

8th Garden Route Interface and Networking (GRIN) Meeting

Villa Castollini, Brenton-on-Sea, South Africa

13 – 15 October 2026

Programme

Tuesday 13 October

07:30 Registration and coffee (45 min)

08:15 Welcome and Opening

Victor Mokoena

Opening and welcoming of GRIN community (5 min)

Dirk Roux & Nelsiwe Mpapane Setting the GRIN scene (5 min)

08:25 Session 1: Co-imagining social-ecological futures: creative engagement, collaboration, and inclusive knowledge practices (Chair: Dirk Roux)

1. **Jeanne Nel:** Mobilizing stakeholders to imagine their future: creative practice for landscape planning (Keynote, 20 min)
2. **Jacqueline Uku:** Co-imagining more inclusive ocean futures in the West Indian ocean through art (15 min)
3. **Liebrecht Fick:** Co-imagining social-ecological futures: a scoping review of the use of arts-based research practices (10 min)
4. **Louise Gammage:** Advancing ocean transformation through evolving transdisciplinary practice: practical learnings from a community-based project (15 min)
5. **Melanie de Morney:** Quiet voices in loud spaces: rethinking networking and collaboration in conservation (10 min)

09h35 Session discussion (30 min)

10:05 Group photo and refreshment break (40 min)

10:45 Session 2: Education and skills development: What new skills do we need, which old ones have we forgotten and how impactful are our interventions? (Chair: Nelsiwe Mpapane)

1. **Eureta Rosenberg:** The changing nature of conservation work and the skills we need to do it (15 min)
2. **Parmveer Singh:** Strengthening the role of mentors in sustainability focused educational programs: Lessons learned from Transdisciplinary International Learning Labs (10 min)
3. **Sukhmani K. Mantel:** Bridging silos: advancing nature-based solutions implementation through capacity building of students and professionals (10 min)

4. **Siphesihle Mbongwa:** Collaboration and Co-learning in Conservation: Case Study, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (10 min)
5. **Christopher Patton:** Using different partnerships, stakeholder engagements, techniques and structures to create interpretation centres and interpretive display boards in South African National Parks (5 min)
6. **Vuyiswa Radebe:** Ecostudy environmental education programme: fostering active stewardship among grade 6 learners in KwaZulu-Natal protected area border communities (10 min)
7. **Mzukisi Kuse:** Evaluating value created in training green and social entrepreneurs: Lessons from a co-creating partnership in the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve (5 min)
8. **Hervé Fritz:** Progressive loss of personalised ecology in scientists and possible consequences for social-ecological studies and interface research – a personal perspective (15 min)

12:05 Session discussion (30 min)

12:35 Lunch (60 min)

13:35 Session 3: Bridging Science-Policy-Practice Interfaces in Social-Ecological Systems (Chair: Izak Smit)

1. **Julia Van Velden:** *Koedoe*: reinvigorating and reimagining a vital regional conservation journal (15 min)
2. **Linda Downsborough:** INSAKA: Reflecting on the past, shaping the future of social-ecological research (15 min)
3. **Johan Enqvist:** Local level perspectives on opportunities and challenges to implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework: cases in Sweden and South Africa (15 min)
4. **Chikondi Banda Thole:** Governance systems of natural resource management for sustainable tourism development of national parks in Zambia (10 min)
5. **Sibongiseni Hlabisa:** Knowledge systems as conservation infrastructure: information, coordination, and governance in social–ecological systems (Poster)
6. **Keith Bosak:** Social-ecological systems thinking for transboundary tourism development in KAZA TFCA. (Poster)

14:30 Session discussion (30 min)

15:00 Refreshment break (30 min)

15:30 Session 3 (continued): Bridging Science-Policy-Practice Interfaces in Social-Ecological Systems (Chair: Phokela Lebea)

1. **Marienne de Villiers:** Conservation curve balls: eight years into the Anysberg Nature Reserve and World Heritage Site protected area management plan (15 min)
2. **Neale Howarth:** Policy intent and conservation priorities: NCP framing and scale in the Addo-Amathole biodiversity economy node (15 min)
3. **Thandiwe Mpala:** From EIA to Permit: How Regulatory Sequences Produce SDG Trade-offs in Durban's Pier 2 Expansion (5 min)
4. **Ancois de Villiers:** Guidance for Conserving African Biodiversity in a Changing Climate (10 min)
5. **Phillip Nagel:** Regulating biodiversity adaptation to climate change in South Africa (10 min)

16:25 Session discussion (30 min)

17:00 Pre-dinner drinks and socialising

18:00 GRIN Dinner

Wednesday 14 October

07:30 Refreshments

08:15 Session 4: People-Nature relationship as shaped by Human Wildlife Co-existence (Chair: Julia van Velden)

1. **Kinga Psiuk:** From understanding to engagement: experimenting with a dialogue process for human-baboon conflict transformation (15 min)
2. **Louise Swemmer:** Cattle, conservation and collaboration –a reflection on the challenges and opportunities of farming cattle while conserving wildlife in the Greater Kruger (15 min)
3. **Jona Heita:** Livestock farmers' behaviours towards livestock protection and influence on human-wildlife conflict in Sheya ShuUushona Conservancy, Namibia (10 min)
4. **Joe Mbaiwa:** Human–wildlife co-existence in Botswana (10 min)
5. **Vusumzi Martins:** From conflict to coexistence: reframing human–wildlife interactions in social-ecological systems (5 min)
6. **Johan Enqvist:** Beyond polarisation: understanding experiences, attitudes and management preferences for urban baboons among Cape Town residents (Poster)

