

Prof Mary Scholes



Prof Mary Scholes, a graduate of the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), is currently a full professor in the School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences and serves as the Director of the Graduate Support Division at Wits.

She has a PhD in Botany (Plant Physiology) from the University of the Witwatersrand. Her research activities focus on soil fertility, food security and biogeochemistry in savannahs, plantation forests and croplands. Her research funds are mostly sourced from industry and the government and she is currently actively involved in monitoring the impacts, on human health and the environment, of the new power stations in the Waterberg.

In 2002, she was elected as a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry in 2002 and in 2004, she was elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa. She was the associate editor of the Journal of Geophysical Research and serve on the editorial boards for Applied Soil Ecology, Ecosystems and Biogeochemistry. For the past ten 10 years, she has been actively involved with the Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Programme, an Institute of the International Centre for Tropical Agricultural Research.

Currently, she serves as the Chair of IIASA's Science Advisory Committee, vice-chairperson for the International Committee of Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security as well as the Secretary General for the Scientific Council on Problems in the Environment. She also chairs the advisory board of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry. These activities involve extensive collaborative research with a number of overseas and local institutes.
