

Stakeholder Engagement in the Garden Route



Sustainability Research Unit

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Sustainability Research Unit (SRU)

Aims to develop the capacity for the sustainable management of ecological, social and economic systems through user-inspired research, training and policy related work.



The SRU brings together decision makers and researchers from various institutions to address challenges collaboratively

(Community, Mandated organisations, Funders, Research Partners)



Homeowners and Ratepayers



Community leaders



Farmers



South African National Parks



Oudshoorn Municipality



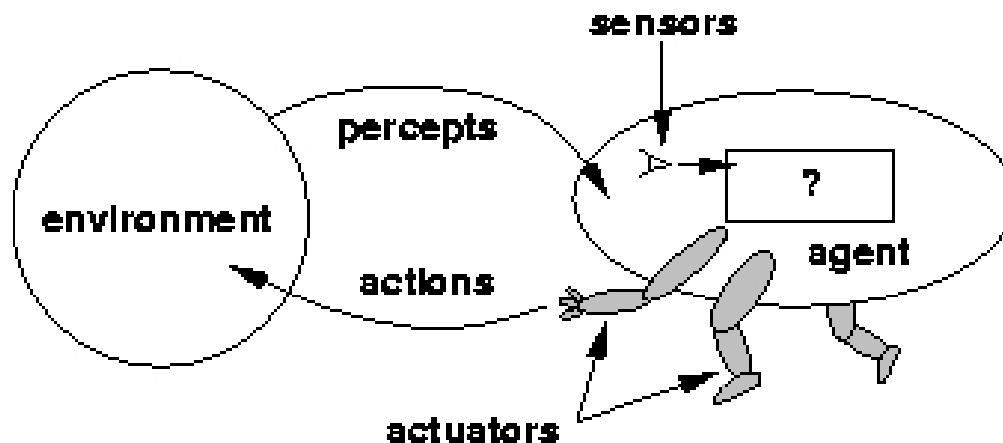
The concept of agency

The capacity of an agent (a person or entity) to act in a world (structure)

Being an agent is to intentionally make things happen through action

(Bandura 1998)

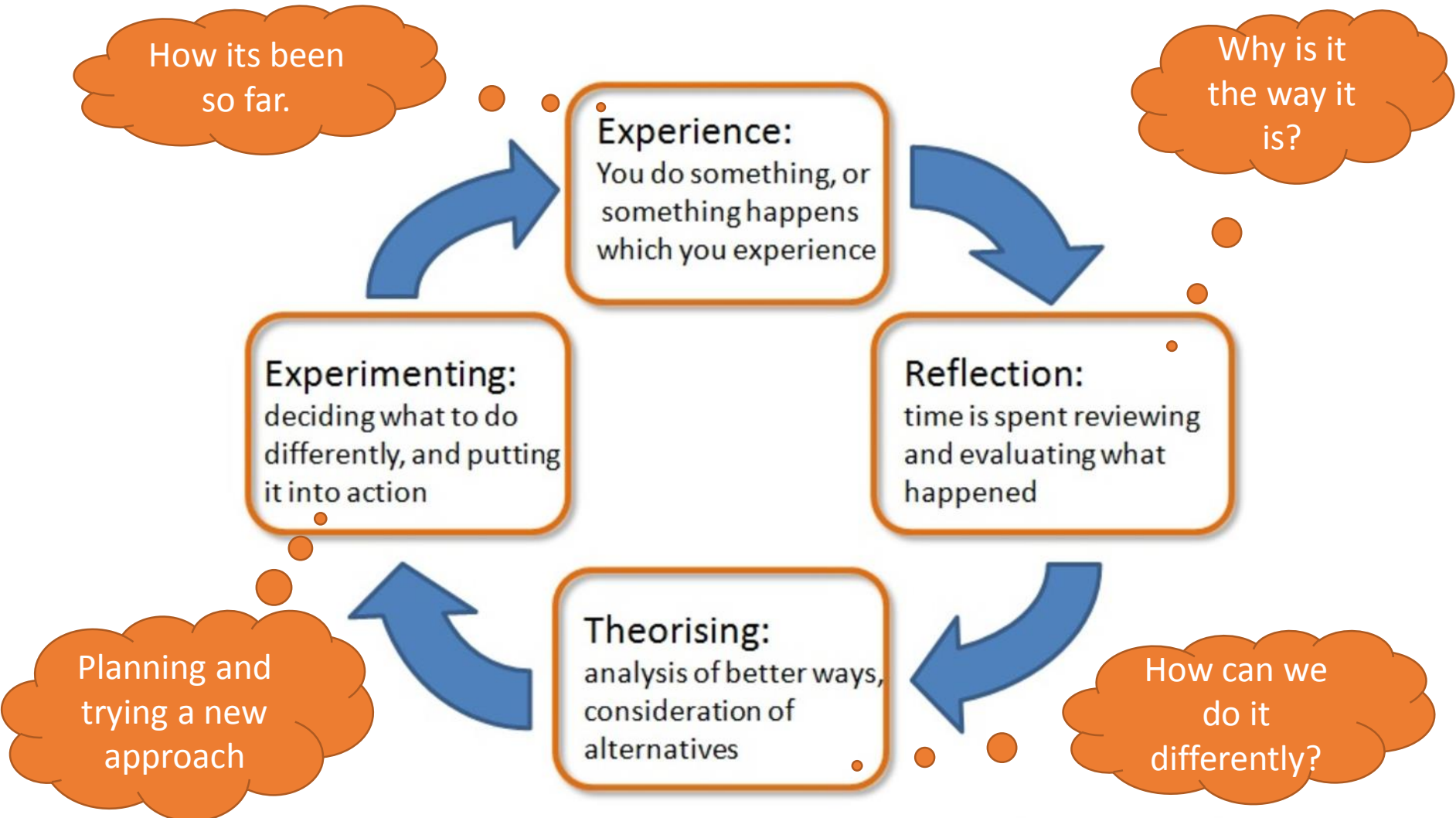
Humans are not merely **powerless spectators** but can be **adaptive actors** interacting and adapting to the environment if they so choose. (Fabricius et al. 2007)



