

Curriculum Vitae: Ronel Nel (PHD)

Given Name: Petronella

Work: Department of Zoology, Nelson Mandela University* (NMU), PO Box 77000 Gqeberha 6031, South Africa.

Email: Ronel.Nel@mandela.ac.za Citizenship: South African; Resident: USA

Date of Birth: 23 March 1972

Education (highest qualification)

PhD UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, South Africa; 1996 - 2002
Dissertation title: Physical and biological factors structuring sandy beach macrofaunal communities.

Employment (current)

2006 – present **Professor**, Department of Zoology, NMU, Gqeberha, South Africa

Awards, Honors and Special Skills

Professional Awards

2018 **PEW Marine Fellowship** – 2018 to 2022

Special Skills

CLASS IV Commercial Diver – trained in all aspects of SCUBA

CLASS IV Commercial Supervisor – supervise all aspects of SCUBA

Teaching and Mentoring

Undergraduate Teaching

I have been a full-time academic since 2006 and have taught two to four modules per year. The classes vary in size based on level; first-year classes are currently ~200 students per module, third-year enrolment ~ 40 students and fourth-year range 6 -12 students per year. Each of these modules has a substantial practical component associated with it. First-year modules have one laboratory session of three hours per week, whereas third years have a double practical (6 hours) each week back, which allows day field trips for third-year groups. The seminar writing class in the BSc Hons module is part of a module in Research Competencies. It involves mentoring individual students through a critical review of the literature on a novel topic and to present the content coherently and succinctly to an audience in an oral presentation.

Postgraduate Supervision

- ⊕ Doctoral Students (Current) – 3 Students
- ⊕ Doctoral Students (Graduated) – 7 Students
- ⊕ Masters (Current) – 3 Students
- ⊕ Masters (Graduated) – 17 Students
- ⊕ Other Qualifications – 2 Students
- ⊕ Bachelor of Science Honors (Capstone) – 26 Students graduated

Postdoctoral Fellows – 2 Completed; 1 Current

External Examiner

- ⊕ **3rd Yr Marine Ecology Module**, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (2020-2023)
- ⊕ **MSc**, University of Cape Town, South Africa (2020)
- ⊕ **MSc**, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (2018)
- ⊕ **PhD**, James Cook University, Australia (2017)
- ⊕ **PhD**, University of Cape Town, South Africa (2015)
- ⊕ **MSc**, Griffith University, Australia (2013)
- ⊕ **MSc**, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (2010)
- ⊕ **Exit Modules**, University of Fort Hare, South Africa (2013 & 2014)
- ⊕ **3rd Yr Marine Ecology Module**, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (2008)

Publications

Google Scholar Profile: <https://scholar.google.co.za/citations?user=-v8MKZ0AAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>

Published Papers (Latest publications 20 papers in the last 5 years (see below); 54 to date)

Five most relevant papers:

1. Potts, W. M., Mann-Lang, J. B., Mann, B. Q., Griffiths, C. L., Attwood, C. G., de Blocq, A. D., ... & Thornycroft, R. (2021). South African marine citizen science—benefits, challenges and future directions. *African Journal of Marine Science*, 43(3), 353-366.
2. Le Gouvello, DZ, M Girondot M, Bachoo S, **Nel R.** (2020). The good and bad news of long-term monitoring: an increase in abundance but decreased body size suggests reduced potential fitness in nesting sea turtles. *Marine Biology* In press. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00227-020-03736-4>
3. Le Gouvello, DZ, **Nel R.**, and Cloete AE. (2020). The influence of individual size on clutch size and hatchling fitness traits in sea turtles. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* 527:151372.
4. Monsinjon JR, Wyneken J, Ruseknko K, Lopez-Mendilaharsu M, Lara P, Santos, A, Macrovaldi, M, Fuentes, M, Kaska Y, Tucek J, Nel R, Williams KL, Le Black A, Rostal D, Guillon J, Girondot M. (2019). The climatic debt of loggerhead sea turtle populations in a warming world. *Ecological Indicators* 107:105657
5. Nel R, Punt AE, Hughes GR (2013) Are coastal protected areas always effective in achieving population recovery for nesting sea turtles? *PLoS ONE* 8: e63525.

Book Chapters (1 in last 5 years; 4 total)

Technical Reports (2 in last 5 years; 7 total)

Popular Articles (4 total; 3 in the last 5 years)

Workshops & Conferences (Organised 4 in the last 5 years)

International Committees

- 2014 – present **Member**, Advisory Committee to the Indian Ocean South East Asia Sea Turtle MoU under the Convention of Migratory Species
- 2007 - present **South African Specialist**, Western Indian Ocean Marine Turtle Task Force (Chair 2008 – 2013)
- 2004 - present **Regional (Co)Vice-Chair**, Western Indian Ocean of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group

External Funding (last 5 years)

Research Grants

- 2021 | R550k** **Project Keystone**; Assessing the ecological role of sea turtles using a Citizen Science approach. National Research Foundation (2022 – 2024).
- 2019 | €4.5M** **OceansAlive**; Blue Action Fund grant as part of a consortium with WILD Oceans as the lead agency. This is to enhance MPA effectiveness along the East African Coast (particularly South Africa and Mozambique). Sea Turtle Specialist and Project Advisor (2019-2021).
- 2018 | \$150K** **Pew Marine Fellowship**; To assess critically endangered leatherbacks as a refugee species (2018-2020).
- 2017 | R730K** **Conservation David vs Multinational Goliaths**; National Research Foundation to investigate the role of local communities in conservation and local economic development (2017-2020).
- 2017 | R262K** **Mobility Grant**; Sponsorship obtained from various sources to host SAMSS 2017.

Contracts

- 2020 | \$750** Specialist Consultation on the impacts of a new development in Saudi Arabia.
- 2019 | \$750** Specialist Review on the impacts of sea turtles due to an oil and gas development in Northern Mozambique.