

Call for Registration

Garden Route Interface Meeting

Co-learning to navigate social-ecological systems
19 & 20 September 2017
Pine Lake Marina, Sedgefield, South Africa



Background

The “Virtual SES Lab” came about in October 2014, when a group of conservation managers and scientists expressed a desire to learn more purposefully and mutually about complex social-ecological systems (SES) in the Garden Route. The multi-use landscapes of the Garden Route were to serve as the laboratory (Lab) for learning through interventions such as action research. A series of SES Lab meetings / symposia provided a space for dialogue and networking, with a focus on people-nature interactions in the context of conservation and sustainable development. The SES Lab is now transforming into the Garden Route Interface Meeting. With this call we are inviting practitioners and researchers from conservation, tourism, agriculture, forestry, coastal and catchment management etc., interested in the functioning of social-ecological systems and seeking novel ways to manage them, to join the forum.

Themes of the 2017 meeting

The overall aim of the meeting is to connect research and practice to co-learn about, and promote effective management of, social-ecological systems and people-nature interactions. Based on a call for abstracts, approximately 30 presentations (oral and poster) were included in the programme along the following themes:

- Bridging the science-policy-practice divide
- Learning about people-nature connections
- Mapping ecosystem services and benefit flows
- Establishing long term social-ecological research and monitoring sites and networks
- Experiences from social-ecological systems research
- Development, resource use and transitions in social-ecological systems.

The meeting will be facilitated to maximize opportunities for dialogue, critical discussions and co-learning between researchers and practitioners.

Registration and accommodation

A registration fee of R700 (payable by 31 August 2017) includes attendance, teas and lunches for both days and the symposium dinner on 19th September. Please contact Jackey Deacon at dot@mpu.co.za for registration and payment details.

Various accommodation options are available at Pine Lake Marina at 10% discount for delegates, please contact Jeanne on 044 349 2200 for details <http://www.pinelakemarina.co.za/accommodation.aspx>



Provisional programme

Day 1 - Tuesday 19 September

Registration / Tea & coffee

Welcome and Opening address

Session 1 – Bridging the divides

- Janine Adams (Nelson Mandela University & Institute for Coastal and Marine Research), Bridging the science-policy-practice divide for the management of estuaries
- Paddy Gordon (SANParks), Being proactive in the face of uncertainty and surprise
- Nadia Sitas (CSIR), Convening transformative spaces for bridging science-policy-practice divides for equitable and sustainable development
- Sandra Taljaard & Stef Freitag (SANParks), Appreciating the uneven rhythm of the science-management foxtrot

Tea

Session 2 – Ecosystem services and benefit flows

- Izak Smit (SANParks), Bidirectional flows of benefit from research and education in parks
- Jessica Reid (Rhodes University), Benefit flows from an out-of-sight mountain stream to users in downstream Plettenberg Bay
- Kyle Smith (SANParks), Sporting Recreation within Protected Areas – What have we learnt? What does it mean and where should we go from here?
- Janis Smith (CSIR), Effective management of protected areas to deliver benefits in a landscape

Lunch

Session 3 – People-nature connections

- Wendy Annecke (SANParks), Daydreamer, conservationist, adventurer, hunter. Who is connected to nature, who should be reconnected?
- Liandi Slabbert (SANParks), Closer to nature through camping
- Lisa Heider (Sustainability Research Unit), Values, sense of place and stewardship as a driver of landscape change in the Garden Route
- Louise Swemmer (SANParks), Tracing the cost/benefit pathway of Protected Areas: a case study of the Kruger National Park, South Africa
- Joana Bezerra (Rhodes University), Sense of Place in the Tsitsikamma: cultural ecosystem services and their role in biodiversity conservation

Tea

Session 4 – Poster Presentations

- Zanele Hartmann, Socio-ecological systems approaches to integrated water management: the Swartkops estuary as a laboratory
- Samantha Mc Cullouch, Social Network Analysis for long-term monitoring of adaptive governance arrangements

- Tessa Rouillard, Sense of Place of tourists in the Knysna area: A case study from South Africa
- Keagan Deponselle, Living in a protected area: Sense of Place of residents in Knysna, South Africa
- Graham Durrheim, Australian blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) harvesting in the Garden Route National Park: controlling an alien invasive species while utilizing a valuable timber resource
- Nicholas Cole, The wicked dimension of invasive alien plant management
- Lizette Moolman, Human-wildlife conflict/interface

Dinner & Social event

Day 2 - Wednesday 20 September

Session 5 – Monitoring social-ecological systems

- Vincent Bretagnolle (CNRS), The French LTSER Network and stakeholder involvement
- Johan Pauw (SAEON), LTSER: developments and opportunities in South Africa
- Christo Fabricius (Sustainability Research Unit), Bridging scales and knowledge systems in long term social-ecological research

Tea

Session 6 – Studying / researching social-ecological systems

- Patrick O'Farrell (CSIR), Exploring the implications of land-use transitions on ecosystem services provision within rapidly urbanising cities
- Charon Büchner-Marais (Stellenbosch University), Transdisciplinary inquiry for governing of social-ecological systems: the Stellenbosch River Collaborative
- Dirk Roux (SANParks), Scientific synthesis as a means to uncover fresh perspectives on how to address social-ecological dilemmas

Lunch

Session 7 – Development, resource use and transitions

- Rob Fincham (Sustainability Research Unit), From Garden Route to Concrete Route: reflections on the future of conservation in the light of urbanization of the South African coastline
- Mohlamatsane Mokhatla (SANParks), Patterns of coastal and estuarine resource use and resource use dependency in the garden route national park
- Danie Ferreira (NMU), Obtaining a competitive and sustainable tourism advantage through democratic peace and diplomatic governance
- Wessel Vermeulen (SANParks), Challenges and complexities with sustainable resource use: Examples from the Garden Route National Park

Tea

Session 8 – Dialogue & Wrap up