

NELSON MANDELA

UNIVERSITY

# Institute for Coastal and Marine Research (CMR)



**CMR**

COASTAL & MARINE  
RESEARCH

The tradition of coastal and marine research at the University goes back a long way to University of Port Elizabeth (UPE) in the early 1970s. This grew from a few postgraduate students to staff from several disciplines by the early 1980s. First initiated as the Institute for Coastal Research (ICR) at UPE in 1983, collaborative interdisciplinary work on the coast and ocean is therefore already three decades old at the Nelson Mandela University.

The University made a strategic decision in 2013 to develop a strong marine and maritime institutional theme. This was expounded as the University's signature theme in the University's Maritime and Marine Sciences Strategy for 2016-2020. It resulted in the establishment by the Faculty of Science of the Institute for Coastal and Marine Research (CMR), which was approved by Senate and Council in 2014.

CMR has been elevated in 2016 to a University-wide institution reporting directly to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Internationalisation. The Institute now spans across faculties and includes members from entities external to the University. With its position at the Ocean Sciences Campus, it will play a vital role in supporting the University's drive for excellence in maritime and marine sciences. The Institute has recently redefined its vision, mission and objectives.



## VISION

CMR aims to be a leading marine sciences institute, conducting cutting-edge research, building capacity and advancing our understanding of the coastal and marine environment, to serve the needs of South Africa, the continent and beyond in a sustainable manner.

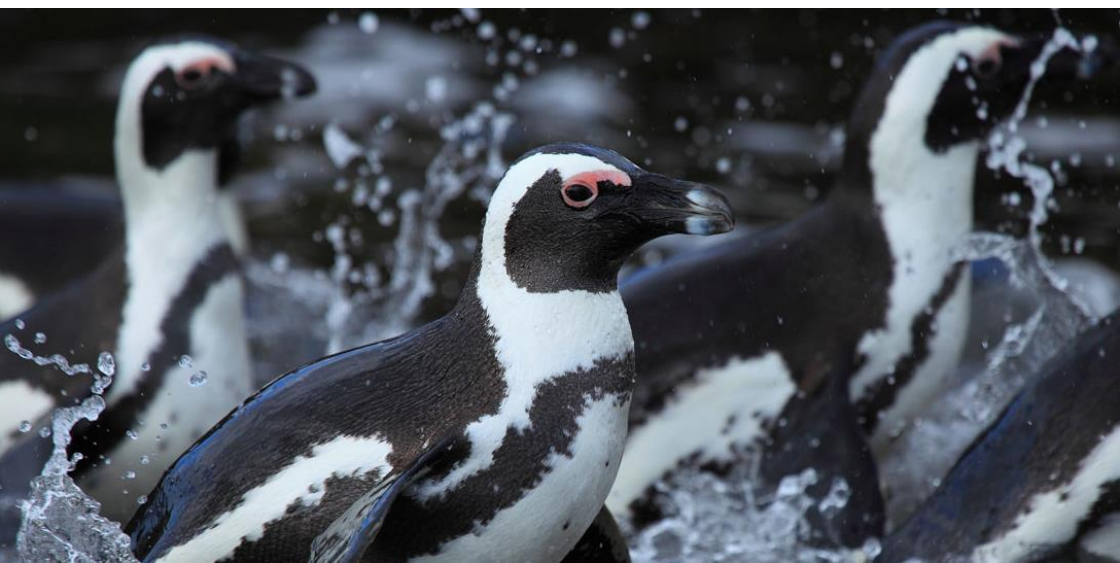
## MISSION

CMR strives for excellence in interdisciplinary research and training relating to coastal and marine environments. This will advance scientific knowledge and the Nelson Mandela University institutional research themes; provide a scientific basis for management strategies that optimise maintenance of biodiversity and sustainable use of resources; and contribute to the education of the community at large in matters pertaining to the coast and ocean.

## VALUES

The activities of the Institute will promote the six values of the Nelson Mandela University, with special emphasis on the following three:

- **Respect for Diversity** by including staff and students from disadvantaged backgrounds in Institute activities.
- **Excellence** in all aspects of research, training, and outreach.
- **Environmental Stewardship** and adherence to the principle of sustainability.



