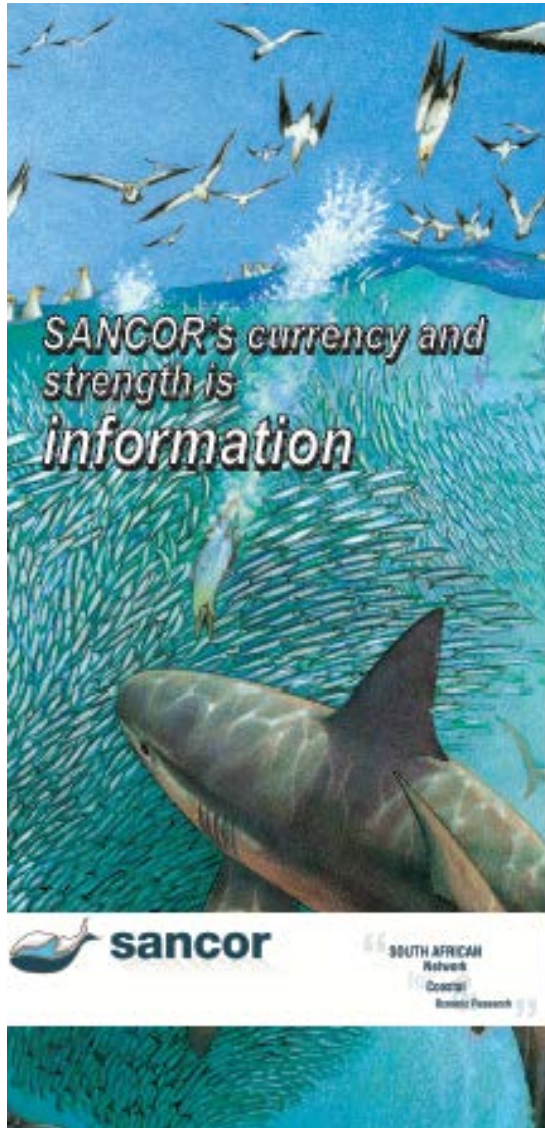


South African Network for Coastal and Oceanic Research - Annual Forum 2014: Durban, KwaZulu-Natal

Contributing to the National Marine
Plan.

Mission of SANCOR

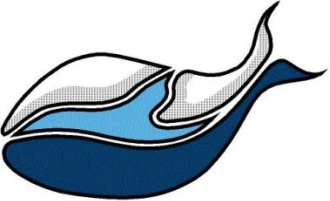


SANCOR promotes, facilitates and coordinates excellence in marine and coastal research and education for the benefit of South Africa.



Activities

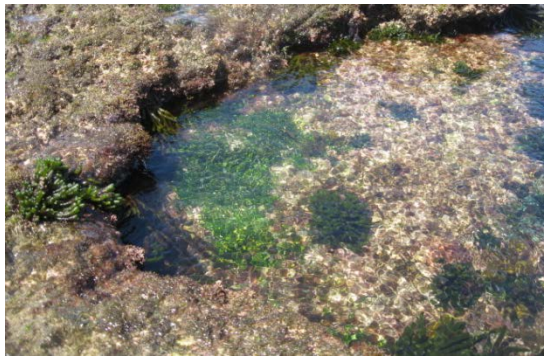
- 'Broker' between funding agencies and scientists
- Forum for interactive collaboration, communication
- Research Programme: SEACChange
- 4-yearly SA Marine Science Symposia
- Awards to leading scientists, technicians & students
- Mailing list



SANCOR

Strengths and weaknesses

- In touch with established and emerging scientists and students
- Major role in dissemination of information
- Major role in capacity building, skills transfer, transformation
- Relevance of activities
- Current hiatus in the research programme





