



9 DEC. 2022, ISSUE 7

# Newsflash

ECR Bi-Weekly Newsletter



## WELCOME

Welcome to the MARIS ECR newsflash where we share information that will be of use and interest to the broader MARIS ECR community. In this newsletter, you will find the latest news, opportunities and events. Enjoy the read!

### LATEST NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

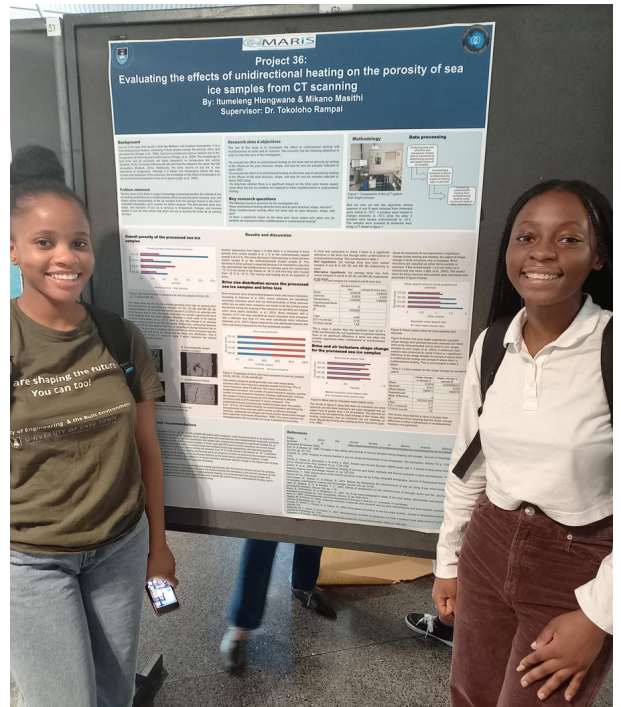
- Pg 2 - November Highlight
- Pg 3 - Trailblazing women in Africa
- Pg 4 - Notices
- Pg 5- SANCOR Vacancies & Funding
- Pg 6-7 - Upcoming Events & Seminars
- Pg 8-10 - Upcoming Opportunities 2023
- Pg 11 - Podcasts available
- Pg 12 - Call for Content Creators

Give MARiS a follow on social media





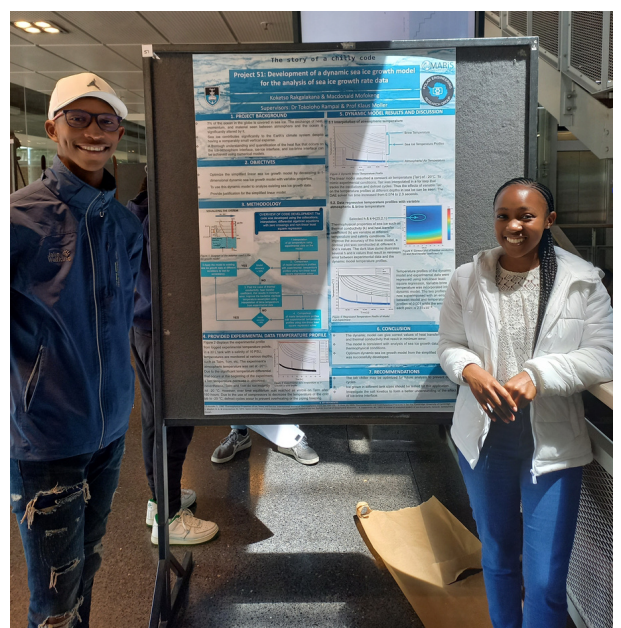
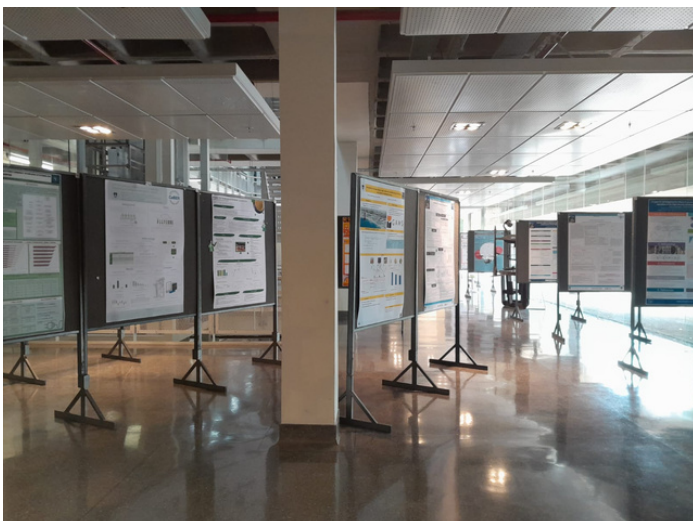
# November Highlight



