



INSTITUTE FOR COASTAL  
AND MARINE RESEARCH  
(CMR)

QUARTER 2 NEWSLETTER  
2024



## NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello all, I hope you had a great second quarter! I have happily settled into my new role at CMR and have been very busy. As you will see from this newsletter, our members have been hard at work in academic and community engagement activities, receiving international and local accolades, and expanding our research and its communication.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our researchers, partners, and supporters. Thank you for your continued support and engagement with the CMR. Your dedication and passion are the driving forces behind our success. Together, we are making significant strides toward a sustainable future for our coastal and marine environments.

Dr Denise Schael



## CMR QUARTER 2 SEMINAR

The Quarter 2 seminar was presented by Prof Lorien Pichegru on the topic *A Decade of Biodiversity Management Plan for African Penguins – Lessons Learnt*. Prof Pichegru reviewed the success and failures of the African Penguin Biodiversity Management Plan gazetted in 2013 and discussed the successful implementation of stronger conservation actions for African penguins. This took place at the Ocean Sciences Campus on 5 June (~48 attendees). The recording of the talk and presentation are posted on the CMR website: <https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/News-and-Events/Quarterly-Seminars>



## EARLY CAREER PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

On June 6th, at the Ocean Sciences Campus, CMR hosted a presentation and discussion session for early career researchers, including postgraduate and postdoctoral fellows. During the session, CMR student member Ms. Emily Whitfield shared some of her current PhD findings, and Dr. Carla Dodd, a CMR postdoctoral research fellow, reflected on her PhD journey. This was followed by a discussion on the support CMR can provide to postgraduates and postdocs, addressing their needs and the desired support systems. Our students are an engaged and enthusiastic group, and we are pleased to be planning more meetings, along with various support and social events. The session was attended by 15 participants.

# WORLD OCEANS DAY COMPETITION

Our annual World Oceans Day (WOD) photo competition took place in June. We had 20 entries and secured two prizes donated. First prize was one Whale, Dolphin & Penguin Island Cruise voucher donated by Raggy Charters, and the second prize was one A2 Canvas Mounted Print voucher partially donated by Katz Camera World.

1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Kevin Ulett



2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Caitlin  
van der Merwe



## OCEAN CULTURE AND HERITAGE LECTURES

Prof Rose Boswell, and her post-doctoral research fellow, Dr Jessica Thornton, presented a series of lectures in March. Prof Boswell presented, the Social Dynamics, Politics and Development in Namibia, on 8 March, the Indigenous Knowledge, and Cultural Valuation in Namibia, from the Moon to Water Management, on 11 March and the Coastal Resilience and Culture in South Africa and Kenya, on 15 March. Dr Thornton presented, the Food Heritage and Food Security in Namibia, on 12 March.



## SOUTH AFRICAN – SWEDISH UNIVERSITIES FORUM

Dr Denise Schael was part of the Nelson Mandela University delegation attending the annual SASUF, held across Sweden from May 13 to 17. She presented in a session on EU funding and developing successful consortia for EU grants at the University of Gothenburg. During her visit, she toured the university's new biological sciences aquatic animal holding facility and environmental control chambers, discovering opportunities and interest for future collaborations with Gothenburg researchers. Additionally, meetings were held with researchers from the Swedish Agricultural University (SLU) and the World Maritime University (WMU). There is growing interest in expanding our SLU Aqua connections, currently via Prof Nikki James and the Convex Seascape project. SLU has been a research partner for over a decade through Prof Graham Kerley in the field of terrestrial ecology and conservation, making the transition into coastal and marine research collaborations a natural progression. The WMU is eager to revitalize and renew the Memorandum of Understanding with Nelson Mandela University, particularly with CMR. We are well-positioned to expand our partnerships across various disciplines within CMR, notably Maritime Studies, Ports Management, Marine Protected Areas, and Governance.



## AUTUMN GRADUATION

Well done to our CMR student members who graduated at the 2024 Autumn Graduation ceremony! We congratulate you, your supervisors and mentors, families and support structures. The CMR congratulates the following student members on this fantastic achievement:

Advanced Diploma in Public Administration and Management

- Refiloe Mosotho

Bachelor of Laws

- Lebogang Dhlamini

Bachelor of Science Honours: Zoology

- Minyonne Verster

Bachelor of Science Honours: Botany

- Jonathan Ungerer

Bachelor of Visual Arts Honours

- Luke Rudman

Master of Science: Botany

- Asiphe Ndoto

Doctor of Philosophy: Geology

- Carla Dodd

Doctor of Philosophy: Botany

- Manuela Mabuto

Doctor of Laws: Public Law

- Adelaide Karomo
- Ntemesha Maseka





## FRONTIERS PLANET PRIZE

Dr Mia Strand, CMR post-doctoral research fellow, was selected as the South Africa's National Champion for the Frontiers Planet Prize on 22 April, one of 23 National Champions, from scientific research teams spanning six continents. This accolade honours scientists whose work significantly aids in expediting solutions to uphold humanity's safe coexistence within the Earth's ecosystem boundaries. The 23 National Champions for this year encompass a diverse array of researchers at different junctures of their academic journeys, all of whom have authored pioneering articles proposing distinctive and transformative solutions. Her co-authors include CMR Research Associate, Dr Nina Rivers and CMR Adjunct Prof Bernadette Snow.

