Conservation and land reform authorities have only relatively recently come to recognise the integral link between conservation and land reform – a link that is often fraught with conflict and frequently plays out in the context of protected areas. The stakes are high and perhaps escalating as South Africa reopens its land restitution programme, while simultaneously seeking to protect and expand its protected areas estate. In his Inaugural Lecture, Professor Alexander Paterson will critically consider whether the array of legal mechanisms recently introduced by the government provide an effective and equitable solution for traversing this often troubled divide.

Alexander holds a BSocSc, LLB, LLM and PhD from the University of Cape Town. He is an admitted attorney of the High Court of South Africa and, having practised law in South Africa for a number of years, joined the Institute of Marine and Environmental Law within UCT’s Faculty of Law in 2004. Here he convenes the LLM Environmental Law Programme and is currently the Faculty’s Director of the Internationalisation.