

The *South African Journal of Science* follows a double-anonymous peer review model but encourages Reviewers and Authors to publish their anonymised review reports and response letters, respectively, as supplementary files after manuscript review and acceptance. For more information, see [Publishing peer review reports](#).

### Peer review history for:

Matikinca P, Nyamakura B, Shackleton S. Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in South Africa's local municipal plans. *S Afr J Sci.* 2024;120(7/8), Art. #15797. <https://doi.org/10.17159/sajs.2024/15797>

#### HOW TO CITE:

Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in South Africa's local municipal plans [peer review history]. *S Afr J Sci.* 2024;120(7/8), Art. #15797. <https://doi.org/10.17159/sajs.2024/15797/peerreview>

#### Reviewer H: Round 1

**Date completed:** 20 December 2023

**Recommendation:** Accept / **Revisions required** / Resubmit for review / Decline

**Conflicts of interest:** None

Does the manuscript fall within the scope of SAJS?

Yes/No

Is the manuscript written in a style suitable for a non-specialist and is it of wider interest than to specialists alone?

Yes/No

Does the manuscript contain sufficient novel and significant information to justify publication?

Yes/No

Do the Title and Abstract clearly and accurately reflect the content of the manuscript?

Yes/No

Is the research problem significant and concisely stated?

Yes/No

Are the methods described comprehensively?

Yes/No

Is the statistical treatment appropriate?

Yes/No/Not applicable/Not qualified to judge

Are the interpretations and conclusions justified by the research results?

Yes/Partly/No

Please rate the manuscript on overall contribution to the field

Excellent/**Good**/Average/Below average/Poor

Please rate the manuscript on language, grammar and tone

**Excellent**/Good/Average/Below average/Poor

Is the manuscript succinct and free of repetition and redundancies?

Yes/No

Are the results and discussion confined to relevance to the objective(s)?

Yes/No

The number of tables in the manuscript is

Too few/**Adequate**/Too many/Not applicable

The number of figures in the manuscript is

**Too few**/Adequate/Too many/Not applicable

Is the supplementary material relevant and separated appropriately from the main document?

Yes/No/Not applicable

Please rate the manuscript on overall quality

Excellent/**Good**/Average/Below average/Poor

Is appropriate and adequate reference made to other work in the field?

Yes/No

Is it stated that ethical approval was granted by an institutional ethics committee for studies involving human subjects and non-human vertebrates?

Yes/No/Not applicable

If accepted, would you recommend that the article receives priority publication?

Yes/No

Are you willing to review a revision of this manuscript?

Yes/No

Select a recommendation:

Accept / **Revisions required** / Resubmit for review / Decline

With regard to our policy on 'Publishing peer review reports', do you give us permission to publish your anonymised peer review report alongside the authors' response, as a supplementary file to the published article? Publication is voluntary and only with permission from both yourself and the author.

Yes/No

#### Comments to the Author:

This is an interesting study that highlights the interconnectedness of climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and socio-economic vulnerability. The literature could be analysed more explicitly, rather than just the broad mentions in the Introduction. The discussion could be expanded to look at each of the barriers from Figure 6 in much more detail. You can also expand on the interview responses, especially with regard to the interface of CCA, DRR and socio-economic factors - if the respondents did not elaborate on specific questions, this is in itself interesting. It would be very useful to include a map of the study area to locate the study and indicate the distribution of the IDPs.

---

#### Author response to Reviewer H: Round 1

This is an interesting study that highlights the interconnectedness of climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and socio-economic vulnerability. The literature could be analysed more explicitly, rather than just the broad mentions in the Introduction.

AUTHOR: Thank you for finding our study interesting. We have made some revisions on the introduction section of the paper and included more recent and primary literature. Below are some of the references that have been added in the introduction:

Nemakonde LD, Van Niekerk D. Enabling conditions for integrating government institutions for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the SADC region and beyond. *Risk, Hazards Cris Public Policy*. 2023;14:6–26. <https://doi.org/10.1002/rhc3.12246>

Nemakonde LD, Van Niekerk D, Becker P, Khoza S. Perceived adverse effects of separating government institutions for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation within the Southern African Development Community Member States. *Int J Disaster Risk Sci*. 2021;12:1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13753-020-00303-9>

