

2021 Festive Season Newsletter

Institute for Coastal and Marine Research (CMR)

Quarter 4 is well underway as the **second semester** of 2021 is nearing a close.

As 2021 is nearing a close, we look back in this newsletter on **activities** and **successful events** held in the third and fourth quarters, and we share news of great **achievements**, but we also bid **farewell** to a much-loved CMR member. We hope you enjoy this **quarterly update** from the CMR!

This will be our final newsletter for 2021. We wish all our members a safe and happy **festive season** and **holiday** with your families and loved ones. Please stay safe.
All the best for 2022!

CMR
COASTAL & MARINE
RESEARCH



CMR Past Events

Women's Month Celebration

Together with the Department for Research Support and Management, the CMR hosted its 3rd event in **celebration of Women's Month** in South Africa on 18 August, via Zoom. The CMR followed the theme for International Women's Day (8 March), which was **#ChooseToChallenge**. The CMR gave young and emerging women scientists and professionals the opportunity to discuss various challenges that they face as women in their professional and personal lives.

Speakers with talk titles were as follows:

- **Dr Paula Patrick** – *The Flexibility Challenge: Leading a Balanced Life*
- **Ms Shamiso Banda** – *The Communication Challenge: Being Heard*
- **Ms Tarryn Swartbooi** – *The Confidence Challenge: Believing in Yourself*
- **Ms Nomtha Hadi** – *The Acknowledgement Challenge: Taking Credit*
- **Ms Carla Dodd** – *The Perfectionist Challenge: Knowing when to Stop*
- **Ms Asisipo Mhlonyane** – *The Gender Challenge: Standing out from the Crowd*
- **Dr Gwen Penry** – *The Emotions Challenge: Sensitivity for Success*
- **Dr Nina Rivers** – *The Career Challenge: Professional Development*

This event was inspiring and was enjoyed by 34 individuals in attendance. An event booklet with the programme and details on the speakers and hosts was produced and was shared as the event invitation. The **booklet**, **recording of the event** and **presentations** can be found on the CMR website. Link: <https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/News-and-Events/-ChooseToChallenge-Online-Women-s-Month-Event>



CMR Past Events

Heritage Month Seminars

September was celebrated as **Heritage Month**, and the CMR hosted three talks by **Professor Rose Boswell** in celebration of this occasion. All three of these talks considered different aspects of South African Cultural Heritage and links to the Ocean.

- **Legislating Marine Intangible Cultural Heritage in South Africa:** The presentation proposed that the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 insufficiently provides for the recognition and protection of marine intangible cultural heritage (MICH) in South Africa. This seminar took place on 1 September and was attended by 20 individuals.
- **Observing and Changing the Social Life of Plastics:** The presentation focused on plastics and sociality in Gqeberha a city of the Eastern Cape province in South Africa. This seminar took place on 8 September and was attended by 18 individuals.
- **Salted Identity: Coastal Personhood and the Re-Humanising of Ocean Conservation:** The presentation considered personhood in a coastal community, its influence on identity and the effect of personhood on trauma in the context of ocean conservation. This seminar took place on 15 September and was attended by 25 individuals.

Recordings of the Heritage Month seminars and **presentations** are available on the Research Chair in Ocean Cultures and Heritage website at this link: <https://och.mandela.ac.za/Videos>



CMR Past Events

Quarter 3 Seminar

The CMR's Quarter 3 Seminar was presented by **Dr Jean Harris**, the director of WILDOCEANS, the marine programme of the WILDTRUST. Her talk was entitled *The Research Cruises of RV Angra Pequena in the Western Indian Ocean in Support of Marine Protected Area Expansion*. It elaborated on research conducted under the ACEP Programme and conservation research on board the Research Vessel Angra Pequena. Over the last 7 years, the classic research vessel RV Angra Pequena has been used for offshore research cruises along the east coast of South Africa, and up into Mozambique, Tanzania and Comoros. She has been the platform for some of the first mesophotic surveys (40-250m) in South Africa and in the WIO region. The team have also found and filmed coelacanths in sub-marine canyons on three cruises to the iSimangaliso MPA. She is also the ocean home for the Ocean Stewards initiative, providing opportunity for young marine scientists to go to sea and to engage directly with scientists. This event took place on 6 October via Zoom and was attended by 31 individuals.

