

Under the auspices of the Department of Science and Technology and National Research Foundation

## Letter from the Chairperson

The South African Global Change Science Committee, together with the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, through the AEON-Earth Stewardship Science Research Institute are excited to announce the hosting of the Second DST/NRF National Global Change Conference in Port Elizabeth between the dates of 1 and 5 December 2014, with the general theme of "Global Change Research in South Africa: towards integration across disciplines, sectors and scales".

The Global Change Grand Challenge (GCGC) is now in its 4th year of implementation and together with related NRF/DST programmes on global change issues have made significant progress in the two years since the first NRF/DST conference was held. The main purpose of this conference is to bring together the diverse global change research community in South Africa in order to share recent research progress and outcomes across the broad scope of the Global Change Grand Challenge programme. This will provide the opportunity to foster greater trans-disciplinary and inter-institutional integration and collaboration.

The conference also aims to provide an opportunity for post-graduate research students and emerging researchers to locate their work in a broader context; while providing a platform for awareness of the multiple opportunities that exist for career development. In addition, planning for a future global change research strategy that is under consideration will be discussed with the research community present at the meeting. Furthermore, several new national, regional and international initiatives focused in southern Africa have been or are being established in the area of global change research and it will be useful opportunity to consider how these could be better integrated

with existing and planned national research efforts.

The conference will be run in an innovative style, in that it will be paperless and will make maximum use of electronic format media for the flow of information and presentation of posters. A strong emphasis on fostering connectivity among students and between students, emerging researchers and established mentors will guide the programme. The DST and NRF are providing comprehensive funding especially to provide students the opportunity to attend and participate intensively, including a transport arrangement to NMMU from the main urban centres. This offer is available to full time students with approved abstracts for papers or posters only. Students with approved abstracts or posters who are from remote venues will have the opportunity to engage with the organizers for special travel arrangements.

In turn, the NMMU is providing generous access to conference facilities and on site residential accommodation.

**Prof Guy Midgley**

*Chairperson*

South African Global Change Science Committee

## Themes

The conference will be organised according to a broad set of themes which have emerged from our consultation with the community via the original expression of interest. These themes should provide a guideline for where to position your submission. (We will take cognizance of abstracts submitted under theme 10 "Other global change theme not specified above" when

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finalizing the theme structure for the conference sessions).

Based on submissions received, final session themes will be determined and communicated promptly via the website, which is an advantage of the electronic conference documentation approach.

These are the broad themes envisaged so far:

1. Fundamental science of global change and geobiodynamics (including observation and modeling of climatic, physical and biogeochemical systems and their interactions)
2. Paleo- biological, anthropological and ecological aspects of global change
3. Global change and the sectoral implications (including human settlements, human health and well being, marine and coastal systems and resources, biodiversity and ecosystem services and their conservation, agriculture and food security, hydrology and water resources)
4. Global change technologies, methodologies and tools (including adaptation, mitigation, and bio/geo-engineering)
5. Global change economics
6. Global change, environmental education and social learning
7. Sustainability and development (poverty alleviation, urban development, water, agriculture, food security, energy, and their integration)
8. Earth stewardship science and ethics
9. Trans-disciplinary/Inter-disciplinary research approaches
10. Other global change theme not specified above.

## Programme Outline

The conference programme will be announced finally in November 2014, but we will be updating the website regularly, and making regular email contact with those who have expressed interest.

### Sunday 30 November

Student Coaches – travel / arrival

16h00: Registration (venue to be confirmed)

19h00: Welcome / Social evening: Unitas/  
Veritas Clubhouse and Pool: NMMU

### Monday 1 December

07h30 – 17h30: Field Trips / Side Events

18h00: Registration (venue to be confirmed)

19h00: Braai: Unitas/ Veritas Clubhouse and  
pool: NMMU

### Tuesday 1 December

08h30 – 09h00: Registration

09h00 – 17h00: Conference – Opening Ceremony  
including a Plenary Session followed by Oral and  
Poster Presentations (NMMU South Campus)

19h00: Evening Interactive Event (sponsored  
canapés and drinks): NMMU South Campus

### Wednesday 2 December

08h30 – 09h00: ePoster viewing / Registration

09h00 – 17h00: Conference – Plenary Session  
including Oral and Poster Presentations (NMMU  
South Campus)

19h00: Global Change Dinner (sponsored): NMMU  
Indoor Sports Centre

### Thursday 3 December

08h30 – 09h00: ePoster viewing / Registration

09h00 – 17h00: Conference – Plenary Session  
including Oral and Poster Presentations (NMMU  
South Campus).

