

## Upcoming events

From [www.grassland.org.za](http://www.grassland.org.za)

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### **CHEMRAWN XII: The role of chemistry in sustainable agriculture**

*Date:* 2-5 December 2007

*Deadline for abstracts:* 29 June 2007

*Early Registration Ends:* 3 Sept 2007

*Venue:* Stellenbosch, South Africa

*Fax:* +27 (0)21 933 2649

*E-mail:* [conference@chemrawn.co.za](mailto:conference@chemrawn.co.za)

*Website:* [www.chemrawn.co.za/registration.html](http://www.chemrawn.co.za/registration.html)

### **New World: Future World The 10th World Conference on Animal Production;**

*Date:* 23-28 November 2008

*Venue:* Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa

*Tel:* +27 12 420 3276 or +27 12 420 3290

*Contact:* Darlyne Louw

*Email:* [wcap@up.ac.za](mailto:wcap@up.ac.za)

### **Portuguese Pasture and Forages Society—XXIX spring meeting of SPPF**

**Theme: Pastures and biodiversity:  
New Opportunities for Forage Production**

*Date:* 7 -9 May 2008

*Deadline for abstracts:* 15 November 2007

*Deadline for texts:* 15 February 2008

*Venue:* Centro Cultural de Samora Correia, Companhia das Lezírias, Portugal

*Contact:* Jerónimo Pinto

*Email:* [sppf29primavera@gmail.com](mailto:sppf29primavera@gmail.com)

### **The Grasslands Partners Forum: Business and Biodiversity: lessons, opportunities and challenges for South Africa's grasslands biome**

*Date:* 21 - 22 November 2007  
2007

*Venue:* Pretoria National Botanical Garden, 2 Cussonia Avenue, Pretoria

*Contact:* Anthea Stevens

*Tel:* 012-843 5289

*Fax:* 086 692 1250

*E-mail:* [Stephens@sanbi.org](mailto:Stephens@sanbi.org)

# News

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## **E-book on Reporting Skills for development professionals launched**

The Education, Language and Development Training Programmes, a UK-based NGO, has released a new electronic handbook on reporting skills for professionals working in the development field.

Reporting skills are crucial to project management, as funding agencies and clients require regular and accurate updates on

the status of projects. This handbook aims to address the key issues faced by organisations when compiling their annual reports.

Two example modules (out of a total of eight) can be downloaded for free from [www.reportingskills.org/resources.htm](http://www.reportingskills.org/resources.htm). The modules cover topics such as setting objectives and

gathering data, analysing and interpreting information, planning and writing the report, and writing clearly.

Single-user and multi-user licences are available for purchase from the same website, as well as various online support resources.



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## **Letters**

### **Thanks for participation in Eskom Expo**

*Two letters of thanks from schools whose learners had been awarded the GSSA prize at the Eskom Expo were addressed to Luthando Dziba, our PRO:*

Dear Dr Dziba,

Thank you for the prizes that you (GSSA) sponsored for the Northern Gauteng Expo for Young Scientists. At the prize giving ceremony (01 Sept. 2007), we presented the awards [to C Enslin and J Enslin].

We look forward to your participation at our event, next year, 05-06 Sept.2008.

With regards,

*Saurabh Sinha, Volunteer: Northern Gauteng Science Expo for Young Scientists*



Dear Dr. Dziba,

At the East Rand Eskom Expo for Young scientists regional finals, two Veritas College learn-

ers, Carmen Gassman and Meghan Hamman, were awarded the Grasslands Society of Southern Africa Award for the best Ecological Project entitled 'the fishy side of life'. we are very excited about the award and are very proud of the effort that these two girls applied to achieve this honour.

*Mary-Ann Pullinger  
Principal, Veritas  
College Senior School,  
Springs*



# New GSSA website launched

The GSSA has launched a new website, as the present site has outgrown itself. The new website will be more user-friendly, and contain far more content than our present website can handle.

Freyne du Toit, the Administrator, said “Glen Barnes has done a fantastic job over the last several years of establishing, hosting

and managing the GSSA website.”

