

NELSON MANDELA

UNIVERSITY



2021 Quarter 3 Newsletter Institute for Coastal and Marine Research (CMR)

We're in the second semester of 2021 and Quarter 3 is well underway.

As per the CMR's and its members' high standards, everyone has been busy and continued to engage widely through various platforms. In this newsletter, we look back on activities and successful events held in the second quarter, and we share news of events to look forward to during the remainder of the year. The CMR has a number of exciting events planned, and we hope that our members will participate in and enjoy these! We share news of great achievements, but also bid a sad farewell to a much-loved and respected colleague. This newsletter also provides some feedback on CMR projects and progress made – it has been quite a while since details on projects have been shared with members. Some changes are underway under the CMR Office team, and these are shared at the end of the newsletter.

Many new members have joined the CMR in recent months. We welcome you, and look forward to growing interactions and collaborations!

We wish our members and their loved ones all the best, and trust that everyone is well.

We hope you enjoy this quarterly update from the CMR!





Exploring Arts-Based Participatory Research Methodology Workshop

On 29 April, Dr Nina Rivers (Post-Doctoral Research Fellow) and Mia Strand (Doctoral candidate), facilitated a knowledge exchange workshop with the One Ocean Hub Project's Ghanaian research team. This workshop focused on developing contextualised arts-based participatory research methods in the form of photography and audio stories. This is used to identify indigenous and local knowledge systems relevant to ocean governance. The multidisciplinary team involved in this workshop also included a photojournalist, philosopher, and fine artist. A second workshop will take place in 2022.

Quarter 2 Seminar

The CMR's Quarter 2 Seminar was presented by Professor Rose Boswell on the topic Art and the Senses for Ocean Conservation. It considered the sensorial nature of art and human beings, and the role that art can play in transforming ocean governance. Professor Boswell offered interesting and unusual insights. This event took place on 22 June via Zoom, and was attended by 33 individuals.

Recordings of CMR quarterly seminars and **speaker presentations** are available on the CMR website at this link: https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/News-and-Events/Quarterly-Seminars

Past Events with Membership Participation

Ocean Visions Summit

The Oceans Visions Summit: Towards a Global Ecosystem for Ocean Solutions took place across multiple time zones from 18-21 May 2021. This consisted of over 25 events and was hosted on five virtual campuses in the Americas, Africa, Europe, and Oceania. CMR researcher Dr Nina Rivers chaired one of the sessions.

One Ocean Hub Project Activities

On 26 May, CMR Adjunct Professor Bernadette Snow presented on Inclusion of social-cultural systems in MSP, as part of the virtual workshop for Stakeholder Engagement on Key Sustainable Development Issues for Marine Spatial Planning in African Nations bordering the Atlantic. She attended IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) stakeholder meetings and contributed towards a statement on the inclusion of indigenous knowledge systems in biodiversity conservation. The One Ocean Hub World Oceans Week 2021 ran from 27 May. Professor Rose Boswell presented on Canoe Culture and Heritage in Ghana as part of this event. Dr Denning Metuge (Post-Doctoral Research Fellow) presented on Inclusive Ocean Conservation: Innovations in Marine Spatial Planning.



This five-part online workshop took place from 15-18 June, and included presentations from over 20 leading experts on intermittent estuaries and coastal inlets and the management thereof. This workshop considered international approaches to monitor temporarily closed and lake systems. The various parts addressed the following:

- Part 1: Engineering focus.
- Part 2: Remote sensing tools.
- Part 3: Overview of climate change responses.
- Part 4: Biological responses.
- Part 5: Introductions to international government responses and integration approaches.

CMR Deputy Director Professor Janine Adams and CMR Research Associates Dr Lara van Niekerk and Dr Stephen Lamberth presented at this workshop. The talks are available on the Mandela University Estuarine Ecology YouTube channel via the following link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUdrskgGzLr3zxXr7wQ1lQA/videos



Welcoming the Whales Festival

The annual Welcoming the Whales Festival events were scheduled to take place during June. Over the past few years, Raggy Charters has arranged this festival to celebrate the arrival of Humpback Whales along their breeding migration route along southern Africa's coastline.

