



One Health: Wildlife Workshop

The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Pietermaritzburg campus, along with colleagues from the University of Houston (USA) and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, are hosting a workshop. This is for researchers and/or practitioners in the areas of wildlife biology, ecological sustainability, molecular markers of health, wildlife conservation, social and community roles in sustaining wildlife and human health, and other inter- and trans- disciplinary topics. There will be presentations, round-table discussions, a practical session, and a fieldtrip. Post grads are encouraged to attend. **The workshop is free but you will have to arrange your own accommodation and transport.**

Dates: 16 to 18 April 2026 (Thursday to Saturday)

Venue: ANEW Hotel Hilton, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal

Times: Day 1 & 2 - 08h00 to 16h30, Day 3 - 05h30 to 10h00 (Fieldtrip)

Day 1: 16 April 2026, Thursday		
08h00	Registration and coffee	
08h30	Welcome by Prof Colleen Downs/ Dean of School/ DVC Research	
Session 1 - Conservation Challenges for Wildlife – One Health and monitoring		
Time	Presenter	Presentation title
08h45	Prof Colleen T Downs (UKZN), Brent Coverdale, Dr Sonja Krueger (EKZNW)	Overview of conservation challenges
09h30	Dr Lorinda Hart (BirdLife SA)	Conservation challenges for birds: birds and agrochemicals from a South African perspective
10h15	Prof Che Weldon (NWU)	Conservation challenges for herps
11h00	Tea	
11h30	Dr Hannes Erasmus (UniZul)	Conservation challenges for fish
12h15	Dr Leigh Richards (Durban Natural Science Museum)	Conservation challenges for bats
13h00	Prof Melvyn Quan (UP)	One Health aspects of foot-and-mouth disease control
13h45	Lunch	
14h30	Prof Mary Ann Ottinger (U Houston)	Reproduction in birds over the lifespan
15h15	Tea	
15h30	Round table session and breakaways	
17h00	End of Day 1	
Day 2: 17 April 2026, Friday		
08h00	Coffee	
08h30	Notices Day 2 and 3 - Prof Colleen Downs	
Session 2 – Health and Environment - One Health and interactions		
Time	Presenter	Presentation title
08h45	Prof Stefan Schmidt (UKZN)	Microbiological quality of river water, antibiotic resistance, and one health
09h30	Prof Sandi Willows-Munro (UKZN)	Host-pathogen associations in the genomics era: New tools for the study of coevolution
10h15	Prof Andre Ganswindt (UP)	Anthropogenic factors that influence stress-related hormone levels in African wildlife
11h00	Tea	
11h30	Prof Carola Niesler (UKZN)	Tissue-specific accumulation of micro- and nanoplastics in the invasive House Crow (<i>Corvus splendens</i>)
12h15	Prof Moses Okpeku (UKZN)	Control and prevention of tropical diseases by advanced tools and the One Health approach
13h00	Dr Luther King Abia-Akebe (UKZN)	Environment: the neglected component of the One Health triad
13h45	Lunch and group photo	
14h30	Prof Wanda Markotter (UP)	Developing One Health surveillance systems
15h15	Tea	
15h30	Round table session and breakaways OR Lab demonstration and practical lab work	
17h00	End of Day 2	
Day 3: 18 April 2026, Saturday		
05h30	Site visit: Darvill Wastewater Treatment Works for fish, bird and herp sampling	
10h00	End of Day 3	

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/aeBzvPLjhGT6G8SL8>

Extended deadline for registration Thursday, 19 March 2026.

