

ACEP SMART ZONE MPA PROJECT
Post-graduate opportunities (Masters)

The ACEP SMART ZONE MPA PROJECT seeks nine Masters students to participate in different aspects of this Marine Protected Area (MPA) social-ecological research programme. Prospective students must (a) be South African and (b) have obtained 65% or above for their Honours degrees. Please contact the person under “Contact” in the Table below to express your interest. Please provide a one-page cover letter and your CV (deadline 21 May 2021). If selected (there is no guarantee of selection), candidates will then need to apply online for an NRF bursary for 2022-2023 (deadline differs per University but is around the 15 June 2021). Please see the NRF website for details:

<https://www.nrf.ac.za/bursaries/framework-documents/bursaries-framework-documents>

The aims of the ACEP SMART ZONE PROJECT are to: 1) assess the potential for the new uThukela MPA to achieve its stated specific objectives in the future once management is fully in place, given its designated boundaries and zonation scheme; and 2) contribute a quantitative science-based case-study that couples management action with socio-ecological outcomes, measured against the specific objectives of the MPA, and informs the global discussion about MPA importance for ocean health and human well-being. The project is led by Professor Mandy Lombard of Nelson Mandela University and being implemented in partnership with WILDOCEANS, DFFE, SAEON, UKZN, UNIZUL, CGS, SAIAB and Ezemvelo.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Supervisor</i>			<i>Co-supervisor</i>			<i>Topic</i>	<i>Duration</i>		<i>Contact</i>
<i>Level</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>		<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	
Masters	Dr / Prof	Jean Harris / Mandy Lombard	Nelson Mandela University (NMU)	Drs	Toufiek Samaai, Welly Qwabe, Jennifer Olbers, Lucy Woodall	Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), WILDTRUST, University of Oxford	uThukela MPA Ecosystem structure of mesophotic reef communities across different management zones (ROV and drop camera surveys)	√	√	Jennifer Olbers - jenniferol@wildtrust.co.za
Masters	Dr	Anthony Bernard	South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB)	Dr	Lauren De Vos	WILDTRUST	A baseline baited remote underwater stereo video (stereo-BRUVs) assessment of the uThukela Banks fish communities across depth and management zones.	√	√	Lauren De Vos laurendv@wildtrust.co.za
Masters	Prof	Juliet Hermes	South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON)	Dr	Tamaryn Morris	South African Weather Service (SAWS)	Assessing techniques to successfully monitor a complex MPA oceanographically	√	√	Tamaryn Morris - tamaryn.morris@weathersa.co.za

Masters	Dr	Shael Harris	Nelson Mandela University (NMU)	Dr	Dr Nicola Carrasco	University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)	Larval fish assemblages associated with reefs in the different management zones in the uThukela Banks MPA	√	√	Nicola Carrasco - carrasco@ukzn.ac.za
Masters	Dr	Nicola Carrasco	University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)	Dr	Dr Shael Harris	Nelson Mandela University (NMU)	Meroplankton assemblages associated with reefs in the different management zones in the uThukela Banks MPA	√	√	Nicola Carrasco - carrasco@ukzn.ac.za
Masters	Dr	Nina Rivers	Nelson Mandela University (NMU)	Profs	Berny Snow/ Cathy Sutherland	University of Strathclyde/ University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)	Indigenous and local knowledge mapping to understand the socio-economic context of the uThukela estuary, KZN	√	√	Nina Rivers - nina.rivers@gmail.com
Masters	Prof/ Dr	Berny Snow/ Nina Rivers	University of / Strathclyde/ Nelson Mandela University (NMU)	Miss	Mia Strand	Nelson Mandela University (NMU)	Arts-based participatory research for sustainable and inclusive management of 3 MPAs in KwaZulu-Natal	√	√	Mia Strand - miavstrand@gmail.com
Masters	Prof	Cathy Sutherland	University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)	Prof	Bernadette Snow	University of Strathclyde	Understanding socio-environmental relations of the uThukela MPA: a political ecology approach	√	√	Cathy Sutherland - sutherlandc@ukzn.ac.za
Masters	Dr	Angus Macdonald	University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)	Dr	Shael Harris	Nelson Mandela University (NMU)	eDNA study to detect larval stages of reef fish, and compare with net plankton and BRUV fish sampling techniques	√	√	Angus Macdonald - Macdonalda@ukzn.ac.za