

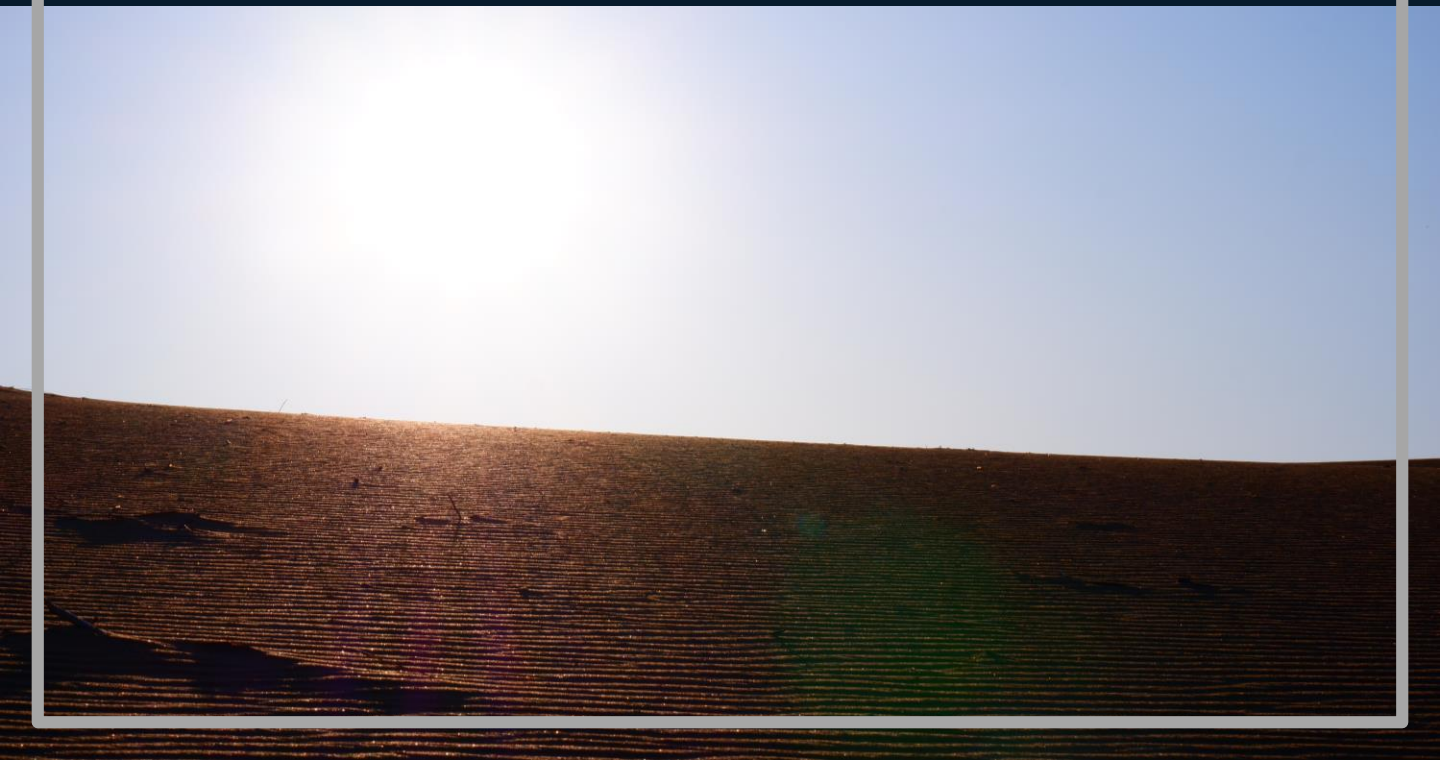
# NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY



## Term 2 Newsletter

The world finds itself in a crisis. These are challenging times for all of us! But in the midst of the chaos and unsafe conditions outside, our CMR Office team members have locked ourselves safely behind the doors of our houses, and we are trying our best to keep the CMR boat afloat!