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## Friday 4 December

Student coaches – travel / departure

Side Events (information will be posted on the website).

## Keynote Speakers

We will attempt to engage keynote speakers as efficiently as possible, using technology to avoid expensive and carbon-heavy travel arrangements, and using local speakers with the requisite expertise and reputation as far as possible. We are delighted to announce that the world-leading experts on environmental economics, Robert Costanza (Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Canberra, Australia) has already agreed to provide a keynote address thus far. We will announce further developments on keynote speakers in due course.

## Field Trips

The following tentative field trip options have been identified – these will be confirmed in due course, based on the interest that delegates expressed in their registrations.

- Paleo-Landscapes of the Eastern Cape
- Observing and understanding Algoa Bay and its marine system dynamics
- Urban Sustainability and Township life
- Ecological Gradients and Biodiversity (Baviaanskloof and Gamtoos)
- Eastern Cape Conservation and Tourism (Addo Elephant National Park)
- Global Change in action: Industrial & Socio economic Development in Coega and the Port of Ngqura

- Energy Security: traditional, nuclear and sustainable energy production in concert.

## Side Events/Meeting and Short Courses

A range of meetings / short courses will be held on the Monday 1st December or Friday 5th of December. Should you be interested in hosting an event please contact Melanie directly on mel@icesolution.co.za.

A list of these will be available on our website in due course.

## Congress Venue

### NMMU, Port Elizabeth

All congress venues will be on NMMU South Campus

Nelson Mandela Bay Port Elizabeth

[http://www.nmmu.ac.za/www/media/Store/documents/On%20campus/Campus%20information%20and%20maps/South-Campus-\(PDF\).pdf](http://www.nmmu.ac.za/www/media/Store/documents/On%20campus/Campus%20information%20and%20maps/South-Campus-(PDF).pdf)

## Abstract Submission

- Papers/ posters for this congress will be requested during the 4th week of September
- Abstracts will be submitted online
- The closing date for submissions is 24 October 2014
- Abstracts received after this date will not be considered.

**E-Posters:** Posters will be displayed electronically

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Posters will be displayed electronically, specifications of this will be communicated to you when your abstract has been accepted.

## Registration

Registration will be open during the 4th week of September. You will be notified via email and on the website.

Registration will be done online with the option of paying via EFT.

### Registration fees:

Ordinary Delegates, including part-time students:  
R1000.00

Full Time Students: R200.00

### Social Functions

Sunday 30 November, Welcome / social evening

Monday 1 December, Braai

Costs will be advised in the next announcement.

## Transport

Coach transport will be provided at no cost to registered full time students who will present papers or posters.

### Arrival on 30 November

### Departure on 5 December

Cape Town – Port Elizabeth, return

Durban – Port Elizabeth, return

Johannesburg – Port Elizabeth, return

Travel schedules and departure points will be communicated in the final announcement and be made available on the website.

Note as mentioned above that full time students with approved abstracts who are from remote venues will have the opportunity to engage with the organizers for special travel arrangements.

## Accommodation

### Student Accommodation

Full time students will be provided with 4/3/2 roomed units at Protea Residence at no cost.

The accommodation will include breakfast daily and dinner on Thursday evening.

Please give some thought as to who you will be sharing with as this will be required when you complete your online registration.

### Hotel Accommodation

This will be detailed on the conference website.

Group Rates have been negotiated. Release dates will be applicable.

The necessary booking forms and rates for the different hotels will be available on the website by the end of September. You will be required to complete the reservation form applicable to the hotel of your choice and send it to them directly.

### Group rates have been negotiated with the following hotels:

*Protea Hotel Marine, Port Elizabeth*

*City Lodge, Port Elizabeth*

*Town Lodge, Port Elizabeth*

*Road Lodge, Port Elizabeth*

*Summerstrand Hotel*



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*The Boardwalk Hotel*

*NMMU Protea Residence including breakfast*

## Congress Secretariat:

### **ICE Solution**

Email:

mel@icesolution.co.za

or jeanne-marie@icesolution.co.za

Website: [www.icesolution.co.za](http://www.icesolution.co.za)

Cell Numbers:

Melanie: 082 898 6247

Jeanne-Marie: 076 802 7951

## Transfers

Airport transfers between the airport and hotels or NMMU Campus will be available to all delegates on Sunday 30 November and Monday 1 December and on Thursday afternoon. These will be determined by the flight schedules of those attending, and will be communicated with registered delegates and details will be available on the website.

Delegates not making use of the on-campus accommodation are requested to make their own arrangements for daily transport to the conference venue and evening functions.