

NELSON MANDELA

UNIVERSITY



2021 Quarter 2 Newsletter

Institute for Coastal and Marine Research
(CMR)

The first quarter of 2021 rushed by in a blur and quarter 2 is well underway. As we grapple with the reality of having been in lockdown for over a full year and the continued anxiety that this induces, we've also faced confusion over finalising the 2020 academic year, starting and extending the 2021 academic year in the midst of financial difficulties for students, and sporadic load-shedding. However, despite 2021's first quarter being very busy for the CMR, it was a successful one and we look forward to **quarter 2 activities**.

The official **CMR 2020 Entity Annual Report** was finalised at the beginning of the second quarter, and the CMR Office is delighted with the outputs produced by its members! CMR **membership** exceeded over **280 individuals**, and a record high of **127 articles** were published in generally high impact journals. We thank our members for their hard work and dedication towards transdisciplinary ocean and coastal sciences research.

We wish our members all the best, and hope that everyone remains healthy and safe in the midst of continued COVID-19 challenges.



CMR Quarterly Seminars

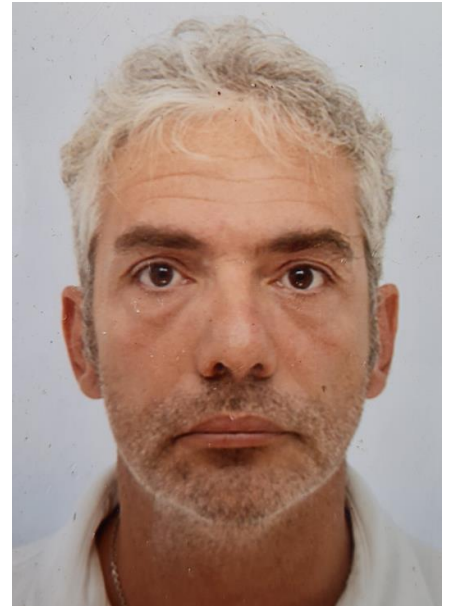
For 2021, the CMR will host a quarterly seminar online to showcase research done by a prominent CMR researcher or an important collaborator.

Recordings of the talks and presentations are posted on the **CMR website** soon after the seminars have taken place. Please see this link:
<https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/News-and-Events/Quarterly-Seminars>

Quarter 1 Seminar

Dr Olivier Bousquet from the French Embassy acts as a Research and Project Manager under the CMR for 2021. Dr Bousquet arrived mid-February, and he was the first guest presenter for the CMR's 2021 quarterly seminar series.

Dr Bousquet's talk was entitled **Research activities in atmospheric, oceanic, marine ecology and climate sciences in the SWIO: Examples of recent projects initiated in Réunion Island**. This took place via Zoom on 3 March, and was attended by 29 individuals. Dr Bousquet presented from the Ocean Sciences Campus and was joined by a few collaborators. The Cape Town French Consul was also in attendance.



Quarter 2 Seminar

The CMR's quarter 2 seminar will be a talk by **Professor Rose Boswell**. Her **Ocean Cultures and Heritage Research Chair** was established in 2020 and is the fifth linked to Ocean Sciences.

Professor Boswell's talk is entitled **Art and the Senses for Ocean Conservation** and will take place via Zoom on **22 June 2021** from **13:00-14:00**.

Please keep an eye on CMR e-mails for the official invitation with RSVP details which will be circulated in due course!



THE Impact Ratings

The **Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ratings** are global performance tables used to assess how higher education institutions measure against the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

The 2021 Impact Ratings is the third edition in which **1 115 universities** from **94 countries/regions** participated. This was the first year that the Nelson Mandela University participated. Based on an extensive mapping exercise carried out across the University's Entities, Faculties and Departments, the University provided reports for the following four SDGs:

- **SDG3: Good Health and Wellbeing**
- **SDG14: Life Below Water**
- **SDG15: Life on Land**
- **SDG17: Partnerships**

The ranking report indicated that the **Nelson Mandela University ranked 4th in South Africa**, following the University of Johannesburg, the University of Pretoria, and the University of Cape Town. The Nelson Mandela University's **strongest ranking SDG** was **SDG14: Life Below Water**, being the only South African University to rank in this SDG. **Globally**, the Nelson Mandela University was ranked **40th for SDG14: Life Below Water**. The Nelson Mandela University ranked **highest in South Africa for SDG17: Partnerships**.

The **CMR Office** contributed significantly to the **SDG14: Life Below Water** and **SDG17: Partnerships reports**, and we are immensely proud of this achievement.



World Oceans Day Competition

World Oceans Day is celebrated annually and globally on 8 June. To mark this occasion, the CMR is hosting a **Beauty of the Bay Photo Competition**, with a **Raggy Charters boat cruise in Algoa Bay OR a framed A1 photograph of cetaceans** as the prize for the winning photograph, and a **R300 Exclusive Books voucher** for the runner-up. Please see the CMR's Facebook page for competition details, or request these from cmr@mandela.ac.za.

Graduation

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on events, the Nelson Mandela University celebrated its **2021 Autumn Graduation** sessions virtually from 22-30 April.

The CMR congratulates the following **student members** on this fantastic achievement:

- Emily Whitfield: Bachelor of Science Honours – Botany (*Cum Laude*)
- Gustav Rautenbach: Master of Science (Research) – Chemical and Physical Oceanography (*Cum Laude*)
- Hannah Snyman: Bachelor of Science Honours – Zoology (*Cum Laude*)
- Hendrik du Toit: Master of Science (Research) – Zoology (*Cum Laude*)
- Jade Vermeulen: Bachelor of Science Honours – Zoology
- Jodie Reed: Doctor of Philosophy – Oceanography
- Johan Wasserman: Master of Science (Research) – Botany (*Cum Laude*)
- Lerato Kekana: Master of Laws (Research) – Public Law
- Talicia Pillay: Doctor of Philosophy – Oceanography
- Zanele Hartmann: Doctor of Philosophy – Development Studies

We also congratulate Department of Zoology CMR member, Mr Mfundo Mpinga, on graduating with his Master of Science (Research) degree in Zoology!



