ARID ZONE ECOLOGY FORUM

25-28 August 2003
Kathu Sport & Recreation Hall
Kathu, Northern Cape Province

Theme: Costs and benefits of biodiversity maintenance and repair in the arid zone

Monday, 25 August 2003

16:00-17:30  Registration
17:30-18:00  Briefing Session
18:00-19:00  Leisure time
19:00  Cocktails

Tuesday, 26 August 2003

07:30-08:30  Registration
08:30-08:40  Welcome and announcements – Mark Anderson

PAPER SESSION 1: COSTS AND BENEFITS OF BIODIVERSITY MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR IN THE ARID ZONE
(Chairperson: Mark Anderson)

08:40-09:10  The hidden costs and benefits of Renosterveld conversion in a commercial agricultural landscape. O'Farrell, PJ / Donaldson, JS / Hoffman, MT (INVITED SPEAKER)
09:10-09:40  The costs and benefits of communal, commercial and conservation land use practices in Namaqualand. James, I / Hoffman, MT / Allsopp, N (INVITED SPEAKER)
09:40-10:10  Cost of rehabilitation: ecological sustainability versus financial inputs. Van Rensburg, L / Kellner, K (INVITED SPEAKER)
10:10-10:40  TEA

PAPER SESSION 2: COSTS AND BENEFITS OF BIODIVERSITY MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR IN THE ARID ZONE
(Chairperson: Nelmarié Visser)

10:40-11:00  The costs and benefits of maintaining harvester termite predator biodiversity in semi-arid grass lands. Mitchell, JD
11:00-11:20  An overview and summary of policies and legislation concerning the conservation and restoration of natural resources in arid and semi-arid regions of South Africa. Van den Berg, L
11:20-11:40  Assessing the rangelands of the Little Karoo. Cupido, C / Milton, SJ / Visser, N
10:40-12:00  Why is the Succulent Karoo full of Succulents: victors or victims Carrick, P
PAPER SESSION 3: RESTORATION OF DEGRADED LAND IN THE ARID ZONE
(Chairperson: Loraine van den Berg)

12:00-12:30 Restoration and “emerging ecosystems” in the Arid Zone.
Milton, SJ (INVITED SPEAKER)

12:30-12:50 Financial analysis of rehabilitation
Mahood, K / Mahood, K

12:50-13:10 EcoRestore – a Decision Support System for the restoration of degraded rangelands in southern Africa.
Barac, A / Kellner, K

13:10-14:00 LUNCH

PAPER SESSION 4: ANIMAL STUDIES IN THE ARID ZONE
(Chairperson: Sue Milton)

14:00-14:20 Vulture conservation issues in the arid zone.
Anderson, MD

14:20-14:40 A new strategy for control of the brown locust.
Price, RE

14:40-15:00 Information core for southern African migrant pests.
Powell, ME

15:00-15:20 Changes in bird species composition and abundance in vineyards and native habitats in the Orange River valley.
Herrmann, E & Anderson, MD

15:20-15:50 TEA

POSTER SESSION 1
(Chairperson: Anuschka Barac)

15:50-16:00 Are pollination services influenced by land use? First results.
Mayer, C

16:00-16:10 Information core for southern African migrant pests.
Powell, ME

16:10-16:20 Influence of grazing intensity on the biodiversity of small mammals and arthropods.
Zeller, U / Hoffman, A / Vohland, K / Deckert, J / Gire, P / Muck, C / Uhlig, M (Presented by Ute Schmiedel)

16:20-16:30 Restoration of bare patches in a semi-arid grassland.
Snyman, HA

16:30-16:40 Restoration ecology: Survival of different overgrown grass species in a semi-arid grassland.
Van Rensburg, G

16:40-16:50 Historical overview of revegetation trials at Sishen Iron Ore Mine.
Van Rensburg, L / van Wyk, S / Morgental, T

16:50-17:00 The evaluation of various restoration techniques applied on a bare patch in the Beaufort-West district.
Visser, N / Botha, JC

17:00-17:10 The influence of prolonged seasonal defoliation on veld yields in the Central Free State.
Vorster, LF

17:10-17:20 Land use change in the Succulent Karoo biome: agriculture potential.
Jonas, Z / Hoffman, MT / Rouget, M

17:45-19:00 INFORMAL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: “Science in action: getting the message across”. Facilitated by Timm Hoffman and Mark Anderson
19:30  DINNER (Guest speaker)

Wednesday, 27 August 2003

08:00  Collect lunch packs and depart on field trip.

