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Editor's Note



Welcome to this issue of Grassroots! After many years of research, the debate about global warming and climate change is still as heated as ever. Global warming may significantly alter ecological processes in grasslands and agro-ecosystems. Since global climate change can vary local environmental conditions the effect of climate change on grasslands will be region-specific. Changing rainfall patterns, atmospheric CO₂ concentrations and ambient temperatures are some of the expected factors influencing large areas of Southern Africa.

Will these new environmental conditions change the species composition and production potential of agro-ecosystems or natural rangeland? This is an important yet controversial question to ask, since the new environmental conditions may affect plant survival and reproductive output. This issue of Grassroots contains many informative news articles about global warming. The two articles on the role of CO₂ in changes on the African savanna are especially thought-provoking. It is satisfying to see projects and training opportunities for a climate-resilient future in Southern Africa.

You will also find two very interesting feature articles in this issue, one on annual legume seedling and seed populations in commercial crop-pasture systems in the agro-pastoral region of the Western Cape and the second on increasing effectiveness of rangelands and the lessons we can learn from wild herbivores.

The 48th Annual Congress was most successful. Congratulations to the organizing committee for a job well done! Various new concepts were explored and debated and young scientists were exposed to a wealth of experience within the Society's membership.

Pieter Swanepoel