

ACDI Master's Students 2018



James Alan Christopher (South Africa) studied Mechanical Engineering at UCT and graduated in 2014. James spends his free time fishing and surfing around the Western Cape with his love of nature having been the driving force for these passions. His fields of research include: the EV market in South Africa and what impact their penetration could have on South Africa, and the generation of a replicable sustainable low-cost housing solution / model.



Lucy Lavirotte (France) graduated from University of Montreal with a master's degree in Political Science and then studied Adaptation to Climate Change in University Paris Saclay. Lucy worked on a documentary project related to deforestation in the Philippines and did an internship in a sustainable development NGO in France. During these experiences, she developed a specific interest in agriculture's adaptation to climate change and food security issues.



Micah Moynihan (South Africa) holds an honours degree in Economics from the University of Pretoria. Hailing from rural Mpumalanga, he is acutely aware of the need for developing grassroots capacity of rural dwellers to mobilise their own potential for socio-economic development. To this end he is interested in researching the development of self-sustaining, self-actualising nodes through localising and decentralising the provision of goods and services.



James Reeler (Zimbabwe), completed his schooling and honours degree in Zimbabwe but has been living in Cape Town for the past 15 years. James has worked in academia, private consulting and the non-governmental sectors on various aspects of climate adaptation and mitigation, both in South Africa and internationally. James is interested in exploring the challenges, opportunities and tradeoffs that developing nations face when balancing the need for social upliftment and climate adaptation with the global imperative for mitigation.



Ana Ali Simon Gutierrez (Mexico) studied biology and specialized in wildlife conservation. Ana has worked as a consultant for the private sector, various NGOs, and every government agency in Mexico related to natural resources. Over the years she realized the great impact that social and economic drivers have on biodiversity. Her research interests include policy development and societal well-being, and how this translates into the conservation of wildlife.



Meagen Courtney Swain (South Africa) did her Undergrad and Honours Degrees at Rhodes University. Meagen is a free-spirited, gregarious but determined individual, born and bred in Durban. Her Honours research focused on developing an educational simulation which looked at dealing with Water Futures in Southern Africa (WAFUSA). In 2016 Meagen presented her research at the SANORD Conference in Sweden.



Phikolomzi Matikinca (South Africa) did his undergraduate at Rhodes University, majoring in Geology and Environmental Science. His research interests include how Participatory Scenario Development approaches can be applied to inform (i) Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction plans and strategies, and (ii) pathways to Sustainable Development. He is interested in how developed and developing countries, through scenario approaches, link their development priorities with adaptation planning.



Giulia Riedo (Italy) recently worked in the field of development and natural resources governance and realised that guaranteeing human rights and providing essential services, such as drinkable water and food security, would be progressively difficult if resources are becoming even scarcer because of climate change. Her research interests are in city sustainability and water management.



Sylvia Dorbor Diamond (Liberia) obtained her Bachelors of Science in Geology and Environmental Science and her BSc Honours in Environmental Science from Rhodes University. She is passionate about global sustainability and hopes to contribute immensely to Africa, and the world at large. Her Honours research focused on renewables energy in the form of biogas and she is interested in the use and adoption of renewable energy sources, so as to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.