

INSTITUTE FOR COASTAL
AND MARINE RESEARCH
(CMR)

QUARTER 3&4 NEWSLETTER
2024





NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we close out 2024, we reflect on the key activities and successful events held during the final two quarters of the year.

I would like to thank all our members for your hard work and dedication this year.

On behalf of CMR, we wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy festive season.

Looking forward to an even greater 2025!

**GES4
SEAS**



**MARINE
SABRES**



Writing scientific papers for Early Career Researchers

Mike Elliott with Angel Borja and María C. Uyarra

Prof. Mike Elliott, University of Hull, UK, and
International Estuarine & Coastal Specialists
(IECS) Ltd. (Co-EiC *Estuarine, Coastal & Shelf
Science*) Mike.Elliott@hull.ac.uk



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the European Union



MEMBER OF
BASQUE RESEARCH
& TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE



CMR EVENTS

DISCUSSION SESSION - WRITING AND PUBLISHING SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES

Professor Mike Elliott, the Director of International Estuarine & Coastal Specialists (IECS) and Professor Alan Whitfield, the Chief Scientist at the National Research Foundation presented this session virtually on 30 July. The following aspects were discussed, publishing cycle and models, ethics and plagiarism, selecting a journal, bibliometrics, artificial intelligence, planning the article, general structure of a research article, authorship: do's and don'ts, explanation of each part: abstract, keywords, introduction, methods..., submission, reviewing process and acceptance/rejection. The recording of the talk and presentation are posted on the CMR website: <https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/News-and-Events/Additional-Seminars>.



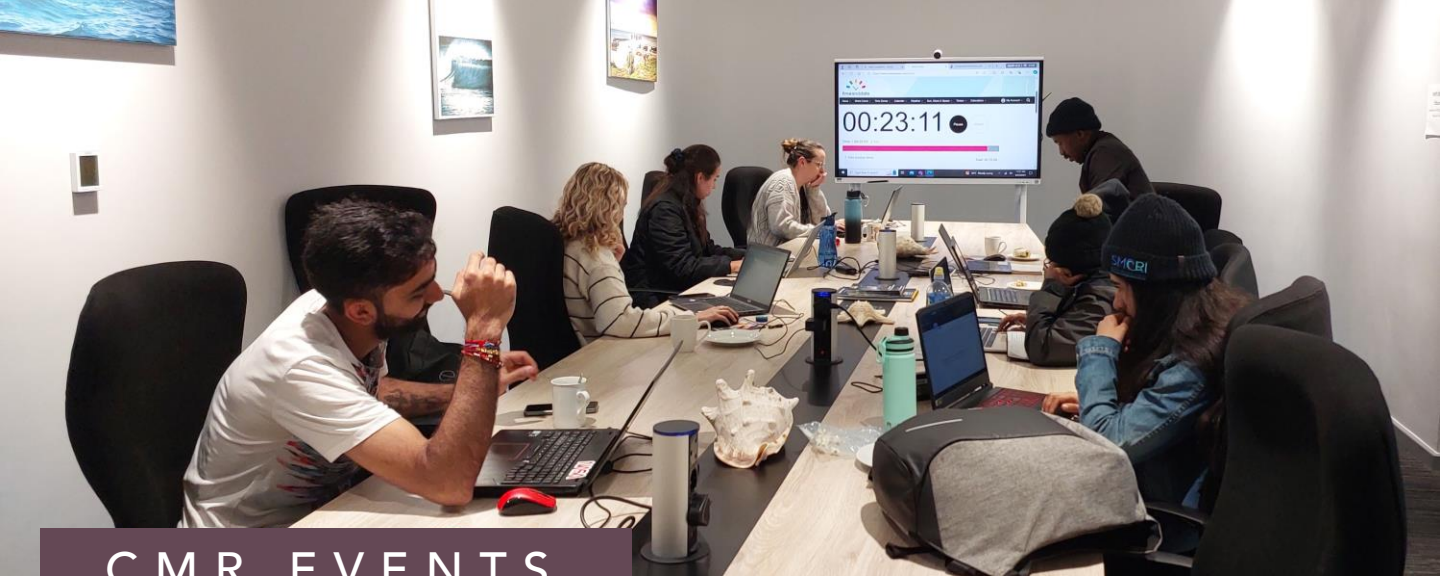
*How can we influence the behaviour of people who use marine ecosystems in a way that fulfils both resource-use **and** marine conservation priorities?*



