

Title: Die Entwicklung der multilateralen und bilateralen Zusammenarbeit Südafrikas im Bereich Meereskunde
The development of multilateral and bilateral collaboration in marine science in South Africa

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Event: Workshop, Cape Town, South Africa, 3-6 December 2012

Brief description:

German marine research can look back at a long tradition of cooperation with South Africa – for example, it played a decisive role in the BENEFIT regional development programme for research into the Benguela Current¹ and ultimately led to the establishment of the Benguela Current Commission. The aim of the four-day workshop held by the Applied Center for Climate and Earth Systems Science (ACCESS) of the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT) between 3 and 6 December 2012 in Cape Town was to determine future collaboration possibilities in marine research.

The great interest in marine research is demonstrated by the substantial amount the government and research institutes in South Africa have invested in this field. 70 participants from ten South African and ten German research institutes and universities took the opportunity to discuss together with Norwegian and French colleagues new research topics and transform them into specific project proposals, which are also embedded in training initiatives. The regional focus was on the east and west coast of South Africa and the shelf areas. The main topics under discussion also included the physical properties of the ocean, such as currents, temperature, oxygen and nutrient content as well as its effect on biological processes and the influence of the climate on the fishing industry, the health of the ecosystems and the quality of life among the coastal population.

The event was kicked off by a public, popular science lecture on the subject of marine research, which included a subsequent podium discussion. The following three days

¹ The Benguela Current transports cool water along the west coast of South Africa towards the equator.

were dedicated to the specialist lectures. The topics under discussion included the stimulation processes on the west coast as an extension of the existing GENUS project within the framework of the new SPACES initiative². The workshop also dealt with examinations of the Agulhas Current off the southeast coast and the subject of coastal processes and management.

Subsequent to the workshop, a three-day event was held as an introduction to the *Ocean Data View*® (ODV) software. Young scientists from Germany and South Africa used the opportunity to jointly evaluate and discuss oceanographic and meteorological data.

The project proposals developed at the workshop are currently being processed and will be presented at a follow-up workshop to be held in March/April 2013 in Germany.

² The SPACES programme is aimed at carrying out cooperative science projects in the region of southern Africa which will contribute to the formulation of science-based recommendations to politicians for the management of the Earth system and will safeguard the sustainable use and the preservation of the various ecosystem services in the region. The programme is being implemented in the Southern African Earth-Ocean System, taking its geographical and temporal variability into account.