The **presentation** and **recording** of Dr Jean Harris's seminar is available on the CMR website at this link: <https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/News-and-Events/Quarterly-Seminars>



2021 CMR Research Symposium

The 2021 CMR Research Symposium showcased the five **Ocean Sciences-linked** and **CMR-supported Research Chairs**:

- **Law of the Sea and Development in Africa - Professor Patrick Vrancken:** The presentation provided a brief overview of the work of the Chair, focusing on the Ocean Accounts Framework Community of Practice, the publication project on "The Law of the Sea: Contemporary Norms and Practice in Africa" and his work on state ocean jurisdiction.
- **Marine Spatial Planning - Professor Mandy Lombard:** The presentation focused on an ecosystem-based approach to MSP. To further an integrated ocean management agenda, the research programme of the Chair builds on the premise that healthy ecosystems underpin healthy societies and adopts an ecosystem-based approach to MSP.
- **Ocean Cultures and Heritage - Professor Rose Boswell:** The presentation focused on Risking Danger for Culture: Fieldwork for Ocean Sustainability during Covid-19.
- **Ocean Science and Marine Food Security - Professor Mike Roberts:** The presentation provided an overview of the impacts of climate change and a changing ocean on marine upwelling systems in the western Indian Ocean.
- **Shallow Water Ecosystems - Professor Janine Adams:** The presentation focused on the team's research on blue carbon ecosystems and response to climate change, mangrove and salt marsh ecology, and water quality management of estuaries.

This symposium took place on 3 November via Zoom, with 64 individuals in attendance. The **recording**, **programme booklet** (with details on speakers), and **presentations** are available on the CMR website at this link: <https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/News-and-Events/Symposium-2021>



Introductory Course in Marine Protected Area Management Short Learning Programme

In collaboration with the **Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)** and using funds provided by the **Benguela Current Convention (BCC)**, the CMR hosted and provided accreditation for two courses under this SLP. Three experts presented these courses, namely **Dr Peter Fielding**, **Mr Lawrence Sisitka** and **Mr Mongezi Nqoro**. The two courses took place from 4-8 October (29 individuals in attendance) and 15-19 November (31 individuals in attendance). Delegates represented the following organisations: **SANParks**, **DFFE**, **BCC**, **Eastern Cape Parks & Tourism Agency (ECPTA)**, **Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM)**, **Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife**, **Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR)**, **WildOceans**, **Khoisan Fishing**, **CapeNature**, **Namibia and Angola Government** and **MSA**.

Ceremonial Signing

Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality **Cllr Jonathan Lawack** (on behalf of the Executive Mayor Bhanga) and **Dr Thandi Mgwebi**, Nelson Mandela University Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Internationalisation **signed a Memorandum of Understanding that formalises collaboration** between the two institutions. The signing took place on 23 September at the Ocean Sciences Campus.

The following projects use Algoa Bay as the case study area, and forms the basis for the agreement: **Algoa Bay Community of Practise**, **CICLICO (Cities and Climate Change in Coastal Western Indian Ocean)**, **MARISCO (Marine Research and Innovation for a Sustainable Management of Coasts and Oceans)**, **Ocean Accounts Framework Community of Practice** and **OOH (One Ocean Hub)**.

The **Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality** is a **key stakeholder** in all these projects, as solutions to problems are being developed to assist with being at the forefront of integrative ocean management. In realising the objectives of the various projects, the NMBM working together with the Nelson Mandela University, will be the **first to have a draft marine spatial plan in the country**. The **recording** of this event can be found at this link: <https://youtu.be/snneJ9cwje0>



Past Events with Membership Participation

OOH Webinar

The One Ocean Hub hosted the **Ocean and Climate Change: Building Adaption, Mitigation and Resilience webinar** which took place on 27 September. The event aimed to explore the impacts of climate change and strategies to build adaptation and mitigation processes. It also showcased the One Ocean Hub research on climate change impacts and building adaptation and resilience that is built on existing networks in some of their focus countries. **CMR Adjunct Professor Bernadette Snow** gave a talk which focused on **Building Coastal Resilience: The Case Study of Algoa Bay, South Africa**.

