

**Dr. Prudentia Zikalala (South Africa)**

Project Program Coordinator at UNESCO Be Resilient South Africa: Addressing Climate Risk and Building Adaptive Capacity in Biosphere Reserves (UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office for Southern Africa: Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia & Zimbabwe).

Prudentia Gugulethu Zikalala (Gugu) earned a Doctor in Philosophy in Hydrologic Sciences and is the Project Coordinator of the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa Be Resilient South Africa: Addressing Climate Risk and Building Adaptive Capacity in Biosphere Reserves. She has more than 10 years' practice and research in the diverse fields of Engineering and Natural Resources Management including wastewater, stormwater, groundwater and surface water management, water resources systems optimization and agricultural systems management. Upon joining UNESCO in the Johannesburg, South Africa field office in 2021 she has grounded her experiences and passions in the implementations of Be Resilient in partnership with UNESCO Biosphere Reserves on the ground with a focus on climate change adaptation planning, monitoring and development of strategies for extreme weather Early Warning Systems and capacity development of communities for water security including design and implementation of Citizen Science programmes focused on River Monitoring. She is passionate about practices and research in climate change adaptation; the development of renewable energy infrastructure; the fair distribution of clean water, energy and housing in South Africa; the comparative assessment of basin water supply, water quality and allocation outcomes in South Africa; and the exploration of limiting biophysical throughput at a basin/watershed scale to elucidate long-term freshwater and ecosystem productivity and sustainability particularly in agricultural and security of communities from hydrologic and climatic extremes through development of functional disaster risk reduction tools at appropriate community scales.