

Presenter:

Development of a framework to assess the economic impact of coastal and marine tourism in South Africa – Phase (3)



Prof Urmilla Bob is a Full Professor of Geography in the School of Agriculture, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. She is also the University Dean of Research. She conducts research on a range of developmental and environmental issues, including socio-economic impact assessments of developmental projects in relation to conservation and tourism projects as well as sustainable livelihoods in both rural and urban contexts. Much of the research undertaken adopts mixed methods approaches, drawing on qualitative and quantitative research. She has published in these fields in both nationally and internationally recognized academic books and journals as well as produced several reports. She has been involved in collaborative research with national and international academic organizations and NGOs, attending several conferences and workshops worldwide. She is involved in several training programmes and skills development initiatives. She has training expertise in quantitative (questionnaire surveys, SPSS, participatory GIS, etc.) and qualitative (participatory rural appraisal, mental mapping, problem ranking, focus groups, etc.) methodologies and techniques, monitoring and evaluation, development of indicators and environmental impact assessments, and gender analytical methodologies. She has supervised to completion more than 70 masters and PhD students in a range of areas including climate change adaptation, alternative energy, tourism, land issues in rural contexts and biodiversity conservation. Her research is directly linked to an overarching interest in sustainable livelihoods. She also has extensive experience in the design and management of research surveys and monitoring and evaluation systems. She has been involved in several national and international consultancy-based projects in this regard.