

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Monday, 12 September 2005

16h00 – 18h15	Registration
18h30 – 19h00	Briefing session Lee Simons
19h00	Cocktails

Tuesday, 13 September 2005

PAPER SESSION 1: GUEST SPEAKERS

08h15 - 08h45	Title to be Announced Vlok, J.
08h45 - 09h15	Title to be Announced Midgley, G.
09h15 - 09h45	Socio-Economic Dimensions of Environmental Change in the Karoo Archer, S.
09h45 - 10h15	TEA

PAPER SESSION 2: VEGETATION CHANGE IN THE ARID ZONE

10h15 - 10h35	Environmental Changes in Riemvasmaak Ten Years After Resettlement Hoffman, M.T., Todd, S.W. and Duncan, J.A.
10h35 - 10h55	Vegetation Changes (1995 – 2004) in Karoo National Park: Effects of Rainfall, Wild Herbivores and Change in Land Use Kraaij, T. and Milton, S.J.
10h55 – 11h15	Vegetation Change at Tierberg Karoo Research Centre Milton, S., Dean, R. and UCT Conservation Biology Masters class of 2005

PAPER SESSION 3: LAND USE MANAGEMENT AND CHANGE

- 11h15 – 11h35 Karoo Veld: Ecology and Management: a Book for the Custodians of Southern Africa's Arid Lands
Esler, K.J., Milton, S.J. and Dean, W. R.J.
- 11h35 – 11h55 Livestock Management During Drought in a Communal Rangeland in Namaqualand
Samuals, I., Allsopp, N., and Knight, R.S.
- 11h55 – 12h15 Impacts of Rangeland Management on the Ecology of Tent Tortoises (*Psammobates tentorius*) in the Succulent Karoo
McMaster, M. and Esler, K.J.
- 12h15 – 12h35 Detecting Human Impacts in the Richtersveld: A Topographically and Climatically Complex Arid Ecosystem
Main, R.S., Knight, R.S., Hendricks, H. and Jurgens, N.
- 12h35 – 12h55 Veld Degradation in Little Karoo Rangelands – Should Free-Range Ostrich Farming Take the Blame?
Cupido, C.
- 12:55 - 13h15 Time Series Analysis of Vegetation Indices (NDVI) for Namaqualand - A Proposed Tool for Ecosystem Management
Knight, R.S., Kumar Vadapalli, V.R., Omlin, C.W.P. and Moll, E.J.

13h15 - 14h00 LUNCH

PAPER SESSION 4: MONITORING CHANGE

- 14h00 – 14h20 Relationships Between Vegetation Cover and Animal Use on and off Heuweltjies in Namaqualand Rangelands
Cilliers, C. and Knight, R.S.
- 14h20 – 14h40 Development of a Monitoring Protocol for Vegetation Change Due to Herbivory Using Thresholds of Potential Concern and Stakeholder Involvement: A Case Study From the Little Karoo
Farmer, H., Milton, S.J. and van Deventer, C.
- 14h40 – 15h00 A Comparison Between the Quick Rangeland Health Assessment Method and the Grazing Index Method for Assessing Veld Condition in the Little Karoo.
Cupido, C.
- 15h00 – 15h20 Models and Bunnygirls: How to Use One to Find the Other!
Reeler, J. and Knight, R.S.

15h20-15h50 TEA

POSTER SESSION 1: VEGETATION CHANGE IN THE ARID ZONE

- 15h50 – 16h00 The Influence of Tree Thinning and Tree Species on the Dry Matter Yield of Grasses of a Bush Encroached Semi-Arid Savanna in South Africa
Smit, G. N.

- 16h00 – 16h10 Vegetation Change in the Karoo National Park Over Twenty Years.
Pretorius, G.C.P. and Panagos, M.D.
- 16h10 – 16h20 Comparative Studies for Detecting Vegetation Changes Due to Climate Change Using
Aerial Photographs (Northern Richtersveld).
Dreber, N. (Presented by Schmiedel, U.)
- 16h20 – 16h30 Detecting Seasonal Vegetation Changes in the Little Karoo Using Satellite Imagery.
Krousch, M.A. and Knight, R.S.
- 16h30 – 16h40 The New Vegetation Map of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland.
Powrie, L.
- 16h40 – 16h50 Patterns of Diversity Along a Topogradient in Soebatsfontein / Namaqualand.
Kwetsche, T. (Presented by Schmiedel, U.)

POSTER SESSION 2: MONITORING CHANGE

- 16h50 – 17h00 A Review of Satellite Imagery for Vegetation Classification and Monitoring.
Desmet, P.

