

PRIS²⁰²⁶

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH
& INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM



DATE

**28 & 29
October 2026**
(Wednesday and Thursday)

VENUE

**Coastlands Hotel,
Musgrave, Durban**

THEME

**International Year
of Rangelands and
Pastoralists**

UKZN's College of Agriculture, Engineering & Science (CAES) is hosting the 2026 Postgraduate Research & Innovation Symposium (PRIS) in person at Coastlands Hotel, Musgrave. CAES provides all Masters and PhD students from the School of Agriculture and Science and the School of Engineering with the opportunity to showcase their research through oral and flash presentations.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER, PRIS

PROFESSOR FRANK MATOSE is a Professor and Environmental Sociologist in the Department of Sociology, University of Cape Town, South Africa. His research focuses on the political ecology of conservation, collaborative forest management, and commons governance in Africa. His current research project is titled Resilient and Equitable Nature-based Pathways in Southern African Rangelands (REPAIR). His latest book is titled: *Forests and the power of Marginalised People in Southern Africa: Politics of Chronic Liminality*, James Currey (2025). He recently co-published *Reclaiming African Environmentalism: Ecological Struggles for Wellbeing and Habitability*, with Lesley Green, Anselmo Matusse and Nikiwe Solomon, HSRC Press: Cape Town (2025) and *The Violence of Conservation in Africa* with Maano Ramutsindela and Tafadzwa Mushonga (2022). He serves on the advisory board of The Institute for African Alternatives (IFAA). He also serves as an interim of chair of the Advisory Committee of the Collaborating for Resilience (CoRe) and an affiliate editor of World Development.



SCIENCE WITH JAZZ

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: PROFESSOR DAVID LOKHAT is the uMngeni-uThukela Water Chair in Water Resources Research and Innovation, African Rainbow Minerals Chair in Sustainable Engineering and Process Intensification, and the Director of the Centre for Water Resources Research at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He is a Fellow of the South African Institution of Chemical Engineers, the Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers, the Royal Society of Chemistry and the South African Academy of Engineering. He has been actively engaged in the advocacy and promotion of chemical engineering as a discipline, and has held numerous leadership roles within professional and academic.



MUSICIAN: LU DLAMINI is a Durban-based vocalist, composer and a traditional instrumentalist, who hails from the Natal South Coast and comes from a musical family. She is known for her distinctive style, as showcased in her previous album, "Ulimilam." In her reflections, Dlamini draws on South Africa's complex history, noting the contrast between the hopeful songs of the past and the current challenges faced by many. She highlights the role of music in advocating for peace and social justice, and how it served as a platform for expressing a vision of unity during the times of political struggle. She continues to use her music to foster understanding and promote a cohesive culture.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER, GALA DINNER

DR KIARA WORTH is a Storyteller and Photographer based in Cape Town, South Africa, known for her work in sustainability activism and international negotiations. She has a background in Political Science and Agriculture, and she covers topics such as climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable development in her photography and writing. Kiara has been featured in major publications like the New York Times and The Guardian, and she has worked as a photo-journalist in Papua New Guinea, using her stories to communicate sustainability issues.

PROGRAMME

DAY 1: Wednesday, 28 October

08h00 – 08h55	REGISTRATION
09h00 – 09h45	OPENING PLENARY (Sapphire Hall) MC: Professor Rituparno Goswami : College Dean of Research Welcome: Professor Anil Chuturgoon : Deputy-vice Chancellor of Research Keynote Speaker: Professor Frank Matose : Professor and Environmental Sociologist in the Department of Sociology at the University of Cape Town
10h00 – 11h20	CONCURRENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS (Suite 1-4) (Ruby 1-2) Session 1: Chemistry and Biochemistry Session 2: Biological Sciences Session 3: Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences Session 4: Engineering Session 5: Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science Session 6: Physics
11h20 – 11h40	TEA AND VIEWING OF INDUSTRY EXHIBITS (Sapphire Hall) CONCURRENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS (Suite 1-4) (Ruby 1-2) Session 1: Chemistry and Biochemistry Session 2: Biological Sciences Session 3: Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences Session 4: Engineering Session 5: Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science Session 6: Physics
11h40 – 13h00	LUNCH (Sapphire Hall)
13h00 – 14h00	CONCURRENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS (Suite 1-4) (Ruby 1-2) Session 1: Chemistry and Biochemistry Session 2: Biological Sciences Session 3: Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences Session 4: Engineering Session 5: Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science Session 6: Physics
14h00 – 15h20	GUEST TALK (Suite 1-3) Welcome: Professor Neil Koorbanally : Acting Dean of Research Speaker: TBC
16h00 – 16h30	SCIENCE WITH JAZZ: (Suite 1-4) Speaker: Professor David Lokhat : Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering, UKZN Musician: Ms Lu Dlamini and The Prophets : Vocalist, Composer and a Traditional Instrumentalist
16h30 – 18h00	
18h00 – 22h00	GALA DINNER (Sapphire Hall)

Master of Ceremonies: **Professor Alan Matthews**: Discipline of Physics
Welcome: **Professor Ademola Olaniran**: Dean: School of Agriculture and Science
Keynote Speaker: **Dr Kiara Worth**: Storyteller and Photographer
Entertainment: **Ms Ashleigh Joseph**
Acknowledgement of PRIS Supporters: **Professor Fhatuwani Mudau**: Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of College, and **Professor Rituparno Goswami**: College Dean of Research
Entertainment: **Ms Ashleigh Joseph**
Closing Remarks
Dinner

DAY 2: Thursday, 29 October

08h00 – 08h55	REGISTRATION
09h00 – 11h20	CONCURRENT FLASH BREAKAWAY PRESENTATIONS (Suite 1-4 & Ruby 1) Session 1: Chemistry and Biochemistry Session 2: Biological Sciences Session 3: Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences Session 4: Engineering Session 5: Mathematics, Physics, Statistics, Computer Science
09h00 – 11h20	CONCURRENT INDUSTRY SESSION (Ruby 2) Session 1: uMngeni-uThukela Water Session 2: Standard Bank Session 3: Sasol Session 4: Discovery Bank Session 5: Sanral Session 6: AgriSETA
11h25 – 11h45	TEA AND VIEWING OF INDUSTRY EXHIBITS (Sapphire Hall)
11h50 – 13h00	CONCURRENT FLASH BREAKAWAY PRESENTATIONS (Suite 1-4 & Ruby 1) Session 1: Chemistry and Biochemistry Session 2: Biological Sciences Session 3: Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences Session 4: Engineering Session 5: Mathematics, Physics, Statistics, Computer Science
13h00 – 14h00	CONCURRENT INDUSTRY SESSION (Ruby 2) Session 1: Department of Agriculture Session 2: Mintek Session 3: FNB Session 4: Eskom Session 5: SANAS Session 6: National Research Foundation
14h00 – 14h30	LUNCH (Sapphire Hall)
14h30 – 16h00	NETWORKING SESSION: TEA AND COFFEE (Suite 1-4)
16h00 – 17h00	CLOSING, PRIZE GIVING AND LUCKY DRAWS (Sapphire Hall) Professor Rituparno Goswami : College Dean of Research Professor Ademola Olaniran : Dean, School of Agriculture and Science Professor Glen Bright : Dean, School of Engineering Professor Fhatuwani Mudau : Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of College Dr Sally Frost : College PR Manager

[CLICK HERE](#)  [TO RSVP](#)

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