

Congress 43 Update

43rd Annual GSSA Congress: Implementing New Approaches to Range and Pasture Management

21 - 25 July 2008, Badplaas, Mpumalanga

Visit www.grassland.org.za for more details, or contact the Administrator

Have you registered for the 43rd Congress of the GSSA yet?

The main theme of the Congress is Implementing New Approaches to Range and Pasture Management although a wide range of themes will be covered during the Congress.

Several symposia, workshops and session themes are already taking shape, as listed below. To submit titles and abstracts for inclusion in the Congress, please register.

If you have other ideas for symposia, workshops, tours or short courses to be held in conjunction with the Congress, please submit them before the end of February.

Deadlines

- Early Bird Payments: 30 April
- Submission of Titles: 29 February
- Submission of Abstracts: 16 May

Speakers, Symposia, Workshops and Sessions

Dr Richard Stirzaker will be presenting the keynote address on Tuesday morning. Dr Stirzaker, of CSIRO in Australia, is a leading researcher working on the relationships between plant water use, soil health, crop yields and salinity.

The symposia, special sessions

and workshops will include:

- Savannas: How has our knowledge grown since the biome projects?
- Linking Planted Pastures with Natural Rangelands: Knowledge gained in the past 25 years;
- GIS Course - a hands on workshop;
- Farmer Development: New Approaches to Rangeland and Pasture Management.

Post-Congress tours

Several exciting post-congress tours have been arranged, including one short one on Friday morning for those who cannot stay over on Friday night. Accommodation can be arranged in Badplaas for Friday evening.

Mpumalanga Game Parks and Farming

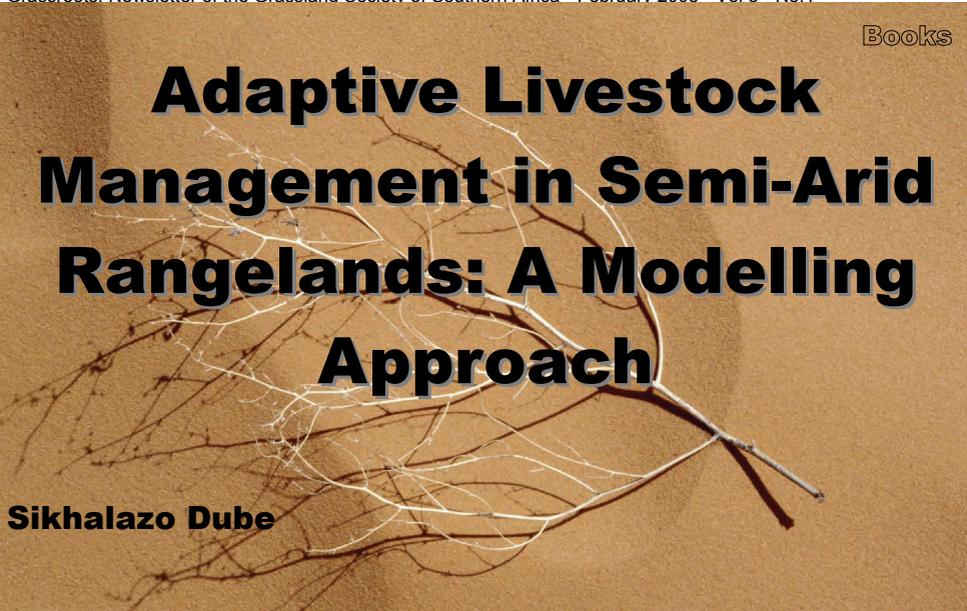
The Kruger National Park: Science and Tourism All in One

Including a visit to scientific services, the rhino bomas and enclosures, long term burning trials plus some game viewing.

Mpumalanga: an agriculturally diverse region

Visits near Badplaas focusing on changes in vegetation and farming practises including citrus and forestry.





Adaptive Livestock Management in Semi-Arid Rangelands: A Modelling Approach

Sikhalazo Dube

Droughts are an integral part of semi-arid environments with far reaching consequences. Management decisions in these environments should be evaluated against a scenario of uncertainty in climate and prices. There is a need for forecasting environmental and economic risks associated with different management options. Development of simple yet effective models to assist in development of effective management strategies is vital. This study evaluates the effects of stocking rate for fixed and flexible strategies on range condition, ranch income and expenses for cow-calf enterprises. The analysis should assist livestock manager produced sustainably in semi-arid environments. Use of principles in the study can alleviate some of the drought induced livestock mortalities through forward looking forage planning.

The book is addressed to livestock producers, ecologists, drought management strategists and climatologists. It is also a good guide for researchers in the field of ecological modelling, particularly those looking and developing more robust and user friendly models.

The author

Sikhalazo Dube is a rangeland ecologist based at the University of Fort Hare in the Eastern Cape, where he is head of the Department of Livestock and Pasture Science

He has worked in Zimbabwe and Namibia, and is currently leading a project on the management of communal lands in the Eastern Cape.

Details

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Softcover, 144 pp
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