

Prof Ursula Scharler

Prof Ursula Scharler is currently an Associate Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, School of Life Sciences. She studied at the University of Salzburg, Austria between 1986 and 1991, where she obtained her M.Sc. at the Department of Zoology. In 2000, she completed her Ph.D. at the University of Port Elizabeth with a dissertation titled: "Response of nutrient status and biotic communities to variable freshwater input regimes in Eastern Cape estuaries, South Africa, including a network analysis approach to ecosystem function".



Between 1996 and 1998, she worked for institutions such as the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF), Water Research Commission (WRC), Ninham Shand Consulting Engineers, Consortium for Estuarine Research and Management (CERM), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Institute for Coastal Resource Management (ICRM), Coastal Research Unit Zululand (CRUZ) in South Africa. From 2002 to 2005, she was a Research Assistant at the Center for Environmental Science at the University of Maryland in the USA. In 2006, she did contract work for the University of Sheffield, UK, on the impact of pesticides in aquatic ecosystems.

Her current research areas includes: System Analysis; Ecosystem modelling and analysis; Network analysis of ecosystems, embodied water systems and urban metabolism systems; Hierarchical interconnection of species-, community-, and system level; Energy and nutrient budgets, stoichiometry; Isotopes and trophic ecology; Ecosystem connectivity; and Aquatic ecology.

Prof Scharler is the chairperson of the South African Committee of the National Member Organisation (NMO) to the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), and she is the KZN representative to the South African Network for Coastal and Oceanic Research (SANCOR) and a member of its Steering Committee.
