



Young Scholars Spring School on social-ecological systems research

5-10 October 2018

Pine Lake Marina, Sedgefield, South Africa

Purpose and scope: This Spring School will take place directly after the 2nd Garden Route Interface Meeting (see attached flyer) and will build on the same theme of “science and practice co-learning to navigate complex social-ecological issues”. The main aim will be to stimulate and capacitate young scholars (master to post-doc levels) interested in social-ecological systems and transdisciplinary research. Participants will be exposed to a broad spectrum of approaches and methods that can be used to design social-ecological studies as well as hands-on study design in collaboration with peers, managers, experienced academics and dedicated mentors. The school will help to strengthen the emerging network of social-ecological scientists interested in bridging knowledge silos and contributing to transformations towards sustainability.

Programme outline: The Garden Route Interface Meeting (2-4 Oct 2018) will serve as an “introductory module” for the Spring School, as many presentations and discussions will contribute to building capacity of the participants. The School *per se* will then commence on Friday 5 Oct with a combination of discussions (involving local managers to understand their needs, priorities and views of the social-ecological system they manage) and seminars on topics such as transdisciplinarity, knowledge co-creation, mixed-method research approaches, transformative learning and social-ecological transformations. Depending on the number of participants, four to five groups will be formed with a manager and a senior researcher (acting as a mentor or facilitator) assigned to each group. Over the remainder of the course, each group will focus on a specific management issue for which they will have to design a transdisciplinary study. A discovery field trip is envisaged for the Sat 6 Oct 2018. The course will conclude on the afternoon of Wed 10 Oct 2018 with group presentations and associated discussions and questions related to approaches and the feasibility of proposed studies.

Benefits to participants: Exposure to state-of-the-art research topics and methods, open discussion with experienced and active inter- and trans-disciplinary researchers, concrete experience of co-designing a study, field experience with stakeholders and managers in the field (e.g. SANParks), facilitated group interactions on concrete themes embedded in a beautiful and very diverse environment with high societal stakes coupled with major ecosystem threats.

Hosting organisations:

CNRS – The CNRS is involved through its Institute for Ecology and Environment (CNRS-INEE, www.cnrs.fr/inee), that runs the French Long-Term Social Ecological Research Network (Zones Ateliers). The CNRS-INEE coordinates the Hwange LTSER in Zimbabwe (www.za-hwange.cnrs.fr). It supports SES research at Nelson Mandela University (George Campus) and the initiative of creating a LTSER platform in the Garden Route. The CNRS-INEE hosts the French component of the Future Earth programme.

SAPECS – The Southern African Program on Ecosystem Change and Society (SAPECS, www.sapecs.org) is an international, transdisciplinary research program that aims to advance stewardship of social-ecological systems and ecosystem services in southern Africa. SAPECS is one of around 20 regional programs around the world that are part of the international Program on Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS, <http://www.pecs-science.org>), a core project of the Future Earth programme (<http://www.futureearth.org/>).

SRU – A locally and internationally relevant centre for ecosystems and society, the Sustainability Research Unit (<http://sru.mandela.ac.za/>) at the Nelson Mandela University collaborates in user inspired research, teaching and learning, and community engagement. The unit 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.

To register: (deadline 30th July)

NB:

- 1. The School will be limited to 20 young scholars**
- 2. School participants have an extended deadline (30th July) for submission of abstracts for poster presentations at the Garden Route Interface Meeting**

Contact person – Jackey Deacon (dot@mpu.co.za)

Costs – ZAR 5000 for 5 days (This includes the accommodation during the school and the registration to the Garden Route Interface Meeting. It does not include the accommodation during the Garden Route Interface Meeting).

Sponsorships – Several sponsorship options are available, some dedicated to French LTSER participants, others to SADC or South African (please contact Herve Fritz: herve.fritz@univ-lyon1.fr).