The Gqeberha event was scheduled to take place at the Pine Lodge Resort on 16 June. Newly-appointed CMR Research Associate Dr Gwen Penry was set to present a talk on Bryde's Whale Research and Whale Entanglements, and she was ready to manage a CMR exhibit at this event. Unfortunately, a lockdown Level 3 announcement by the President the night before this event resulted in its cancellation. Despite restrictions placed on gatherings, Raggy Charters still succeeded in celebrating this occasion through online activities. Have a look at the Raggy Charters - Marine Eco-Cruises Facebook page to see what they were up to.



Launch of the Ocean Cultures and Heritage Research Chair

Headed by Professor Rose Boswell, the Research Chair for Ocean Cultures and Heritage was officially launched on 8 July 2021, via Zoom. In total, 110 individuals attended this event.

In addition to Professor Boswell's address, Mandela University leadership Nelson at this event included: Vicespeaking Chancellor Professor Sibongile Muthwa: Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Internationalisation Dr Thandi Mqwebi; and Executive Dean for the Faculty of Humanities Professor Pamela Maseko. The Executive Director for Partnership Dr Aldo Stroebel and Professor George Abungu from Okello Abungu Heritage (Kenya) also spoke at this event. In her capacity as Acting Director for the CMR, Professor Lorien Pichegru delivered the vote of thanks.

This Research Chair was established under the Faculty of Humanities towards the end of 2020, and is considered as one of the five Ocean Sciences-linked Research Chairs. This research group will bridge the gap between sciences and humanities research, and will investigate the influence of humans on ocean sustainability and oceans management. It will expand the knowledge of the maritime sector in Africa.







Community Engagement

CMR World Oceans Day

To celebrate World Oceans Day on 8 June, the CMR hosted a photo competition with the theme Beauty of the Bay. Individuals were encouraged to submit up to three of their own favourite photographs taken to showcase the beauty of the Algoa Bay region (Gqeberha, South Africa). Eight individuals submitted a total of 18 entries.





William Veitch
Six Pillars

Prize

Cruise in Algoa Bay Sponsored by Raggy Charters



Lynn Rosenman Sunset over Hobie Beach

Prize

R300 Exclusive Books Gift Voucher



Diep Respek Video Launch

Professor Kerry Sink leads the One Ocean Hub Project's MzanSea component under the CMR. MzanSea is an ocean literacy project aiming to provide educational resources to emotionally connect people to marine ecosystems and foster ocean care. This project, in collaboration with Dr Otto Whitehead, published a video entitled Diep Respek: Vulnerable Ecosystems on 8 June. This video can be accessed via this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6kdnR2eXmg



Women's Month Celebration

Together with the Department for Research Support and Management, the CMR will host its 3rd event in celebration of Women's Month in South Africa. The CMR will again follow the theme for International Women's Day (8 March), which was #ChooseToChallenge.

Join us in celebrating this occasion as we give young and emerging female researchers the opportunity to engage on various challenges that they face as women in heir professional and personal lives.

Wednesday, 18 August 2021 • 09:00-12:30 • Zoom

The **event booklet** with the programme and details on our speakers and hosts was circulated via the CMR mailing list and social media platforms. For more information or to RSVP, please contact <u>tara.vanderwesthuizen@mandela.ac.za</u>.



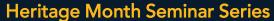
CMR Quarter 3 Seminar

The CMR will host Dr Jean Harris as its guest speaker for the CMR's Quarter 3 Seminar. Dr Harris is the Leader of the WILDOCEANS programme under WILDTRUST, and is a Research Associate with the CMR.

Dr Harris's talk will elaborate on the research conducted under the ACEP Programme and conservation research on board the Research Vessel Angra Pequena.

Wednesday, 29 September 2021 • 11:00-12:00 • Zoom

The event invitation with RSVP details will be circulated via the CMR mailing list and social media platforms towards mid-September.