This newsletter details some Term 1 activities, what we plan for Term 2 and going forward, a number of exciting announcements, and sadly, one message of farewell... We trust that all our members are safe and healthy, and we look forward to the resumption of activities under a "new normal".



# Past Events

## Transformed and Transformative Ocean Governance Conference (TTOGC)

The CMR and international partners hosted this international conference from 22-24 January 2020. This fantastic event was detailed in the CMR's first newsletter for the year. The **CMR's website** now includes a fully updated page dedicated to this conference, with a link to the conference material, including: photo gallery, recordings of the live-streamed presentations, copies of the presentations, the graphic harvesting artworks, and newspaper and media articles. Please see this link to access all the conference information:

<https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/Events,-Initiatives-and-News/Transformed-and-Transformative-Ocean-Governance-Co>

## EMBRACE Talks & Workshop

The CMR Office, in collaboration with Professor Janine Adams and Dr Gavin Rishworth from the SARChI Shallow Water Ecosystems, hosted **Professor Graham Underwood** and **Dr Natalie Hicks** for a talks and a workshop from 13-14 February. These international colleagues are based at the School of Life Sciences at the University of Essex, United Kingdom. During a **seminar** slot on 13 February, the CMR hosted them for talks on *Benthic microalgal biofilms in estuaries and their role in sediment carbon and nitrogen cycling* and *Oxygen dynamics in shelf sea sediments: muddy bottoms and sandy shelves*.

A workshop for **Ecosystem Management: Building Resilience and Adaptability to Coastal Climate Change Effects (EMBRACE)** took place on 14 February at the Pine Lodge Resort and Conference Centre. This workshop was led by our international guests and was attended by 33 delegates representing various scientific research entities, conservation organisations, government groups and additional external stakeholders. The workshop focused on science-based approaches for the management of ecosystems, and yielded valuable discussions regarding the protection of coastal habitats and ecosystems in conjunction with sustainable development. This workshop was the first step in building a network between academic researchers and environmental regulation authorities regarding coastal ecosystems and the successful transfer of knowledge between these entities. A proposal to further develop this topic of research, was successful. This will provide funding for a small team to travel to Essex to build on this collaboration.



## French Delegation Visit

A group of around 30 scientists representing 11 countries boarded the **Research Vessel Marion Dufresne** to embark on the **ACCLIMATE 2 Mission**. This cruise ran from 9 February to 1 March, and conducted research on the climate history of the Southern Ocean.

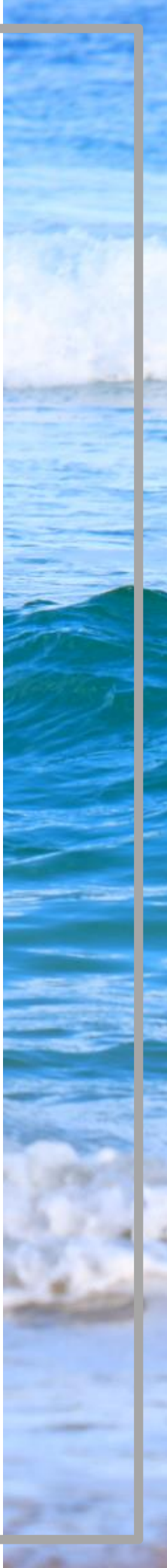
As part of this mission, a group of five researchers were hosted by the CMR from **2-3 March**. This delegation consisted of the following members:

- Professor Natalia Nazques-Riveiros: IFREMER
- Professor Ian Hall: Cardiff University – Earth and Ocean Sciences (head of the ACCLIMATE 1 Mission)
- Dr Moncef Meddeb: Science and Technology Liaison – Ambassador for France and South Africa
- Dr Jean-Pascal Torr ton: IRD-CNRS-CIRAD Joint Office in South Africa
- Mrs Flora Bobour: French Embassy Advisor – Climate and Environment

On 2 March, a representative from the Office for International Education took the delegation on a tour of South Campus. Professor Avinash Govindjee, as the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Internationalisation, hosted the group for a meeting with the University's top management to discuss Ocean Sciences Strategies, the strategic importance of internationalisation and fostering research partners, and collaborative potential. The delegation was escorted to the Ocean Sciences Campus after lunch. Upon arrival, the delegation enjoyed a tour of the Ocean Sciences Campus, which led into meetings with the CMR Director and Manager of the SAEON Elwandle Node.

