



# **Risk and Development Annual Review 2009 (RADAR) Western Cape**

## **Risk and Development Bearing the Brunt of Severe Weather**

The Western Cape has been affected by ten cut-off lows since 2003. These weather systems often bring severe, localised rain and strong winds which can cause widespread infrastructural damage and hardship. Despite efforts by the South African Weather Service, disaster management, emergency services and relief organisations, these events have often led to loss of life, destruction of homes and costly damage to farms, private property and public infrastructure.

Storms with destructive winds and heavy rains, such as the one experienced in August 2008, also illustrate why the City of Cape Town is known as the “Cape of Storms”.

### **Severe Weather Now Indicator of Future Climate Risk?**

The Western Cape is expected to experience significant shocks from climate change impacts – particularly in coastal regions and urban areas that are experiencing rapid growth. The severe weather events affecting South Africa, particularly the coastal areas, may be early indications of this change.

### **Complex Urban Risks Social Violence, Internal Displacement**

Outbursts of xenophobic violence in 2008 led to the displacement of thousands of foreign African nationals who had previously lived peacefully with their South African neighbours. The resulting need for

emergency camps in urban areas across the Province, coinciding with a severe weather event, presented a challenging new form of complex urban emergency.

### **Why the need for RADAR?**

We know that sustainable development goes hand-in-hand with robust and informed risk management. This reflects growing awareness of the financial consequences of repeated severe weather events in the Province and need for greater investment in risk reduction to avert future losses.

RADAR is intended as a resource for those interested in risk-averse planning, by consolidating major Western Cape disaster events between 2003 and 2008. It is hoped this will help practitioners in a wide range of sectors and organisations to access post-event loss and analysis information, for planning, strengthening risk management and for business continuity. The publication will be readable in English and Afrikaans.

### **What does RADAR involve?**

The production of RADAR 2009 involves several steps.

- Collecting and consolidating the information from nine disaster events.
- Analysing this information financially and spatially
- Producing the RADAR in English and Afrikaans – and compiling at least eight background papers

The most extensive part of RADAR is the research. This is very complex, and involves collecting information from a wide-range of governmental and nongovernmental agencies. It also involves detailed financial and spatial analysis.

This stage should conclude by the end of October 2009, with the draft publication being completed before Christmas. It is hoped RADAR will be available in hard-copy and on-line in early 2010.

## What are the Project Arrangements?

The research, writing and production of RADAR 2009 is being carried out by the Disaster Mitigation for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (DiMP) at the University of Cape Town.

DiMP will be guided by Dr Elmien Steyn, Deputy Director, Mitigation, at the Provincial Disaster Management Centre – along with a 5-7 member publications committee. It will also benefit from advice from Mr Mmaphaka Tau, National Disaster Management Centre.

RADAR is funded by both the National Disaster Management Centre and USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

## Who to Contact for Questions?

This is a complex project that requires many different skills and specializations.

Here are the names and email addresses for the RADAR researchers. Other general project contact information is also provided

## Research Team Composition

### Severe weather analysis

- Neil Hart ([neil.hart@uct.ac.za](mailto:neil.hart@uct.ac.za))  
Cut-off Low severe weather analysis, 2007 and 2008
- Thea Beckman ([thea.beckman@uct.ac.za](mailto:thea.beckman@uct.ac.za))  
Cape Town Super-storm August 2008

### Loss estimation and impacts analysis

#### Cape Town Super-storm August 2008

F-J Solomon ([FJsolomon@gmail.com](mailto:FJsolomon@gmail.com))

### Agricultural loss geospatial analysis

Laura Barrett ([Laurieb369@yahoo.com](mailto:Laurieb369@yahoo.com))

### Social violence and internal displacement

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Natalie Schell ([Natalie.schell@gmail.com](mailto:Natalie.schell@gmail.com))

### Financial loss calculation and analysis (eight severe weather events)

Gillian Fortune ([Gillian.fortune@uct.ac.za](mailto:Gillian.fortune@uct.ac.za))  
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## Analysis of Preparedness, Response and Recovery Cut-off Lows, 2007 and 2008

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## Contact Details for DiMP/UCT

If you have questions about the research, suggestions concerning how best to take it forward, or priorities you would like to see addressed, please do not hesitate to contact Trish Zweig, project manager for RADAR at the Disaster Mitigation for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme.

Trish can be reached at: DiMP at:

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## Contact Details for the Provincial Disaster Management Centre

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