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Professor A.T. (Ticky) Forbes is an Honorary Professor of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, formerly the University of Natal, where he lectured in the Department of Biology from 1974 until 2005.

His research interests have historically been in the field of estuarine ecology with particular emphasis on the macro-crustacea and the penaeid prawns. He was a co-founder and chairman of the South African Prawn Fisheries and Development Association for several years. He is presently a co-director at Marine and Estuarine Research, a consulting company dedicated to the specialist assessment of anthropogenic environmental impacts on estuarine and coastal marine function, with particular regard to catchment modifications and the consequent effect on water flow volumes, patterns, nutrient quality and sediment transport and the resulting impacts on estuaries and coastal environments. He is presently part of a team responsible for assessment of the biological status, and ultimate management recommendations for 16 estuaries in the Durban municipal area covering ca. 80 km of coastline and including the port of Durban.

Within the LOICZ structure he is the co-ordinator of Theme 2 which is focussed on the implications of global change for coastal ecosystems and sustainable development.