

4. Variability in the Southern Ocean (Key collaborators, SANAP, UCT)

This SANAP funded project was initiated to further understand the interaction of the (Southern Annular Mode) in the Southern Ocean with the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), its relationship with subtropical sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies and the resulting influence on Southern African climate. This project has now come to an end but two masters students (co-supervised by Juliet) graduated working on this project, one paper is in press and the other is undergoing corrections. Through this project SANAP also contributed to the Argo floats.

Since the Egagasini Node was set-up, a South African Southern Ocean Community has come into place, in which the Node manager plays a role. This new initiative hopes to better coordinate Southern Ocean research and monitoring and the new ship which has been commissioned (by 2012) will enhance this. It is hoped that Egagasini will play a leading role in the coordination, data archiving and dissemination, however this depends on the growth of SANAP. Through this interaction, Juliet was invited to represent some of the scientists at the IBSA Antarctica meeting, as well as to be an observer at a meeting of the South African Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research.