



Fostering Regional Engagement through Transdisciplinary Research

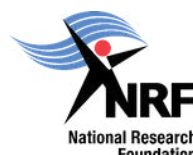
Special Session
Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
11th Scientific Symposium
Mauritius
University of Mauritius
05 July 2019
11:00-13:00

*South African Chapter of the Indian Ocean Rim Association Academic Group in
collaboration with the Western Indian Ocean Early Career Scientists Network*



science
& technology

Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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1999-2019

SAEON
South African Environmental
Observation Network

FOSTERING REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT THROUGH TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

South Africa assumed the Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in October 2017 and will be Chair until October 2019. For the same period, South Africa will also be chairing the IORA Academic Group (IORAG) and has established a South African Chapter of the IORAG (SA IORAG), along with national working groups which focus on research themes in the IORA priority areas of: Maritime Safety and Security; Trade and Investment Facilitation; Fisheries Management; Disaster and Risk Management; Academic Cooperation, Science and Technology; Tourism and Cultural Exchanges; Transformation and Gender Equality (cross-cutting theme); and Blue Economy (cross-cutting theme).

South Africa seeks to engage with other African Member States to create partnerships within IORA, focusing on topics relevant to African Member States - human capacity development and youth engagement are priorities within many of the member countries. The SA IORAG has engaged with the Western Indian Ocean Early Career Scientist Network (WIO-ECSN) to develop a session around a topic of interest to young researchers - Transdisciplinary Research. This special session is being undertaken through the SA IORAG focus group for Academic Cooperation, Science and Technology.

Transdisciplinary Research is defined as 'research efforts conducted by investigators from different disciplines working jointly to create new conceptual, theoretical, methodological, and translational innovations that integrate and move beyond discipline-specific approaches to address a common problem'. Transdisciplinarity is envisioned as a complement to ongoing discipline-based scientific inquiry that might lead to a different, higher, plane of inquiry, and enable different questions to be asked.

The SA IORAG hosted a special session at the 10th WIOMSA Symposium in Tanzania in 2017, and is excited to build on this, and other initiatives, to further promote IORA and encourage greater academic participation under the umbrella of the Association.





Program

RAPPORTEUR - MS NICOLE DU PLESSIS

WELCOME

MS NICOLE DU PLESSIS

BRIDGING THE RESEARCH-POLICY INTERFACE

PROF JULIET HERMES

GRAPPLING WITH TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AS A YOUNG RESEARCHER

MS TANIA DUBA

TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CASE STUDY: BLUE ECONOMY AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT - BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES

PROF NARNIA BOHLER-MULLER

IORA: PROMOTING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION

HER EXCELLENCY DR NOMVUYO NOKWE

PANEL DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

MS TANIA DUBA, MS MARCELINA MUSHI,
PROF NARNIA BOHLER-MULLER, HER
EXCELLENCY DR NOMVUYO NOKWE -
MODERATOR, PROF JULIET HERMES

CLOSING

MS NICOLE DU PLESSIS

Her Excellency Dr Nomvuyo Nokwe

IORA
SECRETARY GENERAL



H.E. Dr Nomvuyo Nokwe is a dynamic and client-focused diplomat with broad experience and substantial success in driving economic diplomacy and engaging with governments and communities.

She has previously served as the South African High Commissioner to Mauritius and Seychelles from 2011-2016 and Consul General in Milan, Italy from 2006-2011.

Earlier, Dr Nokwe was a medical doctor (MBCHB) and completed her studies at the Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, Germany. She worked in several locations in Germany, Ghana and Zambia, including as a Military Senior Medical Officer (Anaesthetist) in Accra (1990-1999), and in the South African Liberation Community (1985-6 and 1977-80).

She is fluent in English, German, Xhosa and intermediate French.

She assumed the role of IORA Secretary General on January 31, 2018.

Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller

IORAG CHAIR



Professor Narnia Bohler-Muller holds the degrees of BJuris LLB LLM (UPE) LLD (UP). Previously she was Professor of Law at Vista University and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) before joining Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA) as research director of social sciences in February 2011. Currently she is Executive Director of the Democracy Governance and Service Delivery research programme at the Human Sciences Research Council, an adjunct Professor of the Nelson R Mandela School of Law at the University of Fort Hare and a Research Fellow with the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies, University of Free State.

Prof Bohler-Muller has over 100 peer reviewed journal publications and book chapters, and has co-edited five books. She is an admitted Advocate of the High Court of the Republic of South Africa and served as presiding officer for the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA) in Port Elizabeth for 7 years. Amongst others she has completed research consultancy work for the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development on HIV/AIDS, human rights and access to justice; and the Institute for Child Witness Research and Training on gender-based violence.