08:00-17:00  Field Trips

1. Tswalu Kalahari Reserve
2. Kathu area

19:30  BRAAI

Thursday, 28 August 2003

PAPER SESSION 5: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN THE ARID ZONE
(Chairperson: Ute Schmiedel)

07:45-08:05  Conserving biodiversity and riverine vegetation in the central Karoo – the case of the riverine rabbit, *Bunolagus monticularis*.  
Collins, K / du Toit, JT / Reyers, B

08:05-08:25  The Desert Margins Programme in South Africa - to conserve and restore biodiversity in arid systems.  
Kellner, K

08:25-08:45  Transfrontier Conservation – Keystone for optimal development in Gariep Centre.  
Van der Walt, P

08:45-09:05  Quantifying the dependence of the leopard (*Panthera pardus*) on herbaceous and browse production in semi-arid savanna.  
Van Wyk, G / Smit, GN

PAPER SESSION 6: ARID ZONE LAND MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
(Chairperson: Timm Hoffman)

09:05-09:25  Assessing the impact of natural resource utilisation by resource poor farmers in the Suidbokkeveld using remote sensing and participatory techniques.  
Salaam, W

09:25-09:45  Freehold and communal land use: Empirical evident of contrasts and convergence.  
Schneiderat, U / Siegmund-Schultze, M / Buss, H-J / Falk, T / Nuppenau, EA / Kirk, M

09:45-10:05  A decision support system for the management of semi-arid savannas in Namibia, with emphasis on bush thickening by *Acacia mellifera*.  
Joubert, D / Zimmermann, I / Graz, FP / Fendler, J / Dietrich, J

10:05-10:35  TEA

PAPER SESSION 7: BOTANICAL STUDIES IN THE ARID ZONE
(Chairperson: Tania Anderson)

10:35-10:55  Root biomass, spatial distribution and relations with aboveground biomass of savanna woody plants – a review.  
Smit, GN

10:55-11:15  Relationship of root mass and length under combined water stress and defoliation in *Themeda triandra* Forsk.  
Oosthuizen, IB

11:15-11:35  Limitations for Sustainable Utilisation of *Portulacaria afra* in the Valley Bushveld  
de Ridder, N

11:35-11:55  A new classification of vegetation types of the arid zone of South Africa.
Regional differences in the long-term population dynamics of a succulent tree, *Aloe dichotoma* in the semi-arid Karoo, South Africa as revealed by repeat photography.
*Kaleme, P / Hoffman, MT / Rohde, R*

The impacts of water point provision on the vegetation of the Nama Karoo
*Todd, S*

Is ultraviolet radiation driving biodiversity in the Succulent Karoo?
*Burgoyne, PM*

LUNCH

**POSTER SESSION 2**
(Chairperson: Nico Smit)

A simple method of evaluating veld recovery.
*Du Toit, PC*

The impact of elephants on the Limpopo riverine forests in the semi-arid region of the Limpopo Province.
*De Beer, G / Burger, L*

The monitoring of water abstraction in the Limpopo river and development of indicators to minimize deterioration of Limpopo riverine vegetation.
*De Beer, G / Burger, L*

Back to the abundance of Mother Nature’s pharmacy.
*De Jager, M*

Ants as bio-indicators.
*Netshilaphala, N*

Influence of water stress on shoot/root ratio and water-use efficiency of two *Opuntia* (spineless cactus pear) species.
*Ramakatane, ME / Snyman, HA*

Root dynamics of two *Opuntia* (spineless cactus pear) species.
*Ratsele, C / Snyman, HA*

Estimating the potential for degradation along a large scale rainfall gradient.
*Roberts, W / Archer, E / Knight R*

Large trees, productivity and biodiversity in the Kalahari: the influence of tree size on subcanopy plant assemblages.
*Seymour, C*

The influence of subhabitat differentiation on the soil under varying competition regimes in Mopane savanna.
*Smit, GN*

Unplanned fires and sustainability of a semi-arid grassland.
*Snyman, HA*

Compilation of the Nama Karoo Vegetation Map using GIS Modeling and Remote Sensing Technology.
*van der Menwe, JPA / Lloyd, JW / Mucina, L*

TEA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, PRIZE-GIVING AND CLOSURE

DINNER