SANCOR and National Marine Research Plan

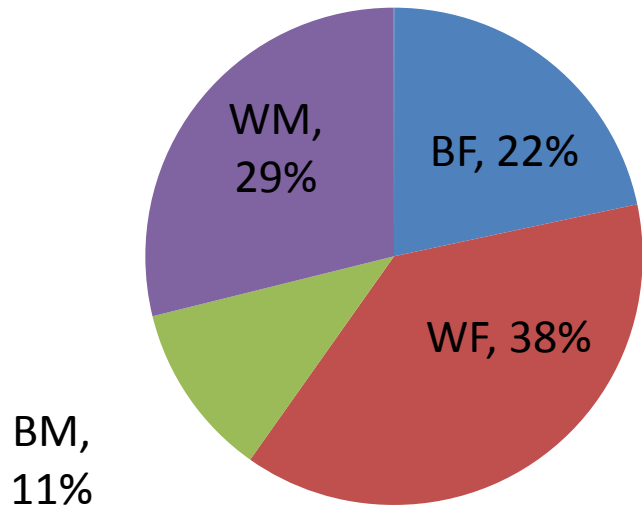
- Identifies national priorities
- Provides an opportunity to re-positioning SANCOR in relation to these priorities
- How can SANCOR provide support to implementing the plan?
- What are the support structures required?



How can we support students and emerging researchers better?

- Ask our students and emerging scientists:
 - Have they benefited from SANCOR in the past?
 - Are our activities relevant?
 - What retains them in the system?
 - What drives the decision to stay at Higher Education institutions?
 - What supporting activities are required?
 - How do we increase their success in their early careers?