For more information: <https://www.frontiersplanetprize.org/>



## TW KAMBULE-NSTF AWARD

Dr Daniel Lemley, CMR Research Fellow, has been short-listed as a finalist in the category: TW Kambule-NSTF Award: Emerging Researcher. A finalist is a nominee who has made a significantly outstanding contribution to science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation in South Africa. On 11 July 2024, all finalists will be honoured and the winners of the 2023/2024 NSTF-South32 Awards will be announced.



## MEMBER UPDATES

Prof Hennie van As, Director of the Centre for Law in Action and head of South Africa's Fisheries Law Enforcement Academy, FishFORCE, at Nelson Mandela University, has been appointed as a legal expert to the first Board of Directors of the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC), established in 2023. The Maputo-based MCSCC is a joint effort of the 14 SADC member states to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region, protect small-scale fisheries and secure the livelihoods of millions of people who depend on fish and other living resources from the Indian Ocean and inland freshwater sources.

## MEMBER OUTPUTS

Barnes RSK & Seath JL. 2024. The occurrence of a rich subtidal macrobenthic fauna in through-flow residential marina canals, and the potential of such systems to be managed as biodiversity assets. *Ocean and Coastal Management* 254: 107191.

Jones PJ, Stafford R, Hesse I & Khuu D. 2024. Incentive diversity is key to the more effective and equitable governance of marine protected areas. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 11.



## SHALLOW WATER ECOSYSTEMS UPDATES

The first-ever global mangrove assessment for the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems reveals that more than half of the world's mangroves are at risk of collapse, with nearly one-fifth severely threatened. By assessing the health of #mangroves across 36 regions, we've identified key strategies for conservation and restoration. National management plans must prioritise mangrove protection, incorporating techniques for adaptation to climate change.

Prof Janine Adams and CMR student, Anesu Machite, recently contributed a dataset to the Coastal Carbon Data Library which was published in March 2024. The data publication consists of a soil's synthesis consisting of 23 studies and student theses. This synthesis includes 1,546 cores and surface soil samples, from marsh, mangrove, and seagrass habitats along the coast of South Africa with information on soil organic matter, organic carbon and site locations. This effort helped to largely grow the number of cores in South Africa from 9 in version 1.0.0 to 1,576 in version 1.2.0. At present, South Africa is one of three countries with the greatest number of soil cores included in the Data Library. This dataset is available on Figshare:

<https://doi.org/10.25573/serc.24394426.v1>

To keep up to date like and follow the page below:

<https://www.facebook.com/EstuarineEcologyNMMU/>



## SSLiME: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Dr Carla Dodd, shared recent research findings at three public talks during the month of May. The talks focused on how Supratidal Spring-Fed Living Microbialite Ecosystems (SSLiME) systems could be useful as monitoring sites of local groundwater pollution and hydrology and were linked to Water Research Commission (WRC)- and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)-funded projects led by Dr Gavin Rishworth, within the CMR. In total, more than 120 attendees joined the events that were hosted by the communities of the Friends of St Francis Nature Areas (FOSTER), Know Your Bay at Bayworld supported by WESSA, and Schoenmakerskop Ratepayers and Residents' Association.



## OCEAN STEWARDS OPPURTUNITY

CMR student member, Ms Minyonne Verster, was accepted into the Ocean Stewards Post-graduate Programme for 2024. The Ocean Stewards Project, launched in 2015 by WILDOCEANS offers young marine and social science students an experiential journey that will give them unique insights into the practice of marine research and conservation. Ocean Stewards will participate in an experiential process involving the following key elements amongst a variety of other activities and events throughout the year – introduction day, science session, communication workshop and a practical research cruise.



## MARINE SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

Several CMR members presented at the Marine Science Symposium at the Plettenberg Bay Ocean Festival from 21 to 30 June. Members included Dr Greg Hofmeyr, topic: *Vagrant Seals Rescue: Stranding response and rehabilitation of seals*; Dr Sibu Ngqulana, topic: *When Dolphin Skulls Talk: Dolphin Taxonomy - what the skulls tell us*; Prof Pierre Pistorius, topic: *Penguin Perspectives: An underwater world revealed by penguin-borne cameras*; Dr Gwenith Penry, topic: *The Elusive Bryde's: Past, present and future research on the Bryde's whales*; Dr Alejandra Vargas, topic: *Dolphin Real Estate: Do different species compete for the same habitats?* and Dr Eckart Schumann, topic: *Shifting Sands: A history of change of the keurbooms estuary*. For more information regarding the event, see the link below: <https://www.plettoceanfestival.co.za/>

# 2024 CALENDAR

J

30 – Writing & Publishing Discussion Session

a

1 - MPA Day Event  
30 - Women's Month Event

S

5 - Q3 Seminar  
9-13 – Research Week  
17 – Seminar: Prof Franckx  
26 – WMD Event

O

N

5 - Q4 Seminar  
15 - Research Symposium

D

Q – Quarter; MPA – Marine Protected Area; WMD – World Maritime Day.



# SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

**Website** (<https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/>)

Page visitors (2024) – 48 491

## Facebook

- Followers – 588
- Likes – 511
- Reach (2024) – ~20 200
- Visits (2024) – 834



## Instagram

- Followers – 349
- Reach (2024) – 947



## Twitter

- Followers – 272
- Tweet Impressions (2024) – 4254



## LinkedIn

- Followers – 117
- Views – 390
- Impressions – 20 778



# WEBSITE LINKS TO CHECK OUT

1. <https://www.slu.se/en/departments/aquatic-resources1/>
2. <https://www.slu.se/en/collaboration/international/slu-global/global-challenges-university-alliance/>
3. <https://www.wmu.se/about>
4. <https://www.gu.se/en/biological-environmental-sciences>

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