CMR EVENTS

MPA DAY SEMINAR

The MPA Day seminar was presented by Honorary Professor Peter Jones on the topic *Incentive diversity is key to the more effective and equitable governance of marine protected areas*. Prof Jones presented a multiple case study empirical analysis of the governance of 50 MPAs and demonstrated that: there is strong correlation between the effectiveness of MPAs and the number of governance incentives used; combinations of economic, legal, communication, knowledge and participatory incentives are shown to be employed in effective MPAs and mostly needed in less effective MPAs; whilst some incentives are frequently identified as being important to promote effectiveness, no particular 'magic wand' incentive or 'best practice' combinations of incentives guarantee this. This took place virtually on 1 August (~40 attendees). The recording of the talk and presentation are posted on the CMR website: <https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/News-and-Events/Additional-Seminars>.



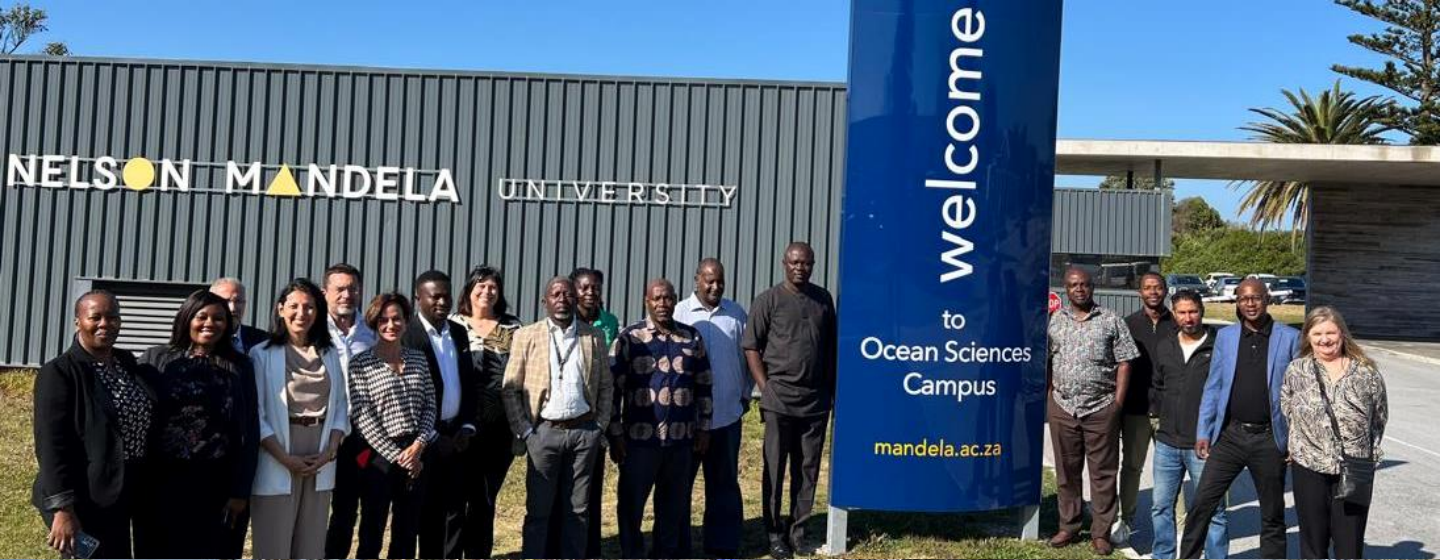
CMR EVENTS

EARLY CAREER ENGAGEMENTS

A presentation session was held on 15 August (~12 attendees). Dr Carla Edworthy gave a presentation on *Graphical science communication: tips and tools*, Mr Thembani Mkhize gave a presentation on *Habitat use by juvenile fish in macroalgae and seagrass beds in a temperate SEASCAPE* and Ms Summaya Dube gave a presentation on the *Diversity, abundance and distribution of predatory chaetognaths in a warm-temperate bay and their relationship to dominant prey and environmental factors*.

