

Provisioning Responses to Environmental Variation from MIS 4-2 in the Western Cape, South Africa

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The Western Cape of South Africa witnessed recurrent turnover of technological systems in the period from 75-20,000 years before present. This is also a period of rapid environmental change. In this paper we use data from open and shelter sites to examine differences in technological organization between industries such as the Still Bay, Howiesons Poort, post-Howiesons Poort and Robberg. We find that technological differences are underpinned by marked reorganization of provisioning systems, and discuss how these can be viewed as broad responses to local environmental variation through the late Pleistocene.