

In
Conversation
with...

Prof Himla Soodyall, Executive Officer, Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)
invites you to join her in conversation with

Dr Monica Mwale

on

Celebrating Biodiversity as Heritage

In this conversation, hosted by Prof Himla Soodyall, ASSAf Executive Officer, biodiversity as heritage will highlight the deep connections between people and nature, rooted in traditions, culture, and livelihoods. It is a living legacy that sustains life, shapes identity, and inspires resilience.

Date: 16 September 2025

Time: 11:00 – 12:00

Venue: Zoom

Register: [Click here](#)

About the Speaker



Dr Monica Mwale is a Principal Scientist at the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) conducting research in systematics of wildlife (terrestrial and marine organisms). This research focuses on understanding the diversity and phylogenetic relationships of species using genetic markers (DNA sequencing to metabarcoding), biological and morphological data, and responds to national biodiversity strategies for conservation and management. She applies this research to develop forensic science technologies for the identification of threatened or protected species using DNA barcoding to enhance and strengthen enforcement against wildlife crime. She is a member of several scientific and conservation bodies including the IUCN African Conservation Genetics Species Specialist Group, the secretariat the South African node of the Barcode of Life initiative (SABOL) and the South African National Committee of the International Union of Biological Sciences (SANC-IUBS) among others. Through these roles, she contributes to national and international efforts in biodiversity science, conservation policy, and capacity building.

Programme

11:00 – 11:05 **Welcome, Background and Introduction**

Prof Himla Soodyall, ASSAf Executive Officer

11:05 – 11:35 **Celebrating Biodiversity as Heritage**

Dr Monica Mwale

11:35 – 11:55 **Q&A**

Facilitated by Prof Himla Soodyall

11:55 – 12:00 **Closing**

Prof Himla Soodyall