



## 6<sup>th</sup> SANAP Research Symposium

27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Hosted by Stellenbosch University

### BACKGROUND

The 6<sup>th</sup> SANAP symposium scheduled for 2020 could not take place due to the COVID pandemic. At this symposium, there was a planned celebration of the 200-year sighting of Antarctica. Now it is three years later, and, during this time, the wreck of the Endurance of Sir Ernest Shackleton was discovered and furthermore many research projects have come to an end. A new SANAP cycle started in 2021 and is nearing its end. South Africa is a gateway country and has been involved in the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic region since the Heroic age. The signing of the Antarctic Treaty 60th anniversary was celebrated in December 2019 with an exhibit at the Iziko Museum and the launch of 360-degree footage of the SANAE station. Two Weddell Sea expeditions were undertaken where SANAP researchers took part with our polar vessel the S.A. Agulhas II, as the logistical support platform to enable the wreck hunt for Sir Ernest Shackleton's Endurance. A lot has happened in the past 4 years since the last symposium and feedback on research and other activities within SANAP will feature on the program.

### AIM:

The purpose of this symposium is to facilitate the free exchange of scientific information within SANAP research. In the Marine and Antarctic Research strategy it states that: "The need for coordinated, extensive and targeted research in the marine and oceanic domain has been underlined. Coordination has become important as there has been a shift in marine science from resources and process studies that could be carried out by small groups or individuals to very large-scale regional climate and ecosystem studies, where the success, nooses and benefits lie in the coordination." One of the strategies outlined is: "creation of a society informed on the value of marine and Antarctic research initiatives."

### RESEARCH THEMES:

The following five thematic (vertical) areas were prioritised for research programmes, and are outlined in the Strategy, more details on them being located in the relevant research plans ( [Marine and Antarctic Research Strategy](#) and [Antarctic and Southern Ocean Plan](#))

- Oceans and marine ecosystems under global change
- Earth systems observations
- Ecosystems, biodiversity and biodiscovery
- Innovation and development
- Human Enterprise

### CROSS CUTTING TOPICS:

In addition, cross-cutting support interventions are identified and will be discussed, during the symposium:

- Coordination and governance

- Human capital development and transformation
- Research capacity development
- Public awareness and engagement
- Research Infrastructure and platforms
- Data management

## DISCUSSIONS:

There will be discussions related to the SANAP research community that will take place during the symposium:

- Discussion on the Marine and Antarctic Strategy (MARS) that need to be reviewed for the next 10-year cycle (2025-2035).
- Stakeholders within the program will be able to present (ex. DPWI).
- Feedback from science events such as SEAmester and the SCALE Expedition.
- feedback from the SANAP platform (website) and social media.
- Feedback from SCAR meetings such as SCAR Biology Symposium, SC-HASS, SCADM etc.
- Governance and administration will be allotted time to have all those involved on par with DSI, NRF and DFFE strategies.
- It will give the opportunity for the SA national committee for SCAR to have a face-to-face meeting.
- The newly established SAPRI will be presented.
- APECCSA meeting.
- Exhibits by the different projects within SANAP will be on display.
- Informal dinners, lunches and activities will allow time for the building of the SANAP society.
- Awards for presentations will be given to early-career scientists.
- A bid for the next meeting will be made and can be showcased to the community.

## FORMAT:

The Symposium will take place over a 4-day period. The symposium will consist of oral as well as e-poster presentations. This will all happen within a panel format and time will be made available for discussion and questions. This may include roundtable and 5-minute flash presentations.

**SANAP Community Building.** Activities to ensure community building will take place. A poll has been done and the symposium will take place during from 27 November 2023 to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 at the Houw Hoek Hotel, Grabouw, Western Cape where all attendees can be lodged together. This will allow the organisers to slot in evening events such as workshops and meetings and the 24 hours of the day will be utilised better. This will ensure that the conference does not extend over an excessive period thereby increasing efficiency and reducing cost. This will also allow the SANAP community to build a society and include the new generation of researchers.

It will be the first time that so many polar researchers will be together on the **1<sup>st</sup> December International Antarctic Day** the organizing committee is planning and Antarctic Breakfast to commemorate this International Day.