The CMR arranged a series of sessions for 3 March to expose the French delegation to the range of research done by the CMR and its members. Sessions were as follows:

- Presentations by Research Chairs: Professors Patrick Vrancken, Rose Boswell, and Mandy Lombard; Dr Jackie Raw representing Professor Janine Adams, Dr David Pittaway representing Professor Andrea Hurst, and Dr Bernadette Snow representing Professor Mike Roberts.
- Professor Herve Fritz: George Campus, presenting on the REHABS Project.
- Mrs Hannah Truter: Algoa Bay Project Data and Stakeholder Coordinator, presenting on the Algoa Bay Project.
- Dr Gavin Rishworth: Department of Zoology, presenting on stromatolite research.
- Dr Jessica Fraser: Business School, presenting on the Blue Economy
- Dr Paul-Pierre Steyn: Department of Botany, presenting on the Abalone Ranching Project .
- Dr Lynne Quick: African Centre for Coastal Palaeoscience (ACCP), presenting on pollen and palaeoscape research.
- Professor Pierre Pistorius: Manager for MAPRU, and presenting on marine apex predator research.
- Afternoon session where 17 CMR postgraduate students delivered speed presentations on their work.



# Celebrations

## Oceans Account Framework

Professor Patrick Vrancken, Chair Holder for SARChI Law of the Sea and Development in Africa, and his team submitted a proposal in 2019 for a Community of Practice project entitled **Western Indian Ocean: Assessing the applicability of the oceans-account framework (OAF)**. The successful outcome of this project was communicated in December 2019.

The applicability of the oceans-account framework (OAF) in the **Western Indian Ocean (WIO)** is assessed by this project. The OAF is seen as a central component of a wider strategy to ensure that ocean governance contributes as optimally as possible to the broader sustainable goals of South Africa and member states of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). The OAF ensures the inclusivity, safety, security and sustainability of coastal communities in the WIO.

**Phase 1** will run from 2020-2021, and investigates the efficacy and relevance of the OAF in the process of implementing ocean policy. Ocean-governance instruments will be applied in three South African provinces: Eastern Cape; KwaZulu-Natal; Western Cape. Furthermore, this phase will also consider the role of gender in the ocean-accounting framework. To achieve this, data in the three provinces will be disaggregated. Lastly, the risks and vulnerabilities associated with climate change, food security, and unsustainable development on the three provinces, will be researched.

Should further funding be approved, **Phase 2** will run from 2022-2023. Results from Phase 1 will be used to determine the efficacy and relevance of the OAF in the process of implementing ocean policy and applying ocean-governance instruments in selected African WIO States. The role of gender in the oceans accounting framework through the disaggregation of data will be expanded to selected WIO States. WIO States will be selected to investigate the risk of vulnerabilities associated with climate change, food security and unsustainable development on a larger scale.

CMR Co-Investigators on this project include:

- Dr Bernadette Snow (CMR; Department of Development Studies)
- Professor Hennie Van As (FishFORCE & Faculty of Law's Centre for Law in Action)
- Professor Avinash Govindjee (Faculty of Law)
- Professor Janine Adams (SARChI Shallow Water Ecosystems; Department of Botany)
- Professor Mike Roberts (SARChI Ocean Science & Marine Food Security)
- Professor Juliet Hermes (SAEON Egagasini Node)
- Professor Thomas Bornman (SAEON Elwandle Node)
- Professor Rose Boswell (Faculty of Arts)
- Professor Andrea Hurst (SARChI Identities & Social Cohesion in Africa; Faculty of Arts)
- Dr Lara Atkinson (SAEON Egagasini Node)

### Chair Holder Appointment

We congratulate **Professor Janine Adams** on her formal appointment as the **Chair Holder** for the SARChI **Shallow Water Ecosystems**! Professor Renzo Perissinotto was the Chair Holder for the first five-year cycle, and he retired at the end of June 2018. Since then, Professor Adams has held the position as Interim Chair Holder. The CMR is delighted at the news of her new position. Under Professor Adams' guidance, this Research Chair slightly shifted its focus. Research priority is now given to blue carbon ecosystems and their responses to climate change, mangrove and salt marsh ecology, and the water quality management of estuaries.