A writing workshop was held on 23 August (~8 attendees). The following topics were discussed, 1) different methods you can use to kick start your writing and keep it going on a regular basis; 2) the differences between writing your thesis/dissertation vs for publication; 3) receiving feedback from supervisor or reviewers; and 4) selecting journals and avoiding predatory journals.

A finalisation session was held on 17 October (~7 attendees). This was an essential session designed to guide the postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows through the thesis. On 18 October, Writing Fridays commenced, taking place from 18 October to 29 November (excluding 15 November).



CMR EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY MEETING

The CMR hosted the RAF7020 regional (AFRA) mid-term coordination meeting from 19-22 August where 10 different countries from around Africa were represented. The overall initiative is led and funded by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The focus of this project is to establish regional capacities to assess the importance of carbon sequestration in aquatic systems for climate change mitigation, environmental conservation and economic purposes. Africa has substantial blue carbon and aquatic carbon sequestration potential, and it is important to obtain estimates of existing carbon stocks and sequestration rates. Filling this knowledge gap is critical to properly assign economic value to blue carbon ecosystems within the frame of Africa's sustainable economic development evolving towards a blue economy.



CMR EVENTS

CHANGING TIDES CONFERENCE

The Changing Tides: Advancing Ocean Law Curriculum Development and Integration in Maritime Education and Training in South Africa conference took place in Stellenbosch on 23 August. The conference was held under auspices of Nelson Mandela University: Faculty of Law and Institute for Coastal and Marine Research (Prof Patrick Vrancken), University of KwaZulu-Natal: School of Law, University of Cape Town: Faculty of Law and South African International Maritime Institute. The conference provided a unique platform for academics, students, industry professionals, government officials and members of the maritime law community to engage in discussions and share insights on various aspects of ocean law.



CMR EVENTS

ECOLOGICAL WATER REQUIREMENT WORKSHOP

A hybrid workshop was held from 26-30 August for a study for the Department of Water and Sanitation. This study involves determining appropriate Water Resource Classes, the Reserve and associated Resource Quality Objectives (RQOs) for all significant water resources in the Keiskamma and Fish to Tsitsikamma Catchments to facilitate sustainable use of the water resources while maintaining ecological integrity. Scientific data was collected on both the driver components (abiotics and water quality) and the response components (fish, aquatic macroinvertebrates, macrophytes, birds and microalgae). Health scores were provided for all components at the workshop to construct an overview of the present ecological state and evaluate these systems sensitivity to changes in flow.



CMR EVENTS

CMR QUARTER 3 SEMINAR

The Quarter 3 seminar was presented by CMR member, Dr Mia Strand, who is a Nippon Foundation Ocean Nexus Postdoctoral Research Fellow. The topic of the seminar was *Reimagining Ocean Stewardship Through Arts-Based Participatory Research*. Dr Strand discussed how the current ocean governance approaches are often characterised by economic or environmental objectives, paying limited consideration to socio-cultural dimensions, as well as Indigenous and local knowledge systems. This took place virtually on 4 September (~20 attendees). The recording of the talk and presentation are posted on the CMR website: <https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/News-and-Events/Quarterly-Seminars>



CMR EVENTS

RESEARCH WEEK – CMR SESSION

The CMR hosted a session at the universities research week on 10 September (~60 attendees). The session was entitled *Inclusive and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Resources: Fisheries from Nursery to Governance*. Speakers included Dr Gavin Rishworth, Prof Nicola James, Dr Bernardino Malauene, Prof Magda Minguzzi, Ms Irna Senekal, Prof Mandy Lombard, Prof Syden Mishi, Dr Anthea Christoffels-du Plessis, Dr Hashali Hamukuaya and Mr Michael de Lange. The CMR also had an exhibition stand which was manned by our admin staff and students. The recording of the talks are posted on the universities YouTube page: <https://bit.ly/47KvyS9>.