CoP MSP Research Symposium

Several CMR members participated in this symposium. These included:

- **Dr Gavin Rishworth** - *Modern glimpses of Earth's earliest coastal biodiversity: South Africa's Supratidal Spring-fed Living Microbialite Ecosystems – SSLiME*
- **Professor Janine Adams** - *Restoration of coastal water quality*
- **Professor Rose Boswell** - *An Unproblematic Variable? Culture in Marine Spatial Planning*
- **Professor Mandy Lombard** - *An Integrated ocean management in a social-ecological system: Algoa Bay*
- **Professor Bernadette Snow** - *Project soup and a dash of Algoa Bay as a social-ecological system*
- **Dr Shirley Parker-Nance** - *Fine-scale analysis of benthic habitat and community composition confirms biotope heterogeneity in Algoa Bay*
- **Professor Tommy Bornman** - *Oceanographic processes linking Algoa Bay with the Agulhas Shelf and the implications for productivity.*

This symposium took place on 21 October via Zoom. The follow-up stakeholder engagement meeting took place on 8 November 2021. The **recordings** of these events can be found at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/AlgoaBayProject>



Blue Economy and Constellations Webinar

On 8 October [Professor Rose Boswell](#) and [Dr Jessica Thornton](#) presented on the topic *Including the Khoisan for a more Inclusive Blue Economy in South Africa* at a webinar hosted by the SARChI Research Chair in Ocean Cultures and Heritage together with the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

The Conservation Symposium

CMR Research Chair [Professor Mandy Lombard](#) presented on *Putting Marine Conservation into Marine Spatial Planning* at the virtual online Conservation Symposium on 5 November 2021. Her team, many of which are CMR members presented on 12 multidisciplinary research projects that support a conservation and EBM approach to MSP.

SAEON Webinar

CMR Research Associate [Dr Lucienne Human](#) and CMR members [Dr Paula Pattrick](#) (Post-Doctoral Research Fellow) and [Mrs Ross-Lynne Gibb](#) (Doctoral Candidate) presented on *Oceans and People: Effects of anthropogenic activities on marine biodiversity* during a webinar hosted by the SAEON Elwandle Coastal Node. This took place on 4 August, via Zoom.

SAIAB Seminar

CMR Research Associate [Professor Rosemary Dorrington](#) presented on *Harnessing the metabolic potential of indigenous marine biodiversity – a multidisciplinary drug discovery pipeline* during a seminar hosted by SAIAB on 4 November 2021.



BirdLife South Africa Webinar

CMR Research Associate **Dr Tegan Carpenter-Kling** (BirdLife South Africa) gave a talk on *Living, working and walking on Marion Island: a birder's perspective* at a webinar hosted by BirdLife South Africa on 16 November.

COP26

At COP26, the One Ocean Hub hosted 13 hybrid events together with various partners. **CMR Adjunct Professor Bernadette Snow** participated in a roundtable discussion on *The ocean and climate justice: impact, adaptation and mitigation* on 5 November 2021. She also chaired two events, *Climate-related conflict: arts-based mediation and recourse to redress and Children* and *Young people's human rights to a healthy ocean: their importance for climate change adaptation & mitigation*, and was on the panel for one event, *SBSTA ocean and climate change dialogue theme: Strengthening cooperation and collaboration among relevant un bodies in tackling ocean and climate change*.