She has completed research fellowships at Griffith University's law faculty in Brisbane, Australia; Birkbeck School of Law in London, UK; and the BRICS Policy Centre in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Prof Bohler-Muller has represented South Africa in multilateral fora such as BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) and is Chair of the Academic Group of IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association). She has represented South Africa in the last two W20 Dialogues in Argentina and Japan. Her recent books include Bohler-Muller, N., Cosser, M., and Pienaar, G. (2018) *Making the Road by Walking: The Evolution of the South African Constitution* Pretoria University Law Press and Attri, V.N., and Bohler-Muller, N. (2018) *The Blue Economy Handbook of the Indian Ocean Region Africa* Institute of South Africa Press.

Her research interests include international and constitutional law, human rights, democracy, governance and social justice. In 2016 she was shortlisted as one of 14 candidates for the position of Public Protector.

Associate Prof Juliet Hermes

SA IORAG CHAIR



Associate Professor Juliet Hermes is the node manager and principle oceanographer at the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) Egagasini Node.

Juliet's responsibilities include developing and maintaining the science plan, observation and modeling programs and carrying out research, writing project proposals, supervising students and interns, providing leadership (both scientific and business) to permanent staff and contract positions, Professional Development positions and Postdocs, managing the budget and data, networking, sitting on various national and international advisory boards and committees, education outreach, capacity building, reporting to the South African National Research Foundation, as well as researching climate variability using long term observations and models.

Her main research interests are investigating the Agulhas Current and the South West Indian Ocean through modelling and observations but she loves anything to do with research involving the oceans surrounding South Africa.

Juliet really enjoys lecturing and supervising students and explaining theories in a way that can be applied and understood and is passionate about capacity development and transformation of marine science in South Africa and globally, as well as facilitating collaborations, networks and opportunities that enhance people's growth within marine science. When she's not studying the ocean Juliet is surfing it!

Juliet is the Chair of the South African Chapter of the Indian Ocean Rim Association Academic Group (SA IORAG).

Ms Nicole du Plessis

SA IORAG
PROJECT COORDINATOR



Nicole du Plessis is a honours graduate in oceanography from the University of Cape Town. Her previous experiences includes marine mammal conservation and coastal management. She is currently a masters candidate at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), with her thesis focusing on the development of oceans economies in the Western Indian Ocean.

Nicole is the Project Coordinator for the South African Chapter of the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (SA IORAG). She coordinates the daily operations of the academic group as well as representing the SA IORAG at various national and international fora. She has co-authored a chapter in the recently published '*The Blue Economy Handbook of the Indian Ocean Region*'.

Ms Tania Duba

PANELIST



Tania is a honors graduate in oceanography from the University of Cape Town (UCT) and is in the process of completing her MSc at UCT titled *Climate and environmental change along the east coast of South Africa: perspectives from local marine resource dependent community and scientific efforts*. She is currently the climate change intern working with Assoc. Prof. Juliet Hermes at SAEON.

She is passionate about the relations between science and society. Her primary project at SAEON is on "People and Climate" with the aim of showing the relevance of climate research in society as well as bringing up the climate issues faced by the society as priority areas for research. The central focus is to expose scientific researchers to the difficulties that society may face to engage with scientific research in a meaningful way and to decentralize research skills for the inclusion of the broader society to scientific research.

Tania is the Country Coordinator for South Africa within the WIO-ECSN.

Ms Marcelina Mushi

PANELIST



Marcelina Felix Mushi is a masters graduate in Marine Sciences from the Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam. She calls herself an young Interdisciplinary scientist who has gained knowledge from different perspectives through being involved in different research disciplines such as oceanography ,e.g. she has taken part in the South Africa cruise though IIOE-2; the Nansen programme; participation in SOLSTICE project activities; and is currently working on a Seagrass Protection Project as a PhD student.

She has conducted social science research titled: Social Values and Traditional Governance of Mangroves in Moa and Mahandakini Communities of Tanga, Tanzania. She is also knowledgeable on the use of GIS and Remote Sensing tools, SPSS and other software to analyse oceanographic and coastal data.

She is the Country Coordinator for Tanzania within the WIO-ECSN. As the coordinator she promotes coastal and ocean related opportunities to her members so as to accelerate capacity building and builds networks which has been noticed as essential ways of promoting new knowledge and development initiatives for early career scientists looking for capacity building opportunities.

