

Profile of presenters

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 a gendered perspective and utilizes 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. 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 60 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.

Mr Gift Dafuleya is a development economist with a decade of experience in household livelihood strategies and social protection in Botswana, Ethiopia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, and has almost five years of conducting rural tourism economics in South Africa. Apart from lecturing development economics



at the University of Venda and being associated with the Centre for Social Development in Africa at University of Johannesburg, Gift is serving as a data specialist on a research working group set up by the UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa's State of Social Protection in Africa project. He has published in journals such as *Tourism Economics*, *Development Southern Africa* and *International Social Work* and in book chapters on topics such as non-state social protection and urban social capital.

Prof Karen Leigh Harris is a Full Professor in the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies at the



University of Pretoria, lecturing undergraduate and postgraduate students in history as well as heritage and cultural tourism. Apart from being appointed the new Head of the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies, she is also the Director of the University Archives; the Chairperson of the Historical Association of South Africa; Executive Board Member of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas. She is also the coordinator and chief researcher for the research projects conducted as part of a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Department of Tourism and University of Pretoria. She also holds

editorial positions on both local and international academic journals. Her most recent publication on tourism. "Taking History of Tour: Lowering the disciplinary drawbridge", appeared in the *Journal of Tourism History*, in 2017. Apart from being a pioneer in the field of heritage and cultural tourism at tertiary level, Prof. Harris also conducts comparative work on minority groups within a South African context.

Prof Berendien Lubbe is a Professor in the Division: Tourism Management, Department of Marketing



Management at the University of Pretoria. She holds a doctorate in Communication Management which she did on South Africa's image as a tourist destination in Saudi Arabia. She is an NRF-rated researcher and has published in numerous local and internationally accredited journals. She has also contributed to international books with her latest chapters being on the Development of African Air Transport and the Use of ICTS in the Airline Industry. Her books on Tourism Distribution and Tourism Management in South Africa have been widely prescribed. She is a past recipient of a Laureate Award from the University of Pretoria for her contribution to educational innovation. She is also project leader and principal investigator

in a number of research projects in the fields of tourism and aviation and consults widely to industry.

Dr. Joram Ndlovu is a Senior Lecturer and Culture Cluster Leader (Cultural and Heritage Tourism and



Anthropology) in the School of Social Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He is a renowned academic and scholar with diverse research interests including Tourism, development, politics, marketing and food. He has authored several book chapters, conference presentations and papers in peer reviewed journals focusing on sustainable tourism development, destination branding, Governance, capacity and devolution of Community Based Tourism. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Tourism Management and a Master of Science (MSc) in Tourism and Hospitality Management. His career spans over 20 years in both the private and academic sectors. He has acquired a diversified academic experience within Southern Africa.

He has supervised and graduated a number of MA and PhD students. He was a lead researcher in Tourism development initiatives funded by OLOF PALME International Foundation, UNESCO-MDG-

Fund on Sustainable Cultural Tourism in Namibia, the Namibian Coast Conservation and Management (NACOMA), the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in Namibia. In South Africa he has worked with the National Department of Tourism and the South Coast Tourism in KwaZulu-Natal.