



MSc Thesis: Rangeland ecology in an African savanna

Description:

This thesis project will explore how the quality of rangelands in a Southern African savanna is directly affected by land-use, and if land-use also plays an indirect role via its imprint on biodiversity. Africa's savannas have long been home to herders and their livestock, and even today many rural households depend on livestock keeping. In Namibia and Zambia, rangelands are often communally managed, e.g. by deliberate burning and resting. Fire management and herd management interact with soil quality and rainfall, resulting in a high spatial heterogeneity and temporal variability of ecosystem services such as forage provision. This thesis project will explore how forage quantity and quality are influenced by these interacting factors, and if the functional diversity of rangeland vegetation also plays a role.

Collaboration:

Project A01: Future Carbon Storage, in the collaborative research project „Future Rural Africa“ (link [here](#))

Requirements:

- Master studies in ecology (MEEC, botany, or similar), fluent in English
- Robust to African climate, tough working conditions, and camping
- Experienced drivers welcome

Tasks:

- 6-7 weeks of fieldwork in Zambia
- Vegetation assessments
- Data clearing and statistical analysis

What we can offer:

- assistance in finding a scholarship to support travel costs
- participation in international research of Future Rural Africa project

You are interested or have questions? Contact:

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