Heartfully, her happiness is to see more women involved in and getting equal opportunities when engaging in marine and coastal research and opportunities in coastal and marine research being filled by young early researchers through networking and capacity building. As a young Scientist she is looking forward to working with different stakeholders to build and strengthen her capacity In coastal and marine science disciplines.

Her passion is communicating scientific knowledge to local communities, especially oceanographic and coastal outputs. As a woman she is proud to of work within the marine and coastal environment - "Any woman out there please join me so as to increase the number of women in Marine sciences".

"SHE CAN, YOU CAN. THEY CAN, WE CAN. LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

SA IORAG EVENTS



ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

Indian Ocean Rim Association

The Indian Ocean Rim Association is an inter-governmental organisation which was established on 7 March 1997 (then known as the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation or IOR-ARC). The IORA Secretariat is based in Mauritius.

The vision for IORA originated during a visit by late President Nelson Mandela of South Africa to India in 1995, where he said, 'the natural urge of the facts of history and geography should broaden itself to include the concept of an Indian Ocean Rim for socio-economic cooperation...!'

IORA's apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) which meets annually. A Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) meets twice a year to progress IORA's agenda and consider recommendations by Working Groups and forums of officials, business and academics to implement policies and projects to improve the lives of people within the Indian Ocean Member States.

The IORA Charter was amended in 2018 to reflect the new Member State and Dialogue Partners as well as the new functional bodies.

FUNCTIONAL BODIES

- Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG)
- Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum (IORBF)
- Working Group on Trade and Investment (WGTI)
- Working Group on Women's Economic Empowerment (WGWEE)
- Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security (WGMSS)
- Working Group on the Blue Economy (WGBE)
- Core Group on Tourism (CGT)
- The Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD)

Indian Ocean Rim Association

LIST OF MEMBER STATES, DIALOGUE PARTNERS, AND OBSERVERS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION

Member States:

Commonwealth of Australia
People's Republic of Bangladesh
Union of the Comoros
Republic of India
Republic of Indonesia
Islamic Republic of Iran
Republic of Kenya
Republic of Madagascar
Malaysia
Republic of Maldives
Republic of Mauritius
Republic of Mozambique
Sultanate of Oman
Republic of Seychelles
Republic of Singapore
Federal Republic of Somalia
Republic of South Africa
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
United Republic of Tanzania
Kingdom of Thailand
United Arab Emirates
Republic of Yemen

Dialogue Partners:

People's Republic of China
Arab Republic of Egypt
Republic of France
Federal Republic of Germany
Japan
Republic of Korea
Republic of Turkey
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America

Observers:

Indian Ocean Research Group

Indian Ocean Rim Association

The objectives of IORA are,

- (a) to promote the sustained growth and balanced development of the region and of the Member States, and to create common ground for regional economic co-operation;
- (b) to focus on those areas of economic co-operation that provide maximum opportunities to develop shared interests and reap mutual benefits. Towards this end, to formulate and implement projects for economic co-operation relating to trade facilitation and liberalization, promotion of foreign investment, scientific and technological exchanges, tourism, movement of natural persons and service providers on a non-discriminatory basis; and the development of infrastructure and human resources inter-alia poverty alleviation, promotion of maritime transport and related matters, cooperation in the fields of fisheries trade, research and management, aquaculture, education and training, energy, IT, health, protection of the environment, agriculture, disaster management;
- (c) to explore all possibilities and avenues for trade liberalisation, to remove impediments to, and lower barriers towards, freer and enhanced flow of goods, services, investment, and technology within the region;
- (d) to encourage close interaction of trade and industry, academic institutions, scholars and the peoples of the Member States without any discrimination among Member States and without prejudice to obligations under other regional economic and trade co-operation arrangements;
- (e) to strengthen co-operation and dialogue among Member States in international fora on global economic issues, and where desirable to develop shared strategies and take common positions in the international fora on issues of mutual interest;
- (f) to promote co-operation in development of human resources, particularly through closer linkages among training institutions, universities and other specialised institutions of the Member States; and
- (g) to seek to reinvigorate the Association by progressing the prioritised agenda decided upon at the Council of Ministers' meeting in Bengaluru in November 2011. That meeting gave a focused direction towards formulation of a dynamic road map of cooperation, in line with the growing global emphasis on the unique geo-strategic primacy of the Indian Ocean Rim.



Document compiled by: Nicole du Plessis

Contributions: Thank you to all participants appearing in the booklet for the contributions of their professional profiles.

For additional information contact the SA IORAG Secretariat:

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