French Collaborations

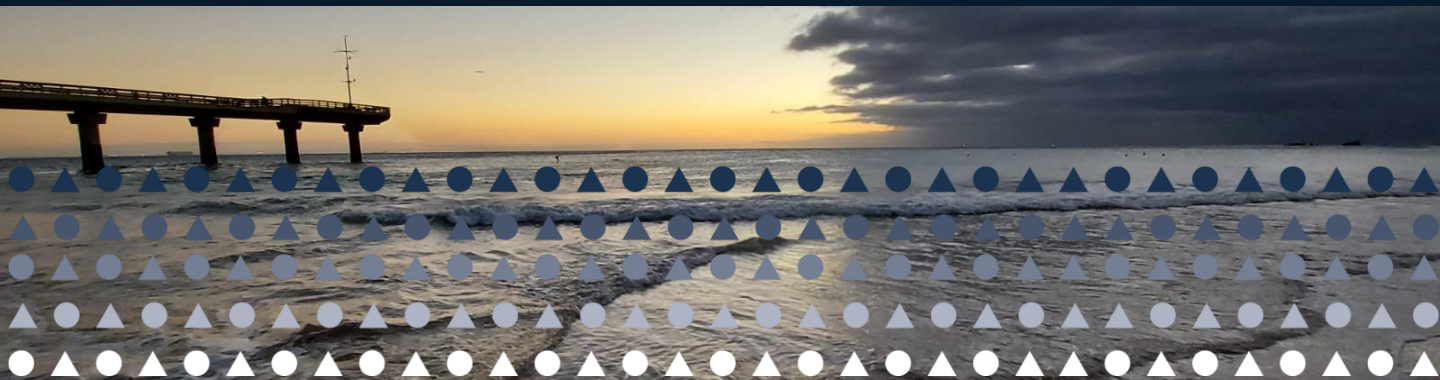
The **French Embassy** visited the Ocean Sciences Campus on 15 September. In attendance were French delegates **Mr Moncef Meddeb**, **Mr Jean-Pascal Torrétou**, **Ms Bertille Dara** and **Mr Paul Cavalier**. On behalf of the Nelson Mandela University, **Dr Thandi Mgwebi**, **Professor Heather Nel**, **Dr Ossie Franks**, **Dr Beata Mtyingizana**, **Professor Lorien Pichegru** and **Professor Denver Webb**, attended. During this visit, topics discussed included advancing sustainability science at Nelson Mandela University, Ocean Sciences Strategy, latest developments at CMR, as well as a presentation from the French delegates.

On 27 September, a high-profile hybrid meeting took place on North Campus to present the regional project initiated by **Dr Olivier Bousquet: *Ecological Connectivity and Oceanography in the Indian Ocean***. Remarks were given by **Prof. Sibongile Muthwa**, Nelson Mandela University VC, **His Excellency Oscar Mabuyane**, Premier of the Eastern Cape, and **His Excellency Mr Aurelien Lechevallier**, Ambassador of France. Scientists from the CMR, including **Professors Lombard** and **Roberts**, presented on the science of the project, together with collaborators from UCT, SAEON, the Instituto Nacional de Investigacao in Mozambique, the IRD, and the University of La Reunion in France. Many institutions were represented in person or online, such as the DSI, the NRF, WIOMSA, the AFD or scientists from Madagascar, Seychelles or the Comoros. The meeting was chaired by the **DVC: RII** and **Mr Moncef Meddeb**, the Attache for Science and Technology at the Embassy.

Upcoming CMR Events

One Ocean Hub Workshop

The CMR will be hosting a workshop for **Ghanaian One Ocean Hub project collaborators** around **marine spatial planning** early next year. This workshop will focus on learning from the **Algoa Bay Community of Practice** project and other Algoa Bay Project collaborations. The workshop will reiterate the importance of a framework for MSP, and why this needs to be a continuous process centred around stakeholder engagement and evidence-based research. This workshop will be led by CMR researchers **Professor Mandy Lombard**, **Professor Bernadette Snow**, **Professor Rosie Dorrington**, and **Mrs Hannah Truter**. A number of CMR research members will contribute towards this workshop and deliver expert presentations. Consultants will provide basic training. An important output planned from this workshop, is a handbook for spatial management planning development and enforcement.



Congratulations

Knight of the Order of Merit

We extend heartfelt congratulations to our **Acting Director** and **Adjunct Professor** of the CMR, **Professor Lorien Pichegu**, on receiving the **Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite (Knight of the Order of Merit) Award** during a prestigious ceremony hosted by the **Ambassador of France** in South Africa, **Aurelien Lechevallier**. This award recognises and honours individuals for their distinguished civil achievements. This event took place on 27 September and was hosted by Alliance Française. An article was published by the **Nelson Mandela University** (<https://news.mandela.ac.za/News/French-honour-for-Mandela-University-marine-biologist-R2>) and the **HeraldLive** (https://www.heraldlive.co.za/news/2021-09-30-france-honours-top-nelson-mandela-bay-environmentalist/?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1Kezn4534kzQysu5Sqi94L6eATHt8v5Ur0vZTUA0Ot5tpt6eM1slb5PYk#Echobox=1632973965). We thank **Professor Lorien Pichegu** for her tireless efforts in conserving our environment.





