

15. Additional

Since the Egagasini Node was formed, the ACCESS and Nansen Tutu centre initiatives have come into place. The main thrusts behind these initiatives, and of relevance to the Node, is the ocean modeling and operational oceanography. Much of Juliet's time has been spent attending meetings and giving inputs into various documents and proposals. As such the marine and coastal Nodes' involvement still remains unclear, however, it is important that SAEON remains involved and aware of the activities and that where possible collaboration occurs.

Currently, a task team called OceanSAfrica has joined forces to create a portal that will focus on operational oceanography. The team has four focus groups, namely in-situ observations, marine modeling, marine remote sensing and data dissemination. SAEON is supporting the data dissemination through the combined development of websites to display data. CFOO (Centre for in-situ Observational Oceanography) is one such site and currently displays data from various delayed UTRs, a real-time databuoy, and will soon host the near real-time UTR data. CFOO will also be used for the dissemination of the data products from Fiona Cuff's project, thus incorporating ship survey data.

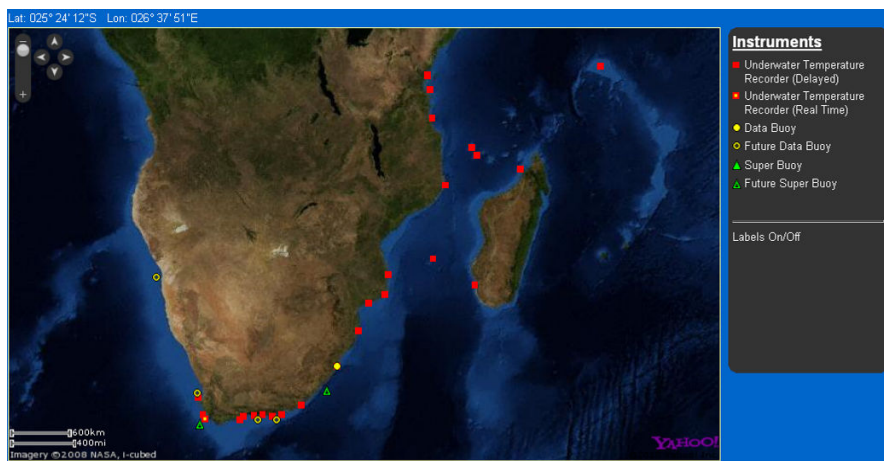


Fig 15.1: Map showing positions of operational oceanography instruments which form part of OceanSAfrica.

Through ACCESS, a project is in place investigating Western Indian Ocean climate variability and impacts on southern African weather and climate. This project is a bilateral project between South Africa and Japan. The project has been signed by SAEON but is still awaiting finalisation. Juliet will work on this project continuing her PhD and postdoc work looking at natural forms of variability in the South Indian Ocean. In particular, the South Indian Ocean dipole. Understanding this variability is necessary before we are able to grasp the impacts of climate change on the oceans around South Africa. To date she has attended a number of meetings but no research has happened yet.

There are a number of other ACCESS projects that the Node is linked with, but again, it is not clear the role of the Node in these projects and, as yet, there

Partnership for Observations of the Global Oceans POGO

SAEON forms part of the national consortium (SAEON, POGO and MA-RE) who contribute to SA's membership of POGO. This has to date consisted of Juliet attending an international meeting. It is providing an excellent opportunity for networking and potentially funding.

Egagasini has also contributed to a Benguela Current Commission Data policy (led by the CSIR)

IBSA Oceans – Juliet has attended a meeting with regards to this and continued to interact with the scientists involved, however the role of the Node is not yet established.

Tri-lateral Sub Global Ecosystems Assessment – Juliet and Lara have attended a meeting with regards to this but further involvement has not yet been established