

## **ABSTRACTS**

**A.J. Ribbink and M.J. Roberts**

**African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme:  
An overview of the conference contributions**

**South African Journal of Science 102: 409 – 415**

*Latimeria Chalumnae* is the icon for the multidisciplinary, multinational African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme (ACEP) dedicated to improving the understanding of biological and other processes that support marine life. This article provides an overview of contributions made at a conference hosted by ACEP at the end of 2003. It also reviews significant developments regarding coelacanth conservation, which have taken place since the conference. Delegates at the meeting concluded that the integrated regional, ecosystem approach that had been adopted by ACEP should continue. Underwater observations and exploration, however, should be supplemented by more experimental and technical analysis in order to answer longstanding questions related to coelacanths and other organisms.