CMR EVENTS

PROFESSOR ERIK FRANCKX SEMINAR

Prof Erik Franckx presented a seminar on the topic *Access to courts under national and international law: A civil dichotomy with a salty international exception*. Prof Franckx discussed how unlike civil courts on the national level, where rulings in absentia are often times accepted, international courts and tribunals require the consent of States before they can look into the merits of an inter-state dispute. This took place on Ocean Sciences Campus on 17 September (~20 attendees). The recording of the talk and presentation are posted on the CMR website: <https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/News-and-Events/Additional-Seminars>).



CMR EVENTS

BOOK LAUNCH EVENT

The book launch for *Ocean Beings* (by Professor Rose Boarwell, Dr Jessica Thornton & Ms Rebecca Hayter), *The Elemental Feast* (by Dr Jessica Thornton), and *Coastal Worlds* (by Professor Rose Boarwell, Dr Jessica Thornton & Ms Rebecca Hayter) took place at Ocean Sciences Campus on 30 September (~40 attendees). If you are interested in purchasing one of these books, please contact Dr Jessica Thornton – jessica.thornton@mandela.ac.za.

PROFESSOR LARRY SWATUK SEMINAR

Prof Larry Swatuk presented a seminar on the topic *Urban development and the water nexus - Climate issues globally and for the Nelson Mandela Bay*. This took place on Ocean Sciences Campus on 28 October (~18 attendees). The recording of the talk and presentation are posted on the CMR website: <https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/News-and-Events/Additional-Seminars>.



CMR EVENTS

CMR RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The annual CMR Research Symposium took place on 15 November on Ocean Sciences Campus. The theme of this year's symposium was "From Research to Action: Addressing Coastal and Marine Challenges in Policy and Society". The speakers included Professor Azwinndini Muronga, Mr Andrew Young, Ms Nozipho Boo, Mr Prince Campbell, Dr Daniel Lemley, Dr Lucienne Human, Dr Belinda Clark, Ms Therese Boule, Dr Ntemesha Maseka, Dr Buhle Francis, Dr Zanele Hartmann, Dr Jessica Leigh Thornton and Dr Denise Schael.



CMR EVENTS

COP GOAP EVENT

The two-day African Dialogue on Ocean Accounting in the Governance of Sustainable Ocean Development was successfully held on 26-27 November 2024 in Nelson Mandela Bay, South Africa. The event was hosted by the South African National Research Foundation (NRF) Ocean Accounts Framework Community of Practice, in collaboration with the CMR at Nelson Mandela University, and the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) Africa Community of Practice. The dialogue proved to be a significant success, fostering productive discussions and advancing the integration of ocean accounting into sustainable ocean governance across Africa. On 28 November, a write-shop was conducted, providing a valuable opportunity for regional research proposal development. The half-day session was effectively utilized for proposal discussions and development, with the aim of advancing the discipline of ocean accounts in the Western Indian Ocean. The event proved to be highly productive, fostering regional collaboration and significantly contributing to the integration of ocean accounting into sustainable ocean governance.



MEMBER PARTICIPATION

HUMAN RIGHTS BEYOND TERRITORY AND STATE CONFERENCE

Dr Ntemesha Maseka attended the Human Rights Beyond Territory and State Conference hosted by the University of Antwerp in Brussels, Belgium, from 27-29 May. It was the closing conference of the Scientific Research Network on Extraterritorial Human Rights Obligations in Practice. The conference was an interdisciplinary gathering drawing various participants from academia, civil society, governmental organisations and advocacy groups who came together to tackle pressing global issues such as climate change, migration, natural resource extraction, transcending traditional borders and governmental responsibilities. As a result of the conference, she joined the ETO Consortium, a global network of over 160 civil society organisations and academics seeking to create awareness of and advance the implementation of States' extraterritorial obligations.



MEMBER PARTICIPATION

INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Dr Ntemesha Maseka along with Prof Patrick Vrancken attended the 81st International Law Association (ILA) Conference: International Law in a fluid world from 25-28 June in Athens, Greece. During this conference, Dr Maseka attended her first meeting as a member of the ILA Committee on the Protection of People at Sea which will address the emerging issue of how to protect all people who are at sea and their human rights. This newly constituted Committee, which Prof Vrancken is also a member of, will work towards advancing knowledge in the field, producing reports which illustrate the state of the art in this field, addressing the current debate, and issuing recommendations that guide States and other key actors on the scope of their obligations vis-à-vis people at sea.



