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20 November 2013

## **Experts to unpack climate change adaptation at UCT colloquium**

**Pro Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture by Dr Mark Stafford Smith on Monday, 25 November 2013, at 18h00, Old Mutual Conference Centre, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.**

Australian scientist and public policy advisor, Dr Mark Stafford Smith, will speak on "Framing Climate Change Adaptation for Response-Centred Policy Decisions" at a Pro-Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture on Monday, 25 November 2013, at 18h00, Old Mutual Conference Centre, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.

Dr Stafford Smith is the Science Director of Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation's Climate Adaptation Flagship in Canberra, Australia. His talk forms part of the, the two-day Southern African Adaptation Colloquium taking place on 25 and 26 November.

In 2012, Dr Smith was co-chair of the Planet Under Pressure: New Knowledge Towards Solutions conference on global environmental change in the lead-up to Rio+20, and he was recently appointed as Chair of the inaugural Future Earth Science Committee, which aims to help coordinate global change research worldwide.

The colloquium will bring together researchers and practitioners working on climate adaptation across southern Africa. Professor Mark New, director of UCT's African Climate Development Initiative (ACDI) said: "The colloquium aims to facilitate greater interaction between adaptation researchers and practitioners; update practitioners on the latest ideas emerging from the research domains, and inform researchers about on-the-ground projects, in order to foster a better understanding of the challenges and research needs of practitioners."

The colloquium is hosted by the ACDI, the South African National Biodiversity Initiative, the SA Adaptation Network and the Cape Town Climate Change Think Tank; with financial support from the National Research Foundation, the Western Cape Government, the University of Cape Town and the Climate Change Think Tank.

The lecture will be followed by the launch of two new publications on governing the risks associated with flooding and sea level rise in Cape Town. The books: *Rising Waters* and

*Cape of Storms*, written by Leonie Joubert in collaboration with UCT and Stockholm Environment Institute researchers, translate academic findings into accessible messages for practitioners, policy makers, local leaders and residents.

Media are welcome to attend, but must reserve seats because of limited space. Your attendance can only be accommodated if you RSVP by Friday, 22 November 2013, to [Kirsty.nortje@acdi.uct.ac.za](mailto:Kirsty.nortje@acdi.uct.ac.za)

***ENDS***

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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