

SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH UNIT



NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY

A locally and internationally relevant centre for ecosystems and society, the Nelson Mandela University's Sustainability Research Unit collaborates in user inspired research, teaching and learning, community engagement and consultation. We place a strong emphasis on decision making, governance and capacity development for a Good Anthropocene.



Established in 2009, the Sustainability Research Unit is the first dedicated inter-disciplinary research group focusing on the sustainability of complex social ecological systems. The Unit, based at Nelson Mandela University's George Campus, is home to a community of critical thinkers who recognise the need to cross the boundaries of the social and ecological disciplines in order to promote sustainable management of social ecological systems.



Our vision

The Sustainability Research Unit is a catalyst of change towards more harmonious relationships between society and the biosphere - a Good Anthropocene.



The SRU plays an important strategic role in generating scientific information, educating students, citizen and communities, and through participatory approaches, developing capacity for the sustainable management of natural resources locally, nationally and globally.

User Inspired Research

- Long term ecological monitoring
- Human wildlife interactions
- Adaptive co-management of ecosystems
- Decision support mechanisms for ecosystem management
- People and nature centred policies
- Multi scale adaptations to climate change
- Invasive alien plants biomass
- Ecosystem stewardship
- Social and network learning
- Adaptive governance

Community Engagement

- Alien invasive plant management
- Water & catchment management
- Human / wildlife interface
- People and protected areas
- Stewardship
- Public participation in policy making
- Citizen science
- Capacity development for adaptive co-management

Consultation

User inspired Research

Stewardship for a good Anthropocene

Community engagement

Consultation

- Capacity development training and support of practitioners, policy makers and resource users.
- Stakeholder engagement and facilitation
- Management plans and strategies
- Climate change adaption
- Project assessment and evaluation

Teaching and learning

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Teaching and learning of PhD, Master's, Honours and undergraduate students in the sustainable use and management of protected areas, catchments, coastlines, forests, urban areas and agricultural landscapes.

Sustainability Research Unit

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