17h00 – 18h00 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Monitoring Change in Arid Environments - Practical Monitoring Programmes for Landowners
Michelle Yates - The Bushmanland Conservation Initiative

19h00 DINNER (GUEST SPEAKER)

Wednesday, 14 September 2005

PAPER SESSION 5: CHANGING FACE OF CONSERVATION

- 08h00 – 08h20 Stewardship Intervention in the Sandveld Region - Greater Cederberg Biodiversity
Corridor.
Ranger, S.
- 08h20 – 08h40 Planning for National Park Expansion in Arid Areas: Getting the Balance Right.
Holness, S.
- 08h40 – 09h00 Biodiversity Conservation in the Knersvlakte: Potential Contributions of Conservation
Approaches to Achieving Sustainable Development
Lim, S., Brown, R., York, J. and Shapiro, T.
- 09h00 – 09h20 Factors Influencing Spatial Distribution of Herbivores in a Large Protected Area in the Arid
Little Karoo: the Influences of Soil Chemistry and Plant Palatability
Farmer, H., Milton, S.J. and van Deventer, C.
- 09h20 – 09h40 Conservation of the Short-Clawed Lark: Should We be Concerned?
Engelbrecht, D., Grosel, J. and Dippenaar, S.

POSTER SESSION 3: CHANGING FACE OF CONSERVATION

- 09h40 – 09h50 Impact of Disturbances on the Phytodiversity and Species Composition on Quartz Fields in the Knersvlakte - Towards the Development of Rehabilitation Measures.
Etzold, S.
- 09h50 – 10h00 Impacts of 4x4 Industry on the Environment - A Pilot Project in the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor.
Koch, A.
- 10h00 – 10h10 *Arundo donax*: Eradication vs. Control
Manuel, J. and Knight, R.S.
- 10h10 – 10h20 The Giant Reed - *Arundo donax*: Has It Reached the Limits of Its Invasion in South Africa?
Knight R.S., Reeler, J. and Samuels, I.
- 10h20 – 10h30 Caught Between a Rock and a Hard Place. Can We Save the Critically Endangered *Euphorbia clivicola*?
Engelbrecht, D. and Witkowski, E.

10h40 FIELD TRIPS

This year we have five exciting fieldtrips to interest AZEF delegates. The fieldtrips covers a broad spectrum of land use practices in the greater Barrydale area and will hopefully inspire stimulating discussion and debate.

1. Doornkloof Reserve

This trip involves a scenic drive to Doornkloof Reserve. Stops will be made along the way to discuss changes in land use practices and associated vegetation changes. Lunch will be had at Doornkloof where there will be a short introductory talk and further discussions will be facilitated by Jan Vlok.

2. Koktyls Private Game Farm

The trip to Koktyls Game farm will concentrate on the management of the game farm with specific discussions around the rehabilitation of old fields and problems with soil erosion and how these issues were addressed on the reserve.

3. Nature College Wild Life Training Centre.

The centre is run by Johan Fourie who was a trail ranger for National Parks for 20 years and will give an introductory talk on his experiences in the Karoo. Visitors to the centre will be exposed to a unique holistic approach to nature interpretation, which is applied in the fields of environmental education, training, development and personal growth at the centre. An opportunity will be given to explore the private reserve on which the centre is based. For further information visit the website: <http://www.naturecollege.co.za>

4. Repeat Photography Trip

A small group of approximately 10 people will accompany Prof. Timm Hoffman to visit some of the sites in the Ladysmith area photographed by Pole Evans in 1920. The group will investigate the techniques used in repeat photography before re-taking and resampling of the sites. At one of the sites there have been large changes in the number of *Pappaea capensis* individuals on the hill-slope and the group will have the opportunity to talk about long term vegetation dynamics in the region. The value of repeat photography as a monitoring tool as well as its limitations will be explored with the group.

5. Sanbona wildlife Reserve

Sanbona has introduced elephants and white lions into their 54 000 ha reserve. The Reserve boasts other big game such as buffalo, black rhino, leopard and cheetah. The trip includes an introductory talk about the reserve's management practices, followed by a drive in the reserve with stops to view and discuss the fauna, flora and other interesting aspects such as the quartz patches, rock formations of the Cape Fold Mountains and rock art of the San at the reserve. This trip will also visit a rehabilitation site on Koktyls Farm. For more information on Sanbona Reserve, please visit the website: <http://www.sanbona.com>

18h30

BRAAI

Thursday, 15 September 2005

PAPER SESSION 6: PEOPLE AND CHANGE IN THE ARID ZONE

- 08h00 – 08h20 Adapting to a Harsher World: Farmer Responses to Climate Change in the Suid Bokkeveld
Oettle, N.M., Archer, E.R.M. and Louw, R. R.
- 08h20 – 08h40 Pastoralism and Agro-Pastoralism of the African Horn under Aridity Dynamics with Special Reference to Eastern Ethiopia.
Kassahun, A., Snyman, H.A. and Smit, G.N.
- 08h40 – 09h00 Farming on the Edge: Cereal Production in the Commons of Leliefontein
Allsopp, N., Hoffman, M.T. and Young, E.M.
- 09h00 – 09h20 Commonage in an Arid Area: Emergent Farmers' Perceptions of Sustainable Commonage Use
Atkinson, D.
- 09h20 – 09h40 A Preliminary Review: Quiver Tree (*Aloe Dichotoma*) Trade From the Northern Cape
Powell, E.
- 09h40 – 10h00 Promoting Learning Partnerships to Conserve Biodiversity - The Nieuwoudtville Biodiversity Facilitators
Koelle, B., Buchsenstein, P. and Marinus, E.

