



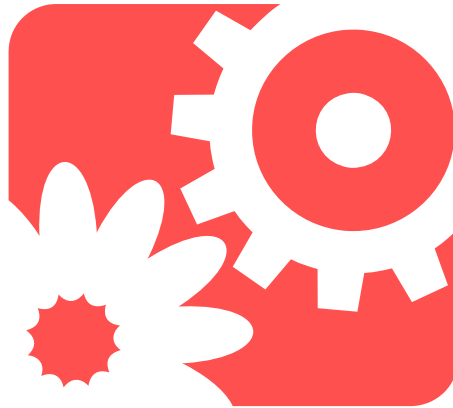
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Research Interests



**BIODIVERSITY
ECOSYSTEM
SERVICES
PROGRAMME**

Madelé is an MSc student in the Biodiversity Ecosystem Services Programme working on pollination services. She is currently registered at the University of Stellenbosch where she studied BSc Conservation Ecology as undergrad also. She is very interested in how ecosystems are being changed through off-reserve activities (e.g. agriculture) and how these two can reach a common ground through exploring the fields of ecosystem services and environmental economics.

Her current research is titled:

“Significance of pollination ecosystem services to the apple industry in the Western Cape, South Africa”. The services of ecological systems are critical to the functioning of the earth’s life-support system. Insect pollination is an essential regulating service for

commercial crops, representing approximately one-third of global food production. The apple industry of the Western Cape of South Africa is an important agricultural sector reliant on pollination by honeybees, *Apis mellifera*. As the demand for pollinators increase, modern commercial crop production is increasingly becoming dependent on managed pollinators (hired from beekeepers) and less on wild pollinators. The apple industry makes use of both ecosystem (wild bees) and commercial (managed bees) pollination services and it is therefore important to evaluate these together. An assessment and valuation of these pollination services will be done to determine the relative contribution of wild pollinators. The reliance of managed honeybees on natural vegetation for forage will also be further explored and valued. It is hoped that this study will bring more clarity on the value and significance of pollination ecosystem services to crop production.