

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Monday, 21 August 2006

16h00 – 18h15	Registration
18h30	Briefing session Lee Simons
19h00	Cocktails A Message from SKEP

Tuesday, 22 August 2006

PAPER SESSION 1: GUEST SPEAKERS

08h00 - 08h30	Title and name to be announced
08h30 - 09h00	Socio-economic dimensions of environmental change in the Karoo Allsopp, N.
09h00 - 09h30	The Future of AZEF Simons, L.

PAPER SESSION 2: 21 YEARS OF ARID ZONE RESEARCH – WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED?

09h30 – 09h50	A new vegetation map for the Kamiesberg Desmet, P. and Helme, N.
09h50 – 10h10	Describing the vegetation and environment of the arid zones of South Africa: the VEGMAP book Rutherford, M.C., Powrie, L.W. and Mucina, L.
10h10 – 10h30	First results from the long-term observation component within BIOTA Southern Africa Juergens, N.

10h30 - 11h05 TEA

PAPER SESSION 3: LONG TERM ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH

11h05 – 11h25	Towards a unified theory of vegetation and livestock dynamics for the Karoo Richardson, F.D. and Hoffman, M.T.
---------------	---

11h25 – 11h45	Historical bird collections from Deelfontein near Britstown, Northern Cape Dean, W.R.J.
11h45 – 12h05	Climate change and its implications for livestock farming in the eastern Karoo Archer, E. and Tadross, M.
12h05 – 12h25	Detecting change in the Richtersveld National Park, over a 14 year period, using remotely sensed data Main, R., Colditz, R. and Knight, R.
12h25 – 12h45	Para-Ecologists - new perspectives for long-term ecological research and land-user communities Christiaan, R., Isaacks, R., Kham, J., Kriel, G., Lot, J., Mukuya, R.S., Scott, J., and Schmiedel, U.
12h45 – 13h05	The impacts of sustained heavy grazing on perennial standing biomass across the Kamiesberg mountain range in the Succulent Karoo Anderson, P.M. L. and Hoffman, M. T.
13h05 – 13h25	Long-term observation of vegetation in the Richtersveld. Juergens, N.
13h25 – 14h25	LUNCH
PAPER SESSION 4:	CO-OPERATION IN THE ARID ZONE (Interdisciplinary Approaches)
14h25 – 14h45	Participatory GIS - Mapping for sustainable resource use Koelle, B. and Kotze, D.
14h45 – 15h05	Content analysis of Namibian commercial conservancy management plans Schumann, M. and Watson, L.
15h05 – 15h25	Synergies for survival: holistic conservation in the Suid-Bokkeveld Oettle, N. and Louw, R.
15h25 – 16h00	TEA
16h00 – 16h40	EXTENDED POSTER VIEWING SESSION
POSTER SESSION 1:	LONG TERM ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH
16h40 – 16h45	Monitoring the success of dune stabilization in the Kalahari: A decade later Janse van Rensburg, J. and Kellner, K.
16h45 – 16h50	Plant diversity and species richness on old fields of different ages in the Kamiesberg Region, Namaqualand Kellerman, L.

- 16h50 – 16h55 Long-term monitoring of vegetation dynamics in The Goegap Nature Reserve, Namaqualand
Broodryk, N.L., van Rooyen, M.W., van der Merwe H. and le Roux, A.
- 16h55 – 17h00 Vegetation of the Hantam-Tanqua-Roggeveld region of the Succulent Karoo, South Africa
van der Merwe, H., van Rooyen M.W. and van Rooyen, N.

17h10 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Input into the selection of the SAEON (South African Environmental Observation Node) Arid Zone Node

- 19h00 DINNER**
Honorary Award presentation

Wednesday, 23 August 2006

PAPER SESSION 5: COMMUNICATING RESEARCH FINDINGS

- 08h00 – 08h20 Technology transfer to Karoo livestock farmers: praat die boer se taal
Cupido, C.F., Du Plessis, C.G. and Botha, J.C.
- 08h20 – 08h40 Stewardship in the Northern Cape - a partnership approach
Fourie, K.
- 08h40 – 09h00 Predator conflict resolution in Namibia: Are conservancies helping?
Schumann, M.
- 09h00 – 09h20 Tourism in the Little Karoo
Gelderblom, C.
- 09h20 – 09h40 Seasonal grazing patterns of communal livestock in Namaqualand
Samuels, M.I. and Allsopp, N.

POSTER SESSION 2: CO-OPERATION IN THE ARID ZONE (Interdisciplinary Approaches)

- 09h40 – 09h45 Ecological monitoring of quartz fields- brining school children on board
Christiaan, R., Mentoor, D. and Schmiedel, U.
- 09h45 – 09h50 Southern African Reptile Conservation Assessment (SARCA): An exciting way to learn more about South African Reptiles
Lot, J., Kriel, G. and Burger, M.

09h50 – 10h30 TEA AND COLLECTION OF LUNCH PACKS

PAPER SESSION 6: REHABILITATION

10h30 – 10h50 Rehabilitation of Little Karoo gannaveld: economically feasible or not?
Herling, M. and Cupido, C.

10h50 – 11h10 Ecology and population dynamics of quartz field vegetation in the Knersvlakte: implications for biodiversity management and restoration.
Etzold, S. and Schmiedel, U.

POSTER SESSION 3: RESEARCH CHALLENGES INTO THE FUTURE

11h10 – 11h15 Is low-elevation vertical digital photography an effective approach to use in the study of arid zone vegetation?
Cilliers, C.D., Knight, R.S., Musil, C.F., Jurgens, N., Schmiedel, U., Emms, P., Houniet, D. and Krug, R.