MEMBER PARTICIPATION

OCEAN DIALOGUES

The Brazilian G20 presidency has established the Oceans20 engagement group, to elevate the Ocean as a source of solutions for a stable global economy. This involves a series of 'Ocean Dialogues' to inform a Communiqué to the G20, in which experts and leaders will share insights, exchange knowledge and explore opportunities and solutions for marine conservation and a sustainable blue economy. The "Towards IPOS" team organised a hybrid session titled '*Towards IPOS: Shaping Ocean Knowledge-Policy Interfaces*' (OKPIs) virtually on 22 August. This event focused on integrating science, policy, and stakeholder engagement for effective ocean governance. Prof Mike Roberts presented on the *Hidden Humanitarian Crisis in the Western Indian Ocean*. The UNODC and partners held a hybrid session on 14 August on how enhanced law enforcement at sea and improved fisheries management contributed to marine biodiversity protection and the achievement of the 30x30 agenda. During this session, Dr Mia Strand presented on *Community-based participatory reporting*.



MEMBER PARTICIPATION

INTERNATIONAL BLUE CARBON SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP

The International Blue Carbon Scientific Working Group had their 16th annual meeting in Cape Town on 2-5 September. This group consists of experts in coastal carbon science and climate policy and focuses on building scientific capacity and fostering collaboration within priority countries to support the Blue Carbon Initiative's conservation of mangrove, salt marsh, and seagrass ecosystems. This was co-hosted by Nelson Mandela University (Prof Janine Adams) with Conservation International and Conservation South Africa. Students and researchers from the Shallow Water Ecosystems research group were represented and shared their current research on blue carbon. They also got to enjoy site visits to the West Coast National Park, Langebaan lagoon, Berg Estuary and Riviera mudflats.



MEMBER PARTICIPATION

SOUTH AFRICA DEVELOPS NATIONAL MARITIME DECARBONISATION ACTION PLAN

South Africa, as a member of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), is advancing efforts to develop a national maritime decarbonisation action plan. The Future Green Maritime networking event, held in Cape Town on 10 September, focused on South Africa's role in maritime decarbonization. Key IMO targets include a 34% emissions reduction by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Additionally, 5% of marine fuel consumption must come from green fuel sources by 2030. As a developing nation, South Africa faces significant challenges in meeting these targets due to limited readiness and infrastructure. The panel, moderated by CMR RA, Dr Estee Miltz, explored various pathways for the country to meet its decarbonisation obligations. The discussion also highlighted South Africa's potential role in joint global initiatives, such as in green shipping corridors. Overall, the event emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts, infrastructure investment, and clear policy frameworks to ensure South Africa remains competitive in the global transition to maritime decarbonisation. To view the article, see <https://bit.ly/3N5F7RQ>.



MEMBER PARTICIPATION

HARNESSING THE OCEAN ECONOMY FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE IN THE NORTHERN CAPE

Dr Jessica Thornton presented virtually at the Sustainable Ocean Economy Symposium which was held in Port Nolloth from 16-17 October. The symposium, themed "Harnessing and Transforming the Ocean's Economy for a Resilient Future of the Northern Cape Province," highlighted the region's potential for cultural, heritage, and marine tourism. Dr Thornton stressed the importance of involving local communities in tourism and heritage planning. She showcased community-based tourism initiatives, such as traditional fishing tours in Port Nolloth and cultural rituals with the Nama people, which provide economic benefits and preserve valuable cultural traditions. Dr Thornton also emphasized sustainable tourism, advocating for eco-tourism in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and community-led conservation efforts. Photographs by Francois Du Plessis and Dr Sharon Gabie