September is celebrated as Heritage Month in South Africa, aiming to encourage greater social cohesion, build the nation, and a develop a shared national identity. During this month, the CMR will host Professor Rose Boswell (Ocean Cultures and Heritage Research Chair) for three online seminars, all considering different aspects of South African Cultural Heritage and links to the Ocean.

Seminar topics and dates are as follows:

- 1 September: Legislating Marine Intangible Cultural Heritage in South Africa
- 8 September: Observing and Changing the Social Life of Plastics
- 15 September: Salted Identity Coastal Personhood and the Re-Humanising of Ocean Conservation

The event invitations with RSVP details to attend via Zoom, will be shared via the CMR's mailing list and social media platforms in due course.

Introductory Course in Marine Protected Area Management Short Learning Progarmme

In collaboration with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and using funds provided by the Benguela Current Convention (BCC), the CMR will host and provide accreditation for two courses under this SLP. Three experts will present these courses, with 25-35 individuals attending each course.

This SLP was formally re-allocated to the CMR from the Faculty of Science in July, and the CMR looks forward to building capacity in this important environmental management field.

CMR Research Symposium

The CMR is delighted to share that its annual Research Symposium for 2021 will take place on Wednesday, 3 November! This event will take place online. The five Ocean Sciences and CMR Research Chairs will be showcased at this event:

- Marine Spatial Planning: Professor Mandy Lombard
- Law of the Sea and Development in Africa: Professor Patrick Vrancken
- Ocean Cultures and Heritage: Professor Rose Boswell
- Ocean Science and Marine Food Security: Professor Mike Roberts
- Shallow Water Ecosystems: Professor Janine Adams

Please mark this date in your diaries. Event details will be shared in due course.

Congratulations

First Nation Acknowledgement & Book

Dr Magda Minguzzi, Senior Lecturer under the School of Architecture and CMR member, was recognised for her research and commitments by the First Nation. This was in the form of a hat specifically designed for her. Such hats are used during traditional practices or special events. This is a very special acknowledgement and Dr Minguzzi is congratulated on the recognition received!



Dr Minguzzi's book, The Spirit of Water: Practices of cultural reappropriation. Indigenous heritage sites along the coast of the Eastern Cape was recently published by FUP. This book is co-authored by the First Indigenous Peoples of Mandela Bay, and highlights the fish traps located in the Eastern Cape (South Africa). This book is a significant milestone that has been realised, and received funding support from the NRF Community Engagement Programme.

Dr Minguzzi's research focuses on the tangible and intangible Indigenous Heritage in the Eastern Cape, and specifically on fish traps. She conducts her research in collaboration with the First Indigenous People of Southern Africa.

Algoa Bay Whale Heritage Site

In June, the World Cetacean Alliance (WCA) declared Algoa Bay as the world's 5th Whale Heritage Site. This is the second to be declared for the country, and South Africa is the only country in the world with two WCA-declared Whale Heritage Sites. Raggy Charters and CMR members are thanked for their efforts in working toward this, and are congratulated on this achievement!

The World Cetacean Alliance developed the Whale Heritage Site Programme in 2015 as a global accreditation scheme, recognising a community's commitment to respect and celebrate cetacean species. It is supported by World Animal Protection. This accreditation allows the travel industry to identify and support sustainable sites, creating locations for communities to celebrate their marine culture, heritage and biodiversity. It allows tourists to select responsible cetacean observing destinations, allowing for authentic but respectful experiences.







CMR Projects Update

Algoa Bay Project

This is the umbrella project for CMR research that focuses on Algoa Bay. These are local and international projects working with a large group of collaborators.

The Algoa Bay Project includes the following:

One Ocean Hub (OOH)

This project aims to transform our response to the urgent challenges facing our ocean. Its research seeks to bridge current disconnections in law, science and policy, and integrate governance frameworks to balance multiple ocean uses with conservation. It will carry out innovative research and integrated knowledge translation towards its vision to enable integrated ocean governance for equitable and inclusive sustainability. This project is funded by the United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) programme.