Impressionistic Overview of an Intelligent Agent

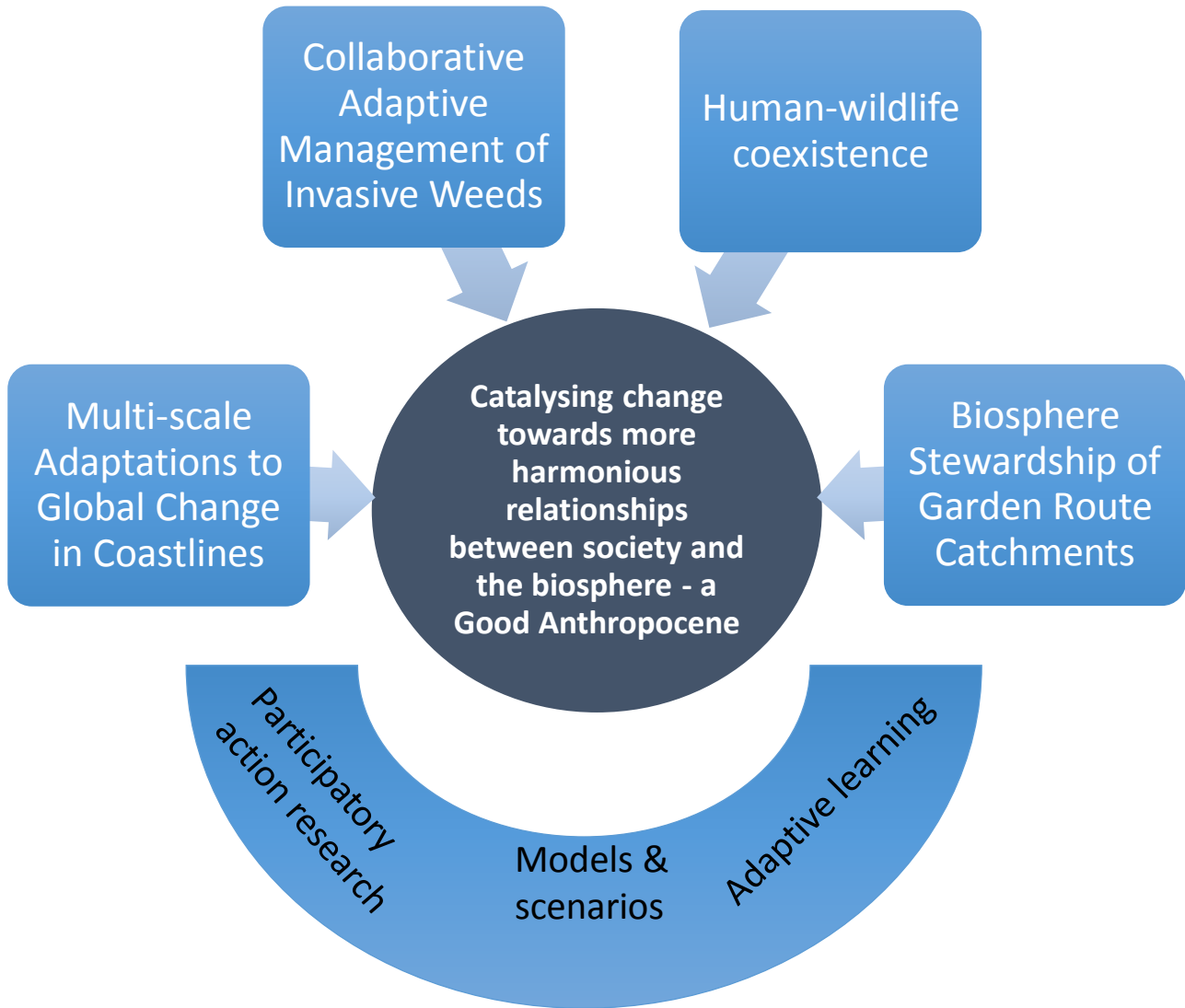
Being an adaptive actor

Adaptive capacity is the ability to learn from experience and change the ways of doing.



Cycle of continuous development – adapted from Kolb's Experiential learning Cycle

Current project focus



Engagement through Community Interaction, Service and Outreach

Sustainability dialogues

“The Silo Effect” with SANParks, Eden District and George Municipalities

“Barriers and Bridges to Community Participation” with Knysna stakeholders

“Engaged research for social ecological complexity” during the SAPECs Winter School



Social learning workshop on participation in water management

Engagement through Community Interaction, Service and Outreach

Workshops, panel discussions

18 **participatory mapping** workshops with communities in the Wilderness Catchment area;

4 South Cape Land Initiative (SCLI) workshops about **stewardship for invasive alien plant management**

Participated in Dept. of Environmental Affairs-**NRM management** planning workshop;

Partner with SAPECS in hosting a “**Good Anthropocene**” workshop in Stellenbosch;



SRU / CSIR Touws River Stakeholder workshop



Touwsranten Participatory mapping

Engagement through teaching and learning

Philosophy: Take collective responsibility for each other's learning through group learning, support networks and providing moral and material support

- **Stewardship and Freshwater Ecology module to SNRM**