09:10 Session discussion (30 min)

09:40 Refreshment break (30 min)

10:10 Session 5: People-Nature relationship as shaped by benefit sharing and resource use (Chair: George Sekonya)

1. **Bimo Nkhata:** Resilience and equity: benefit sharing as the missing link in global environmental change research (15 min)
2. **Chloe Guerbois:** Wild harvest: understanding and recognising wild products harvesting by indigenous and local communities to promote environmental justice and halt biodiversity erosion (10 min)
3. **Klarine Engelbrecht:** Measuring the impact of South African National Park's Wildlife Economy Program on human wellbeing and biodiversity conservation (5 min)
4. **Valeria Mendez:** Users-institutions mismatches in perceptions of protected area barriers to access conservation benefits (5 min)
5. **Chiedza Mutanga:** Tourism growth, governance, and residents' attitudes toward tourism expansion in a wildlife-based destination: Evidence from Kasane, Botswana (Poster)

10:45 Session discussion (30 min)

11:15 Session 6: People and Nature relationship as shaped by knowledge systems and values (Chair: Hervé Fritz)

1. **Elaina Guilmette:** Co-creating knowledge 'in a good way' in research with indigenous peoples: insights from collaborative autoethnography (15 min)
2. **Pierre-Cyril Renaud:** Reframing human–nature connections through community-based wildlife management: lessons from SWM-Gabon (15 min)
3. **Obakeng Mogale:** Geo-visualising medicinal plant knowledge to mitigate plant blindness: a GIS and remote sensing approach (15 min)
4. **Salmay Hindle:** Creative participatory methodologies for SES research: exploring the diverse values of nature at GRIN (15 minutes – interactive)

12:15 Session discussion (30 min)

12:45 Lunch (60 min)

13:45 Session 7: Restoring People and Nature relationships in urban spaces (Chair: Phumla Nyathikazi)

1. **Katherine Forbes:** Community-Led Rehabilitation of Marginalised Villages Through Closed-Loop Sanitation, Soil Regeneration, and Social-Ecological Restoration (15 min)
2. **Magdalena Moos:** Restoring Concordia: Community-Led River Rehabilitation, Indigenous Biodiversity Recovery, and People-Centred Regenerative Landscapes (10 min + Poster)
3. **Makgethwa J. Masemola:** How well do local policies manage homelessness associated with urban rivers? The Liesbeek River case study, Observatory, Cape Town (5 min)
4. **Kerotse Kekana:** Exploring feedbacks between community resilience and public policy: insights from global ecovillage case studies (10 min)

14:25 Session discussion (30 min)

15:00 Connecting with nature and each other through a walk & sundowners at Brenton on Sea

Thursday 15 October

07:30 Refreshments

08:15 Session 8: Restoring, rebuilding and growing relational cohesion between conservation and communities through inclusivity (Chair: Chloé Guerbois)

1. **Keith Bosak:** Justice and social capital as relational infrastructure in conservation conflicts (15 min)
2. **Nomvuselelo Songelwa:** Cohesion or Contestation? Rethinking Social Cohesion in South Africa's Conservation Landscapes (15 min)
3. **Vanessa Masterson:** Masculinities in conservation science, policy and practice: a qualitative systematic review and insights for South African conservation (15 min)
4. **Jeremy van der Riet:** From exclusion to ownership: Rebuilding conservation through inclusive community institutions (15 min)
5. **Nicia Giva:** Equity, justice, and inclusivity in conservation intervention: An experience of the OLOH project (10 min)
6. **Melanie de Morney:** Quiet voices in loud spaces: rethinking networking and collaboration in conservation (5 min feedback from exercise on day 1)

09:30 Session discussion (30 min)

10:00 Refreshment break (30 min)

10:30 Session 9: Integrating People and Nature across landscapes - landscape histories and pathways towards (mega) living landscapes (Chair: Alta de Vos)

1. **Kim Zoeller:** Identifying transformation pathways in Southern African conservation landscapes: historical analysis of change dynamics (15 min)
2. **Michael Klaver:** Centuries of change: exploring historical biodiversity-related transformative change in the Greater Addo Mega Living Landscape, South Africa (15 min)
3. **Lisa Moon:** Spatio-temporal land use and land cover change across South Africa's proposed mega living landscapes (15 min)
4. **Rob O'Donoghue:** Reframing conservation ecology for biocultural learning to restore indigenous 'living landscapes' and livelihoods within regional biospheres in southern Africa (15 min)
5. **Caroline Wallington:** How global dynamics land in local places: a historical analysis of the Klein Karoo through a social-ecological regime shifts lens (poster)

11:30 Session discussion (30 min)

12:00 Session 10: Reflecting on GRIN and Closure (Chair: Stef Freitag)

12:30 Lunch and departure from Villa Castolini