

KIMBERLEY BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2022

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The Kimberley Biodiversity Research Symposium (KBRS) is an annual meeting that aims to share knowledge and research about biodiversity in the arid Northern Cape biome. The KBRS was established 19 years ago and has become a popular event on the symposium timetable regionally. The co-hosting organisations have responsibilities and interests in the Northern Cape, including SANParks, Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAERL), McGregor Museum, Sol Plaatje University, South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and South African Environmental Observatory Network (SAEON).

In November 2022, the 17th annual KBRS was hosted, the first since COVID-19 setbacks. The purpose of KBRS is to provide local scientists, researchers and students with the opportunity to share results and experiences regarding biodiversity research initially conducted in the greater Kimberley area, but now also including other parts of the Northern Cape. Since the KBRS is intended as a local-focus research symposium it recently created a logo that represents quintessential symbols of the Northern Cape Province, including a gemsbok, a diamond and a camel thorn tree embedded within a map of the province.

SAMSS VISION 2022:
SOUTHERN AFRICAN MARINE SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

Alison Kock & Sisanda Mayekiso

The Southern African Marine Science Symposium, Africa's premier marine science conference, took place in Durban in June 2022, with good representation from SANParks' Cape Research Centre and Alison serving on the scientific committee. The symposium united passionate researchers interested in cutting-edge technology and environmental challenges. Focused on exploring the connections between past and present marine science, the conference aimed to shape the future of marine ecosystems and communities reliant on them.

We gave three presentations covering apex predator movements in relation to marine protected areas and shared exciting results from Table Mountain and West Coast National Park MPA biodiversity monitoring programs. Despite COVID-related budget constraints, the Wildoceans' Ocean Stewards Project enabled the Cape Research Centre's marine team to attend the conference. Collaboration was enhanced through networking, particularly with SAEON colleagues, to improve the biomonitoring program by upgrading equipment to stereo-baited remote underwater videos. The symposium fostered a collective commitment to a sustainable future for our oceans.