- **Social-ecological Systems Winter School for postgraduates and academics**
- **Postgraduate and under graduate orientation workshops**
- **IIASA-NRF Young Scholars Support Programme**
- **Science Faculty postgraduate symposium**
- **SRU field trips**
- **Fortnightly Journal Club meetings and writing workshops**
- **SANParks publications seminar**



Social ecological Systems Winter School



Social ecological Systems Winter School

Engagement through research and scholarship

- Fabricius is Lead Principal Investigator of an international Belmont Forum project on coastal vulnerability, with community engagement at its core
- 3-year community engagement grant from NRF
- SRU, SANParks and CSIR collaborating on stakeholder engagement for ecological infrastructure management.
- 3-year contract from DEA for technical support and monitoring of invasive plant management



Engagement through profession / discipline based service provision

Professor Christo Fabricius

- International Project Advisory Panel of the UK's Ecosystems and Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) project (www.espa.ac.uk),
- The Scientific Committee of the Resilience 2014 conference in Montpellier
- Science Director of the Resilience Alliance (www.resalliance.org) (2012-2014).
- Editorial committees of Ecology and Society as well as Koedoe.
- Supervisor in the IIASA-NRF Young Scholar's Support Programme in South Africa and Austria.



Dr Dirk Roux

- Editorial committee of Conservation Letters and Koedoe.



