



**Nelson Mandela  
Metropolitan  
University**

*for tomorrow*




## ANNUAL REPORT 2009

**ENTITY NAME** : **Sustainability Research Unit**

**ENTITY LEADER** : **Prof Christo Fabricius**

**FACULTY** : **George Campus**

This annual report and the audited financial statement were approved by the Faculty  
on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 2010

	<b>Print name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
Entity leader	<b>Christo Fabricius</b>		<b>13/05/2010</b>
Finance	Mr P Knoesen		
Chairperson of Governing Board (If applicable)	<b>N/A</b>		
Chairperson: Faculty RTI Committee/ Faculty Board	<b>Laurence Watson</b>		<b>13/05/2010</b>
Dean	<b>Christo Fabricius</b>		<b>13/05/2010</b>
DVC: R&E DVC: Academic			
Research Management			

## 1. Mission / purpose

The Sustainability Research Unit develops the capacity for the sustainable management of ecological, social and economic systems through user-inspired research, training and policy contributions.

## 2. Staff Members

List the names and positions of staff members of the entity.

Prof Christo Fabricius (leader), Ms Bianca Currie (Lecturer, researcher), Ms Fiona Koch (MSc student, researcher), Dr Wietsche Roets (Research Associate, water resources specialist), Ms Jeanette Pauw (part-time Lecturer, statistician), Dr Suzanne Milton (Research Associate)

### 2.1 Human resources issues

Not applicable, all staff are either research associates or salaried NMMU staff.

## 3. Goals / targets for the year under review

### 3.1 Statement of goals / targets

1. Raise awareness of sustainability issues amongst stakeholders
2. Recruit high quality members

### 3.2 Strategies employed to achieve goals/targets

#### **Goal 1:**

A SRU web site has been established

*Host thought leadership workshops in sustainability:* two sustainability workshops were hosted.

- The first focused on water sustainability in the Garden Route, focusing on the dairy industry.
- The second was on complex adaptive systems management, co-hosted with the Applied Research directorate of NRF

*Develop policy papers:* a discussion document on sustainable energy use in NMMU was developed

*Initiate catalytic projects:* a catalytic 'Green Campus' project, involving a) retrofitting of existing buildings and b) monitoring change in energy use, was initiated with funding from the May Stanley Trust.

#### **Goal 2:**

Three associates have been recruited

### 3.3 Research Outputs

The SRU members produced one paper at an international conference, one at a local conference, one peer reviewed book chapter, one major research report and one set of workshop proceedings.

### 3.4 Self-assessment of achievement of goals/targets

Given that the Unit is in its infancy, progress has been satisfactory.

## 4. **Highlights and special achievements**

- The Complex Adaptive Systems colloquium, co-hosted with NRF, attracted participants from Sweden and Kenya and received very good reviews. It set the scene for the Unit's participation in a DST Grand Challenge bid with NRF in the lead.
- The grant from May Stanley Trust has enabled unit members to initiate an 'action project' at the George Campus. This is expected to make an important contribution towards awareness raising.
- The water sustainability in Eden workshop has catalysed a broad range of follow-up discussions between farmers and Government to increase water security in the dairy industry.

## 5. **Barriers and constraints**

None, everything is OK.

## 6. **Finances**

### 6.1 Financial review

The entity has not spent any of its R 29 000 grant, but the expenditure for 2010 is expected to exceed the grant.

### 6.2 Financial statements

There were no expenses to date and it is requested that the funding is rolled over.

## 7. **Additional information**

The year under review was used for preparation work (Phase 1). This phase is expected to continue for another 12-24 months until the entity is up and running. The major challenge for 2010 are to a) raise student awareness; b) establish an environmental Forum on campus; c) raise funds for sustainability research.

**The annual report must be DATED AND SIGNED by the Director, Manager or Head of the Entity, the Chairperson of the Faculty RTI Committee, and the Dean.**



Christo Fabricius  
(Dean and Entity Manager)

## RESEARCH OUTPUTS/ACTIVITIES 2010

OUTPUTS/ACTIVITIES	NO	DETAILS	STAFF INVOLVED	OTHER (Specify)
<b>CONFERENCES</b>				
Conference Proceedings				
International Conferences	1	Invited paper, Resilience Alliance science meeting, Vancouver. "Resilience assessment in Tajikistan"	Prof C Fabricius	
National Conferences		Keynote address: southern African Wildlife Management Association. "Sustainability in the wildlife industry"	Prof C Fabricius	
		Paper at a workshop on sustainability in the diary industry. "Water sustainability in the Garden Route"	Dr W Roets	
<b>JOURNAL ARTICLES</b>				
International indices (ISI & IBSS)				
DoE list of South African Journals				
Other Peer-reviewed Journal Articles				
<b>BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS</b>				
		Cundill G. & <b>Fabricius</b> C. 2009. Adaptive co-management under resource-poor conditions – lessons from South Africa in: <i>Exploring</i>		

		<p><i>Sustainability Science: a Southern African perspective</i>, pp. 537-568, edited by M. Burns and A. Weaver. African Sun Media, Stellenbosch.</p>		
<b><u>RESEARCH REPORTS</u></b>		<p>Fabricius C. and Quinlan A. 2009. <i>Challenges and opportunities for resilience assessment in Tajikistan</i>. Resilience Alliance, Ottawa and Mountain Societies Development Support Programme, Dushanbe</p> <p>Pauw, J. 2009. <i>Challenges to sustainability in the Garden Route: Water, Land and Economy</i>. Sustainability Research Unit, NMMU George Campus</p>	C Fabricius	
<b><u>CREATIVE OUTPUTS</u></b>		<p>Sustainability Research Unit Web page  <a href="http://www.nmmu.ac.za/default.asp?id=9045&amp;bhcp=1">http://www.nmmu.ac.za/default.asp?id=9045&amp;bhcp=1</a></p>	F Koch	

<b><u>MASTERS AND DOCTORAL DEGREES COMPLETED</u></b>				
Masters by Coursework and Treatise				
Masters by Research				
Doctoral Degrees				
<b><u>HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT</u></b>				
Emerging (Staff & PG Students)				
Established Researchers				
<b><u>ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT</u></b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop on water sustainability in the dairy industry.</li> <li>• Colloquium on Complex Adaptive Systems Management.</li> <li>• Green Campus project</li> <li>• Sustainable energy use in NMMU (Discussion document).</li> <li>• Conservation Stewardship and Extension Short Learning Programme</li> <li>• Tierkop Sustainable Living Research Project</li> </ul>	<p>B. Currie</p> <p>B. Currie F. Koch L. Watson</p>	
<b><u>GRANTS RECEIVED</u></b>		US\$ 40 000 from May Stanley Trust for Green Campus project.		

<b><u>KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS</u></b>				
Intellectual Property				
IP Commercialisation				
Disclosures				
<b><u>OTHER (Specify)</u></b>				