MEMBER PARTICIPATION

7TH INTERNATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION CONGRESS

Many of our CMR researchers presented at the IMCC7 - 7th International Marine Conservation Congress at the Cape Town International Convention Centre in Cape Town, South Africa, from 13-18 October. Professor Nicola James presented *Climate change impacts on south africa's estuaries, estuarine-associated fish species and potential for mitigation and adaptation* - Nicola James, Lara van Niekerk , Stephen Lamberth, Carla Edworthy and Shaun Deyzel. Dr Carla Edworthy presented *The role of macroalgal habitats as ocean acidification* - Carla Edworthy and Nicola James and *Refugia within coastal seascapes* - Carla Edworthy and Nicola James. Dr Phakama Nodo presented on the *Response of demersal fishes to low dissolved oxygen events in two eutrophic estuaries* - Phakama Nodo, Nicola James, Amber Childs and Paula Pattrick. Other researchers that presented include Professor Lorien Pichegru, Dr Stephen Kirkman, Professor Janine Adams, Dr Stephen Holness, Dr Alejandra Vargas, Dr Gwenith Penry and Professor Kerry Sink.



MEMBER PARTICIPATION

ZOOLOGY SEMINARS

Prof Nikki James presented *Seagrass density and macroalgal heterogeneity influence nursery quality for sparids in nursery seascapes* on 24 July, Dr Carla Edworthy presented on *Insights from an early-career climate change researcher in the marine research space: experiences and opportunities* on 31 July, Dr Mia Strand presented on *The value of arts-based transdisciplinary collaborations for rethinking equity in ocean governance* on 7 August, Dr Victoria Goodall presented on *Statistical applications in ecological research* on 14 August, Dr Carla Dodd presented on *A decade of microbialite research at Nelson Mandela University: carbonates, critters and coastal springs* on 23 October, and Dr Linda Harris presented on *Sandy beach ecosystem and species red listing: the tools to catalyse global action for change* on 30 October.



MEMBER PARTICIPATION

CURBING THE SPREAD OF WATER-BORNE DISEASES WORKSHOP

Water quality is a critical issue in South Africa, affecting human health, agriculture, and recreation. The country faces challenges in maintaining water quality due to dysfunctional wastewater treatment systems. Millions of people still lack basic access to water and sanitation, with 3 million without water and 14.1 million without sanitation. A research project sponsored by the Water Research Commission (WRC) and led by Professor Paula Melariri explored the impact of water quality on public health. The findings were shared at a workshop with stakeholders from various departments, municipalities, and experts on 21 November. Four research projects were presented, addressing water quality issues and their health implications. The research projects highlighted the link between water quality and public health, emphasizing the need for better hygiene education, improved sanitation, and community engagement. The findings will inform future policies and disaster management plans. The WRC has committed further funding to extend these studies, with the aim of reducing waterborne diseases and improving water access and quality across the country.



NEWS ITEM

INDIAN OCEAN HUMPBACK DOLPHIN CONSERVATION NETWORK

Marine biologists from countries along the Western Indian Ocean region have joined together with a common goal of saving an endangered species of dolphin. They formed a network – the Indian Ocean Humpback Dolphin Conservation Network, or HuDoNet for short – which aims to "Connect - Share - Inspire" and galvanise conservation action to turn the tide for little known but increasingly vulnerable Indian Ocean humpback dolphins. Indian Ocean humpback dolphins inhabit a narrow strip of water that laps the beaches of southern and Eastern Africa, western Asia, to the tip of India and Sri Lanka, as well as islands like Madagascar and Mayotte. Seventy-one marine scientists and conservationists from 17 countries in the western Indian Ocean and Arabian Seas, including CMR members, Dr Gwen Penry and Dr Alejandra Vargas, are now working together under HuDoNet's umbrella. Members of the network share the common goal of spurring research that provides evidence for good conservation decisions and action, attracting resources, building capacity among researchers and conservationists, and raising people's awareness of the plight of this Endangered dolphin. Visit the website: www.hudonet.org.



