



## UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE Interdisciplinary Working Group: Range Ecology and Range Management in Drylands



Dr. Anja Linstädter [anja.linstaedter@uni-koeln.de](mailto:anja.linstaedter@uni-koeln.de)  
[http://www.botanik.uni-koeln.de/ag\\_linstaedter.html](http://www.botanik.uni-koeln.de/ag_linstaedter.html)

The Southern African and German SPACES program (Science Partnerships for the Assessment of Complex Earth System Processes) financed from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has recently been launched. The project **'SPACES Limpopo Living Landscapes - Understanding the dynamics of ecological and cultural landscapes, in the face of global change, in the northern Limpopo region of South Africa'** aims to understand and predict the combined effects of land use and climate change on natural resources and rural livelihoods. Within the framework of the **subproject SP4 'Livelihoods and farming systems'**, we offer a

### Doctoral scholarship

#### Effects of management and climate on forage resources in South African rangelands

for the period of 3 years. The position is based at the University of Cologne, Botanical Institute.

We will assess functional interactions of the social-ecological systems at the current state and under projected climate and land use conditions by combining field-based studies along steep natural gradients with controlled experiments. Research topics include (1) assessing effects of rangeland management and the physical environment on forage resources; (2) developing a trait-based approach to link forage resources to ecosystem functioning; (3) harnessing local ecological knowledge on the availability and management for a sustainable rangeland management. The successful candidate will conduct field work in South Africa's Limpopo Region. He/she will work in a multidisciplinary team (agronomy, remote sensing, ecological modeling).

You are particularly suited to this position if your qualifications include several or all of the following:

- MSc degree or equivalent in Geography, Biology, Geoecology or related fields, with excellent academic results;
- Experience with vegetation ecology and willingness to acquire methodical skills in social sciences;
- Knowledge and skills in univariate and multivariate statistics;
- Excellent command of English;
- Good team player with strong interpersonal skills; ability to work in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment; sensitivity and respect for diversity.

#### Application:

South African candidates, preferably from the Universities of Venda and Limpopo, are requested to send the usual documents (curriculum vitae, contact details of two referees, and cover letter setting out the reasons for applying), to Dr. Anja Linstädter, Range Ecology and Range Management Group, Botanical Institute, University of Cologne, Zùlpicher Straße 47b, 50674 Cologne, Germany. Mail address: [anja.linstaedter@uni-koeln.de](mailto:anja.linstaedter@uni-koeln.de).

Job interviews are planned for the last week of November 2013 at the University of Limpopo. The University of Cologne is an equal opportunities employer. Preference will be given to suitably qualified women. Equally qualified severely handicapped applicants will be given preference.