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## **BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP**

The Grassland Society of Southern Africa was established in 1966 to serve all those interested in the field of grassland science. Fifty-two years later, the Society continues to serve its members and other interested parties through its annual congress and quarterly publications, and remains committed to the advancement of rangeland ecology and pasture management in Africa.

Membership of the Society provides you with access to platforms, information, professional development and more to make sure you have the resources you need to conduct your critically important work in the field of grassland science.

### **Continued Professional Development**

- The South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) now requires its members to renew their membership every 5 years. Renewal acceptance is based on your continued professional development, measured by the CPD points system. Points are allocated to various professional activities, and the accumulation of the required points will ensure the renewal of your registration. The creation of the CPD culture is to ensure that all registered persons maintain their competence throughout their period of registration.
- The Society is a Voluntary Association of SACNASP, and thus membership will earn you CPD points.
- The Annual Congress programme and proceedings is submitted to SACNASP, and delegates will earn CPD points for Congress attendance. Members receive a discounted rate for Congress fees.
- As a Voluntary Association of SACNASP, the Society represents the interests of grassland scientists directly with the Council, providing co-ordinated feedback from our membership, and assistance via our SACNASP-accredited members to other members requiring accreditation.

### **Networking and Collaboration**

- All members of the Society are entitled to a web profile on the Society website. This contains information provided by you, including a photograph, your publication record (both peer-reviewed and grey literature), your qualifications, links to your own social media and websites, your own newsfeed (could include current research projects, collaborations with other researchers, etc.). This web profile will be verified prior to publication by the Society, giving you the security that all our profiles are vetted.
- The Society has several forums for networking amongst its members and other interested parties, such as a Facebook page, Twitter feed and groups on LinkedIn.
- The Annual Congress is held in a different province in South Africa each year (and occasionally outside of South Africa), giving delegates the opportunity to visit research projects outside of their own province, as well as network with researchers from around the country, the continent and the globe.

### **Publications**

- The *African Journal of Range and Forage Science* is dedicated to publishing quality original material that advances rangeland ecology and pasture management in Africa. Contributions reporting on research not done in Africa, which is applicable in Africa, are welcome. Its current impact factor is 0.961 with a 5-year impact factor of 0.931.
- Members of the Society can publish in the *African Journal of Range and Forage Science* with no page charges (excluding full colour pages).
- Society members can subscribe to the *African Journal of Range and Forage Science* online (and hard copy if desired) and access all publications since its inception in 1966.
- *Grassroots*, the Newsletter of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa and incorporating the Bulletin, is published quarterly and distributed electronically to all members and subscribers as well as a select VIP mailing list. Furthermore, the *Grassroots* is available to download on the website.
- The Society encourages its members and other interested parties to contribute popular articles for publication in the *Grassroots*.