NEWS ITEM

UNDERSTANDING CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES IN MARINE CONSERVATION

Thanks to the support of the Rufford Foundation, Dr Alejandra Vargas has recently embarked on some interesting fieldwork. This action research project aims to investigate the cultural knowledge, legends, myths, and folklore involving whales and dolphins in four coastal areas of South Africa. The methods involve collecting information that can contribute to a more transdisciplinary (and therefore community-based) marine mammal conservation approach with locally relevant outputs. The most recent trip was to Coffee Bay, Eastern Cape. Dr Vargas interviewed 11 community members in June and returned in early September to hold a group feedback workshop with interviewees. During the workshop, participants provided feedback on the results shared and discussed perspectives and priorities between them. Several rich cultural themes emerged, highlighting the significant role dolphins and whales play in local spirituality and traditional practices. After further discussion, participants decided that the best way to share these traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) insights to the broader community (and future generations) would be through a short film - which would interview knowledge-holders - aimed at reaching a younger audience. Participants expressed the need for greater awareness and education about whales and dolphins in the area, even though they believe the populations of these species are stable and do not require urgent protection.



NEWS ITEM

ARTIFICIAL NESTS A WELCOME BOOST FOR AFRICAN PENGUIN BREEDING SUCCESS

A study led by Professor Lorien Pichegru found that artificial nests can boost breeding rates of endangered African penguins. Researchers from South Africa and the UK found that artificial nests increased breeding output by 16.5% and outperformed natural nests. However, there was no one-size-fits-all design, with different designs more effective at different colonies. The most effective designs of artificial nests were colony-specific, with different colonies facing different threats. While artificial nests are valuable, addressing food shortages, oil spills, and other threats is critical for penguin conservation. Populations have declined by 90% in the last 70 years to around 8500 breeding pairs. The findings were published in the British Ecological Society journal, *Ecological Solutions and Evidence* - <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/2688-8319.12388>.

A black and white photograph of a lighthouse in the ocean. The lighthouse is a small, cylindrical structure with a dark top and a lighter bottom, situated on a rocky outcrop in the middle of the sea. Waves are breaking around the base of the lighthouse. The sky is overcast, and the horizon is visible in the distance.

NEWS ITEM

SHARKS VS THE ECONOMY - WHY SCIENTISTS BELIEVE SWIMMING IN A SEA WITH SHARKS WILL BRING PROSPERITY

The article explores the crucial role sharks play in maintaining healthy ocean ecosystems and the economy, especially in South Africa. However, sharks in South Africa face significant threats from overfishing, both targeted and accidental, with nearly 44% of the country's shark and ray species endangered. South Africa's marine protected areas (MPAs) only cover a small fraction of the ocean, and even those areas provide limited protection for sharks. The article suggests that the placement of MPAs should be informed by the Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA) which is designed to protect sharks from fishing pressure and habitat loss, which are compounded by climate change. Professor Mandy Lombard highlights the flawed models that dominate current economic and environmental thinking, emphasizing that healthy ecosystems are the foundation of society. She advocates for a circular economy, where sustainable practices are prioritized over unchecked economic growth. Professor Lombard critiques the overburdened protected area system in South Africa, where MPAs are expected to meet too many competing demands, hindering their effectiveness in protecting sharks and other species. The article stresses that marine conservation needs to go beyond scientific models, requiring collaboration with various stakeholders, including industries and fisheries. Scientists and conservationists must work within legal, political, and economic systems to drive meaningful change. Read the full article here: <https://adobe.ly/3Otl8gC>



NEWS ITEM

FISHFORCE

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Ministers of Agriculture, Food Security, Fisheries and Aquaculture approved the appointment of FishFORCE Academy Director, Prof Hennie van As (Republic of South Africa) as a Legal Expert, to the Board of Directors of the SADC Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC) for a period of two (2) years, starting 01 June 2024. He is tasked with driving the process to operationalise the MCSCC and ensure the improvement of regional efforts to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

FishFORCE is running a training course, Coastal Monitoring Protection Programme, from June-October 2024, with two groups of ~25 Honorary Marine Conservation Officers (HMCOs) from the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DFFE) in the Western Cape. The Coastal Monitoring Protection Programme is funded by SAIMI. The training for HMCOs will impart the necessary theoretical and practical skills and equip HMCOs to enforce municipal by-laws and to increase public safety. This will enable them to provide a professional service as qualified and competent Peace Officers and at the same time, enhance their employability.