## Chem Eng: From algae to thermos and sea ice porosity

In November, the Chemical Engineering 4th year students presented their posters on sea ice research, from algae to thermos and sea ice porosity. The students completed their projects with 5 weeks of lab work and about 4 weeks of research and reporting, so their projects are equivalent to honours projects. Well done to all of the students! We look forward to seeing what comes next from this incredible group of students!

If you would like to know more about the research that they are working on, feel free to email [tokoloho.rampai@uct.ac.za](mailto:tokoloho.rampai@uct.ac.za).





# CNN feature: Trailblazing women in Africa

Supervised by Dr Natasha Karenyi and Emir. Professor Charles Griffiths, **Leila Nefdt** has just recently completed her Masters in Biological Sciences at UCT, focusing on offshore marine benthic ecology. She has recently been employed by UCT MARiS as the Marine Science Communication Officer and has also dedicated her time and efforts to directing an ocean initiative, NPO **#SeaTheBiggerPicture** which is based in Cape Town. The NPO focuses on providing youth groups from surrounding communities around the Cape Peninsula exposure to the wonders of the ocean, educating them about the importance of the ocean and it's inhabitants and how we as citizens can help protect our ocean spaces through their citizen science programme called the **Defenders of the Blue**.

CNN Inside Africa recently gave Leila an opportunity to share her journey in marine science in their latest episode. **Leila shares about how she grew up in Cape Town and fell in love with the ocean, knowing that she wanted to be a marine biologist and make a difference in the ocean space by sharing her experiences and knowledge with the others.** Her hope for the future of marine science is to make it more inclusive and for the general public to change their perspective about the ocean and learn to follow their passion!

The episode is dedicated to sharing stories of four trailblazing scientists across Africa who are using space and underwater technologies to discover more about planet Earth, and ourselves. **Watch the episode [here](#) on CNN Inside Africa.**

If you have any questions or would like to know more, feel free to contact Leila, either directly via [email](#) or give her a follow on [social media](#) to find out more of what she does.



## SOSF Ocean Ambassador

Meet the **Save Our Seas Foundation Shark Education Centre Ocean Ambassador - Dr Koebraa Peters**. Koebraa is a UCT alumni and is currently a lecturer at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology in the Department of Conservation and Marine Sciences, a mom of two and a Muslim woman of colour. She has a PhD specialising in Marine Biology from Stellenbosch University. Read more about Koebraa's role as an ambassador in their recent blog on the Save Our Seas [website](#).



**If there is one thing that Dr Peters wants to leave this world with, it is to demonstrate to others that the value of mother nature is more than just a place where we live or a means of economic gain.**

---

# Notices

---

## Volunteers needed at SANCCOB this festive season

We are in need of extra volunteers to assist at the facility over this festive season, specifically over weekends. We would really appreciate it if you could forward on the following details below to anyone that may be willing to come in and assist.

We are urgently looking for volunteers to help in the following areas of our centre:

- Food Prep: You will be preparing fish and formula for all the rehab patients. Washing dishes and disinfecting the surfaces.
- Laundry: Washing and drying towels. Disinfecting surfaces and cleaning of common areas in the centre.
- Cleaning Station: Working with the high pressure hose to clean and disinfect the mats and crates.

