

Advancing Marine Science Tourism

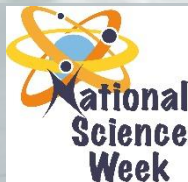
Public Lecture by Dr Lorien Pichegru

Part of the Road to National Science Week 2017



Date: Tuesday, 1 August 2017
Time: 13:00 – 14:00
Venue: Building 35 Room 0004, South Campus, Nelson Mandela University
RSVP: Liza.Rishworth@nmmu.ac.za or 041 504 2852 before 25 July 2017

NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY



Eco-tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in the world, generating jobs and economic opportunities world-wide. However, the added pollution pressure on already fragile environments and direct disturbance of wildlife through close encounters requested by tourists for emotional satisfaction, can be destructive to the systems visited.

Operation Phakisa aims to unlock the economic potential of our oceans, including marine and coastal tourism, and rapid development along the South African coastline is expected for the future.

In that context, scientifically informed tourism is crucial. First, wider knowledge of special environmental features that can be used as touristic assets may help increase economic opportunities. Most importantly, scientific information is critical for responsible initiatives and a sustainable economy based on healthy ecosystems. Eco-tourism initiatives can be key in raising awareness about conservation issues to the public.

Lorien's research interests lie in ecology, marine biology and zoology. Her research focuses on seabird foraging ecology and life history traits in relation to prey availability and local competition with industrial fisheries. More recently, she has been very active in various *Algoa Bay Hope Spot* initiatives and activities. In 2016, she received the WESSA Award for conservation efforts in the Eastern Cape. She also received the SANCOR Award for Emerging Scientists in 2014. Lorien is a Research Fellow in the Institute for Coastal and Marine Research (CMR).