CMR Expertise Booklet

The CMR's transdisciplinary research team is diverse and contributes towards the CMR's pool of expertise being the widest in the region. The CMR Office has developed a **2021 Research Expertise Booklet**, which is available for download from the **CMR Team & Expertise** page on the CMR website:

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

This webpage and booklet together showcase the CMR's management team and research expertise through its most active members and collaborators. This information aims to facilitate CMR collaborations through the identification of adequate research capacity.

Congratulations

Professor Janine Adams is congratulated on her new **Distinguished Professor** title! Professor Adams is one of five Nelson Mandela University Professors who received this title in February. This is in recognition of her dedication and commitment to her field of expertise.

We also congratulate **Berny Snow**, previous Director for the CMR, on her appointment as an **Adjunct Professor** under the CMR!

CMR Project News

Audio Project

The CMR Audio Project, led by Post-Doctoral Research Fellow **Dr David Pittaway**, continues to explore various philosophical topics with CMR members. Find these podcasts on the CMR's Youtube channel: [CMR_MandelaUni](#).

Sustainable Marine Tourism Project

This project aims to develop and assess **sustainable boat based marine tourism**, and is a partnership between the Nelson Mandela University through the CMR and the Nature's Valley Trust, funded by the WWF SA Nedbank Green Trust. This project is led by CMR Research Associate Dr Gwenith Penry and Professor Mandy Lombard, with involvement from Professor Berny Snow and students Minke Tolsma and Zongezile Klaas.

For **general information** on this project, please see this link:

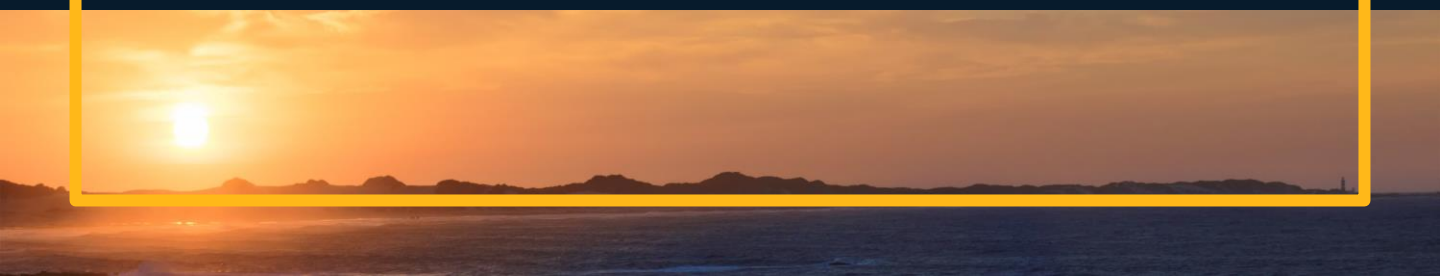
<https://www.greentrust.org.za/2019/11/03/developing-and-accessing-sustainable-boat-based-marine-tourism/>

Information on the **impact study** is available here:

<https://www.greentrust.org.za/2021/01/25/south-africas-first-boat-based-whale-watching-impact-study/>

CMR Project

All CMR projects are progressing under revised arrangements and continue to operate under COVID-19 regulations.



Social Media

For news on projects, activities and general updates, please follow the CMR's various **social media accounts**. The CMR will resume its weekly introduction to CMR researchers and students on these platforms soon! 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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Housekeeping

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

A friendly reminder to CMR members to please make use of the CMR's updated and rebranded **logos**. These logos, as well as various branded templates, are available from the **Membership Information** page on the CMR's website:

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

We thank our members for submitting 2020 publication outputs to the new and revised online **Research Publications Management System (RPMS)**, managed by the Department for Research Support and Management. The CMR will communicate details regarding capturing 2021 publication outputs in due course.

Acting Director's Message

The CMR ship has changed captain and while the seas of these past months have been a bit rough, it is still sailing in the same direction: being a **leading entity in coastal and marine research** with a high level of excellence.

The offer to abruptly jump in the captain's position certainly came as a surprise to me in January and many commands had to be learnt. But the crew remained solid, knowledgeable and extremely reliable.

Now onward and forward. The **team of members** and RAs within the CMR keeps on growing and **new collaborations** across faculties and across countries are being developed. To facilitate these, we put together a **CMR booklet of expertise** available online. Links with France and Europe have particularly tightened with the arrival of the French Embassy Technical Expert, Dr Olivier Bousquet, whose agenda is to favour and develop collaborations across South Africa and various French and European institutions. As such, he was the first speaker of our newly established **series of online quarterly seminars**, where he shared his passion for large international transdisciplinary research. One of his main research projects involves multiple countries in the Indian Ocean to track turtles as living weather stations. Professor Rose Boswell will take us on a very different tour in her seminar scheduled for June, involving arts in marine conservation.

In parallel, **training programs** are currently being developed within the CMR, with the resurrection of a Short Learning Programme on Marine Protected Area Management, and the planning of a unique Masters Coursework across seven universities, in a South African School of Ocean Sciences and Techniques to be based on the Ocean Sciences Campus.

Even if the waters ahead remain uncertain, with a new COVID-19 world to adapt to which includes severe funding cuts, the CMR is still going from strength to strength.

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