



3 FEBRUARY 2023, ISSUE 8

# 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!

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Give MARiS a follow on social media



# Welcome 2023!

Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year to you all! We hope that you had a fantastic holiday or at least some time of rest and relaxation over the December-January period.

May the upcoming year bring many opportunities for growth and prosperity. We look forward to seeing what the new year has to bring for us all. We can't wait to share with you many more exciting stories & events, so watch this space!

Wishing you a joyous 2023!



## ECR Meet - Launch of MARiS Centre

On behalf of the MARiS management team, we are pleased to invite you to attend the ECR component of the Official Launch of the MARiS Research Centre.

The launch will take place at:

**Venue:** MARiS Centre, Level 4, John Day Building, Upper Campus, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch

**Date:** Tuesday, 21 February 2023

**Time:** 13:30pm - 15:00pm

We would be delighted if you can come and celebrate with us the success of MARiS and the research that we participate in. We think that this event will be a great opportunity for networking and discussing new ideas, events, and opportunities that the ECRs can get involved in this year.

Please make sure to save the date and fill in this [form](#) if you wish to attend (for catering purposes). If you have any queries or questions regarding the event, email [leila.nefdt@uct.ac.za](mailto:leila.nefdt@uct.ac.za).





## Notices



### Join the RSA Genomics/Genetics Group

The RSA Genomics/Genetics Group is a support group for students working in the field of genomics and genetics in South Africa.

**We meet online on the first Thursday of every month at 10am** to discuss lab work, data analysis, and the understanding of key concepts in the field. In these meetings we cover questions, troubleshooting and general support and advice in the field.

In addition, from time to time we will have students or guest researchers present on key molecular concepts, methodology or their research. **We will be holding our next meeting on Thursday, 2 March.**

This group is open to all students working in the field of genomics and genetics or those who would like to learn more about this field. To join, contact Courtney Gardiner on [cecgardiner@sun.ac.za](mailto:cecgardiner@sun.ac.za).

### Share your Atlantic Story Competition

**Are you a researcher who works on the Atlantic Ocean?**

Do you want to communicate your research to a wider audience? Then, enter the **"Share Your Atlantic Stories"** competition! The best submissions will receive a prize! The deadline for submitting your story: **24 February 2023**.

For more information check out this [link](#).

## WWF Consulting Opportunities



The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is:

- One of the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organisation.
- A global network, working in more than 90 countries.
- A challenging, constructive, science-based organization that addresses issues from the survival of species and habitats to climate change, sustainable business and environmental education.
- A charity dependent upon its five million supporters worldwide - some 90 per cent of our income derives from voluntary sources such as people and the business community.
- An organisation that makes a difference.

The WWF has a few consulting opportunities available, please see them listed below:

**Closing date: 10 Feb**

- Independent service provider to undertake feasibility assessment on the development of bankable Sustainable Blue Economy enterprises in selected in the Port St Johns area.
- Independent service provider to undertake specialist technical support in the development of bankable Sustainable Blue Economy enterprises in selected sites in the Port St Johns.
- Conduct the mid-term review for the SWIO fisheries - improving governance, livelihoods and ecosystems, focused on the South Africa component.



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## Short Film – Kelp: South Africa's Golden Forests

Description: Journey to South Africa's coastline, and catch a glimpse of a unique forest not many know about. Kelp: South Africa's Golden Forests **sheds light on the multitude of values around our kelp forests and the many contributions they provide** – from their value as a harvested resource that supports multiple livelihoods, to the feelings of calmness these forests imbue into those lucky enough to dive through.

In an era of increasing climate change, this collaborative short film highlights what kelp represents to various individuals in South Africa's kelp sector, and how these underwater forests contribute to their sense of place.

To watch the short film, follow this [link](#).  
Funded by the National Research Foundation and the Research Council of Norway through the SANOCEAN and BlueConnect Projects.  
**Produced by Akshata Mehta.**



## Survey on student uptake of careers in STEM

The NRF- South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) science communication team is collaborating with an international #scicomm community conducting a survey in SA and four other countries (Malta, UK, Ireland and India) to identify the factors that disengage students from taking up STEM courses/careers.

This is in preparation for the Public Communication of Science and Technology (PCST) Network conference. The survey aims to find out how students across different age groups are inspired to further their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) journey and we want postgraduate student insights to help us explore these results further.

Responses to this survey will help our workshop facilitators (using the world café method) to explore engagement approaches, the tools and skills needed to inspire young people's journeys into science. This will further help the facilitators to identify whether the obstacles experienced by students or young researchers in South Africa are the same across Europe and other countries and how the humanities and the arts can be used by science communication practitioners to empower researchers to engage students with STEM.

Please follow the [survey link](#) here.

We really appreciate your participation and your responses will remain anonymous.  
**Lucky Dlamini, SAIAB**

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# SANCOR Vacancies

February - March 2023

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: 8 February 2023

Find out more information [here](#).

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

CSIR, Cape Town

Closing Date: 14 February 2023

See more details [here](#).