It is preferable to have a tetanus vaccination should you be able to work with the birds.

### Available shifts:

Full day: 8am – 5pm

Half Day: 8am – 1pm or 2pm – 5pm

You can message the volunteer line on 076 682 5130 or email them at [volunteers@sanccob.co.za](mailto:volunteers@sanccob.co.za)



## C4 Ecosolutions internship 2023

C4 EcoSolutions is running an internship programme on climate change adaptation projects, carbon credits in nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration projects in February 2023. early career professionals for a training course focussing on the design and implementation of innovative climate change development projects that benefit the world's most vulnerable communities. **The 2023 Internship Programme will comprise a month of intensive training during February. After this training, participants will be assessed and potentially offered positions with our company, starting 1 March 2023.**

### Criteria for selection

- An Honours or Master's degree in one or more of the following or related disciplines: Ecology, Botany, Zoology, Agriculture, Climatology, Environmental Management, Environmental Economics, Environmental and Geographical Science and Geoinformatics
- Outstanding English writing ability
- An ability to work well under pressure and meet tight deadlines
- Self-motivated and able to work with minimal supervision at times
- Effective team player

For more information, check out the advert via their [website](#).



---

# SANCOR Vacancies

November 2022

Looking out for the next step in your career path?

The South African Network for Coastal and Oceanic Research (SANCOR) has listed some recent vacancies available within the marine and coastal environment.

Here are a few posts available:

**Internship: Doctoral Studentship (Earth Systems Science: Ocean and Climate)**

CSIR, Cape Town

Closing Date: [12 December 2022](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

**Internship: Masters Studentship (Earth Systems Science: Ocean and Climate)**

CSIR, Cape Town

Closing Date: [12 December 2022](#)

See more details [here](#).

**PhD Research Fellowship in Deep Sea Biology**

University of Bergen Bergen, Norway

Closing Date: [20 December 2022](#)

Find out more information [here](#).



**Postdoctoral Research Fellow in sea ice modelling**

*The Norwegian Polar Institute, Tromsø, Norway*

Closing Date: [10 December 2022](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

**Postdoctoral position: Marine heatwave analysis of the Atlantic Ocean**

*GEOMAR, the University of Edinburgh, and University of the Western Cape*

Closing Date: [15 December 2022](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

**Post-doctoral position in benthic macrofauna and biodiversity research**

*University of Cádiz, Cádiz, Spain*

Closing Date: [21 December 2022](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

**To view the rest of the vacancies, check out the SANCOR website using this [link](#). Other job opportunities can be found [here](#) too.**

---

## Funding Opportunities

Check out UCT's current funding opportunities [here](#) and other student research grants [here](#).

Funding opportunities have also opened up through the Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP) Network Programme or you could have a look at the NRF [website](#).



# Upcoming Events

December 2022

## 4th Annual SAIAB Student Symposium

Friday, 9 Dec 2022 | Online

The NRF-SAIAB is set to host its fourth instalment of the Student Symposium on Friday, 9 December 2022 (8h00-17h25). The symposium provides an opportunity for SAIAB postgraduate students to showcase their work to a public audience. Abstracts, programme and full details are available [here](#).

This will be a virtual event over Zoom and you can register for free using this [link](#).

You can also view the event from their Facebook live-stream (@NRF-SAIAB).



**NRF | SAIAB**  
**STUDENT SYMPOSIUM**  
**9th December 2022**  
Registration: <http://bit.ly/3ijzjrX>

08h00 - Welcome  
08h10 - Prof Janine Adams  
08h55 - Freshwater ecology and biodiversity  
09h55 - Invertebrate and larval biology and ecology  
11h00 - Molecular biology and systematics  
12h00 - Dr Nasreen Peer  
12h45 - Lunch  
13h30 - Prof Sam Dupont  
14h15 - Fish biology and ecology  
17h15 - Awards  
17h25 - Closing



**NRF** National Research Foundation  
**SAIAB** South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity

## Call for SANCOR Seminar Speakers for 2023

2022 has been an incredibly busy year, filled with fantastic research and talks. Thank you for participating and joining in the this year's line up. As the year draws a close, SANCOR will be looking out for speakers for the new year.

