

# NSCF NEWS

Communication from the Natural Science Collections Facility Hub Team

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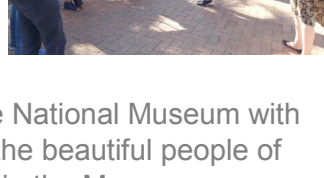
## NSCF Institutional Visit: National Museum



The NSCF Hub Team visited the National Museum in Bloemfontein on 17 October 2019.

The reason for our visit was to meet with the staff and:

- Develop a common understanding of the NSCF's function and the role of the hub team
- Give an update on the main current activities being run by the NSCF
- Get input from the Museum staff on their challenges relating to the NSCF work and suggestions for addressing these
- Meet with the Director of the Museum, to discuss the challenges and activities that arise from the meeting with staff
- Carry out an assessment of the documents that need to be included in the scanning project
- Carry out an assessment of available space and resources for the type specimen imaging project
- Check whether there are any frozen samples or materials for DNA/tissue collections
- Determine the extent of unaccessioned material or specimens to allow for future planning.



The Hub Team went to the National Museum with much excitement to meet the beautiful people of Bloemfontein. After arrival in the Museum, everyone met in the meeting room and introduced themselves during check-in. After the meeting with the staff, the Hub Team was taken on a tour of each natural science collection (see photos below).

**Thank you National Museum for the warm welcome and the passion you have for your work.**



## Organisational Development: Hub Session

Our Africa Spirals of Change colleagues Ilze, Desiree and Rubert flew up to Pretoria on 14 and 15 October, to facilitate the organisational development session with the Hub Team. The main focus of the session was the planning of the upcoming Coordinating Committee Meeting in November.

The team covered reflections on the Coordinating Committee in August, reflections on the Staffing and Capacity Development Working Group meeting in September, and phase 1 baseline of the story of the NSCF/Evaluation.



## NSCF Contact List

We recently contacted you to request your details for the NSCF Network Contact List. We aim to include the contact details of each and every person working with natural science collections in each and every partner institution of the NSCF, from the highest level to the lowest (in no particular order). This will ensure that everyone in the network is kept abreast of network news, project progress and other developments, and will allow you to get in contact with your NSCF colleagues.

Please check to see if your details are correct, and whether your colleagues are included on the list.

Please email your edits to Fulu on [f.gelebe@sanbi.org.za](mailto:f.gelebe@sanbi.org.za).

Link to the contact list: <https://bit.ly/2Jk6K9j>

Name	Surname	Institution	Email	Contact Number	Job Title	I am Involved In
Phuytsho	Om	Albany Museum	<a href="mailto:p.com@am.org.za">p.com@am.org.za</a>	46622322	Curator, Herbarium	Collectors/Collections Management, Research, mentoring students and staff
Amantsoe	Isidore	Albany Museum	<a href="mailto:i.isidore@am.org.za">i.isidore@am.org.za</a>	46622322	Asst. Dir. Department of Freshwater Invertebrates	Collectors/Collections Management, research, teaching and mentoring the
Helen	James	Albany Museum	<a href="mailto:h.james@am.org.za">h.james@am.org.za</a>	46622322	Head of Department of Freshwater Invertebrates	Departmental management, collections management, research, teaching
Makhele	Mambo	Albany Museum	<a href="mailto:m.mambo@am.org.za">m.mambo@am.org.za</a>	46622322	Assistant Curator, Department of Freshwater Invertebrates	Collectors/Collections Management, research, teaching and mentoring the
Rosemary	Princ	Albany Museum	<a href="mailto:r.princ@am.org.za">r.princ@am.org.za</a>	79534302	ICD and Curator of Earth Sciences (Palaeontology)	Collectors/Collections Management, research, teaching and mentoring the
Terence	Van der	Albany Museum	<a href="mailto:t.vander@am.org.za">t.vander@am.org.za</a>	82339608	Manager	Organisational Management
Robert (Rob)	Geis	Albany Museum	<a href="mailto:rgeis@am.org.za">rgeis@am.org.za</a>	82795648	Researcher	Research and collections development
Terence	Bethune	Albany Museum	<a href="mailto:t.bethune@am.org.za">t.bethune@am.org.za</a>	46622322	Curator, Entomology & Arachnology	Collectors/Collections Management, research, teaching and mentoring the
Fred	IGOU	Amathole Museum	<a href="mailto:fred.igou@museum.za.net">fred.igou@museum.za.net</a>	41642408	Museum Principal/Natural Scientist	Collectors/Collections Management
Boytana	Mahala Nobonyo	Amathole Museum	<a href="mailto:boytana@museum.za.net">boytana@museum.za.net</a>			

