



GEOHAB

Marine Geological and Biological Habitat Mapping



2023 conference, 8-12 May, La Réunion Island, Indian Ocean



GeoHab (Marine Geological and Biological Habitat Mapping) is an international association of marine scientists studying and mapping geophysical, biophysical and geomorphic indicators of benthic communities, species diversity and distribution. The GeoHab association will hold its 2023 annual conference for the first time in Africa, on the French island of La Réunion, from Monday May 8 to Friday May 12. This annual conference typically attracts approximately 120-150 scientists and professionals including biologists, geologists, environmental scientists, spatial analysts, technologists, geophysicists and environmental advisors from around the world, providing a unique multidisciplinary forum for the exchange of knowledge and ideas that underpin sustainable ocean management. Students are strongly encouraged to attend and student grants will be available (see the 'Student support' section for more details). GeoHab is presently in its 21st year and has produced many publications and contributions to the development of this field through different working groups. The conference will be an in-person meeting with a video virtual link for attendees to log in, but all oral and poster presentations will only be permitted in person.

Session topics

We welcome contributions related to the mapping of marine and coastal habitats (e.g., from tropical to polar environments and from the beach to the abyss, using acoustic, optical/remote sensing and methods, or any other approaches). Topics include (but are not restricted to):

- Shelf and deep-sea habitats
- Coastal and shallow water habitats
- New approaches and technologies in habitat mapping
- Low cost, low tech, habitat mapping methods
- Human influence on marine habitats
- Oceanography in habitat mapping
- Habitat mapping and climate adaptation
- Habitat mapping for marine spatial planning (MSP)
- Submerged landscapes and cultural heritage
- Science communication in habitat mapping



Co-organisers

The 2023 GeoHab conference is co-organized by the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) [Rodolphe Devillers] and by the South African Council for Geoscience [Hayley Cawthra].

Venue

The conference will be held at Hotel Le Récif in Saint-Gilles-Les-Bains, La Réunion (<https://www.hotellerecif.com/>). The hotel is located next to the most renowned beach of the island, with easy access to a coral reef protected by a marine reserve. Accommodation will be available on site at a negotiated price, but alternate accommodation options in the vicinity will be suggested in the second circular. As the area is a popular tourist destination, it is strongly recommended to book early.



Conference dates and general schedule

May 8	Pre-conference workshop and ice-breaker event
May 9	Conference (oral and poster sessions)
May 10	Conference (oral and poster sessions) and conference dinner
May 11	Conference (oral presentations)
May 12	Field trip (intended to visit the island volcano)

Important dates

December 1	Abstract submission opens
February 3	Abstract submission closes; student support application closes
March 1	Registration opens
March 24	Early bird (on-site) registration closes
April 21	Early bird (virtual) registration closes



Student support

The organising committee of the GeoHab conference awards a small number of travel grants to selected students to attend and present at the conference. Details of the Ron McDowell Bursary scheme will be communicated in the second circular. Note that additional travel awards may also be offered to students and early-career scientists from the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region and details of this will be announced later.

Scientific committee

Touria Bajjouk (IFREMER, France)	Aarno Kotilainen (Geological Survey of Finland, Finland)
Vaughn Barrie (Geological Survey of Canada–Pacific, Canada)	Geoffroy Lamarche (NIWA, University of Auckland, New Zealand)
Craig Brown (Dalhousie University, Canada)	Tim Le Bas (National Oceanography Centre, UK)
Hayley Cawthra (Council for Geoscience, South Africa)	Vincent Lecours (Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, Canada)
Guy Cochrane (U.S. Geological Survey, USA)	Fantina Madricardo (CNR-Institute of Marine Sciences, Italy)
Rodolphe Devillers (IRD, France/La Réunion)	Kim Picard (GeoScience Australia, Australia)
Margaret Dolan (Geological Survey of Norway, Norway)	Talicia Pillay (Council for Geoscience, South Africa)
Federica Foglini (CNR-Institute of Marine Sciences, Italy)	Heather Stewart (British Geological Survey, UK)
Gary Greene (Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, USA)	Brian Todd (Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic, Canada)
Daniel Ierodiaconou (Deakin University, Australia)	

Email us on geohab2023@geohab.org and find us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/GeoHab23>