

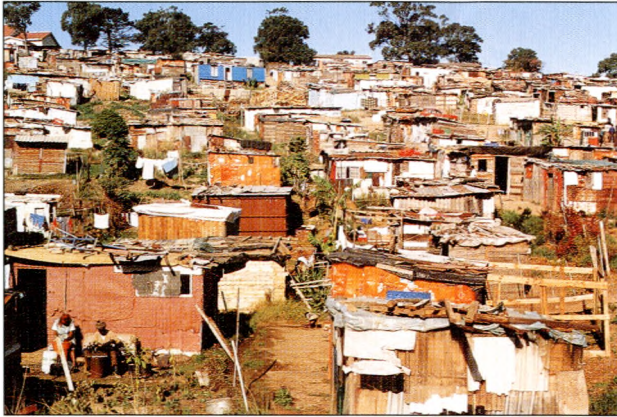
RHODES UNIVERSITY

ISER

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH



GRAHAMSTOWN • EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE • SOUTH AFRICA



"High-density informal housing in Duncan Village, East London"

The Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) was founded in 1954 by the University Council in order to pool the human and other resources of the social science departments at Rhodes University. The Institute has 40 years of unparalleled experience in a wide range of socio-economic research, particularly in the Eastern Cape.

Under its umbrella is the **Development Studies Unit (DSU)** which has a record of building up the capabilities of communities and individuals, institutional development and strengthening, as well as numerous other achievements including contributing to policy formulation in Provincial Government Ministries.

Much of the work done by the DSU and the Institute is guided by national and local development priorities.

The **International Library of African Music (ILAM)** is the third limb of the Institute, and is an archive and research centre for the study of African music. It houses world class collections of recordings, musical instruments and books from central, eastern and southern Africa and

offers training in ethnomusicology and instrumental technique.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Institute of Social and Economic Research is to produce nationally and internationally reputable research which makes a positive contribution to the quality of life of the people of South Africa, and of the Eastern Cape, in particular.

The Eastern Cape Province

Located in the Eastern Cape province, the ISER is in a unique position to make a significant contribution to development in South Africa. The Eastern Cape is the second poorest province in the country. The legacy of apartheid and the 'homeland' system is one of rural poverty and economic under-development, widespread institutional collapse, high rates of urbanisation and extreme levels of urban and rural unemployment.

Initiatives aimed at national and local reconstruction and development, land reform and the provision of housing and basic needs to the many under-resourced communities in the Eastern Cape, will remain issues of the highest priority for the foreseeable future. Development and

policy interventions can only succeed if they are informed by careful research.

Guiding Principles

* The ISER is an independent, politically non-aligned and non profit-making organisation.

* ISER projects are based on scientific and academic excellence and professionalism.

* The ISER adopts an inter-disciplinary and applied research approach and is oriented towards serving the community.

* The ISER is committed to promoting research skills amongst its staff and within local communities in the Eastern Cape Region.

* The ISER undertakes to inform the public and interested organisations on a wide range of current and topical socio-economic issues by means of lectures, seminars, publications, reports, etc.

Research Expertise

The ISER has a multi-disciplinary research team with specialised training in fields such as sociology, anthropology, politics, law, music, ecology and development studies. Furthermore, Rhodes University staff members, representing a wide range of disciplines, are available for ISER projects. Research projects are grouped into the following programmes:

- * Governance and civil society
- * Urban development studies
- * Health and basic needs
- * Natural resource management
- * Conservation and development
- * Land reform and land tenure
- * Local economic development

Research techniques employed include pilot studies, socio-economic surveys, ecological assessments, feasibility studies, household surveys and participatory research methods.

Commissioned research is usually presented to the client in the form of a report.

Publications

The Institute publishes an *Annual Report* (available on request) which sets out its activities and achievements. It also publishes a regular series of *Development Studies Working Papers* for distribution and sale to interested individuals and institutions. *Occasional Papers* are published from time to time and are available at reasonable prices. These publications reflect much of the research carried out by the Institute.



*"Rural women in Peddie with
ISER researcher"*

The Journal of Contemporary African Studies is an interdisciplinary journal in the human sciences which seeks to promote a scholarly understanding of developments and change in Africa. It also seeks to play an important role in linking South Africa to the rest of the continent and vice versa. The Journal has an international circulation and is published biannually by

the Carfax Publishing Company in the United Kingdom. However, the ISER retains sole responsibility for the selection of material, the editing and editorial policy of the Journal.

The International Library of African Music publishes the Sound of Africa and the Music of Africa record series, as well as the international journal *African Music*. •



"Launch of the Inxuba (Fish River) Conservation and Economic Forum in October 1995"



Enquiries, from persons, organisations, NGOs, etc. concerning ongoing research or the undertaking of new projects should be addressed to:

THE DIRECTOR: Institute of Social and Economic Research

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