

MONDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2019

Meet & Greet – 17:00 to 19:00

FINGER SNACKS & EARLY REGISTRATION

The Glass Room, Sol Plaatje University

TUESDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2019

La D Da Lodge, Memorial Road (N12) Kimberley

08:00	Late Registration	
08:30	Ismail Ebrahim - AZEF Chair	Welcome

Opening Address (Chair: Ismail Ebrahim)

08:40	Dr Andrew Skowno - Opening Address	Key findings and messages from the National Biodiversity Assessment
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Special Session 1 – Poaching in the Arid Zone (Chair: Ismail Ebrahim)

09:15	Mr Paul Gildenhuis – Keynote Address	Poaching of fauna & flora in the Arid Zone
09:50	Uys N	Concerns and gaps of illegal plant collections in the Northern Cape Province
10:10	Jabar L, Pfab MF & Roberts DL	Fat, juicy plunder: the online trade in South African succulents

10:30 - 11:00 Tea

Special Session 2 – Poaching in the Arid Zone cont. (Chair: Leandra Knoetze)

11:00	☞ Mhlongo NN, Witkowski ETF & Pfab MF	Ecology and unsustainable use of <i>Euphorbia bupleurifolia</i>
11:20	Variawa T & Pfab MF	Ripe for picking: The plight of South Africa's <i>Pachypodium</i> species

11:40 - 13:00 Discussion Session: Poaching in the Arid Zone (Leader: Paul Gildenhuis)

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 Annual General Meeting

15:00 - 15:20 Tea

Session 3 – Stewardship, Land Management & Protected Area Expansion (Chair: Joh Henschel)

15:20		Ms Malebo Manyala – Keynote address	Critical Biodiversity Area Conservation through Biodiversity Stewardship in the Northern Cape
15:55		Knoetze L	Northern Cape: An arid paradise or a critical habitation?
16:15		De Cauwer V & Wassenaar T	Iona – Skeleton Coast: a new Transfrontier Conservation Area
16:35		Bukhosini SN	WESSA Sishen Education Centre

17:00 - 18:00 Session 4 - Poster Session**18:00 – DINNER****Kalahari Lodge, cnr Landbou & Memorial Rd (N12)****WEDNESDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2019****08:00 Late Registration****Session 5 – Karoo BioGAPS Project Reflections & SKA Visioning (Chair: Justin du Toit)**

08:30	Seymour CL, Raimondo T, Tolley KA & Poole C	BioGAPS: filling a void for biodiversity information in the Karoo
08:50	Ebrahim I	Karoo Biogaps: Lessons learnt from implementing a multi-stakeholder project
09:10	Rebello AG	iNaturalist: using and misusing citizen science data in South Africa
09:30	Henschel JR, Harebottle D, Milne E, Van der Merwe H, Samuels MI & Cupido CF	BioGAPS – What's Next?

09:50 - 10:20 Discussion Session (Leader: Joh Henschel)**Session 6 – Long-term Monitoring in Arid Environments (Chair: Leandra Knoetze)**

10:20	Schmiedel U, Jacke V & Oldeland J	Long-term vegetation trends in response to seasonal weather conditions and herbivore density in the South African Kalahari
10:40	Rohde RF, Hoffman MT*, Durbach I, Venter Z & Jack S	Historical vegetation and climate change in the Namib Desert

11:00 - 11:30 Tea

Session 7 - Long-term Monitoring in Semi-Arid Environments (Chair: Lisa Hebbelmann)		
11:30	Du Toit JCO & O'Connor TG	Influence of season of grazing and rainfall over time on vegetation in the eastern Karoo, South Africa
11:50	Van der Merwe H & Milton SJ	A long-term experiment tracking tree shrub species of variable grazing value to understand vegetation dynamics in arid shrublands
12:10	Bezuidenhout H, Botha J, Ramaswiela T* & O'Connor T	Key determinants of long-term compositional variation of the herbaceous layer in a semi-arid savanna, Vaalbos National Park
12:30	♀ Pauw MJ, Ramaswiela T, Adebowale K & Musvuugwa T	Observations on the phenology of six woody and two grass species in Kimberley Thornveld in relation to climate
12:50	Petersen H, Hoffman MT & Henschel JR	Using long-term ecological data to establish benchmarks for restoration in South African drylands

13:10 – 13:30 Profiles by fieldtrip leaders & collection of packed lunches

18:00 – DINNER
The Fat Greek, Dutoitspan Road, Above The Half, Kimberley

THURSDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2019

08:00 **Late Registration**

Special Session 8 – WWF's Research Priorities for the Succulent Karoo (Chair: Marco Pauw)		
08:30	Nteta O	Research priorities for the Succulent Karoo: WWF and Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust
09:10	Group discussion time	Facilitators: Ismail Ebrahim, Katherine Forsythe, Timm Hoffman, Onkemetse Nteta

10:00 - 10:30 Tea

10:30 - 11:30 Group feedback: WWF's Research Priorities of the SK

11:30 - 11:40 Closing summary (Onkemetse Nteta)

Session 9 – Drought Resilience for Biodiversity & Livelihoods (Chair: Hana Petersen)		
11:40	Muller H, Scorgie S, Hawkins H & Jansen C*	Namaqualand commonage restoration: Strengthening the evidence base for Ecosystem-based Adaptation
12:00	♀ Sebelebele M, Ellis W, Cupido CF & Samuels MI	"Ons plante in ons maniere": A study of how pastoralists apply indigenous ecological knowledge to identify and ascertain value for selected key fodder-plants that contribute to small-stock production

Session 10 – Animal Ecology (Chair: Hana Petersen)		
12:20	Harebottle DM & Werth J	Crossing the arid zone: Preliminary movements of captive-reared Lesser Flamingos from Kamfers Dam, Kimberley, May – August 2019
12:40	De Cauwer, Hauptfleisch M & Wassenaar T	Wildlife corridors in Iona – Skeleton Coast Transfrontier Conservation Area

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

Session 11 – Plant Ecology (Chair: Laaiqah Jabar)		
14:00	♀ Hebbelmann L & O'Connor T	Grass-shrub competition in the Eastern Karoo: the results of a small clipping trial
14:20	♀ Piers L, Samuels MI, Masubelele M & Khomo L	Inselbergs persist as islands of diversity in a heavily grazed rangeland mosaic at the nexus of three arid biomes
14:40	Calitz W, Henschel J, Ramaswiela T & Van Der Merwe H	Monitoring change along an altitudinal gradient across the Great Escarpment in the Karoo at Compassberg

15:00 - 15:30 Tea

Session 12 – Plant Ecology continued (Chair: Wynand Calitz)		
15:30	Bester SP, Steyn HM, Koekemoer M, Victor JE, Van Wyk E, Magee AR & Singh Y	Building botanical knowledge of South Africa's underexplored regions
15:50	Becker RW & Möller A	The taxonomic status of <i>Euphorbia spartaria</i> over the last century – an example of the possible consequences when taxonomists get it wrong

16:10 - 16:45 Discussion & Closing Session (Ismail Ebrahim)

**17:00 - GALA DINNER – Kalahari Lodge
PRIZE GIVING – STUDENT PAPERS & POSTERS
RAFFLE DRAW FOR PRIZES!**

Key to symbols used in programme:

* Speaker

♀ Student presentation