Impacts and beneficiaries

The community



Stewardship for invasive alien plant management

- Workshops
- presented papers
- keynote addresses



COMMUNITY HACKING DAY

Building bridges in the war on weeds



A community project where teams of volunteers will work together to clear invasive plants. Supervision, information about invasive species and refreshments will be provided on the day.

Date: 1 Oct 2015, World Habitat Day
Time: 8:30 AM – 2PM, Braai and prize giving 2-3 PM
Location: George Municipal Servitude, Whites Rd, Wilderness Heights (Red star on map)
Contact: Please register your team with: Corita Loubser
Corita.Loubser@nmmu.ac.za
 044 801 5127 (9am – 1pm Mon-Fri)



Registration is free. Minimum 3 members per team. More information, indemnity forms and instructions will be distributed upon registration. Regrettably no persons under the age of 16 allowed.



Community to hack out invasive aliens



The Kaaimans-to-louw KTT Eco-Restoration Forum, in collaboration with NMMU's Sustainability Research Unit (SRU), George Municipality, S.E.I.P.A. and the Southern Cape Landowners Initiative, will be heading the day. The programme will serve as a demonstration and learning site for invasive alien plant management, offering scope for implementation of supplemental design and monitoring by NMMU students.

Furthermore, the initiative creates income generating opportunities through the sustainable use of the Wilderness (plant material) generated, while also focusing on the restoration of the environment afterwards.

As this is a marginal venture, the Wilderness generates through the project will be awarded to the informal settlement where, in addition to being used for housing, it will mark the start of a project on ecotourism.

Members of the community are invited to participate in the KTT hacking day by entering teams of at least three people. There is no registration fee and participants can earn prizes for best prizes being awarded for the best team effort, most fun team and best before and after photos. A braai will be held by the KTT Forum as a token of appreciation, will take place from 10:00 to 10:30.

For more information contact Corita Loubser at corita.loubser@nmmu.ac.za or 044 801 5127 (mornings). Regrettably, no persons under the age of 16 may participate.



The attendees (NMMU team are from left to right): Prof. Corita Loubser (leader of the NMMU Sustainability Research Unit) with members of the unit, invasive students Samantha DuCouture, Vanessa van der Merwe and Paul Bales. Standing are geologist Telleo Du Yoncourt Rousset and Dr. Chris Curran, Rocio Cervantes (invasive student), Corita Loubser (nearest person), James Currie (invasive and PhD student), Babalola Oluwalana (invasive student) and Tereza Ugoyue (PHD student in training).

We're giving you the latest George, Center Route news!



New forum to tackle invasive plants

Uninvited organisms, local and introduced, have crept together to form a toxic brew of invasive plants and animals. A new forum will be set up to tackle these invaders.

At the meeting, held at Peninsula Hotel, the newly established forum tackled the issue of invasive plants and animals. The forum will be set up to tackle these invaders. The forum will be set up to tackle these invaders.

The forum discussed ways to control the invasive plants and animals. The forum will be set up to tackle these invaders. The forum will be set up to tackle these invaders.

Public input is important to tackle the natural areas that, and the following planning is of immense importance. The forum was in agreement that input from the public as well as landowners is important. A statement of intent will be developed between the stakeholders, and setting a good example to avoid. A statement of intent will be developed between the stakeholders, and setting a good example to avoid.

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Due to the immense pressure put on the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), the government institution is now set to step up their invasive plant eradication and control. DAFF, the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), the government institution is now set to step up their invasive plant eradication and control.

This brings you the latest George, Center Route news!



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Voting Poll

Impacts and beneficiaries

Work closely with a community conservation initiative
The House of Judah, in the Knysna township



Our students as beneficiaries

The postgraduate student numbers have grown from 2 to 15 since inception of SRU.

Scholars have been educated about science and sustainability for the future.



