

## Industry, informal settlements and small-scale farmers' ability to cope and adapt to drought and other water-related to changing climate along three major rivers in KwaZulu-Natal – Dr Sibonelo Thanda Mbanjwa

**M**y investigation placed emphasis on river systems associated with the uMgeni river system. The research results contribute to the knowledge and understanding of river chemistry due to farming and industrial actions along the river system. The investigation effectively interprets the current scenario and possible future impact by agricultural as well as social utilisation and reliance on the river system for livelihoods. It includes suitable recommendations for government interventions to improve monitoring, as well as compliance by industry and small-scale farmers residing along the rivers under investigation. The technical findings improve the understanding of river chemistry and biodiversity in relation to industry, small scale farmers, indigent squatter developments as well as recreational uses. The work is highly relevant in light of the scarcity of water and the need to conserve this precious commodity.



## The impact of harvesting *Athrixia phylicoides* (Bush Tea) and the use of indigenous knowledge at Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa – Phumzile Lucia Khoza



**T**he aim of survey was to determine the impact of harvesting bush tea and to gather indigenous knowledge about the plants. Due to increased harvesting pressure of this plants there has been a drastic decline in the population. Because of many uses, it faces problems of being over harvested and exploited. The results shown that the community members were showing interest on propagating the plants as they are benefiting both health care and financial. Community have showed enhanced knowledge about the uses of the plants. Predictive model was the best method to be used by the permit holder.