

Proceedings of the 2nd meeting of the

NAMIBIAN RANGELANDS FORUM

held at Neudamm Agricultural College, Windhoek, Namibia
31 March 1998

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME: VELD MANAGEMENT INTEREST GROUP

31/3/98 at Neudamm Agricultural College

08:30 - 09:15 = New ecological perceptions of arid environments (Axel Rothauge)

09:15 - 10:00 = Veld utilization by traditional pastoralists (Ingrid Christian)

10:00 - 11:00 = Tea and discussion

11:00 - 12:00 = Presentation of M.Sc. thesis (Leon Lubbe): Critical evaluation of the criteria laid down to evaluate rangeland condition in Namibia

12:00 - 13:00 = LUNCH

13:00 - 15:30 = Practical demonstration of range monitoring:

estimation: Ingrid Christian, Jim Sweet

mensuration: Leon Lubbe, Axel Rothauge

Land and water usage by traditional pastoralists

by Ingrid Christian, Agronomist, PhD candidate
Justus-Liebig-University, Giessen/Germany

Abstract

The need for planning and implementing livestock development projects together with, rather than for, local farmers has become increasingly apparent. The production systems and the chances for sustainable range management of the communal rangeland areas in Namibia differ from the Namibian commercial sector. Consequently a different approach for sustainable development has to be applied. Management of pasture grounds by communal farmers in Northern Namibia includes the management of water resources, cattle movements and the usage and management of fodder supplies - subject to a range of conditions originating from the traditional and legal framework of the prevailing system. For future improvement and development of communal pasture ground also social implications play an important role. The information provided in this article on the implications of communal range management - without claiming to give a full picture - is based on the working experience made with traditional pastoralists. No quantitative data will be provided.

Key words: traditional pastoralists, communal land use, water resources, cattle movements, boundaries, customary rights, land tenure rights, community based resource management, economic and social welfare, livestock production and marketing