**Marine Scientist**

South African Weather Service (SAWS),  
Cape Town

Closing Date: 13 February 2023

Find out more information [here](#).



**Postdoctoral Fellow in Mercury Biogeochemistry.**

Stellenbosch University, SAWS, MIO, Stellenbosch

Closing Date: 28 February 2023

Find out more information [here](#).

**Postdoctoral position: Space weather influences on marine mammal movement**

University of Pretoria and SANSA, Pretoria

Closing Date: 16 March 2023

Find out more information [here](#).

**Two PhD or mobility postdoctoral positions in ocean coupled physical-biogeochemical modelling.**

Liège University, Belgium

Closing Date: 31 March 2023

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.**

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## 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](#).





**Monday, 6 Feb 2023 at 13h00 | Hybrid format in UCT Oceanography Seminar Room**

Please join us for a seminar by visiting researcher, **Prof Jennifer Mather** from the University of Lethbridge in Canada. The talk is entitled “Octopuses as ‘aliens from space’?”. Please click here for the details. The venue is the UCT Oceanography Seminar Room, RW James Building, UCT Upper Campus.

For those who want to join online, please [RSVP](#) here and you will receive the link.

## Octopuses as ‘aliens from space’?

UCT -SANCOR Seminar by  
**Prof Jennifer Mather, University of Lethbridge, Canada**  
Monday, 6 Feb 2023 at 13h00  
UCT Oceanography Seminar Room  
Online viewers please [RSVP here](#) by 3 Feb 2023 to receive the link.



### Overview

Cephalopod molluscs, particularly octopuses, have developed high intelligence quite separately from the mammals, who have done so as a result of social and not ecological pressure. Thus a group of cosmologists decided that they must be aliens from space, delivered to earth as eggs frozen on ‘icy bolides’. This presentation reviews and counters the evidence for such a claim, simply bringing in details from evolutionary and molluscan biology. Then the presentation goes on to talk about the ecological pressures that might cause such intelligence to evolve in a solitary animal, what octopuses can accomplish and how their nervous system produces a similar but slightly differently organized cognition than that found in the vertebrate model.

### About the speaker

Jennifer Mather was raised on the west coast of Canada, where she learned about the ocean and determined to study marine animals, particularly molluscs. She settled on behaviour and cephalopods at UBC and did graduate work at Florida State University and Brandeis. After several years at Western, she moved to University of Lethbridge in southern Alberta, where she has been ever since. Her main research interest is cognition of cephalopods, particularly octopuses and with a fondness for field research. From areas such as foraging strategies, tool use and navigation, her focus has drifted to consciousness and to issues of cephalopod and invertebrate welfare.

## Upcoming Events

### Short Course: Introduction to Design Thinking for Climate Change

Register by 17 Feb 2023

The African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI) and the Hasso Plattner Institute for Design Thinking Afrika through the SAF-ADAPT project, with support from the Flanders Government, will be running a number of 1-day Design Thinking

Afrika through the SAF-ADAPT project, with support from the Flanders Government, will be running a number of 1-day Design Thinking workshops focusing on Climate Change in February and March 2023. The objective of these workshops is to assist those working within the climate change space, including adaptation and mitigation, to produce problem-oriented solutions. Click [here](#) for more information on this course, how to apply and how to request financial support to attend. The workshops are aimed at anyone working on climate change, whether it is your full-time job, part of your job or something you do as a volunteer, please share with your networks.

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# Upcoming Events

## Imidibaniso Scicomm Bootcamp

10 Feb 2023 | Stellenbosch |

Register by 8 Feb 2022

The South African Research Chair in Science Communication is hosting the Imidibaniso Bootcamp, an annual one-day media and communications workshop for scientists, researchers and academics of all spheres. The Bootcamp offers a fun and interactive snapshot of best-practice communication tools and strategies to help translate specific expertise to a wider audience and enhance public engagement efforts.

During the workshop, you will have access to a crash course on various forms of media and communication, talks and inputs from media and communications experts, interactive exercises, exposure to strategies and methods used by successful communicators, tips and tools for using social media effectively, strategies for finding collaborators, and an introduction to key media concepts.

The Bootcamp will take place at STIAS in Stellenbosch. There is a registration fee of R1750 which includes the materials needed for the workshop and all meals & refreshments for the day. The event will close with a networking cocktail session. Registration for the Bootcamp is now open and will close on 8 February 2023. Please note that the workshop has limited space so if you are keen to attend, please register as soon as possible. For more information about the workshop and to register, please visit our [website](#).



If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to seeing you at the Bootcamp. Enquiries to Fumani ([fumanim@sun.ac.za](mailto:fumanim@sun.ac.za)).

## Free Online Science Podcasting Workshop

7 Feb 2023 | 9h00 - 12h00 SAST | Online

The Cosmic Savannah and NRF SAASTA will present a 3-hour bootcamp (free and online) that will teach you how to create a podcast for the purposes of science communication. It will **cover the basics of science communication, why and how to create and launch a podcast, practical podcasting skills, how to conduct interviews and a brief introduction to audio editing**. A follow-up workshop is also planned where attendees will be set practical tasks and receive feedback. Completion of this first workshop is essential for participation in the follow-up. Anyone involved in science or science communication in South Africa who is interested in learning about the medium of podcasting. Students are welcome!