**Keen to share your marine and coastal research findings at the UCT-SANCOR Seminars?**

Presentations are held during lunchtime at 13h00 at UCT or DFFE in Cape Town, with an option to join online. Webinars can be arranged for speakers outside of Cape Town.

Please consider booking the following dates for 2023:

Feb: 6, 13, 20, 27

March: 6, 13, 27

April: 17, 24

May: 8, 15, 22, 29

June: 5, 12, 19, 26



To sign up for a talk, please contact Carmen Visser at SANCOR via [email](#).



---

# Upcoming Events

January-February 2023

## 5th National Global Change Conference

30 Jan - 2 Feb 2023 |

Bloemfontein, Free State

The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and the National Research Foundation (NRF), in partnership with the University of the Free State (UFS), will be hosting the 5th National Global Change Conference.

This four-day conference will take place at the Bloemfontein Campus of the UFS, from 30 January to 2 February 2023. The National Conferences on Global Change have been held biennially under the banner of the Global Change Grand Challenge (GCGC), one of the focus areas known as grand challenges in the Ten-Year Innovation Plan (TYIP) of the DSI since 2012.

These conferences are aimed at providing a platform for networking and knowledge sharing among global change stakeholders to share and debate the latest research and innovations accelerating transformation. Active participation by early career researchers is strongly encouraged. Almost all costs are funded.

Please refer to the conference [website](#) for more information.



The NRF-SAEON and Ocean Innovation Africa are co-hosting a side event at the Global Change Conference 5 to be held on the 30th January 2023. The side event, 'Innovative Opportunities in Science', will focus on showcasing the national Research Infrastructures hosted by SAEON and the opportunities for earth systems research provided through the integrated, coordinated and multidisciplinary SAEON structure; bridging the gap between science and business with some reflections by Prof. Keolebogile Motaung, a biomedical scientist and entrepreneur; and a panel discussion with ocean startups using science and education for sustainable development. Please join us at the exciting event and see the [link](#) for the side-event Programme Booklet.



# Opportunities

January 2023

## Post-doc position | Physics of the Earth and Astrophysics Department, Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Madrid, Spain)

**Research topic: Representation of the West African Monsoon in storm-resolving Earth System Models**

A new position is open in the framework of EU H2020 project NextGEMS, which aims at developing two storm-resolving Earth-System models and applying them to the study of anthropocentric climate change. They are global coupled atmospheric models run with a very fine grid (~ 3 km), which allows a more physical representation of atmospheric and oceanic circulation systems, and their coupling. As part of the model evaluation phase, the successful candidate will work at UCM analysing the representation of the West African Monsoon in the simulations. In a second phase, he/she will address key uncertainties related to the response of this monsoon to climate change, as the main mechanisms involved and the expected evolution of extreme rainfall events.

The candidate will be hired from March 1st 2023 until the end of the project (31 August 2025). **The call for the position is expected to be published on January 13th 2023 and will be open for a relatively short period.**

Any interested candidate, please write to **Elsa Mohino** ([emohino@ucm.es](mailto:emohino@ucm.es)) for further information and help in the application procedure.



## MOOC Machine Learning in Weather & Climate


9 January 2023 | Online

Discover how cutting-edge techniques impact our characterisation of weather and climate. In this **Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)** you will explore the application of Machine Learning – a branch of Artificial Intelligence (AI) – across the main stages of numerical weather and climate predictions. These range from the acquisition and handling of input observations to their assimilation into models, and finally to forecasting and post-processing. In each element you will uncover both the added value and limitations of Machine Learning.

It is a fully online and FREE training open to anyone interested in the subject. The first part of the course is a high level introduction to the key concepts. Later sections become more technical and provide hands-on experience in the application of Machine Learning algorithms. Register [here](#).



