



**Dr Bambesiwe Mbesi May,
Lecturer: University of Venda**

There Is No Straight Line: The
Decisions That Shaped My
Career in Science.

She is a Lecturer in Hydrology
and Water Resources at the
University of Venda, with a
background in Chemistry and
interdisciplinary experience
across academia, consulting,
and national research
institutions. Her career spans
roles as a Postdoctoral
Researcher at the African
Rainbow Minerals
Geometallurgy Research Chair

at Stellenbosch University, Geochemist at Digby Wells Environmental, and research
experience at Mintek.

Her work focuses on environmental geochemistry and waste valorisation, where she
develops science-based frameworks to support resource reclassification and
sustainable recovery. Her research integrates geochemical modelling, environmental
risk assessment, and beneficiation strategies, with growing application to water
systems and the environmental impacts of mining.

She is a recipient of the South African Women in Science Award (SAWISA), the
UNESCO–L'Oréal For Women in Science Award, and the Mandela Washington
Fellowship, and has secured research funding from the Royal Academy of Engineering
(RAEng).