

# 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Congress of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa

## Special Session & Workshop: RANGELANDS AND PEOPLE, POLICY AND PRACTICE

**Tuesday & Thursday 17 & 19 July 2007**

**Session Chair: Cam McDonald, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Brisbane, Australia**

The technical, cultural and resource constraints facing emerging farmers in South Africa is enormous. Not only do they lack sufficient land and finances, most have little technical knowledge of animal and veld management. Compounding these, communal farmers have the long recognized problem of sharing resources, conflicting objectives, and the complexity of communal management, while for many individual farmers; land tenure is an added problem. Clearly, any attempt to improve the livelihood of emerging farmers will involve an integrated approach between the farmers and scientific, extension and social expertise. Any intervention strategy will need to take into account resource constraints, risk management, and social and economic objectives of the individual or group concerned.

This session will explore a number of the critical issues facing both communal and individual farmers. On Tuesday there will be a number of presentations highlighting key constraints in management, technical knowledge and methodology of assistance programs. On Thursday, there will a one hour Discussion session which will aim to map out recommendations for way forward which might provide for a faster, greater and longer lasting benefit from these programs.

### Tuesday 14:00 – 17:20

Time	Topic	Speaker and co-authors
14:00 – 14:20	The battle over cattle: Livestock management in a changing rural landscape	<b>Monique Salomon</b> , Rob Fincham, Terry M Everson (University of KwaZulu-Natal) and Nicky Allsopp (ARC- Livestock Business Division)
14:20 – 14:40	Communal area grazing strategies: Institutions and traditional practices	<b>Bethwell Moyo</b> , Sikhhalazo Dube and Mota S Lesoli (University of Fort Hare)
14:40 – 15:00	Perceptions of farmers on resources, condition and management of communal rangeland in the Eastern Cape, South Africa	<b>Mota S Lesoli</b> , Bethwell Moyo, Sikhhalazo Dube, A Wole (O) Fatunbi and P J Masika (University of Fort Hare)
15:00 – 15:30	TEA AND POSTER VIEWING	
15:30 – 15:50	Common property struggles in the management of communal rangelands in central Eastern Cape Province, South Africa	<b>James Bennett</b> (Coventry University, United Kingdom) and Andrew Ainslie (ARC – Livestock Business Division)
15:50 – 16:10	Integrating local knowledge and ecological understanding into fire management in the Drakensberg Mountains	<b>Roger G Uys</b> (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife) and E de Beer
16:10 – 16:30	Finding innovative approaches to enhance communal grazing management systems in the Eastern Cape	<b>John K Davis</b> (Murdoch University, Australia), Andrew Ainslie and Andiswe Finca (ARC – Livestock Business Division)

16:30 – 16:50	Veld management challenges for emerging farmers	<b>Neil D MacLeod</b> , Cam K McDonald (CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Australia) and Frits P van Oudtshoorn (Limpopo Department of Agriculture)
16:50 - 17:10	Evidence based decision making: does this provide a framework for rangeland policy development?	<b>Nicky Allsopp</b> (ARC – Livestock Business Division), Rick Rohde, Catherine Laurent and Frank Matose
<b>THURSDAY 12:00 – 13:00</b>		
<b>DISCUSSION SESSION ON PROGRESSING BENEFITS FROM FARMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS</b>		