# 2023 Opportunities




National Oceanography Centre

Fully funded PhD project:

UNIVERSITY OF  
Southampton


## Ocean physics and ecology: Can robots disentangle the mix?




©CHRISLINDER

*Interested in the ocean? Robots? Interdisciplinary data science?*


*Then check out this fully funded PhD project at the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton (UK) where you will use autonomous underwater gliders to understand how ocean physics control the tiny algae in the ocean. Check the [website](#) and contact me ([filipa.carvalho@noc.ac.uk](mailto:filipa.carvalho@noc.ac.uk)) if you want to know more!*



Dr Filipa Carvalho (NOC, main supervisor)  
Dr Bieito Fernández Castro (UoS)  
Dr Louis Clément (NOC)  
Dr Jo Hopkins (NOC)



Natural Environment Research Council



*Applications due January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023! Funding available for students worldwide*

## PhD Opportunity

National Oceanography Centre,  
Southampton, UK

**Apply to a fully funded PhD project:**  
**Ocean physics and ecology: Can robots  
disentangle the mix?**

**Applications due: 3 January 2023**

The PhD student will be working with Dr Filipa Carvalho, Dr Louis Clement, Dr Joanne Hopkins and Dr Bieito Fernandez Castro, on biophysical interactions in the upper ocean using underwater gliders.

In this project, you will use high-resolution gliders to (1) understand and quantify the effect of small-scale and episodic physical processes on the phytoplankton community

growth; (2) evaluate the importance of including small-scale processes in oceanic carbon uptake. Filling this knowledge gap using these high-resolution data will improve predictions of how the carbon uptake by phytoplankton is affected by both natural variability and changes in physical forcing driven by climate change.

Personal and professional development training will be offered alongside extensive opportunities for students to expand their multi-disciplinary outlook through interactions with a wide network of academic, research and industrial/policy partners. The student will be registered at the University of Southampton and hosted at the National Oceanography Centre (Southampton), in the Ocean Biogeosciences group.

For more information, check out the [website](#).

# 2023 Opportunities

## QUICCHE | CAPE BASIN

March 2023

An opportunity for students to apply for a research cruise in the Cape Cauldron in March 2023. Placements are available for **2 PhD students and 2 undergraduate students** from South Africa to join the international **QUICCHE project aboard RV Revelle from 5-30th March 2023**. Students will help collect observations, conduct mini projects, and co-create a game that connects children with the ocean.

### To apply:

Send your CV, a short statement of interest, and a letter of recommendation from your academic advisor to [lbeal@miami.edu](mailto:lbeal@miami.edu).

## Observational Oceanography Training Course

May 2023 | Apply by 31 Dec 2022

The application window is now open for the next **Nippon Foundation-POGO Centre of Excellence (NF-POGO CoE)**, which provides world class education and training in the field of observational oceanography.

This is an intensive training course for **young professionals at the post-graduate level, ten months in duration, with an intake of ten trainees per year**. The course is sponsored by the Nippon Foundation and hosted by the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research. It is conducted at AWI's site on the offshore island of Helgoland with focus on open-ocean sciences and also at AWI's site on the



**UNESCO reserve Waddensea island of Sylt** where shelf/basin interactions are topics of study. The call for applications will be open until the 31 December 2022. Successful candidates will begin **training in May 2023**. You can read more about what the training involves and submit an application [here](#). Please feel free to circulate this announcement to anyone you think might be interested.

## YSSP - Young Scientists Summer Program for PhD students

The **International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)** offers a summer program for PhD students to undertake a scientific project on a topic related to the IIASA research agenda.

Annually, from **1 June to 31 August**, IIASA hosts up to 50 doctoral students from around the world in its Young Scientists Summer Program (YSSP). It is a great opportunity to collaborate and learn from other PhD students worldwide. To find out more information, view their [website](#).

Applications to the 2023 program are now open and will run until **12 January 2023**. Two letters of reference are required (to be received by latest 24 hrs past application deadline). [Apply here!](#)

# Podcasts:

## What to listen out for?



There are so many new amazing podcasts available online so we thought we would share some of those that might interest you. Have a listen to them in your spare time, you might learn something new from various people's stories or from the array of environmental topics discussed.