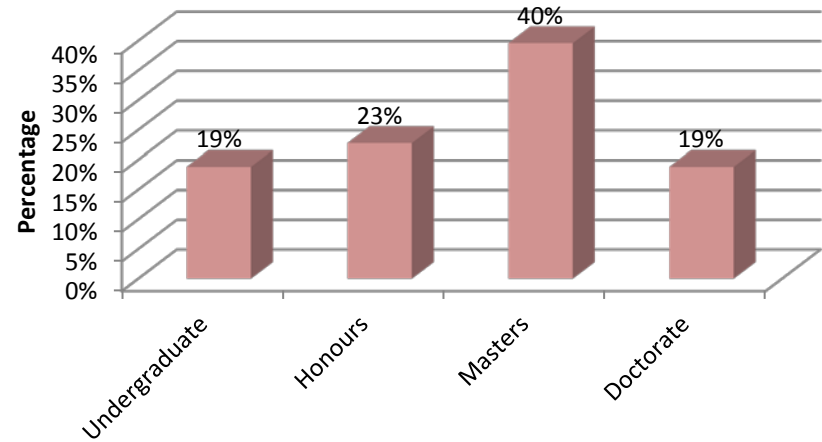
Race and Gender of Survey Participants



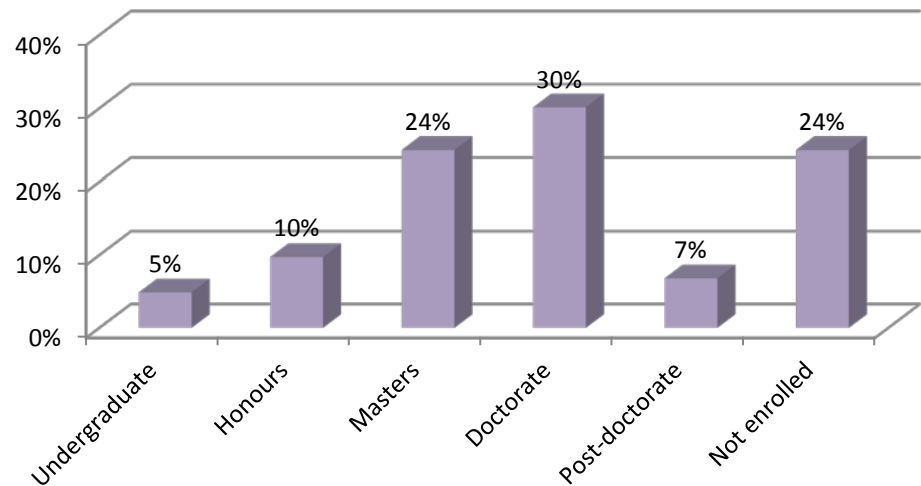
BM,
11%

* 103 responses

Highest qualification

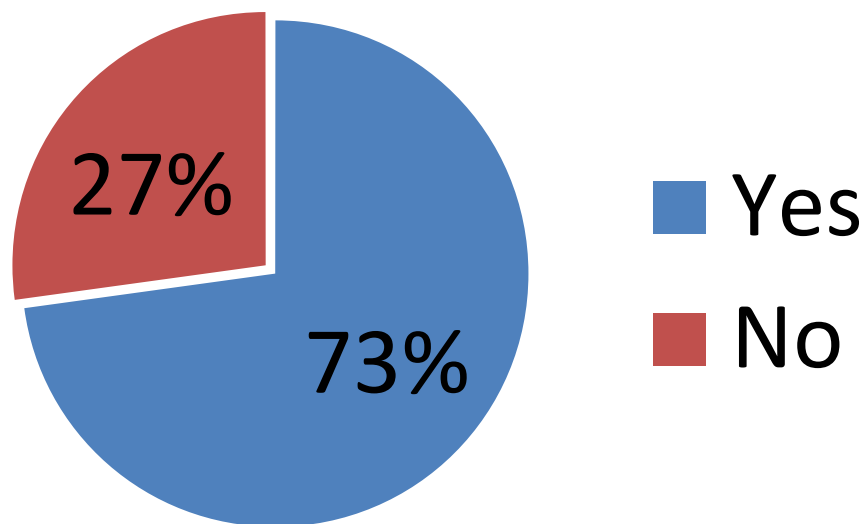


Current enrollment



Have they benefited from SANCOR in the past?

Have you benefited from SANCOR activities in the past?



- Seminars
- Announcements on
 - Vacancies
 - Bursaries
 - Conferences
 - Courses
- Student Workshops
- SAMSS
- Travel grant
- SANCOR Forum

What retains our students in the system?

- “Interest in topic, future prospects, and availability of funding.”
- “lack of applicable skills to begin a career in science”
- “I have just wanted a PhD”
- “Enjoyment of research”
- “I am interested in marine biology and want to know more. I would like to bridge the gap between academics/scientists and the general public. I would like to create public awareness of environmental issues.”

What kinds of activities would you like SANCOR to run to support the development of your career?

- Skill specific workshops - Workshops that are broadly applicable to marine/coastal scientists:
 - specific GIS applications,
 - population genetics software,
 - climate modeling of oceanic systems,
 - marine geology
 - Statistics
- “Offer internship on relevant marine science areas, Sponsoring students for courses in marine science field”
- More networking opportunities
- “How to enter the academic funding realm and how to access funding.”
- Job shadowing



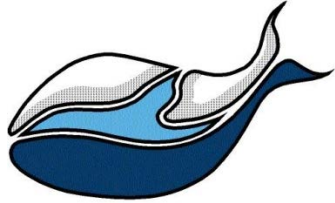
What are the opportunities?

- The NMRP calls for:
 - Research skills development
 - What are the existing strategic skills and gaps required to implement the plan?
 - Human capacity development
 - Dedicated internship programmes
 - Learn from current transformation programmes – aim for a more national reach & more energetic, directed approach
 - Public awareness and understanding of science – “Communication Strategy”
 - Transferring knowledge to other sectors of the public



Long-term Goals of SANCOR

- Coordinate and disseminate information
- Growing a representative science and technology workforce in South Africa
- Contributing to a vibrant national innovation system
- Providing support for transferring marine science into relevant policy and building capacity in relevant sectors,
- Growing a marine internship program
- Induction of young learners into marine science
 - MCEN activities facilitate this
 - How can SANCOR further support this?



SANCOR

Conclusion

- The NMRP provides a fantastic opportunity to further marine & coastal science in South Africa.
- The will of SANCOR is strong to play a major role in the implementation of the NMRP but we require the support (sustained) to put that will into action.
- The SSC needs your input, the network has to serve the best interests of Marine and Coastal Science.