Becker P, Hagelsteen M, Abrahamsson M. 'Too many mice make no lining for their nest' – Reasons and effects of parallel governmental structures for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in Southern Africa. *Jamba J Disaster Risk Stud*. 2021;13:8. <https://doi.org/10.4102/jamba.v13i1.1041>

Nemakonde LD, van Niekerk D. A normative model for integrating organisations for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation within SADC member states. *Disaster Prev Manag An Int J*. 2017;26:361–76. <https://doi.org/10.1108/DPM-03-2017-0066>

Nalau J, Handmer J, Dalesa M, Foster H, Edwards J, Kauhiona H, et al. The practice of integrating adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the south-west Pacific. *Clim Dev*. 2016;8:365–75. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2015.1064809>

Mall RK, Srivastava RK, Banerjee T, Mishra OP, Bhatt D, Sonkar G. Disaster Risk Reduction including Climate Change Adaptation over South Asia: Challenges and ways forward. Int J Disaster Risk Sci. 2019;10:14–27. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13753-018-0210-9>

The discussion could be expanded to look at each of the barriers from Figure 6 in much more detail. You can also expand on the interview responses, especially with regard to the interface of CCA, DRR and socio-economic factors - if the respondents did not elaborate on specific questions, this is in itself interesting.

AUTHOR: Thank you for this comment. Because Reviewer A suggested that we remove the sections on key informant interviews as they thought they do not contribute much to the overall paper and considering Reviewer H's comments on the said sections, we decided to omit the sections on key informant interviews.

It would be very useful to include a map of the study area to locate the study and indicate the distribution of the IDPs.

AUTHOR: We have added a detailed map of the Eastern Cape Province, which will be included in the manuscript as Figure 1. The map shows the distribution of the different local municipalities whose documents were analysed in this study, and whether such municipalities fall under the former homelands or former white South Africa areas categories.

---

#### Reviewer H: Round 2

**Date completed:** 08 May 2024

**Recommendation:** **Accept** / Revisions required / Resubmit for review / Decline

**Conflicts of interest:** None

---

Does the manuscript fall within the scope of SAJS?

**Yes/No**

Is the manuscript written in a style suitable for a non-specialist and is it of wider interest than to specialists alone?

**Yes/No**

Does the manuscript contain sufficient novel and significant information to justify publication?

**Yes/No**

Do the Title and Abstract clearly and accurately reflect the content of the manuscript?

**Yes/No**

Is the research problem significant and concisely stated?

**Yes/No**

Are the methods described comprehensively?

**Yes/No**

Is the statistical treatment appropriate?

**Yes/No/Not applicable/Not qualified to judge**

Are the interpretations and conclusions justified by the research results?

**Yes/Partly/No**

Please rate the manuscript on overall contribution to the field

Excellent/**Good**/Average/Below average/Poor

Please rate the manuscript on language, grammar and tone

Excellent/**Good**/Average/Below average/Poor

Is the manuscript succinct and free of repetition and redundancies?

**Yes/No**

Are the results and discussion confined to relevance to the objective(s)?

**Yes/No**

The number of tables in the manuscript is

Too few/**Adequate**/Too many/Not applicable

The number of figures in the manuscript is

Too few/**Adequate**/Too many/Not applicable

Is the supplementary material relevant and separated appropriately from the main document?

**Yes/No/Not applicable**

Please rate the manuscript on overall quality

Excellent/**Good**/Average/Below average/Poor

Is appropriate and adequate reference made to other work in the field?

Yes/No

Is it stated that ethical approval was granted by an institutional ethics committee for studies involving human subjects and non-human vertebrates?

Yes/No/**Not applicable**

If accepted, would you recommend that the article receives priority publication?

Yes/**No**

Are you willing to review a revision of this manuscript?

Yes/No

Select a recommendation:

**Accept** / Revisions required / Resubmit for review / Decline

With regard to our policy on '[Publishing peer review reports](#)', do you give us permission to publish your anonymised peer review report alongside the authors' response, as a supplementary file to the published article? Publication is voluntary and only with permission from both yourself and the author.

Yes/No

**Comments to the Author:**

This now positions your study more substantially in relation to the literature. It is a pity that your informant material was deleted, but I acknowledge that you had conflicting reviewers' comments to contend with.

---

**Reviewer A: Rounds 1 and 2**

Not openly accessible under our [Publishing peer review reports](#) policy.