### Climate Frontiers

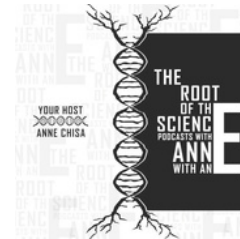
A podcast series exploring the latest thinking, approaches and debates in climate science, hosted by the Climate System Analysis Group, or CSAG, at the University of Cape Town.

### The Root of the Science Podcast

Hosted by Anne Chisa. This show has interviews with guests involved in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

### Ready or Not, Change is Coming

A 12-part Climate Podcast Series, dedicated to breaking down climate change into chewable elements to help us all understand it better, dispel the myths and remove the ambiguity. Tracey Thomas is the host of the the RONCIC series.



### The AtlantECO podcast

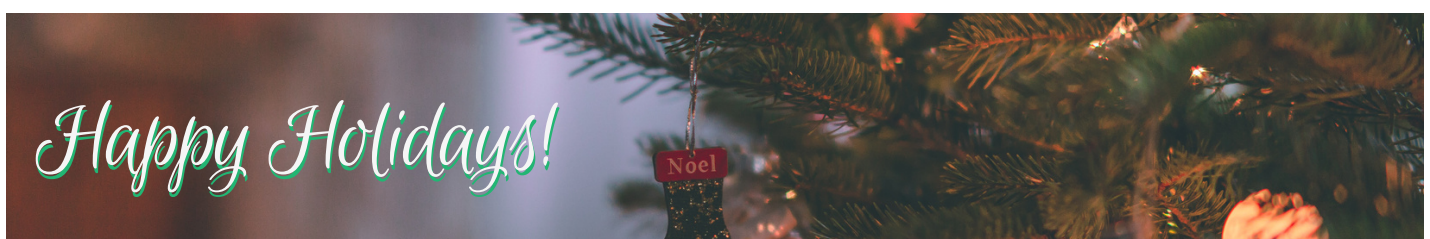
A science popularisation show, revolving around conversations between the host and a guest to discuss aspects of AtlantECO, a marine science project which focuses on the Atlantic Ocean.

### BEPSII Podcast: Sea Ice Research, Studies, and Scientists

the official podcast of BEPSII brings you the research studies and work, stories and resources by the members of BEPSII (Biogeochemical Exchanges Processes at Sea Ice Interfaces) – scientists from all over the world and at all career stages.

### Agulhas Current Affairs

A marine science podcast set in Southern Africa with marine biologists Dr Yanas Kisten and Dr Nelson Miranda.





# Call for Content Creators

The **UCT-MARiS Comms Team** is looking out for volunteers to assist us in providing marine related content especially involving interdisciplinary research, whether it may focus on your current research, fieldtrips, cruises, conferences, workshops, events, etc., **we want to know what is happening in the marine and Antarctic sphere and share it with our networks.**

If you are interested in getting involved (once-off or long-term) on a voluntary basis with the MARiS Comms Team in:

- writing up a blog,
  - promoting events and opportunities,
  - suggesting ideas for marine science communication or
  - providing media that will promote marine research,
- then we would love for you to fill in this short [form](#).

For all content and queries, please feel free to mail us at [comms.maris@uct.ac.za](mailto:comms.maris@uct.ac.za).



---

**Feel free to tag us on our social media platforms and we'll be happy to repost:**

**Twitter: @MARIS\_UCT**  
**Instagram: @maris\_uct**

---



---

Copyright © 2022 Marine and Antarctic research for Innovation and Sustainability, All rights reserved.

Because you are part of our MARiS ECR network.



Give MARiS a follow on social media

## CONTACT US

*If you'd like to sign up for the [ECR mailing list](#) or you'd like to include an event or opportunity in our next newflash, please email [ecr.maris@uct.ac.za](mailto:ecr.maris@uct.ac.za).*