

Ocean science for sustainable development

16 November 2023

Speakers' Biographies



09:10-09:50

Ocean governance in a changing African context

Ms Judy Beaumont has worked in the environmental sector for 30 years, focusing on environmental sustainability, ocean and coastal management and climate change response. For much of that time, she worked for the South African Government in the department responsible for environmental management. In the portfolio on ocean and coastal management, Judy was responsible for programmes aimed at giving effect to marine and coastal legislation, expanding South Africa's marine protected areas, growing South Africa's blue economy, promoting integrated coastal management and co-ordinating the National Antarctic Programme.

In the portfolio on climate change, she was responsible for providing direction and leadership on South Africa's climate change response and putting in place key elements of a framework for South Africa's transition to a lower carbon and climate resilient economy and society. Judy has also represented South Africa in various multi-lateral environmental negotiations, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

During her career, she has gained wide ranging experience of working with stakeholders on the ocean and coastal management and climate change challenges and solutions in a South African and developing country context. Judy has a Master of Philosophy (M. Phil.) degree in Environmental Science and an Honours degree in African Studies from the University of Cape Town (UCT).

Prof Coleen Vogel is a Distinguished Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). She is a climatologist by training but has increasingly worked in the social dimensions of climate change, focusing particularly on climate change adaptation. She currently serves on various local and international



10:00-10:40

“No water, No life, No blue, No green” – Where to mitigation and adaptation?

boards. She has, for example, chaired and been the vice chair of international global environmental change scientific committees (e.g. the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP) and the Land Use and Cover Change (LUCC) committees; and involved in the Earth System Science Programme), groups that preceded the current Future Earth developments. She was also one of the lead contributors to the preparation of the Disaster Management Act in South Africa. She has been Chapter Lead Author and co-author of chapters in the The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (4th and 5th assessment reports). She is now also involved as a lead author in the IPBES transformative assessment. She has also received the Burtoni Award for international excellence in adaptation research and received the University of the Witwatersrand Vice Chancellor’s award for excellence in teaching.



10:40-11:20

Impacts of global change on coastal fish and fisheries, with potential strategies for adaptation

Prof Warren Potts is a professor at the Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science, Rhodes University where he leads the Southern African Fisheries Ecology Research (SAFER) Lab. His research covers the whole gamut of fisheries ecology, with ongoing projects on climate change and coastal fishes, the socio-ecological interactions in recreational fisheries, fisheries biology and stock assessments, fish movement behaviour and habitat connectivity.

Prof Tommy Bornman is the Manager: Coastal Node, SAEON and the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) funded Shallow Marine and Coastal Research Infrastructure (SMCRI). Tommy completed his studies in marine botany at the University of Port Elizabeth (now NMU). After a brief stint in research consulting (at the CMR and privately), Tommy worked as the Research Coordinator: African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme (SAIAB) and the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem (ASCLME) Project, before joining SAEON in 2011. Tommy’s research interests are



11:20-12:00

What observation of the ocean is being done in SA, and what data is available?

varied and include, among others, phytoplankton ecology (coastal and Antarctica), microphytobenthos biogeography, sea-level rise and salt marsh ecology