He donated his time and expertise and established a firm foundation for the Society in the information age.

The new website can be found at [www.grassland.org.za](http://www.grassland.org.za), but there will be a link from the old website to the new. Freyne asked all GSSA members to please continue to send suggestions and updates to her or to

Khanyi Mbatha, the Website Editor, so that the new site can be kept relevant and interesting.

The database has also been upgraded and will be permanently online, which will make registration for Congress even simpler than before. You should have received your new logon details, but if not please send an email to [admin@gssa.co.za](mailto:admin@gssa.co.za)

**Grassland Society of Southern Africa**  
ADVANCING RANGELAND ECOLOGY AND PASTURE MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA

**About the GSSA**

**Annual Congress**

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**About the GSSA**

Welcome to the new website of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa!

Please continue to [email](#) all updates, comments, events, job and funding opportunities so we can keep this new site as up-to-date and relevant as the old site. We hope you will find this site easier to use and more interactive. The database has also been upgraded and will be permanently online, which will make registration for Congress even simpler than before. You should have received your new logon details, but if not please send an email to the [Administrator](#).

Congratulations to SUE MILTON, one of the finalists of the Checkers/Shoprite Woman of the Year Award! [Click here](#) to find out more

Have you got your copy of the recently published Tukululu? Contact Freyne via email, phone or fax and order it today!!

2008 Joint Meeting of the International Grassland Congress and the International Rangeland Congress in Huihot, China from 29th June to 5th July 2008. Visit [www.igc-irc2008.org](http://www.igc-irc2008.org) for further information, or [download](#) the First Announcement, which includes the Request for Further Information.

**Upcoming Events**

- Future Conference 2007  
not yet specified, South Africa, 2007-11-05
- 2nd Annual Grasslands Partners Forum  
Pretoria National Botanical Garden, 2 Cussonia Avenue, Brummeria, Pretoria, 2007-11-21
- CHEMRAWN XII: The role of chemistry in sustainable agriculture  
Stellenbosch, South Africa, 2007-12-02

**Upcoming events**

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# New membership fees

Renewal notices for 2007/08 membership fees have been posted. Please note that all fees are due by 31 January 2008 as highlighted on the renewal notices. Payment can be made via cheque, credit card or electronic transfer using the following bank details: Nedbank Cheque Account 1343011299 Cascades Branch

134325; Swift Code NEDSZAJJ.

For Credit card payments, download the authorisation form from the website under Subscriptions or copy (or cut out) and fax the form below.

For more details of what each category of membership entails, contact the administrator at 033-390 3113.

Category	Price (R)
Ordinary	365
Associate	325
Professional	410
Institute	950
Family	550
Retired	90
Overseas	640
Postage (Rest of Africa)	150

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Authorisation for Credit Card Transaction

I hereby authorise the Grassland Society of Southern Africa to deduct the amount of R \_\_\_\_\_ from my credit card for

annual membership fees  congress registration fees  other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

the details of which are:

Bank: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Type (choose one): Visa/MasterCard

Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Last 3 digits on back of credit card (CVV No): \_\_\_\_\_

Budget? Specify how many months: \_\_\_\_\_

Yours sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name and Signature*

Please note: All details will be treated with complete confidentiality and will never be given to any other party, or misused in any other way.

# Vacancies and bursaries

From [www.grassland.org.za](http://www.grassland.org.za)

## Elephant Research Assistant Elephants for Africa Research Foundation

A position of Research Field Assistant with the possibility of starting a Post-graduate degree. Is available

**Research Institution**  
Elephants for Africa/  
University of Bristol

**Location:** NG 26,  
Okavango Delta, Botswana

### Research Project

Behavioural Study of the African Savannah Elephant

### Principal Investigator

Dr Kate Evans

### Principle Sponsor(s):

Elephant Back Safaris

### Primary Responsibilities

- To continue the on going field research assessing the behaviour of wild male African elephants in the area.
- To track, using radio telemetry, and continue the on going behavioural as-

essment of colored released elephants in the area.

- To represent the research in front of guests of the nearby safari camps on request.
- Monthly population assessments through DISTANCE road survey.
- Upkeep data files and ID files.