NEWS ITEM

FISHFORCE

Several FishFORCE work packages were distributed to partner countries to provide them with some form of autonomy to deliver various FishFORCE activities that include:

- Training needs analysis – University of Zimbabwe
- Training needs analysis – University of Malawi
- Awareness workshops for the Judiciary and/or Prosecutors at the University of Namibia and University of Kenya.

FishFORCE acknowledges the strategic importance to include and engage with prosecuting authorities and members of the judiciary who are relevant to the protection of marine living resources. The goal is to create awareness about fisheries organised crime so that the prosecuting authorities and members of the judiciary can better understand the magnitude of the crimes they are tasked to judge. With that said, FishFORCE together with their respective university partners, are rolling out awareness workshops to members of the judiciary. The workshops are focused on the impact of fisheries crime and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing on society, the economy and the environment.



NEWS ITEM

SUSTAINABLE SEAS TRUST

Sustainable Seas Trust (SST) launched a guidebook to help solve Africa's unique plastic waste crisis. Titled *Plastic-Free Seas: An Action-Focused Guide for Plastic Management in Africa*, the digital guidebook is a comprehensive resource designed to support and equip fellow African nations, cities and small island developing states draw up clear action plans to reduce waste and litter, achieve sustainable development goals, and meet commitments to the UN Global Plastics Treaty.



Plastic-Free Seas Guide



African Resource Book Series



NEWS ITEM

RAGGY CHARTERS

The Southern Right Whale, once known as the “right whale to hunt” due to its large size, slow speed, long valuable baleen, and buoyancy when dead, has now become the “right whale to watch” in Algoa Bay. Early whalers favoured these magnificent creatures for their ease of capture. Recently, Raggy Charters captured an incredible sighting of Southern Right Whales in Algoa Bay, which you can view here: <https://fb.watch/uSray4gfkC/>. Since bunkering ceased, the number of Southern Right Whales in the bay has increaseddramatically, making these encounters even more special.



NEWS ITEM

RAGGY CHARTERS

Every year, countless whales, dolphins, and other marine animals become entangled, often leading to a slow death if not rescued. Fortunately, dedicated teams worldwide are working to help. Our local NSRI station 6 in Gqeberha does remarkable work when called to free entangled whales. On 21 September 2023, they successfully rescued a juvenile Humpback Whale caught in rope and floating buoys. Raggy Charters also learned about the sustainable brand Waterhaul, which removes ghost gear from the ocean and recycles it into new products. With guidance from the World Cetacean Alliance (WCA), they cleaned and packed the rope and sent it to Waterhaul HQ in Cornwall, UK, for recycling. Visit <https://waterhaul.co/> to learn more about their *Rescue to Recycle* campaign. Raggy Charters would like to thank the WCA for contributing financially to the *Rescue to Recycle* campaign!

MEMBER OUTPUTS

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MEMBER OUTPUTS

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MEMBER OUTPUTS

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2. When applying for research grants, contracts and other funding please note that the South African Treasury has rules that the University must abide by in terms of collecting VAT for SARS. Different grant types and sources may be "VAT-able", and most are not VAT exempt. Rule of thumb is to include this in your budgeting. However, it is best to work within the system at the proposal stage to receive the correct advice. You can start with CMR, but the contact for external (non-NRF) granting opportunities is Research Support and Management (Thato.Tantsi@mandela.ac.za), they will advise on your proposal and arrange for a meeting with the VAT consultant if necessary.
3. When applying for research grants, contracts, and other funding, please also note that the university imposes a 15% levy to cover finance, legal, and administrative costs. CMR does not receive any portion of this levy. Therefore, if possible, please consider adding a little extra to the budget to ensure CMR receives adequate support.
4. The CMR has 6 hot-desks for students to utilise. Workspace is limited on the Ocean Sciences Campus and preference is given to university staff and students.



SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

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

Page visitors (2024) – 94 571

Facebook

- Followers – 616
- Likes – 527
- Reach (2024) – ~28.5k
- Visits (2024) – ~1.6k



Instagram

- Followers – 366
- Reach (2024) – ~3.4k



Twitter

- Followers – 297
- Tweet Impressions (2024) – ~7736



LinkedIn

- Followers – 233
- Views – 669
- Impressions – ~34 764



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