Risk and vulnerability planning in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region: communicating the latest climate change research to key stakeholders

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Understanding climate change and its possible impact on society is essential in critical sectors in South Africa to improve strategic adaptation responses.

Figure 1: Location of the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region in South Africa (CSIR, Climate Change Research Group, 2010)

Figure 2: Projected seasonal rainfall change (December – January – February; March – April – May; June – July – August; September – October – November) obtained from the MRI-CGCM downscaled climate model (CSIR, Climate Change Research Group, 2010)

Figure 3: Projected future maximum, minimum and mean daily temperatures obtained from the PRECIS regional climate model (CSIR, Climate Change Research Group, 2010)

CONCLUSION
There was a keen desire among stakeholders to access climate change information. Stakeholders acknowledged that such information can provide a stepping stone for integrating short-term weather changes as well as longer-term climatic changes into planning.

Stakeholders highlighted key risks and vulnerabilities to the projected climatic changes as well as important gaps in policy that need to be urgently addressed. Key issues raised include, the need for investment in local infrastructure, capacity building and funding for sustainability projects. A shift in management and policy is required to effectively respond to current and future environmental and social stresses.

Decisions informed by the research will be tracked and monitored in partnership with relevant stakeholders.

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