### Skills required

- Undergraduate in Biology, Zoology, Environmental Science or similar.
- Competent computer skills especially in Microsoft Excel, digital photo handling and e-mails
- Competent ID skills and note taking – an eye for detail

- Past experience in field research and its techniques.
- Experience in radio telemetry tracking techniques.
- Experience with off-road driving
- Basic mechanical knowledge of 4x4 cars:
- Competent to carry out daily engine checks.
- Change a flat tyre using a hi-lift jack.

Food and Accommodation is provided.

Travel to Maun, Botswana and health insurance are not covered.

Please reply to the above contact details with an attached C.V. and covering letter.

### Preferable start date

1st December

## Studies and Research in Sustainability

DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) offers funding for Honours, Masters and Doctoral Studies.

Closing date: 15 November 2007 but may differ according to the university. Contact your university.

Funding is available for different types of studies/research:

- Master's programme in Germany
- Doctorate in Germany
- Doctorate in the home country
- Postdoctoral research in Germany
- Research abroad by German doctoral students

- Postdoctoral research abroad
- The following documents are required for all types of funding: Application form ("Application for Research Grants and Study Scholarships"; Curriculum Vitae (2 pages max.); Letters of recommendation by two academics/ researchers of the applicant's own choice; German language certificate (Zertifikat Deutsch, Deutsches Sprachdiplom, TestDaF) and English language certificate (TOEFL 550 / 213 / 80).

For more information visit [www.daad.de/deutschland/download/03118.en.html](http://www.daad.de/deutschland/download/03118.en.html)

### **Associate Full Professor of Integrative Sciences— Texas A&M University**

**Deadline:** 31 December 2007

**Requirements:** Creative, dynamic, ambitious and dedicated scientist to collaborate with and build multidisciplinary teams of scientists and lead as a director for the Centre for Natural Resource Information Technology. 30% teaching and 70% research.

**Qualification:** PhD in relevant discipline. Demonstrated ability to conduct and acquire significant extramural funding for research and exceptional publication records.

Application should be online at <https://greatjobs.tamu.edu>

### **Junior lecturer or Lecturer POST No: 7763**

#### **North-West University (Potchefstroom Campus)**

**Job description:** Teaching and research in Plant Physiology, with a good background in plant-water ratios and photosynthesis. Teaching of students (mainly undergraduate), independent research and integration with the current research theme and administrative tasks.

**Enquiries:** Prof H van Hamburg, tel (018) 299 2385



# Council News

## **The Council met on 18 October in Johannesburg for their last meeting of 2007.**

It was reported that Congress 42, hosted at Rhodes University, was a resounding success. The new format for the poster sessions attracted numerous positive comments and as a cherry on the cake, AgriTV covered part of the dairy session and post congress tour.

**The organization for Congress 43, which will be held at Badplaas Aventura in Mpumalanga, is well underway. The Organizing Committee looks forward to receiving your inputs regarding special sessions and symposia. Remember to make use of the early bird registration offer!**

In the light of the changing agricultural

sector in South Africa, Council saw the need to develop a new additional farmer award, focussing on resource poor farmers. A proposal has been submitted and is currently being reviewed.

**The website has been upgraded and moved to a new host (see report on page 4)**

From 2008 it would be a lot easier to submit manuscripts to African Journal of Range and Forage Science as NISC is introducing an online submission and tracking system.

**We would like to thank everybody that contributed to the Grassroots since the last issue. This issue promises to be a very good read! Please remember to inform the Editor about news events in your area.**

Winston Trollope resigned as Chairman of Trust and Council would like to thank him for his dedication all the years. Good luck to Klaus Kellner who is taking over the position.

**More than 20 Young Scientist Expo awards have been made by the GSSA this year, and we would like to congratulate the National winners, Henrico Gouws and Michelle Olivier from Joubertina with their project *Wat gemaak met wattles? (What to do with wattles?)* (page 49).**

Council is currently preparing a GSSA Annual Report, which will be available early in 2008.

**We wish everybody a wonderful festive season!**