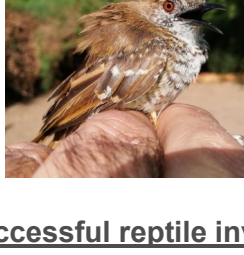
## National Museum News

Extracted from the National Museum Facebook page

### Dawie de Swardt ringing and collecting birds

Dawie is currently doing fieldwork at the farm Armika, along the Vetrivier in the Wes-selsbron area, Free State. Dawie has been visiting this site since 2008 for bird ringing and specimen collection. To date over 470 birds have been ringed here and 19 recaptures obtained. During this week, 3 recaptures of Brown-crowned Tchagra, Black-chested Prinia and Kalahari Shrub-robin were made since he last visited 29 months ago.

Interesting birds ringed include 2 Crimson-breasted Shrikes, Violet-eared Waxbill and Barred Wren-warbler. Of special interest is the wren-warbler which was first located here in 2012 and believed to be part of resident populations along the Vetrivier. In a paper published in Biological Observations it was speculated that these birds moved upstream from the kalahari thornveld areas in the Sandveld Nature Reserve and Hoopstad areas.



### South Africa's most successful reptile invader!

Dr Mike Bates, Herpetologist at the National Museum, has recently published an article in CULNA titled 'Common Dwarf Geckos: South Africa's most successful reptile invader!'

'Even the cold winters of Bloemfontein do not stop them from proliferating as they are able to find shelter in a variety of places in and around homes. Once the sun has warmed up the rocks and walls in gardens, these geckos can be seen basking in the sun, sometimes in surprising numbers.'

Records of these geckos in Bloemfontein, collected mostly by the author, indicate that the first known local records were from the late 1980s, but today these geckos are to be found throughout the city, and in some areas they seem to be by far the most common lizard species.'

Read the article here: <https://bit.ly/31tkW8>

## Join us on Social Media

Like/follow, share/retweet and comment

**"We don't have a choice on whether we do social media, the question is how well we do it."**

– Erik Qualman



[@NSCFSA](#)—aimed at the public audience

'Natural Science Collections Facility' Facebook group—aimed at communicating to institutions, and not the public.



[@NSCF\\_SA](#)—aimed at the public audience



[@nscf\\_sa](#)—aimed at the public audience

**Let's connect!**

Follow each link and **like/follow** the NSCF pages on social media, we will **like/follow** you back.

## Send us your news...

to feature in the NSCF newsletter!

- What exciting activities took place at your institution?
  - Anything happening with the collections?
  - Any new species?
  - Any collections-related research?
  - Any job opportunities?
  - Any new staff members?
  - Any moving of collections?
  - Any data related work happening?
  - Any visiting scientist you are hosting?
  - Any staff members traveling/attending a conference/attending a training?
  - Did you recently receive items from the NSCF grant?
  - Was your institution featured in the media?
- ... Guess what? That needs to be on this newsletter!

**Send your news to:**

Fulufhelo Gelebe, [f.gelebe@sanbi.org.za](mailto:f.gelebe@sanbi.org.za)

The NSCF is a virtual Facility, comprised of a network of institutions that hold natural science collections that are accessible to external researchers.

The NSCF was established as part of the Department of Science and Technology's Research Infrastructure Roadmap and co-ordinated by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI).

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