Prestigious Publications

Dr Susan Taljaard, a CMR Honorary Professor, and **Professor Janine Adams** recently published (29 September 2021) an article entitled *Coastal management – working towards the UN’s Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030)* in the South African Journal of Science. **Dr Jean Harris**, a CMR Research Associate, co-authored an article titled *The MPA Guide: A framework to achieve global goals for the ocean* which was recently published (10 September) in the prestigious journal Science. **Professor Mandy Lombard** co-authored a letter entitled *WTO must ban harmful fisheries subsidies* recently published in Science early in November. Professor Mandy Lombard was one of the 297 contributing authors. **Dr Gwen Penry**, a CMR Research Associate, recently co-authored an article published in the prestigious journal Nature entitled *Baleen whale prey consumption based on high-resolution foraging measurements*.

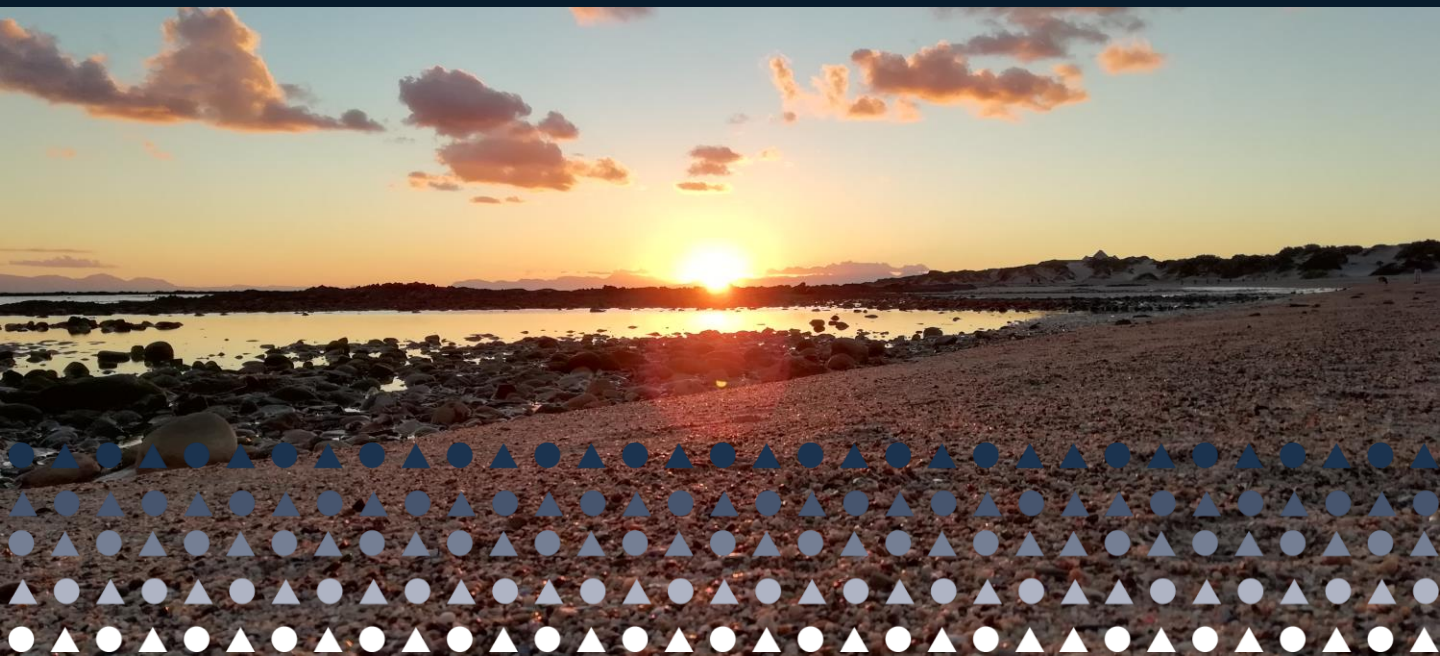
4th Annual South African System Dynamics Competition

Dr Estee Vermeulen was awarded **first place** in the 4th annual South African system dynamics competition. The award was presented at the **9th Annual System Dynamics conference** in November. The aim of the competition was to investigate and simulate a complex problem related to the impacts of COVID-19 on society. The paper submitted was entitled *Applying System Dynamics to Explore the Impacts of COVID-19 on Tourism in Nelson Mandela Bay, South Africa*.