Impacts and beneficiaries

Research outputs

Output

Number

Peer reviewed journal papers and book chapters	26
International conference presentations	12
National conference presentations	40
Creative outputs	8
Popular articles and research reports	12
Dissertations and theses	6



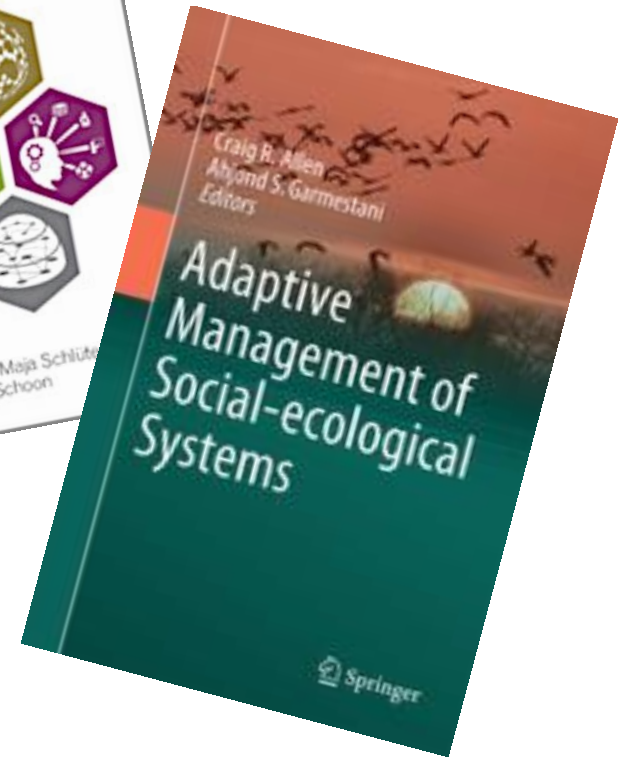
Towards a standard nomenclature for seafood species to promote more sustainable seafood trade in South Africa



Jaco Barendse^{a,*}, Junaid Francis^b

^a Sustainability Research Unit/South African National Parks, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Private Bag 76021, George 6530, South Africa
^b Biodiversity Unit, Sustainable Fisheries Programme, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) South Africa, PO Box 23273, Claremont 7735, South Africa

Environmental Management
DOI 10.1007/s00267-015-0473-5



The Role and Value of Conservation Agency Research

Dirk J. Roux^{1,2} · Richard T. Kingsford³ · Stephen F. McCool⁴ · Melodie A. McGeoch^{5,6} · Llewellyn C. Foxcroft^{7,8}

Conserv Genet
DOI 10.1007/s10592-015-0701-9

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Molecular analyses confirm genetically distinct populations of two indigenous estuarine fish species in an isolated coastal lake: implications for the management of introduced ichthyofauna

Nikki Phair · Jaco Barendse · M. Kyle S. Smith · Sophie von der Heyden

What our stakeholders say....

“Over the past five years, SANParks researches and managers have worked closely with the SRU in strategic planning for ecosystem management, community engagement, joint funding of a post doctoral researcher and regular workshops to put our vision of connecting society into action”

(Gill Bunding Venter – GM Garden Route National Park)



“The Eden District Municipality continue to enjoy a productive and beneficial relationship with the SRU which includes effective partnerships involving a myriad of community programmes and numerous public engagement programmes.”

(Godfrey Louw - Municipal Manager)



What our students say.....

Encouraging feedback is received from students about the learning and growth opportunities offered by SRU.

“The SRU provides my mental and physical platform to grow courage, innovation and broad-scale perspectives.”

Lisa Heider, PHD student



“The SRU provides a space where I can learn to think critically and communicate effectively.”

Verouschka Sonn, MTech student



“The SRU has not only helped me to learn and grow, but also taught me how to keep on learning by fostering my inquiring mind.”

Thea Buckle, M Media Student



Impacts and beneficiaries

Acknowledged at various events for quality research, education and stakeholder engagement outputs in the Southern Cape

Fabricius received the SANParks Koedoe Award for excellence for collaborative research

September 2014



ACCOLADES ... Sustainability Research Unit Director **Prof Christo Fabricius** (right) won the research initiatives and innovation award in this year's SANParks regional awards. The award acknowledges the catalytic role Prof Fabricius and the unit is playing in the Garden Route to advance sustainability-thinking. According to SANParks scientist, **Dr Dirk Roux** (left), who is also a research associate of the unit, Prof Fabricius's strong emphasis on participatory research has contributed towards building capacity for learning and adapting.



***Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success***

Henry Ford



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