## OBJECTIVES

The CMR is a key element in the Nelson Mandela University vision of providing leadership in generating knowledge, innovation, education and skills development relating to coastal and marine environments. In addressing this, the CMR's objectives are to:

- **Provide a forum** to enhance collaboration among academics, researchers and professionals, and build interdisciplinary teams of critical mass to address complex issues
- **Create a strong brand** and market this collective expertise to develop partnerships and source funding in key areas
- **Build capacity** in knowledge and skills through research-based postgraduate training and short courses
- **Provide infrastructure support** for research, especially relating to diving, boating and specialised marine equipment
- **Host meetings**, regional, national and international, and other activities of wide interest to showcase expertise and achievements
- **Be the first point of contact** for marine issues at the University and communicate, on behalf of the membership, with the external community and top management



## INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES

A wide range of activities fall under the ambit of the Institute. These may be broadly classified as research, training and consulting, which may overlap.

### RESEARCH:

Research, particularly interdisciplinary research, is the primary activity of the Institute and it forms the core on which other activities are based. Members address fundamental and applied problems through research. This is grouped under three broad thematic areas, which are listed on the next page.

Coastal and marine research involves a considerable amount of field work and depends heavily on field equipment, not only vehicles and boats, but also a variety of instruments and sampling gear. Most of this is housed in entities such as academic departments and partner research institutions. However, CMR houses the central facility for diving. A major activity of the Institute, managed through the *Research Diving Unit*, is boating and diving.

### TRAINING:

Members provide *service-based training* through masters and doctoral programmes based in participating academic departments. The Institute offers short courses to train divers and can offer courses on other topics on demand. The Institute encourages programmes that have an interdisciplinary connection.

### CONSULTANCY:

The Institute embraces a wide and unique spectrum of expertise relevant to coastal and marine issues through its members who are drawn from varied disciplines. This pool of expertise, the broadest in the region, is used to provide community service in the form of commercial consultancies on issues in the coastal zone and marine environment.



## THEMATIC AREAS

The wide range of coastal and marine research, consulting, public engagement and capacity building activities undertaken under the auspices of the CMR, can be grouped under three broad themes. These themes are not rigid compartments, and some projects may span more than one theme. Research under these thematic areas contributes to decision support to coastal and marine managers.

**Global Change:** This covers a range of projects aimed at monitoring and understanding change, both anthropogenic and natural, and how this impacts coastal and marine systems and human communities dependent on them. It includes monitoring climate change through physical and biological processes, its drivers and implications; pollution monitoring; biodiversity loss; marine spatial planning; building socio-ecological resilience in light of global changes; understanding risks and vulnerabilities due to environmental change.

**Living Resources and Food Security:** This covers projects studying and developing coastal and marine living resources which are, or can be, utilised as food sources, with the emphasis on sustainability. It includes all aspects of sustainable utilisation of living resources; fisheries and aquaculture; resource economics; legislation and policy; poverty alleviation; sustainable development; governance; common property resource management; adaptive management.

**Biodiversity, Conservation and Management:** This covers a wide range of projects broadly relating to understanding, protecting and managing coastal and marine ecosystems, both for conservation and for sustainable human use. It includes conserving environments, ecosystem processes and biodiversity; marine spatial planning; sustainable tourism; legislation and policy; coastal engineering; sand mining and use of other non-living resources and their economic implications; sustainable livelihoods.



## MEMBERSHIP

Academics, researchers, professionals and postgraduate students from all faculties at the Nelson Mandela University with interests in coastal and marine issues are members of the CMR. This includes Research Chairs, Research and Professional Associates, and members of affiliated and collaborating institutions who are formally associated with the University. The Institute's membership exceeds 310. To access the CMR expertise booklet, scan the QR code.



## GOVERNANCE

The Acting Director, assisted by the Deputy Directors, provides overall vision and leadership and assumes responsibility for the activities of the Institute. The Acting Director is assisted by a Management Committee, representative of the wider membership, who guide the running of the Institute. The Acting Director, on behalf of the Management Committee, reports to the DVC: R&E who chairs the Advisory Board, including external stakeholders. The Advisory Board screens CMR annual reports and advises on overall direction and strategy.





## LEADERSHIP

Acting Director

Deputy Directors

Dr Nomtha Hadi

Professor Janine Adams

Professor Patrick Vrancken

## CONTACT DETAILS

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