PAPER SESSION 7: REVERSING THE CHANGE - REHABILITATION

- 10h00 – 10h20 Post Mining Recovery of Succulent Karoo Strandveld Biodiversity
Milton, S.J. and BWE414 University of Stellenbosch
- 10h20 – 10h40 The Effect of a Second Brush-Cut as a Method of Control for *Pteronia paniculata* - Preliminary Results
Visser, N., Botha, J.C. and du Plessis, C.G.

10h40 – 11h05 TEA

PAPER SESSION 7: REVERSING THE CHANGE - REHABILITATION

- 11h05 – 11h25 Landscape Degradation and Restoration in Namaqualand: Lessons From the Past, Hopes for the Future.
Kruger, R. and Carrick, P.
- 11h25 – 11h45 Benefits and Pitfalls of Using Problem Plants as a Natural Resource: the *Arundo donax* Case Study
Manuel, J. and Knight, R.S.

PAPER SESSION 8: STUDIES IN THE ARID ZONE

- 11h45 - 12h05 The Costs and Benefits of the Nurse Plant Effect to *Ziziphus mucronata*
Seymour, C.

- 12h05 – 12h25 Tree Water Uptake Along Ephemeral Rivers - Insights from the Kuiseb River, Namibia
Schachtschneider, K.
- 12h25 – 12h45 Competitive Relationships Between Grass and Leaf Succulent Shrub at the Ecotone
Between Nama Karoo and Succulent Karoo Biomes
Shiponeni, N.
- 12h45 – 13h05 Plant Growth in the Karoo - Its All About Water Availability, Right? Wrong!
Carrick, P.

13h05 – 13h55 LUNCH

PAPER SESSION 8: STUDIES IN THE ARID ZONE

- 13h55 – 14h15 Increases in Numbers of Crows (*Corvidae*) Over Time in Semi-Arid South Africa: Landuse,
Foraging Opportunities Or Lack of Competition?
Anderson, M. D. and Dean, W. R. J.
- 14h15 – 14h35 Compositional Change of Selected Grass Species Along a Grazing Gradient in the
Southern Afar Region of Ethiopia
Gebremeskel, K. and Pieterse, P.J.

POSTER SESSION 4: PEOPLE AND CHANGE IN THE ARID ZONE

- 14h35 – 14h45 A Biodiversity Centre for the Succulent Karoo in Kamieskroon, Namaqualand.
le Roux, A. and Smart, R.
- 14h45– 14h55 Para-Ecologists in BIOTA: A New Approach Towards Capacity Development and
Researcher - Land User - Partnership.
Schmiedel, U.
- 14h55 – 15h05 Ants as Indicators in Education
Mahood, K.
- 15h05 – 15h15 A Spider Project Started by a BIOTA Para-Ecologist
Christiaan, R.

POSTER SESSION 5: REVERSING THE CHANGE - REHABILITATION

- 15h15 – 15h25 Financial Analysis of Rehabilitation Techniques
Mahood, K.

15h25 – 15h50 TEA

POSTER SESSION 6: LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT CHANGE IN THE ARID ZONE

- 15h50 – 16h00 Occurrence of Unpalatable and Toxic Plants Under Different Land Use Intensities.
Greiner, S.

- 16h00 – 16h10 Impact of Land Use on Pollination Services
Mayer, C. (Presented by Schmiedel, U.)
- 16h10 – 16h20 Influence of Livestock Browsing and Grazing on Vegetation Cover and Condition in the Richtersveld Region
Cilliers, C., Hendricks, H., Juergens, N. and Knight R.S.
- 16h20 – 16h30 Quantifying Fossorial Animal Activity Under Livestock Used and Excluded Rangelands of the Richtersveld
Houniet, D., Cilliers, C., Hendricks, H., Juergens, N. and Knight, R.S.
- 16h30 – 16h40 Use of Telemetry and GPS for Assessing Goat Movements in Namaqualand Rangelands
Knight, R.S., Hendricks, H., Samuels, I. and Cilliers, C.

POSTER SESSION 7: STUDIES IN THE ARID ZONE

- 16h40 – 16h50 Ageing of *Acacia mellifera*: Is It Possible and What Can It Tell Us?
Joubert, D. and Steenkamp, C.
- 16h50 – 17h00 Vegetation Refugia in the Little Karoo AF Evidence From *Gibbaeum cryptopodium* (*Aizoaceae*) Investigated With AFLP Markers
Bertram, G.
- 17h00 – 17h10 Estimating the Productivity of *Atriplex* Species.
Malan, P.J.
- 17h20 **AGM**
- 19h00 **DINNER**