Numerous CMR researchers are involved in this project. It operated under revised workplans during 2020 and continues to do so in 2021. Some outputs have already been produced.

CICLICO

This Cities and Climate Change in Coastal Western Indian Ocean project explores and plans, with decision-makers and society in Algoa Bay and the city of Gqeberha, how diverse and often uncoordinated objectives of coastal and marine planning can be implemented to better enable adaptation to climate change using climate services for city planning tools. It is funded by WIOMSA.

The project has been extended to April 2022 and is nearing its final stages. It is led by Professors Bernadette Snow and Mandy Lombard.





MARISCO

The Marine Research and Innovation for a Sustainable management of Coasts and Oceans project aims to develop, merge and synthesise interdisciplinary, global knowledge for understanding the consequences of human actions for ocean and coastal sustainability. It will produce strategies and tools for effective management.

The project agreement was finalised in June with funding being received from the Belmont Forum for the first year. It is led by Professors Bernadette Snow and Mandy Lombard.

Algoa Bay CoP

This Community of Practice Project aims to co-develop a marine spatial plan for Algoa Bay with stakeholders, and to mainstream systems thinking into marine spatial planning methods and processes. Phase 1 (2017-2019) collected data on and modelled the biophysical and governmental systems in Algoa Bay. Phase 2 (2020-2021) aims to address the socio-economic system, and will tie all three systems together to develop an overall model that can inform marine spatial planning decisions in Algoa Bay.

Funding for 2021 has been received from the National Research Foundation (NRF) and several outputs have been completed. It is run by the Research Chair for Marine Spatial Planning (Professor Mandy Lombard) and the Rhodes University Research Chair for Marine Natural Products (Professor Rosy Dorrington).

Ocean-Accounts Framework CoP

The applicability of the oceans-account framework in the Western Indian Ocean is assessed by this project. It aims to develop novel accounts towards an ocean accounting framework for the Western Indian Ocean. Phase 1 runs from 2020-December 2021 and investigates the efficacy and relevance of the OAF in the process of implementing ocean policy. Ocean governance instruments will be applied in three South African provinces (Eastern Cape; KwaZulu-Natal; Western Cape). Phase 1 will also consider the role of gender in the OAF. The risks and vulnerabilities associated with climate change, food security and unsustainable development in the three provinces, will be researched.

The application and appeals/requests process for Phase 2 still needs to commence but should further funding be approved, Phase 2 will be implemented from 2022-2023. Results from Phase 1 will be used to determine the efficacy and relevance of the OAF in the process of implementing ocean policy and applying ocean governance instruments in selected African WIO states. Phase 2 will expand on Phase 1 objectives in the greater WIO region.

This project is funded by the National Research Foundation (NRF) and is led by Professor Patrick Vrancken.

Please have a look at the dedicated Algoa Bay Project website for more complete project details: https://www.algoabayproject.com/.





Other CMR Research Projects

SANOCEAN

This project works on benchmarking knowledge-based adaptive management of estuarine fisheries in South Africa for sustainable development. It aims to produce high quality, multidisciplinary policy-relevant research to address:

- Adaptive management needs of important estuarine fisheries in South Africa.
- Promote capacity building and gender redress through the involvement of female researchers and students at historically disadvantaged institutions.
- Provide popularised knowledge-based products to fisheries stakeholders.

The project was extended to December 2022 with the necessary signatures for the revised agreement still being obtained. Funding for 2021 was received. It is funded by the South Africa/Norway Co-Operation (SANOCEAN) and the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA), and is led by Dr Nina Rivers with Professor Bernadette Snow as a collaborator.

EPStromNet

The Extant Peritidal Stromatolite Network project will develop a new collaboration of leading international researchers from three continents. It will address key scientific questions that underpin the fundamental nature of these microbial-geological systems.

