



# grass's roots

*Newsletter of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa*

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## *Special Issue:*

**Proceedings of the National Rangeland Monitoring  
Workshop**

**Irene**

**21– 22 February 2007**

**National rangeland  
monitoring and  
improvement programme**

**Rangeland monitoring  
in South Africa: a  
proposal**

**The savanna ecosystem  
dynamics project**

**The Kruger National  
Park Data Repository**

*Call for nominations  
for South African  
Women in Science  
Awards*

**What can the GSSA do  
for pasture  
practitioners?**

**Jobs, bursaries and competitions**

# Editorial

Dear Members

In this issue, we bring you several key papers from a workshop on rangeland monitoring that was hosted by the Agricultural Research Council, ably represented by Luthando Dziba, in Pretoria earlier this year. Rangeland monitoring is conventionally thought to be absolutely crucial to halting rangeland degradation in southern Africa, but there is very little evidence of the results of formal rangeland monitoring exercises being used to make management or policy decisions.

While the ultimate goal of national range monitoring programmes—slowing or reversing land degradation through modifying management practices—often seems to be increasingly elusive, the workshop did highlight some practical tools and potential projects that the rangeland science community can still undertake. However, key to any of these initiatives working is inter-agency collaboration, which itself seems elusive when, in some cases, units within the same agency barely communicate with one another.

If the workshop achieved one thing, it was to get people talking to one another about their programmes, and hopefully the ARC can sustain its momentum and drive this process forward.

*Alan Short*

*The Grassland Society of Southern Africa is dedicated to the advancement of the science and practice of range ecology and pasture management.*

*We welcome any contributions to the Grassroots, in the form of news, informative articles, reports, short research notes, scientific papers and letters to the Editor. Email Alan.Short@dae.kzntl.gov.za or admin@gssa.co.za or fax 033-3559 605 or 033-390 3113*

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