

About the contributors

Aliou Dia is a member of the department of Geography at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Senegal. His expertise is remote sensing and Geographical Information Systems. He has published widely in this field and has participated in various international workshops. He holds an PhD obtained between University of Marne la Vallée, Paris, France and University of Dakar.

Djilali Benaour is a professor at the faculty of Civil Engineering at the University of Bab Ezzouar (USTHB) in Algiers (Algeria). He lectures courses in earthquake engineering, engineering seismology and disaster management. He is also, Director of the Built Environment Research Laboratory (LBE) at that same institution. His research experience lies in Seismic Hazard and Risk Assessment, vulnerability evaluation and disaster management capacity building.

Jacob Loulou Kouame is a member of staff at Laboratoire de Géomatériaux, Institut Francilien des Géosciences, Université de Marne la Vallée in France.

Jean-Paul Rudant is a member of staff at Laboratoire de Géomatériaux, Institut Francilien des Géosciences, Université de Marne la Vallée in France.

Guy Sapirstein, PhD. Is a senior partner with Organizational Resilience International, LLC in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. He has over 20 years experience assisting people exposed to crisis and disaster situations. He is Discipline Chair for Human Impact for the International Consortium for Organizational Resilience (ICOR, www.theicor.org) and is active with the New England disaster Recovery Information Exchange (www.NEDRIX.com). His doctorate is in Psychology from the University of Connecticut. He has published and presented on topics such as: mind body issues, treatment of psychological trauma and Human Impact Preparedness for Disasters

Dewald van Niekerk is the founder and director of the African Centre for Disaster Studies at North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus. He is co-author of five academic books and numerous articles. He has

presented papers at various national and international disaster risk reduction conferences and has been the project leader for local, national as well as international disaster risk reduction projects. In 2003 he became one of only 64 researchers world-wide to receive the Prevention Consortium and the World Bank research grant for young researchers in disaster risk reduction, for his studies on uniform hazard datasets. He obtained a Doctorate in disaster risk reduction at North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus in 2005.

Gideon van Riet is a researcher in disaster risk reduction at the African Centre for Disaster Studies at North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus - South Africa. His research interests are the political economy of disaster risk and HIV/AIDS. He will receive his Master's degree in International Studies from the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa in December 2006.

Dawie van Vuuren is the Managing Director of MetroGIS. His involvement in Disaster Management started in 1999, with the National Y2K disaster management initiative. His passion is the application of GIS in DRM, and he was instrumental in the development

of a GIS-based Disaster Risk Assessment tool. He is an aspirant PhD candidate at North-West University where he will be looking at GIS as the integration factor between DRM, Development Planning and Environmental Management.

Koos van Zyl started his career in 1949 in the then Department of Agriculture of South Africa as a clerk, and studied as a part-time student in Public Administration at the University of Pretoria. He finally retired from the Department in 1998 as Chairman of the Agricultural Credit Board. Since then he has been working as a consultant for a number of Government Departments on various topics ranging from food security, agricultural financial development, insurance, disaster risk management and drought management. During his career he drafted over a hundred pieces of legislation pertaining to agriculture, which required huge research efforts, developing and implementing the budgeting by an objective and accounting system still being used by all State Departments. In 1992 he was instrumental in the largest drought relief program ever in South Africa, amounting to R3.8 billion.

Soulèye WADE is a member of staff
at Laboratoire de Télédétection
Appliquée, Institut des Sciences de la

Terre, Faculté des Sciences et
Techniques, Université Cheikh Anta
Diop de Dakar in Senegal.