The project contracting process was completed in May 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no international travel has been possible to date. It is funded by the UKRI Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). Dr Gavin Rishworth is a Principal Investigator.

iAtlantic

This is a multidisciplinary research programme that seeks to assess the health of deep-sea and open-ocean ecosystems across the full span of the Atlantic Ocean. It entails an integrated assessment of Atlantic marine ecosystems in space and time.

Research continues under revised measures. It is funded by the European Union Horizon2020 initiative. Professor Kerry Sink leads a component of this project's research.





Coastwise

This project aims to improve knowledge for the integrated management of the land-sea interface in South Africa. It will enhance the available knowledge base for informed decision-making, filling important knowledge gaps that can be used in spatial management and building capacity within South Africa. This research will raise awareness of the value of coastal and marine habitats among coastal communities and decision makers.

The project is in its initial stages, with the project contract agreements being finalised in March 2021. Funding was received from the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GmbH). Professor Kerry Sink leads this project.

Marine Waste & Plastics Research

Baseline data are being collected from beaches and cities across the country to quantify litter accumulation and assess waste origin, in order to advise appropriate policies to reduce marine waste in the country.

This research is led by Professor Lorien Pichegru, in collaboration CMR Research Fellow Dr Maëlle Connan and with collaborators at University of Cape Town and the Sustainable Seas Trust.

Restoration of Estuaries using a Socio-Ecological Systems Framework

This project will develop and test a socio-ecological system framework for the restoration of estuaries. Using the Swartkops Estuary as a case study, the proposed research will focus on the restoration of water quality.

Some deliverables were submitted in 2020 and were circulated to reference group members in the July 2021 progress report. Student projects reported on are being prepared for publication.

This project is funded by the Water Research Commission (WRC). Professor Janine Adams leads this project, which includes many CMR researchers as collaborators.



ACEP Smart Zone MPA

Using the new uThukela Marine Protected Area as a case study, this multi-disciplinary project uses rare time-sensitive opportunities to gain a socio-ecological baseline essential for future assessments of the achievement of MPA objectives.

This project started in 2021 and will run until 2025. National Research Foundation (NRF) funding has been received and field work has commenced. It is led by Professor Mandy Lombard.

Avian Scavengers as Indicators of Recovery of an Island Biota

The project stems from the proposed mouse eradication initiative at Marion Island. It will focus on the three poorly known avian scavengers Brown Skua, Kelp Gull and Blackfaced Sheathbill, and burrowing seabird species which are prey species for the avian scavengers.

The project will run from 2021-2023 and funding through the South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP) has been received. This project is led by Dr Maëlle Connan.

Audio Project

This CMR component forms part of the larger Perspective Project, which helps individuals and groups of people to work with perspectives and benefit from the power of philosophical thinking and practices. This project broadens the context in which individuals think about problems, goals and opportunities. This introduces CMR members, the University community, national and international stakeholders, and the public to key players of the CMR and various aspects of CMR research, through audio recordings of interviews.

Dr David Pittaway (Post-Doctoral Research Fellow – Department of Development Studies) leads this project. During 2020, he conducted interviews with 11 CMR members, with this project continuing in 2021 with a further three podcasts to date. CMR Audio Project recordings are available on the CMR's YouTube channel, and are also posted on CMR social media accounts as they are completed: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf6b7ncMbf4iPSP2oQINnZg/videos



WIOMSP

This project aims to develop a marine spatial planning strategy and policy brief for the Western Indian Ocean (WIO). This project is featured on the Algoa Bay Project website. Although this project does not use Algoa Bay as a study site, it was the CMR's work in Algoa Bay that attracted attention from WIO partners. The Algoa Bay Project's website offered a home for information on this project to stakeholders, researchers collaborators and the public.

It is funded by the United Nations Environment Programme-Small Scale Funding Agreement (UNEP). The final deliverable is nearly ready for release. Professors Mandy Lombard and Bernadette Snow are the Co-Principal Investigators for this project.

