



## **Energy and Development Research Centre (EDRC)**

The Energy for Development Research Centre (EDRC) was founded in 1989 to document and understand energy use problems in poor and urban and rural settlements. In a period of intense political upheavals in South Africa, EDRC sought to make a difference at the local level in understanding problems and demonstrating possible energy strategies. EDRC also launched a taught postgraduate program in the Energy for Development field to build capacity and address identified challenges.

With the unbanning of the African National Congress (ANC) party in 1990, EDRC provided advice to the ANC by translating experience and understanding of energy problems and possibilities in underdeveloped urban and rural areas into research that could inform national policies. EDRC became a fully fledged research centre in providing capacity building beyond the borders of South Africa, while modernising the postgraduate education program and tailoring it to suit understanding of energy issues at regional and international level. Recently, a climate change component was added to the educational program. The research program was tailored within the framework of energy and sustainable development, covering the following key areas;

- Energy and Climate Change
- Energy Efficiency
- Energy, Poverty and Rural Development
- Power Sector Reforms

EDRC is committed to high quality, targeted and useful research, with visions of becoming a leading African energy and development policy research, consultancy, and capacity-building institution. EDRC strives to deepen knowledge and understanding of the energy and development needs and challenges in South Africa, SADC and the rest of Africa; and contribute to improved social equity, economic efficiency, and environmental sustainability in the energy sector through public-interest advocacy and understanding for policy-making and implementation.

Beyond the University, the Centre collaborates with a number of local and international institutions and agencies, by entering into strategic alliances with partners who can add value to EDRC initiatives and programmes. EDRC will continue to reach these goals in parallel with its role to educate, train and develop human resources in the energy and climate change fields.

Further information on EDRC can be found on the web page [www.edrc.uct.ac.za](http://www.edrc.uct.ac.za)

## **Stanford A. J. Mwakasonda**



Mr. Mwakasonda is a senior researcher at the Energy & Development Research Centre (EDRC), University of Cape Town, South Africa, focusing on energy and climate change. His previous experience includes working in the areas of energy, environment and climate change. He has worked as a consultant for international companies and organisations, including the Southern African Development Community (SADC), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the World Bank and others. Mr. Mwakasonda is also the Tanzania Focal Point for the Climate Action Network (CAN), a global coalition of researchers and scientists involved in energy and climate change.

Mr. Mwakasonda received his Masters in Business Administration and BSc (Agricultural Engineering) from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. He also has a background of training in the Petroleum sector, including petroleum policy and management. Prior to joining EDRC, he worked as a Senior Researcher and Consultant for five years at the Centre for Energy, Environment, Science and technology (CEEST), Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.