

Dr. Debra Roberts established and heads the Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department of eThekweni Municipality (Durban, South Africa) and is the city's first Chief Resilience Officer. She was a lead author of Chapter 8 (Urban Areas) and a contributing author to Chapter 12 (Africa) of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report and was recently elected as Co-Chair of Working Group II for the sixth assessment cycle. She is a member of the South African United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiating team and has sat on various international advisory bodies focused on climate change issues in cities (e.g. the Rockefeller Foundation's Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network). Dr. Roberts was vice-chair of UN-Habitat's HS-NET Advisory Board which oversaw the production of the 2011 "Cities and Climate Change" Global Report. She is a member of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Thematic Group on Sustainable Cities, involved in the establishment of an urban SDG as part of the post-2015 development regime. Dr. Roberts is also a member of the Future Earth Engagement Committee and a contributing author on Africa for UNEP's GEO6. She is a fellow of the Watson International Scholars of the Environment Programme and has written widely in the fields of urban open space planning, environmental management and urban climate protection and has received a number of awards for her work.