

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY



Festive Season Newsletter 2020

Institute for Coastal and Marine Research (CMR)

At the end of 2019, there were rumours about an unpredictable virus originating somewhere in Asia. But we entered 2020, full of excitement about a new decade. We were shocked as we followed the news and saw the rapid spread of this virus across the world and by March, it was clear that South Africa would not remain unaffected... Who could have predicted that this year would progress as it did? The COVID-19 pandemic brought with it some very serious challenges – not only professionally and in the workplace, but also personally and much too close to home. Many of our members faced extremely difficult times and tragic circumstances. But we take solace in knowing that all of us are in this together, and we try our best to remain resilient. The CMR Office extends sincerest condolences to families who are affected by this pandemic, and we wish everyone well and great strength to overcome the impacts of this illness.

Despite all of the hardships that 2020 brought, we have weathered the storm and we stand strong at the end of the year. The CMR Office is grateful that we could organise a SASUF aquaculture workshop, the international Transformed and Transformative Ocean Governance Conference (TTOGC), and host an international delegation that led to a fantastic partnership with the French Embassy for funding towards ocean sciences climate research, before national Lockdown restrictions called an end to in-person events for the year. We were able to host a number of events online, including a competition to mark World Oceans Day, the #EachForEqual Celebrating Women's Month event, and National Marine week. Despite all of this, 2020 was a success.

We hope you enjoy our final newsletter for 2020!



Recent Events

MEIS

In a collaboration with the CSIR (specifically Dr Lara van Niekerk and Professor Susan Taljaard), the Shallow Water Ecosystems Research Chair (under leadership by Professor Janine Adams), hosted a **Monday Estuary Interactive Information Session (MEIS)** via Zoom. This took place each Monday at 12:00, starting on 24 August and coming to an end on 16 November.

Various CMR members and collaborating researchers presented talks focusing on various aspects of estuarine research ranging between 15-20 minutes, and facilitated discussions thereafter. The presentations replaced the 2020 **Management of Estuaries** short learning programme, and will be used as online content for this course and student training in the future. The recordings of the presentations are available on YouTube through this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUdrskgGzLr3zxXr7wQ1lQA>

Estuary Water Quality Improvement Workshop

The Water Research Commission (WRC) and collaborators (including the Shallow Water Ecosystems Research Chair/CMR, SAEON, CSIR, DSI, and Swartkops Conservancy) hosted an online workshop for **Innovative Approaches for Estuarine Water Quality Improvement**. During this workshop, experts presented on different water quality improvement approaches, including: restoration; biomimicry; sustainable urban retainage systems; algal ponds; governance; monitoring; and improvements of catchment inputs. The Swartkops Estuary was used as a specific study site. This workshop provided input to the development of a socio-ecological systems approach for estuary restoration, which aligns with the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2023).

This workshop took place via Zoom from 09:00-12:00 on 11 November, and was attended by 59 individuals. The workshop recording is available on YouTube via this link: <https://youtu.be/-qpThArk218>





UN Presentation

Dr Bernadette Snow presented a talk at a UN – One Ocean Hub seminar around **Small scale fisheries and Blue Justice: Procedural and substantive rights of fisherfolk**. This took place on 10 November. Dr Snow's presentation detailed procedural rights in the context of small-scale fisheries in South Africa, with indications of how procedural injustice affects small-scale fisherfolk by increasing inequalities in access to resources, information and markets, as well as gender, class and race power imbalances.

Upcoming Event

Climate Change Webinar

As part of the Science Forum 2020, the DSI and European embassies (France, UK, Italy, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland), will host an online webinar on 10 December from 11:45-13:15 around **climate change**. This webinar will form part of the 5th anniversary celebration of the Paris Agreement. It will focus on the process made since the COP21 in Paris to achieve targets for carbon neutrality and global warming, and the role science plays in achieving the objectives and targets. It will also address relations between research and political decision making and how science will feed into the Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition in Milan and the COP26 in Glasgow.

Dr Moncef Meddeb, Science and Technology Attaché from the French Embassy in South Africa, invited Dr **Bernadette Snow** to participate in this webinar as a panelist and **showcase evidence around climate change research**: impacts of climate change and global warming on the environment, biodiversity, and local communities, and focusing on marine sciences and oceans. Dr Snow received contributions from Dr Gavin Rishworth and Professor Thomas Bornman for her presentation.



Applications



Impact Ratings

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Internationalisation called for the University to apply for **Times Higher Education Impact Ratings**. The CMR Office was requested to report against certain criteria for 2019 activities in relation to various Sustainable Development Goals. The CMR Office could report against **SDG14 Life Below Water** and **SDG17 Partnerships**. The CMR's submission was met favourably.

Sustainable Ocean Mining Project

The CMR Office is pleased to announce that its proposal to the Council for Geoscience (CGS) and Department for Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) for a project on **offshore and coastal mining**, was successful. CMR researchers Dr Bernadette Snow, Professor Rose Boswell and Dr Denning Metuge will lead this research. The inception meeting took place on 3 November.

Aquaculture Research

The CMR has formed a strong collaboration with the University of Gothenburg's Centre for Sea and Society (Sweden) around aquaculture and food security research. SASUF and the Erasmus Mundus + Exchange Programme (which ran until July 2019) played a significant role in establishing these relationships.

Dr Bernadette Snow worked with the University of Gothenburg's Professor Mats Lindegarth to develop a proposal for a writing workshop for **Promoting participatory development of sustainable aquaculture using extractive species in rural areas: Learning from case-studies from four continents and different socio-economic settings**. This proposal was successful.