Join the Zoom Meeting [here](#).

More information will be available [here](#).



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# 2023 Opportunities

February 2023

## Opportunity for Students, Postdocs, and Early Career Scientists from the Southwest Indian Ocean Region to Participate in a Research Cruise

Apply by 10 Feb 2023

In April-May 2023, we will be sailing from Cape Town, South Africa, to Port Louis, Mauritius, onboard R/V Roger Revelle to collect in-situ observations in the Madagascar Basin. This joint cruise is part of the East Madagascar Current (EMC) and Deep Madagascar Basin (DMB) Experiments, both funded by the US National Science Foundation (NSF) and endorsed by the Indian Ocean Expedition 2 (IIOE-2). The experiments are led by Viviane Menezes at the Wood Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI). As part of the EMC experiment, we are offering up to five (05) positions for students, postdocs and early career researchers (ECRs) from the Southwest Indian Ocean Region to take part in the cruise. The selected participants will have the opportunity to work on several components of the cruise depending on their interests and learn the ropes from well-seasoned oceanographers.

Click [here](#) for full details.



## Ocean Visions Summit

4-6 April 2023

Georgia Aquarium, Atlanta, GA, USA

The Ocean Visions Summit will offer a scientific solutions program that fosters and inspires discussion throughout the meeting. The Summit will bring together a multisector community working to address critical challenges at the ocean-climate nexus. **Participants will share latest advances in sciences, engineering, technology, governance, and economics that underpin solutions to the ocean-climate crisis.**

The meeting will be held onsite at the Georgia Aquarium, Atlanta, GA, USA, 4-6 April 2023. There will be online sessions for the meeting. Registration is now open. The early registration deadline is **15 February**. The full meeting program and schedule will be published in early February 2023.

For more information, check out the [website](#). Register [here](#) for the summit.



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# 2023 Opportunities

February - May 2023

## 2023 Integrated Coastal Management Lekgotla – Call for Abstracts

27 Feb – 1 Mar 2023 | Abstracts due 3 Feb

The 2023 Integrated Coastal Management Lekgotla will be held in Durban during 27 February to 1 March 2023 and hosted by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. The meeting is themed: “Coastal Planning and Climate Change for South Africa's Future”.

Click [here](#) for the call for abstracts.

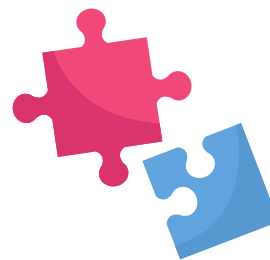
## QUICCHE | CAPE BASIN

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).



## SA Fulbright Foreign Student Program 2024-2025

Closing date: 1 May 2023

The South African Fulbright Foreign Student Program provides grants for South African university graduates to pursue post-graduate studies at a United States university in any subject (excludes MBA and studies that require contact with patients). Students are selected through a rigorous application and interview process and receive a high level of support ranging from visa processing and health insurance to a comprehensive pre-departure orientation and re-entry session.

The following opportunities are available:

- **Visiting Student Researcher (non-degree) :** South African PhD students enrolled with a South African University may apply to conduct one year's research at a U.S. University as a Visiting Student Researcher (VSR). Current National Research Foundation (NRF) funded PhD students are encouraged to apply.
- **Master's or PhD:** Post-graduate students may apply for scholarships towards Master's or Doctorate degrees. Scholarships are awarded for two years towards one degree – Master's or Doctorate.

# 2023 Opportunities

## Observational Oceanography Training Course

May 2023

The application window is now open for the next **Nippon Foundation-POGO Centre of Excellence (NF-POGO CofE)**, 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.

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.



## Geohab 2023

8-12 May 2023 | Abstracts and student support applications due 3 Feb 2023

You have just over a week to submit your abstract for the next [GeoHab conference](#) that will take place from May 8 to 12th in Saint-Gilles-Les-Bains, Reunion Island. The conference focuses on the diverse aspects of marine biological and geological seabed mapping, from shallow waters to the deep sea, using any approach (e.g., optical, acoustic), from conceptual to applied topics. You'll find details on the submission process [here](#).

We look forward welcoming you at the next GeoHab!

**Rodolphe Devillers and Hayley Cawthra**  
GeoHab 2023 co-organizers

# 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

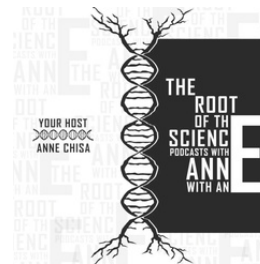
A podcast series exploring the latest thinking, approaches and debates in climate science, hosted by the Climate System Analysis Group, or CSAG, at the University of Cape Town.

### 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 Exchange 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).



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

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

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Because you are part of our MARiS ECR network.



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## 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 newsflash, please email [ecr.maris@uct.ac.za](mailto:ecr.maris@uct.ac.za).*