



# **ECON-SA**

**Early Career Ocean  
Networks of South Africa**

**Empowering Emerging Leaders in  
Marine Science, Ocean Stewardship and  
Maritime Services**

# Current Ocean Early Career Researcher Landscape in South Africa



## African Network of Deep-water Researchers

- Enhance capacity for deep-water research
- Engaging marine scientists in multidisciplinary studies of deep-water ecosystems



## Early Career Researchers

- Interdisciplinary ocean governance
- Environmental justice
- Community engagement



## International Carbon Ocean Network for Early Career Researchers

- Provides opportunities for ECOPs to engage with local GOA-ON hubs
- Contribute to projects that elevate ECOP voices in marine carbon discussions



## Association of Polar Early Career Scientists – South Africa

- Polar and cryosphere studies  
Promoting communication and collaboration both locally and internationally

## Addressing the gaps

- **Fragmentation limits impact, funding, and collaboration**
- **Need for a strategic platform to unify efforts**
- **Global and national momentum (e.g. UN Ocean Decade)**

# What is ECON-SA?

- A unifying, non-operational platform
- Facilitate inter-network communication
- Preserve autonomy of networks
- Will not replace existing networks
- Strengthen national and global alignment
- Link ECOPs with government and funders
- Aims to enhance collaboration, visibility, and access to resources



# Where will ECON-SA be hosted?

## Marine science

### Early Career Professionals:

- Hosted by NRF-SAEON at Egagasini Node



## Maritime

### Early Career Professionals:

- Hosted by the South African International Maritime Institute (SAIMI)

# Benefits to ECOP'S



## Growth and Opportunity

- **Improved Access to Funding**  
*Through NRF-SAEON, enabling participation in national and global research.*
- **National Recognition and Legitimacy**  
*Boosts the professional status and credibility of ECOPs and their networks.*
- **Alignment with National Ocean Goals**  
*Opens doors for ECOPs to contribute meaningfully to South Africa's marine future*



## Ocean and Career Navigation

- **Strategic Policy Influence**  
*Creates opportunities for ECOPs to shape national planning and research agendas.*
- **Support for Global Ocean Commitments**  
*Links ECOPs to initiatives like the UN Ocean Decade and Ocean20.*
- **Streamlined ECOP Engagement**  
*Simplifies access and involvement for young professionals across disciplines.*



## Support and Connection

- **Unified Voice for ECOPs**  
*Strengthens collective advocacy and representation.*
- **Professional, Coordinated Communication**  
*Facilitates collaboration and avoids duplicated efforts across networks*



A silhouette of a person standing and shouting into a megaphone, positioned on the left side of the slide. The background is a deep blue with a textured, bubbly appearance, suggesting an underwater or aquatic theme. The sun or light source is visible at the top left, creating a bright glow and illuminating the scene.

## Next Steps & Call to Action

- Formal onboarding of existing networks
- Build initial database of ECRs
- Establish advisory committee
- Outreach to unaffiliated individuals/networks
- Invite feedback and participation



Get in touch to join the network:  
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Thank you!