

How OCIMS is contributing to South Africa's ocean governance and protection



UCT-SANCOR Seminar

By

Dr. Marjolaine Krug

Senior Scientific Advisor: Oceans and
Coastal Information Management System
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the
Environment

Date

Monday, 3 June 2024
13h00 SAST

In-person

UCT Oceanography Seminar Room,
RW James Building ([map](#))

Online

[Click here](#) to register for the online link.

About the Speaker

Marjolaine Krug holds a PhD in physical oceanography from the University of Cape Town. Her research has focused on the dynamics and variability of the Agulhas current as well as interactions between the Agulhas current and the coastal and shelf regions. She has worked extensively with satellite remote sensing data and pioneered the deployment of underwater gliders in the Agulhas current. Krug is currently employed as a senior scientific advisor within the South African Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, where she manages the national Oceans and Coastal Information Management System.

Abstract

The vast extent of South Africa maritime domain presents both opportunities for ocean economic growth as well as challenges for its protection and preservation. To address these challenges, the South African government developed the National Oceans and Coastal Information Management System (OCIMS). The OCIMS provides an easy-to-access platform where ocean data and knowledge are shared across public and private sectors to improve ocean protection and management and promote the development of an environmentally conscious ocean economy. The OCIMS improves the monitoring of illegal activity at sea, search and rescue efforts and the monitoring of water quality and harmful algal blooms. The OCIMS also supports Marine Spatial Planning and increases preparedness against coastal hazards. Information is provided through a web portal and during high-risk periods, alerts are communicated to targeted stakeholder groups for increased awareness. The OCIMS is used daily by government departments, industry stakeholders and non-profit organizations. The OCIMS is supported by the Marine Information Management System: a dedicated IT infrastructure supporting data management and data analytics. A key strength of OCIMS lies in its user-centric approach. Extensive stakeholder engagements have been pivotal in shaping the system's development and ensuring its relevance to end-users. The major users of the system are also partners who contribute to the system by sharing data and expertise. This OCIMS is a unique offering in the region, catering to the South African specific needs around integrated ocean governance encompassing sustainability, compliance, and promotion of the ocean economy. The success of OCIMS underscores the critical role that collaborative partnerships, stakeholder engagement, and sustained funding play in advancing effective ocean governance strategies.