## Upcoming Events

COVID-19 has unfortunately resulted in a number of CMR events being affected. However, the CMR Office is determined to catch up, and we will continue to host events during the course of the year – ensuring that we adhere to any government and University regulations. Below are details on some events to look forward to.

### World Oceans Day Competition

This is celebrated annually and globally on **8 June**. The CMR's hosted photographic competitions to mark this occasion in the past, but this year's competition will have a slightly different format – with more emphasis on **artworks** and **creative writing**. Keep an eye on the CMR's mailing list for further details!

### Celebrating Women in Ocean Science

To celebrate our women in ocean science, the CMR and Department for Research Support Management will host a **brunch event** with special, interactive talks during August. Details will be communicated soon.

### WildOceans Event

Together with WildOceans, the CMR plans to host a seminar day for **Youth for Sharks Spark** and **Environmental Law and Ocean Protection**. This is currently scheduled for early August, but details will be confirmed in due course.

### Research Symposium

Please diarise 11 November as the date for the CMR to host its annual **Research Symposium**. We are still conceptualising this event, but we plan an exciting day of showcasing transdisciplinary ocean and coastal sciences research!

# General News

## CMR Glossy Report

The CMR Office prepared an impressive 102-page **glossy report** on all of the CMR's activities and initiatives for 2019. This report also highlights our members and their involvement in ocean and coastal science research and outreach. The CMR's glossy reports were received very favourably in the past, and we look forward to sharing this report with our members as soon as it has served at the relevant committee!

Past CMR glossy reports (2016-2018) are available from the CMR's website at this link:

<https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/About-Us>

The CMR will notify all members once the 2019 glossy report is available for download from this webpage too.



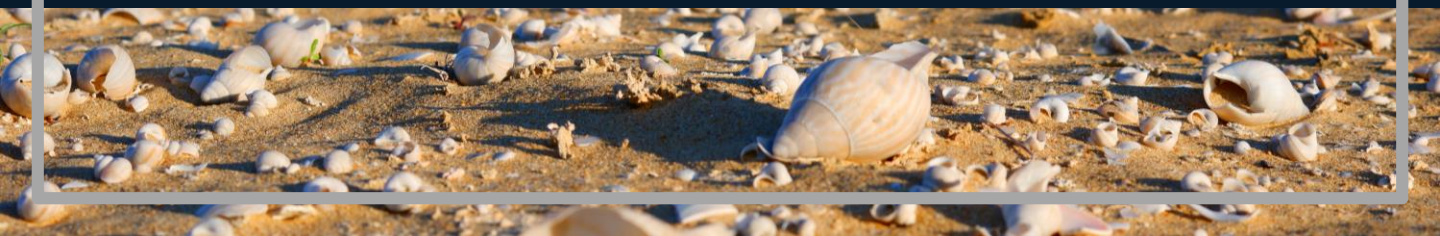
Institute for Coastal and Marine Research  
(CMR)