Announcement and call for abstracts

2nd Garden Route Interface Meeting

Science and management co-learning to navigate social-ecological issues



2-4 October 2018

Pine Lake Marina, Sedgefield, South Africa

Background: The Garden Route Interface Meeting is an annual event taking place in the Garden Route and providing a forum for researchers and practitioners interested in better understanding and managing (or navigating) social-ecological systems (SES) and their complex interactions and feedbacks. The 2017 meeting attracted 75 delegates and important discussion themes included the establishment of long-term social-ecological research sites, methods for and challenges in studying SES, sustainable resource use, adaptations and transformations in SES, ecosystem services and benefit flows, ways in which people connect with nature, and advice for bridging science-management divides.

Themes for the 2018 meeting: The overall aim of the meeting is to promote knowledge sharing, dialogue and networking related to learning about and managing SES. Both managers and scientists are invited to share their latest approaches, challenges, insights and findings. Contributions aligned with the following themes would be especially welcome:

- Use of social media to make sense of people-nature interactions
- Intertwined nature of social and ecological systems – connections, feedbacks, models ...
- Management approaches – stakeholder engagement, cooperative management, adaptive management ...
- Knowledge and learning for resilient SES – social learning, knowledge co-creation, transdisciplinary research ...

Submission Guidelines: Abstracts on novel approaches and findings with distinct management application can be submitted for three types of contributions:

- Posters: A1 size (59.4 x 84.1 cm) posters in either portrait or landscape orientation
- Presentations: 5 min speed talks or 15 min presentations

Abstracts of no longer than one page should be submitted to dot@mpu.co.za by 31 May 2018. Please indicate authors, presenter, affiliation details and presentation type. A programme will then be finalised and circulated.

Registration: R 1,500 (payable by 30 July 2018) includes attendance, teas and lunches for all three days and a symposium dinner. Please complete and submit the attached registration form. Due to the size of the venue and to allow for quality interaction, the **number of delegates will be capped at 100** on a first pay first accept basis.

Accommodation: 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>



2nd Garden Route Interface Meeting
Science and management co-learning to navigate social-ecological issues
2 – 4 October 2018 (3 days)

Pine Lake Marina, Sedgefield, South Africa

REGISTRATION AND ACCOMMODATION FORM

Please complete or indicate with 'X' wherever applicable and return to:
 Mpumalanga Promotion Events : Tel 082 447 1570 or E-mail : dot@mpu.co.za

TITLE: Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss		FIRST NAME: (For Name Tag)	
SURNAME:			
ORGANISATION:			
TELEPHONE	Code ()	Fax ()	Cell:
E-MAIL			
ACCOMPANYING PERSON'S FULL NAMES:			
DIETARY REQUIREMENTS	Vegetarian:	Other:	

Invoice Details: Address & **Vat number** (PLEASE COMPLETE IF YOU REQUIRE A TAX INVOICE TO MAKE PAYMENT)

Any queries regarding accommodation must be directed to Mpumalanga Promotions
 Tel: 082 447 1570, Fax: 086 6130 360 or email dot@mpu.co.za

Delegates Registration Fee	FEE	
1. Delegate fee (includes registration fee, teas, lunches for all three days and a symposium dinner on 3 October 2018)	R1500.00	
2. Daily Registration fee 2 Oct	R400.00	
3. Daily Registration fee 3 Oct	R600.00	
4. Daily Registration fee 4 Oct	R400.00	
Accommodation		
Various accommodation options are available at Pine Lake Marina at 10% discount for delegates, Please contact Jeanne on 044 349 2200 for details or visit their web page http://www.pinelakemarina.co.za/accommodation.aspx		
TOTAL PAYMENT		

PAYMENT TO BE MADE TO:
Mpumalanga Promotions Events, ABSA, Nelspruit Branch,
 Account number: **4065173200** Branch Code: **632005.**
ABSA Nelspruit, 20 Paul Kruger Street, Nelspruit , Swift Code ABSAZAJJ

Please use your **surname/GRIM** as your payment reference
 e.g. Smith/GRIM

Please send your booking form and deposit slip / proof of payment to Jackey Deacon at fax number 086 6130 360 or e-mail to dot@mpu.co.za

- **Payment due by 30 July 2018**