BCLME-EBSA

The Marine Spatial Management and Governance (MARISMA) of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) – Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) and Marine Spatial Planning project supports the Benguela Current Convention (BCC), its three member states (South Africa, Namibia and Angola) and other key stakeholders in the marine management sector to reach the objectives of the Benguela Current Convention regarding enhanced sustainable management and governance of the BCLME's marine biodiversity and natural resources.

COVID-19 severely affected travel for this project, and all meetings and workshops continue to take place online. Work is progressing well under the extended agreement signed during 2020. The current project end date is 31 January 2022 and documentation for the final report will be obtained during 2021. This project is funded by the German Development Corporation (GIZ). Dr Stephen Holness is the Principal Investigator for this project, and Dr Linda Harris is the Senior Scientist.

Sustainable Ocean Mining

This project produced research on impacts, legislation and social aspects linked to coastal and offshore mining, towards developing guidelines that support environmentally sustainable mining practices grounded in peer review research.

The project is in its final stages. All deliverables have been completed. It was funded by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) with the Council for Geoscience coordinating some of the research. Dr Denning Metuge, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow with the Law of the Sea and Development in Africa Research Chair, led this project under the CMR.



We mourn the passing of Dr Shael Harris after a long and brave battle with cancer.

Shael was an expert on marine larval fish and was involved in many international projects, with a special focus on the Western Indian Ocean region.

With an energetic and vibrant nature, Shael never shied away from any challenge. She was a great inspiration to her students and colleagues, and was much loved by many.



Shael worked very closely with many members of the CMR and the marine community is immensely saddened by her passing. We extend our sincerest condolences to her family, friends, loved ones, and colleagues.

SANCOR posted a lovely **tribute** to Shael, which details her professional and personal journeys. Please see this here:

https://sancor.nrf.ac.za/Documents/SANCOR%20tribute%20to%20Shael%20Harris.pdf

Housekeeping

CMR Booklet of Expertise

Members are reminded of the CMR's Booklet of Expertise, available for download from the CMR Teams & Expertise page on the CMR website: https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/cmr-team-expertise

This booklet provides details on the CMR's most active research members and collaborators. The details captured in this booklet should facilitate the identification of possible research capacity and expertise for developing CMR research and collaborations. This booklet is updated as new research members are added to the CMR research team.

CMR Reports Series

The CMR has a series of Research Reports and Confidential Reports. Members are reminded that they can capture their research as part of the CMR's Reports Series. Please direct queries regarding this to cmr@mandela.ac.za.



CMR Affiliation & Branding

We kindly request that CMR members use the full Institute for Coastal and Marine Research title in all affiliations and addresses. This is specifically relevant to CMR-registered Research Associates and Professors, and is particularly important for academic publications and representation at formal occasions.

A friendly reminder to members to please make use of the CMR's updated and rebranded logos to adhere to the Nelson Mandela University's corporate branding profile. These logos, as well as branded templates, are available from the Membership Information page on the CMR's website: https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/membership-information.

Social Media

For news on projects, activities and general CMR updates, please follow the CMR's various social media accounts. Please feel free to share any of our posts, and let us know at cmr@mandela.ac.za if you have anything of interest to share here.

Institute for Coastal and Marine Research - CMR



@cmr_mandelauni









CMR Office Jean Matters

CMR Directorship

We are delighted that <u>Professor Lorien Pichegru</u> has been appointed as the <u>Acting Director</u> for the CMR until December 2021. She remains supported by <u>Deputy Directors Professor Janine Adams</u> and <u>Professor Pierre Pistorius</u>.

Departure of Office Manager

Office Manager Liza Rishworth is leaving the CMR and the Nelson Mandela University in December. The CMR Office is working on a training, hand-over and support programme with current CMR Office team members. CMR-registered Research Associates and Professors who receive administrative support for their research from the CMR, will be advised on who to contact for future requests, towards the end of November.

Office Arrangements

Considering the continuing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, CMR Office team members largely remain working remotely. CMR Office team members are online and available during their regular office hours.

Contact Details

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