COVID-19 and unrelated family complications resulted in this workshop being postponed. The CMR wishes Professor Susanne Lindegarth and her family all the best with her recovery.

Projects Update

The CMR Office is pleased to announce that all projects are progressing well with remote/working-from-home conditions remaining in place.

Comprehensive project updates were provided in the previous two CMR Newsletters. Research has continued as far as possible, and meetings with various boards were held to assess progress and to plan the way forward.

For information on CMR projects, please see the **Research Projects** page on the CMR website: <https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/Research-Projects>



CMR Audio Project

CMR members are reminded of the **CMR Audio Project**, led by Dr David Pittaway. This project endeavours to introduce 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. These interviews are roughly 40 minutes long.

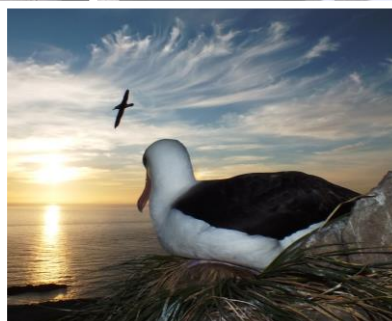
To date, Dr Pittaway has conducted interviews with the following CMR members:

- Dr Bernadette Snow: CMR Director
- Professor Janine Adams: CMR Deputy Director
- Dr Denning Metuge: Post-Doctoral Research Fellow – Law of the Sea and Development in Africa Research Chair
- Professor Mandy Lombard: Research Chair Holder – Marine Spatial Planning
- Dr Thandi Mgwebi: DVC Research, Innovation and Internationalisation
- Dr Gavin Rishworth: Senior Lecturer – Department of Zoology
- Professor Ronney Ncwadi: Director of the School of Economics, Development Studies and Tourism
- Mrs Zanele Hartman: PhD Candidate – Department of Development Studies
- Dr Kwezi Mzilikazi: Director for the Department of Research Support and Management
- Professor Thomas Bornman: Manager for the SAEON Elwandle Node
- Professor Rose Boswell: Incumbent for the new Ocean Cultures and Heritage Research Chair

CMR Audio Project recordings are available on the CMR's Youtube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf6b7ncMbf4iPSP2oQINnZg/videos>

Publications

We congratulate the **Shallow Water Ecosystems Research Chair** and the **Marine Apex Predator Research Unit (MAPRU)** on the publication of **26** and **28** articles respectively in high-quality, peer-reviewed academic journals during 2020. Considering the professional and personal difficulties and challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, these are outstanding achievements. Well done to all involved! Professor **Janine Adams** is the Chair Holder for Shallow Water Ecosystems, and Professor **Pierre Pistorius** is the Manager for MAPRU.



Congratulations

Newton Prize

Professor Mike Roberts, holder for the UK-SA Bilateral Research Chair in Ocean Science and Marine Food Security (funded by the NRF & UK Newton Fund), was awarded a **2020 Newton Prize**. The Newton Prize recognises excellence in science, research, and innovation in support of economic development and social welfare in Newton Fund International research partner countries. For 2020, these countries included Egypt, Jordan, Kenya, South Africa, and Turkey. Professor Roberts was one of five shortlisted candidates for South Africa. One Newton Prize was awarded to each of the 2020 partner countries, to the value of up to £200 000.



New Parents

Welcome to the world, precious **Nsang-Ludwig**! We congratulate Dr **Denning Metuge** and his wife, **Siphe**, on the birth of their firstborn recently. We wish them all the best with this new chapter of their lives, and we share in their excitement!

Dr Metuge is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow with the Research Chair for Law of the Sea and Development in Africa. Dr Metuge represents Post-Doctoral Research Fellows on the CMR's Management Committee and Advisory Board.

Farewell

Passing of Professor Olaf Weyl

The CMR extends **sincere condolences** to the family, loved ones and colleagues of Professor Olaf Weyl, who sadly passed away on 14 November. Professor Weyl was a Senior Scientist and Chair Holder for Inland Fisheries and Freshwater Ecology, based at SAIAB. Many CMR members had a professional and personal relationship with him. He will be sorely missed. We hope he rests in peace.



Housekeeping

Social Media

Remember to follow the CMR on our various social media accounts!

Facebook

Institute for Coastal and Marine Research – CMR

Twitter

@cmr_mandelauni

Instagram

@CMR-MandelaUni

YouTube

CMR_MandelaUni

Branding

A friendly reminder to please make use of the CMR's updated and rebranded **logos** (designed in various colour combinations for use on different backgrounds). These logos, as well as various Nelson Mandela University/CMR branded **templates**, are available from the Membership Information page on the **CMR website**:

<https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/Membership-Information>

Affiliation

We also kindly request that the CMR is included in all affiliations and addresses used by our members. This is particularly important with regards to academic publications and representation at formal occasions. Please use the full **Institute for Coastal and Marine Research** title.



Thank You

Please note that the CMR Office **closes** at **12:00 on 15 December 2020**,
and **reopens** at **08:00 on 6 January 2021**.

The photograph below was taken at the CMR Office Team's brunch get-together on 20 November. This was the first time that the CMR Office Team met in-person during lockdown, and the first time that we got to meet some of our team members face-to-face! Missing from this photo is Anne, our new Finance Officer, who could unfortunately not join us. We bid farewell to Zureena and Busi. We wish them all the best with their future plans.



We thank all our members for their continued support and encouragement. 2020 was arguably one of the more difficult years in recent times, but we still enjoyed a successful year. Amidst the hardships and sadness, there were some wonderful highlights and successes. May all of you have a safe and happy festive season and holiday with your families and loved ones. Please be safe and careful. All the best for 2021!

Berny & Liza

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