Dedication



Bob (Robert) Scholes
(28 October 1957 – 28 April 2021)

The chapter on Africa of the Working Group II Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), is dedicated to the memory of Bob Scholes who was one of the Review Editors for the chapter.

Bob, one of the world's leading climate change scientists, was a Professor of Systems Ecology, a Director of the Global Change Institute and a Distinguished Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. Known for his towering intellect and insatiable curiosity, Bob published widely in the fields of savanna ecology, earth observation and global change. As a well-respected member of the global research community he played a major role in the IPCC as a Lead Author and Co-ordinating Lead Author during the third, fourth and fifth assessment cycles and as Co-Chair of the IPBES Land Degradation and Ecosystem Assessment. He was also a leading figure in African scientific circles and undertook multidisciplinary research to support policy development, risk assessment and development planning in South Africa and on the continent.

Bob was acutely aware of the need to build a more equitable and just society and was always generous with his knowledge and wisdom. He will be remembered as a remarkable role model, inspirational teacher and a thoughtful mentor to both students and colleagues. He was a son of African soil and dedicated much of his life to preserving Africa's natural heritage for future generations. But he was also at home anywhere on Earth – truly a person of the planet. Bob lived life to its fullest, as was evident in his love of gourmet cooking.

Bob's loss is felt deeply by all who knew him, and he will be remembered as a multi-talented and passionate scientist who motivated everyone to avoid complacency, think critically and to use their knowledge to improve the world.

Hamba kahle Bob.



Rebecca Mary Bernadette Harris
(01 August 1969 – 24 December 2021)

Chapter 2, 'Terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and their services', and Cross-Chapter Paper 3, 'Deserts, semi-arid areas and desertification' of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report are dedicated to the memory of Rebecca Harris, who was one of the Lead Authors.

Bec was the Director of the Climate Futures Program at the University of Tasmania. This award-winning team is globally recognised for its impacts and adaptation work including for the skiing and wine industries, biosecurity threats to agriculture, and what climate change meant for Tasmanian fire management. Bec helped both government and industry partners better assess their exposure to climate risk, and develop adaptation solutions. A highlight is the work that she launched in 2020: *Australia's Wine Future: A Climate Atlas*. Bec oversaw this multidisciplinary climate modelling and adaptation project (2016-2020) involving 15 researchers from six organisations, bringing national recognition to her work.

Prior to starting her PhD studies relatively late in life, Bec worked in invertebrate and botanical biodiversity assessment, island biogeography and disturbance ecology. In the short decade-long research career, Bec authored 66 publications, won numerous research contracts and consultancy projects and in 2016 was awarded a prestigious Humboldt Fellowship.

Bec also supervised many honours and PhD students over the last decade and was a mentor and sponsor for many early career researchers. She was particularly passionate about supporting women in science. She was an inspiring lecturer and was also committed to enhancing community climate literacy as an avenue for making change. She had a talent for translating the complex science work she undertook for non-expert audiences in a way that was clear and impactful.

As a researcher and scholar, Bec is an exemplar, and she will be very sorely missed.

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