

New book: Karoo veld ecology and management

Edited by Karen Esler, Sue Milton and Richard Dean

Available November 2005 in Afrikaans and English, Paperback 224 pages, full colour, R169.99

Karoo Veld outlines veld management and assessment approaches for a wide geographical area of arid South Africa, from the vygie veld of Namaqualand, through the Great Karoo to the grassier eastern Karoo. It will assist the practical and ambitious land user to apply ecologically friendly veld management and to evaluate the effects of grazing and restoration on the veld. The book will interest prospective land users who need to estimate the potential and suitability of land for a new enterprise before making the investment, as well as anyone who is curious about the Karoo and its plants and animals.

The book is generously illustrated with colour photos, figures and maps. Separate sections deal with Karoo veld ecology, veld management and veld assessment and monitoring. Appendices provide useful information on palatability of common Karoo plants, invasive alien weeds, Large Stock Unit equivalents for small stock and game and a brief picture reference guide to the more common Karoo plants.

Karen J. Esler is an associate professor of Conservation Ecology at the University of Stellenbosch. She developed her interest in the Karoo while studying at the University of Cape Town and completed her PhD (1993) on vegetation dynamics at Tierberg, the

Karoo Biome Project research site in the Succulent Karoo. She continues to co-author a range of publications on the ecology of semi-arid systems in southern Africa.

Sue J. Milton and Richard Dean co-authored the first edition of "Karoo Veld". This book grew from the Karoo Biome Project, a National Research Foundation study initiated in 1987 at the Tierberg field site near Prince Albert. The research stimulated much interest in the ways in which organisms interact and respond to rainfall, drought and grazing management. Sue is a freelance researcher, lecturer and consultant.

Richard Dean is an ornithologist at the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, studying the biology of birds and plant-animal interactions in arid and semi-arid ecosystems. Recent projects include editing (with Sue Milton) a synthesis of research in the Karoo (1999, Cambridge University Press), and a book on nomadic desert birds (2004, Springer, Berlin). He is a co-editor of the 2005 revision of Roberts' Birds of South Africa.

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