



science
& technology

Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SANBI

Biodiversity for Life



South African National Biodiversity Institute



Natural Science Collections Facility

SOUTH AFRICA

Launch

Alpine Heath, Drakensberg, KwaZulu-Natal
17 October 2017

Starting time: 17:30 for 18:00

Presentations: 18:00–19:45

Programme Director: Ms Carmel Mbizvo, Head of Branch, Biodiversity Science and Policy Advice, SANBI

- **Welcome on behalf of SANBI**
(Dr Moshibudi Rampedi, CEO of SANBI)
- **Opening remarks**
(Ms Nana Magomola, Chair, SANBI Board)
- **The South African Research Infrastructure Roadmap**
(Dr Daniel Adams, Chief Director, Basic Sciences and Infrastructure, Department of Science & Technology)
- **The Natural Science Collections Facility: overview of the vision, mission and objectives**
(Prof. Ramagwai Sebola, Chief Director, Biosystematics)
- **Building the NSCF**
(Prof. Michelle Hamer, Director, Biosystematics Research & Collections Initiatives)
- **Vote of thanks**
(Ms Nokulunga Mngeta, Chair, SANBI's Research, Development and Innovation Committee)

Buffet Dinner: 19:45 onwards

Dress: Smart casual

Note: Soft drinks are included in the dinner. A cash bar will be available for other drinks.



Natural Science Collections Forum Programme

18 October 2017

08:00–08:10: Introduction to the forum (Michelle Hamer)
 08:10–13:00: Presentations by institutions

Time	Presentation	Institution
Session 1		
Chair: Romala Govender		
Iziko SAM		
08:10–08:35	Overview, entomology, arachnology, acari, nematodes	ARC–PPRI, Biosystematics
08:35–08:55	Overview, mammals, birds, herpetology, Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, general entomology/ invertebrates, archaeozoology, palaeontology	Ditsong National Museum of Natural History
08:55–09:10	SANBI Herbaria (overview, national, KZN, Compton)	SANBI, Biosystematics
09:10–09:20	Bolus Herbarium	UCT, Botany
09:20–09:30	Bews Herbarium	UKZN, Life Sciences
09:30–09:40	Moss Herbarium	WITS, Plant Sciences
09:40–09:50	Overview, molluscs, birds, other	East London Museum
09:50–10:10	Overview, molluscs, entomology, invertebrates, earthworms, herpetology	KZN Museum

10:10–10:40 **Tea**

Session 2		
Chair: Mashiane Mothogoane		
SANBI		
10:40–11:00	Overview, mammals, birds, entomology	Durban Natural Science Museum
11:00–11:10	Palaeontology collections	WITS, Evolutionary Studies Institute
11:10–11:25	Overview, freshwater invertebrates, entomology, palaeontology, botany	Albany Museum
11:25–11:40	Overview, fish, amphibians, other	South African Institute of Aquatic Biodiversity
11:40–11:55	Overview, marine mammals, herpetology, others	Port Elizabeth Museum
11:55–12:05	Overview and mammals	Amatole Museum
12:05–12:30	Overview, vertebrates, entomology, marine invertebrates, palaeontology	Iziko South African Museum
12:30–12:50	Overview, mammals, birds, herpetology, entomology, arachnids, mites	National Museum
12:50–13:00	Overview, ticks, helminths, insect vectors	Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute

13:00–14:00 **Lunch**



Natural science collections and a changing world

Time	Presentation	Institution
Session 3	Chair: Luthando Maphasa	KZN Museum
14:00–14:30	Trends in collections and research on these: plant collections	Prof. Muthama Muasya (UCT)
14:30–14:50	Investigating fossils using new technologies	Dr Bernhard Zipfel, Evolutionary Studies Institute (WITS)
14:50–15:10	Natural science collections and permits	Karin Behr (SANBI)
15:10–15:40	Tea	
15:40–16:00	Reflecting on change and the NSCF: what does it mean for us?	Video
16:00–16:30	Group discussions on what changes are required to form a NSCF community	All
16:30–17:30	Plenary – report back by groups and decisions about main changes required from staff	Facilitators: Anthony Magee; Fred Kigozi

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Getting input on the implementation of activities to achieve objectives

Time	Presentation	Presenter / Institution
Session 4	Facilitator: Michelle Hamer	SANBI
08:00–08:30	Review of objectives and activities to achieve these and introduction to group work	Michelle Hamer
08:45–10:00	NSCF working groups and discussion groups	All
10:00–10:30	Tea	
10:30–13:00	NSCF working groups and discussion groups (continued)	All



Working group meetings

1. Curation and Collection Management Working Group

Securing collections: what are the most common challenges related to curation/collection management? How do we start to address the challenges? **[Chair: Leigh Richards]**

2. Data Working Group

Decisions from first meeting; three areas for discussion and to develop outputs: 1. List of policies and workflows to be developed; 2. Developing the workflow for the data migration to Specify and for data upgrading; 3. What is the virtual museum? **[Chair: Albe Bosman]**

3. Co-ordinating committee meeting for members of the committee

Progress report; monitoring outputs; change management contract; proposals for grants for postdocs, MSc bursaries, visiting scientists and accelerated species descriptions. **[Chair: Michelle Hamer]**

Discussion groups

1. Outreach and Education Discussion Group

Exhibits and other mechanisms for outreach and communication for the public and learners: promoting the value of natural science collections and associated research; using natural science collections for education projects / contribution to curriculum. Discussion of ideas and potential projects. **[Chair: Vivian Malema]**

2. Accessioning and deaccessioning of material

What are some of the main issues about accessioning and deaccessioning specimens that we need to think about? What are the processes that we need to have to ensure that our collections are of high quality for research, and to avoid contamination? **[Chair to be decided by group]**

3. Access to collections

Loans, visitors, destructive sampling: agreeing on some of the main principles for implementation across institutions (all types of collections). **[Chair to be decided by group]**

4. Professionalising posts in natural science collections

What are the issues that need to be dealt with? Are these different for different categories of staff (scientists, technicians, assistants)? What actions are required? **[Chair: Wayne Florence]**

5. Career development for young collection-based scientists

What are the challenges and what needs to be done to address these? How do we make sure that young scientists have the skills required to succeed? **[Chair: Charlene Janion-Scheepers]**

6. Research

What are challenges for achieving '*research that addresses issues of global and national relevance*'? What do we need to do to increase the relevance of research in collections and on collections? **[Co-chairs: Rose Prevec, Muthama Muasya, Lizel Hugo-Coetzee]**

7. Identifications as a key service from collections

What should some of the principles and rules be for this service? Can we increase the service and what would this require? How do we address the issue of declining expertise to do identifications? **[Chair to be decided by group]**

13:00–14:00

Lunch

14:00–17:00

Report backs by groups: main points that came out of discussions

Facilitator: Allison Ruiters; Luvuyo Mini

17:00–17:15

Closure of the forum

Michelle Hamer; Angus Paterson

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Breakfast and departure





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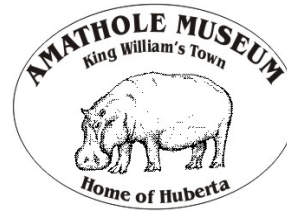


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AMATHOLE MUSEUM
King William's Town
Home of Huberta



East London
Museum
Our Future through the Past



BAYWORLD



ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

DURBAN
NATURAL SCIENCE
MUSEUM

A museum about the earth, its history and life on earth, both past and present



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