11h15 – 11h20 Comparing conservation, restoration and improved livelihood technologies in DMP partner countries in West, East and southern Africa.
van den Berg, L., Kellner, K. and Jordaan, F.

11h20 – 11h30 INTRODUCTION TO FIELD TRIPS

An Investigation of Veld Condition at a Fence Line Contrast
Led by Sue Milton

Repeat Photography
Led by Timm Hoffman

Visit to Namaqua National Park Research Sites
Hosted by South African National Parks.

11h30 FIELD TRIPS

18h30 BRAAI

Thursday, 24 August 2006

PAPER SESSION 7: PEOPLE LIVING IN THE ENVIRONMENT

08h00 – 08h20 Rainfall and human activities impacts of environmental degradation in Butana area of Sudan
Elhag, M. and Walker, S.

08h20 – 08h40 Why rangeland policy fails the commons of Namaqualand
Allsopp, N. and Rohde, R.

PAPER SESSION 8: REHABILITATION

- 08h40 – 09h00 Past restoration practices in the Namaqualand lowlands
Botha, S.
- 09h00 – 09h20 Seed biology of lowland Namaqualand's perennial plants and its implications for ecological restoration
Krüger, R.
- 09h20 – 09h40 Slowly does it: *A. erioloba* growing large in southern Kalahari savannas
Seymour, C.

POSTER SESSION 4: REHABILITATION

- 09h40 – 09h45 A comparison of selected enhanced (coated) and un-enhanced grass seed types for re-vegetating degraded rangelands.
Brits, Y. and Kellner, K.
- 09h45 – 09h50 The evaluation of the establishment and growth of indigenous trees to restore the deforested riparian area in the Mapungubwe National Park, South Africa
Scholtz, T.E. and Kellner, K.

09h50 – 10h25 TEA

PAPER SESSION 9: VEGETATION STUDIES IN THE ARID ZONE

- 10h25 - 10h45 Vegetation dynamics at the ecotone between arid grasslands and succulent shrublands
Shiponeni, N.
- 10h45 – 11h05 How does grazing capacity estimated from clipping compare with cover-based estimates and empirical stocking rates?
Milton, S.J. et al.
- 11h05 – 11h25 Determinants of the vegetation structure and composition of the Buffels River, a typical ephemeral river of Namaqualand
Todd, S.
- 11h25 – 11h45 The population status of *Aloe pillansii* L. Guthrie in Southern Namibia
Swart and Hoffman, T.

POSTER SESSION 5: VEGETATION STUDIES IN THE ARID ZONE

- 11h45 – 11h50 Seed mass and seed dimensions of *Acacia mellifera* subsp. *detinens* over a tree density gradient in a semi-arid savanna of southern Africa.
Smit, G.N. and Hagos, M.G.
- 11h50 – 11h55 The influence of tree thinning on herbaceous dry matter yield, with and without grazing by herbivore game species in Marakele Park, Thabazimbi.
Pienaar, F.C., Smit, G.N. and Du Preez, P.J.

11h55 – 12h00	Monitoring <i>Stoebe vulgaris</i> (bankrupt bush) encroachment in selected areas of the grassland biome of South Africa. Wepener, J.P., Kellner, K. and Jordaan, D.
12h00 – 12h50	EXTENDED POSTER VIEWING SESSION
12h50 – 13h50	LUNCH
PAPER SESSION 10:	STUDIES IN THE ARID ZONE
13h50 – 14h10	The influence of rangeland degradation on the feeding behaviour of livestock in the Somali Region of Eastern Ethiopia Kassahun, A., Snyman, H.A. and Smit, G.N.
14h10– 14h30	Predator avoidance and foraging behaviour of Cape Porcupines at Nieuwoudtville in the Northern Cape Bragg, C., Davidian, E. and O’Riain, J.
14h30 – 14h50	Secrets of the landscape: Mapping wild rooibos populations Louw, R. and Oettle, N.
14h50 – 15h10	Pedodiversity of Southern African Drylands: Measurements and implication for biodiversity Petersen, A. Gröngroft, A, Herpel, N. and Miehlich, G.
15h10 – 15h40	TEA
PAPER SESSION 11:	STUDIES IN THE ARID ZONE (Continued)
15h40 – 16h00	Ecological significance of small scale soil patchiness in the Succulent Karoo Herpel, N., Gröngroft, A., Petersen, A. and Miehlich, G.
16h00 – 16h20	The influence of frost and drought on young Cactus Pear plants Fouché, H.J. and Snyman, H.A.
16h20 – 16h40	The evaluation of cactus pear cultivars in the Central Free State Avenant, P.L.
POSTER SESSION 6:	STUDIES IN THE ARID ZONE
16h40 – 16h45	Quantification of the wind-induced material in arid mountainous soils of the Richtersveld, South Africa Gröngroft, A., Willer, J., Andreas Petersen, A. and Miehlich, G.
16h45 – 16h50	Microscopic study of myxospermic seeds found in Namaqualand Fotouo Makouate, H. and van Rooyen, G.
16h50 – 16h55	Climate change and rodent distribution in arid southern Africa Nel, J.A.J. and Erasmus, B.F.N.

16h55 – 17h00 Habitat Selection of Blue Cranes in the Karoo
Gibbons, B.

17h10 **AGM**

19h00 **DINNER**

Dinner will include an audio-visual (AV) display by Freeman Patterson and Colla Swart

POSTERS FOR DISPLAY ONLY

The impact of land use practices on insect assemblages in the Succulent Karoo
Nchai, M.

Communal vs. Commercial: The effects of livestock grazing on small mammal communities over fence-line contrasts
Haveron, S.

Germination potential of the critically endangered *Secale africanum* and of *Polhillia involucreatum* in an arid hot spot
Visser, N. and Botha, J.C.