

# Meet the scientist



**Name:** Dr Brett Kuyper

**Place of Birth:** Windhoek, Namibia, Africa

**Where is your place of work?** Department of Oceanography, University of Cape Town, South Africa

**Job title:** Research Associate

**Who do you work for?** I work with Dr Katye Altieri in the Department of Oceanography at the University of Cape Town in Cape Town, South Africa.

**What do you do?** My job is to work on developing our understanding of how halogen compounds from the ocean react with anthropogenically (human) released gases. The anthropogenic gases of interest are not only pollutants, but also contribute significantly to climate change. It is therefore important to understand how the natural system responds to these perturbations.

**What skills do you have to use in your job?** There are several skills, but most importantly would be data analysis (maths), which is coupled with computer programming. An essential skill in any science is the ability to troubleshoot a problem – to break the problem into small parts and solve each to solve the whole.

**Why do you like your job?** The challenge of solving problems and improving our understanding of the earth system is mostly what drives me to do this work. Then communicating the findings, teaching people about how incredible and complex the system is.

**What inspired you to choose a career in science?** I have always been fascinated in how things work and solving those has been a lifelong effort. Science is a fantastic way to explore how the world works, to use the troubleshooting and explore the wonderful intricacies of the earth system.