



iAtlantic Project Science to Policy Workshop

Date: 14-16 March 2023

Venue: Colophon Room, CBC Building, SANBI, Kirstenbosch Gardens, Cape Town

Registration Closing Date: 20 February 2023

Registration link: [iAtlantic Science to Policy Registration Link](#)

Enquiries: Lisa Skein (l.skein@sanbi.org.za)

The iAtlantic Project aims to deliver knowledge that is critical for responsible and sustainable management of Atlantic Ocean ecosystems and resources in an era of unprecedented global change. iAtlantic places capacity building at the core of its mission: expanding technological capabilities and enhancing human capacities to acquire, analyse and interpret marine datasets, and to transfer that knowledge to the development of improved strategies for the sustainable management and use of marine resources.

The SeaMap Project, through the Foundational Biodiversity Information Programme (FBIP) aims to generate, manage and disseminate foundational offshore marine invertebrate information and knowledge to inform decision-making. Outputs from SeaMap (data records and genetic baseline information) will contribute towards critical baseline information against which biodiversity changes can be measured. Empowering emerging scientists to access foundational information and use it to inform policy is core to the programme.

The [iAtlantic Project](#) and [SeaMap Project](#) are collaborating on this workshop to contribute to the development of capacity in policy advice, sharing lessons learnt in South Africa on how to transfer science into the policy realm so that science is served in a manner that can be taken up into policy and decision making. The workshop will help emerging researchers to influence policy through their science and gain confidence in working across the science-policy continuum. This is hoped to encourage scientists who may feel intimidated to interact

in the policy realm and in international workshops, and improve their ability to communicate and package their work.

Workshop aims:

1. Introduce and build an understanding of the science to policy value chain
2. Build understanding of mainstreaming and share SANBI lessons in this context
3. Build skills in science communication for policy uptake

Workshop process:

The workshop will involve a range of formats from input followed by question-answer time to panel conversations to individual reflection and small group work, including case-based exercises. You can expect to be fully engaged, and the success of the workshop will depend on the extent to which all participants bring themselves actively into the learning process.

The programme has been prepared according to this broad outline, but the facilitators will work with what comes up in the process and adapt if necessary:

Day 1: Wednesday 14 March

- Welcome
- Introductions – getting to know each other, our work and our relationship with policy
- Workshop context
- Exploring the idea of mainstreaming – individual and group work
- SANBI's experience with biodiversity mainstreaming -
- Catalysing change through mainstreaming – panel conversation

Day 2: Thursday 15 March

- Science communication for decision makers
- Case-based exercises – small group work

Day 3: Thursday 16 March

- Feedback on case-based exercises
- Learning out of case-based exercises
- Evaluation of workshop process
- Closure

Should you wish to attend this workshop, please fill in the registration form using this link:

[iAtlantic Science to Policy Registration Link](#)

The project has limited funds available to facilitate participation of South African students and early career scientists, so please enter as much detail on the last question to motivate for travel assistance if this is required.

More about iAtlantic

Involving marine scientists from countries bordering the north and south Atlantic Ocean, this ambitious project will determine the resilience of deep-sea animals – and their habitats – to threats such as temperature rise, pollution and human activities.

iAtlantic is undertaking an ocean-wide approach to understanding the factors that influence the distribution, stability and vulnerability of deep-sea ecosystems. Work spans the full scale of the Atlantic basin, from the tip of Argentina in the south to Iceland in the north, and from the east coasts of USA and Brazil to the western margins of Europe and Africa. Central to the project's success is the international collaboration between scientists throughout the Atlantic region, with sharing of expertise, equipment, infrastructure, data and personnel placed at the forefront of iAtlantic's approach.

Capacity building activities are an inherent component of all aspects of the iAtlantic work programme, designed to optimise the learning opportunities provided by the project's many scientific activities. These range from opportunities for researchers to gain hands-on data collection skills on board the 30+ research expeditions planned during the project, to participation in a series of technical workshops, seminars and training sessions that span the range of disciplines in iAtlantic.

iAtlantic's capacity building programme revolves around 5 key themes: Transfer of technologies, facilities and experimental techniques, Researcher mobility (seagoing opportunities; researcher exchange), Analytical techniques, dataset manipulation and integration, Policy and governance, and Transferable scientific skills.

More information about SeaMap can be accessed here: <https://enews.saeon.ac.za/issue-01-2022/seamap-mapping-marine-biodiversity-to-detect-change-and-support-south-africas-ocean-economy/>