Vice-Chancellor’s Excellence Awards

We would like to **congratulate** the following CMR members for receiving vice-chancellor’s excellence awards:

- **Professor Janine Adams** - Research Excellence Award
- **Professor Janine Adams** - Faculty Researcher of the Year Award
- **Professor Hennie van As** - Engagement Excellence Award
- **Professor Jean Greyling** - Engagement Project Award
- **Professor Russel Phillips** - Engagement Team Award
- **Dr Nomakwezi Mzilikazi** - Peromnes level 5-7



Liza Rishworth's Farewell

Message from the CMR Directorship

This end of year sees the departure of the **longest staff member of the CMR**. Liza has **dedicated 5 years of her life** to the CMR affairs, with **utter efficiency and passion**. She became the **backbone of the CMR, strong and extremely reliable, always going the extra mile with kind and caring help**, to ensure we can all function at our best. Knowing all the wheels of the institute and its convoluted past, she has been providing **crucial institutional memory** during transition times. Efficient as ever, she **ensured that the CMR will keep afloat** and passed on safely the ropes of the sails to Tara. She now **embarks on a new journey**, and while we will thoroughly **miss her**, we **wish her warmheartedly safe winds and a good sail**.



Housekeeping

CMR Booklet of Expertise

Members are reminded of the CMR's Booklet of Expertise, available for download from the [CMR Teams & Expertise](#) page on the CMR website:

<https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/cmr-team-expertise>

This booklet provides details on the CMR's most active research members and collaborators. The details captured in this booklet should facilitate the identification of possible **research capacity** and **expertise** for developing CMR research and collaborations. This booklet is updated as new research members are added to the CMR research team.

CMR Reports Series

The CMR has a series of **Research Reports** and **Confidential Reports**. Members are reminded that they can capture their research as part of the CMR's Reports Series. Please direct queries regarding this to cmr@mandela.ac.za.

CMR Affiliation & Branding

We kindly request that CMR members use the full **Institute for Coastal and Marine Research** title in all affiliations and addresses. This is specifically relevant to CMR-registered Research Associates and Professors and is particularly important for academic publications and representation at formal occasions.

CMR has been working with the Nelson Mandela University Communications and Marketing Department and their media team to make sure CMR is fully compliant in terms of branding. CMR's updated and rebranded logos, as well as branded templates, are available from the **Membership Information** page on the CMR's website: <https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/membership-information>.

Social Media

For news on projects, activities and general CMR updates, please follow the CMR's various **social media accounts**. Please feel free to share any of our posts and let us know at cmr@mandela.ac.za if you have anything of interest to share here.



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CMR Office Team Matters

CMR Directorship

We are delighted that **Professor Lorien Pichgru's** appointment as the **Acting Director** for the CMR, has been extended into 2022. She remains supported by **Deputy Directors Professor Janine Adams** and **Professor Pierre Pistorius**.

CMR Office Position Updates

Office Manager **Mrs Liza Rishworth** is leaving the CMR and the Nelson Mandela University in November 2021. **Ms Ammaarah Abrahams** will be taking on the new role of Administrative and Communications Assistant from January 2022, in support of **Mrs Tara Bonnesse**, who will be promoted to the position of CMR's Office and Projects Manager.

Office Arrangements

Considering the continuing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, CMR Office team members largely remain **working remotely**. CMR Office team members are online and available during their regular office hours.

Contact Details

All messages to the CMR should now be directed to the **CMR's dedicated cmr@mandela.ac.za e-mail address**. All CMR-registered Research Associates and Professors who require **admin support** (financial; publication uploads and subsidy-related; etc.) should also **direct their queries** to cmr@mandela.ac.za.

Acting Director: Professor Lorien Pichgru: Lorien.Pichgru@mandela.ac.za
Project Administrator: Tara Bonnesse: Taravdw@mandela.ac.za

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