system from global change. The Ecosystems Theme aims to provide evidence and tools for the effective management of ecosystems in ways that build resilience, contribute to poverty reduction and facilitate sustainable growth. Our multidisciplinary expertise extends across the following strategic areas: management of water resources including catchments, freshwater ecosystems and wetlands; developing

and adapting a range of tools and methodologies relating to landscape-scale biodiversity challenges and ecosystem services; spatial planning and analysis utilising our extensive GIS database and other data sources such as remote sensing to develop tailored spatial data products and environmental information systems.

Adaptation and Resilience

Environmental change has prevailed on earth for billions of years, but the magnitude and speed at which this change is now occurring and the implications for the future condition of ecosystems and livelihoods are what concerns us. We believe that active attention to adaptation and building the resilience of socio-ecological systems is crucial in responding to this change. Our work focuses on raising awareness around these aspects at all levels, and among all actors (state, society and business). The research conducted by the Adaptation and Resilience Theme is aimed at enhancing the adaptive capacity and resilience of socio-ecological systems through a combination of approaches, including applied action research and social learning, to emphasise the interdependency between human well-being and environmental health.



Sustainable Futures



Much of earth's land surface has been cleared by humans and pollution and land degradation are occurring at unsafe threshold levels. Our Theme focuses on mitigating the effects of these anthropogenic pressures on human and environmental health. In recognising that future development is inevitable, we aim to provide evidence-based research and advice on environment-development conflicts with the view of finding sustainable solutions. Our sustainability research products and advice offerings focus

on the following areas: environments and minerals; environmentally conscious development techniques and tools; development facilitation, in the context of environmental impact assessment, planning and rehabilitation; carbon planning and ISO standards; and policy and incentive rewards development, aimed at aiding improved governance, business and environmental sector leadership.

Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods

Agriculture is an integral part of rural livelihood strategies. In recognising the multidimensional nature of rural livelihoods, our Theme addresses multiple focal areas, including water management, sustainable landscape management, as well as rural entrepreneurship through our various projects. Our research looks at how we can support local innovation and development of capabilities within the small-scale and rural agricultural sectors, recognising that in many cases the technologies exist and innovation lies in modes of implementation. Action research and social learning form a major part of our approach which is multidisciplinary in nature. While recognising the need to empower local farmers and rural communities, we apply our knowledge across a range of scales and sectors, supporting strategies, policies and actions that enhance the livelihoods of people across the continent.



Work with us



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We are a Section 18A Approved Organisation
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Key partners, collaborators and clients