REPORT **2019**



## Tribute

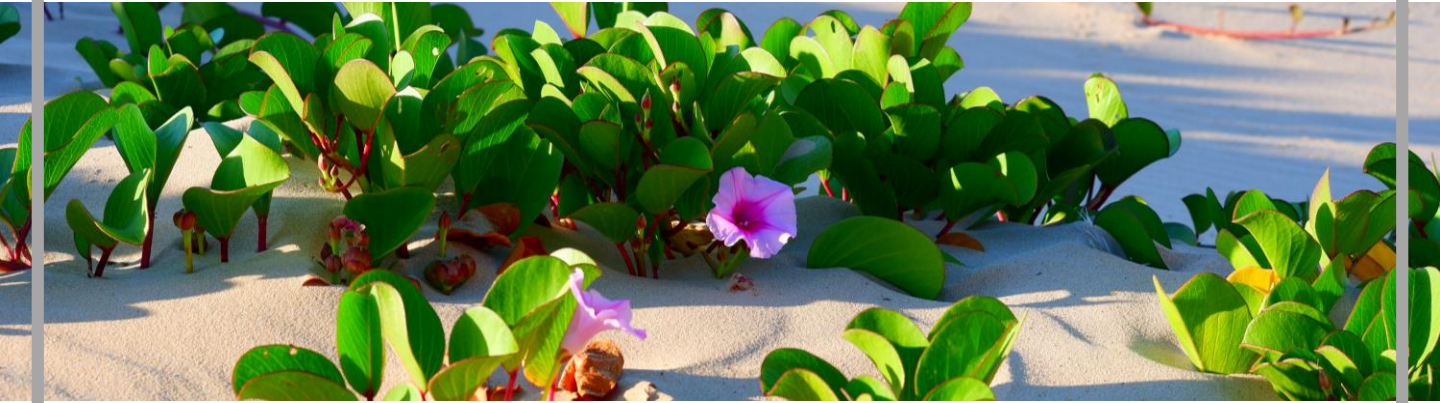
The CMR is saddened by the news of Professor **Maarten De Wit's** passing on 15 April. Although Maarten was not a member of the CMR, many CMR members knew him well and collaborated with him. He was an A1 rated researcher and holder of the Chair of Earth Stewardship Science, associated with the Africa Earth Observation Network (AEON). His research focused on the formation of the Earth during the early stages, the origins of continents, global plate tectonics, the evolution of Africa and Gondwana, geo-ecodynamics, mineral resources, and the economics of natural resources. The Earth sciences community mourns his loss. The CMR sends sincere condolences to his family, loved ones, and colleagues.



# Social Media

The CMR is pleased to announce that it now has a presence on social media platforms! Find and follow us here:

- **Facebook:** Institute for Coastal and Marine Research – CMR
- **Twitter:** @cmr\_mandelauni
- **Instagram:** @CMR\_MandelaUni



## CMR Team

It is with heavy hearts that the CMR Office says goodbye to Mrs **Zureena Blouw**, our Finance Officer. Zureena started with the CMR in January, and provided invaluable support and assistance during her time with us. She will remain with the CMR for one day a week until the end of June, continuing to provide support to our international projects and training the new **Finance Officer**. She was offered an excellent opportunity, and we wish her well in her new adventure!

Exciting news is that the CMR appointed a **Communications Assistant** from 1 March. We welcome Ms **Busi Ndlovu** to our team! We are excited about having her on board to help extend the CMR's reach via social media platforms. She also plays an important role in communicating with our stakeholders.

We congratulate our Director, **Dr Bernadette Snow**, on her appointment as the interim **South African Co-Ordinator** for the **One Ocean Hub Project**.

The CMR will also be appointing a number of additional assistants and managers in the near future. The **CMR Office** now consists of the following staff and positions:

- **Director:** Dr Bernadette Snow
- **Deputy Director:** Professor Janine Adams
- **Research Assistant:** Mrs Liza Rishworth
- **Finance Officer:** Mrs Zureena Bloew to hand over to a new Officer in due course
- **Communications Assistant:** Ms Busi Ndlovu
- **Project Data & Stakeholder Coordinator:** Mrs Hannah Truter
- **One Ocean Hub Project South African Programme Manager:** Appointment Pending
- **Administrative Assistant to Research Chairs:** Appointment pending

# Housekeeping

CMR members are kindly reminded to include the CMR in all affiliations and addresses. This is particularly important with regards to academic publications. Please use the full **Institute for Coastal and Marine Research** title.

Information on CMR membership and templates for documents and presentations are available at:  
<https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/Members-Page>

## Thank You

If you have any news or exciting events to share, please contact us for circulation to our mailing list, inclusion in the next newsletter, or sharing on social media pages.

Kind regards,

*Berny Snow*  
CMR Director

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