

## **Women and Ceativity<sup>1</sup> in Sustainable Development: Reflections from KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa<sup>2</sup>**

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**ABSTRACT** In South Africa's rural areas, including the province of KwaZulu-Natal, life for Africans has been generally bleak. State support for infrastructural development was restricted to large-scale agriculture dominated by Whites. While African males from the rural areas provided cheap labour for South Africa's mines, industries, commerce and domestic markets, their women became more prone to impoverishment. Faced by successively oppressive government during apartheid, and since 1994 by an inexperienced Black dominated post-apartheid government, women in KwaZulu-Natal's rural areas have continued to rely upon local knowledge and resources to make a living. Their efforts demonstrate the sensitivity that is required to understand how their kinship networks, neighbourhood ties and interpersonal relations function to make their lives meaningful in a world of continuous uncertainty.