

Agricultural & Natural Resources Snippets

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Department of Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences, Polytechnic of Namibia

Welwitschia at the Second Annual LaRSSA Conference

Titus Shuuya, a Master in Natural Resources Management student attended the Second Annual Land Rehabilitation Society of Southern Africa, which was held as from 9 - 12 September 2014 in Muldersdrift, Gauteng. The conference was focusing on land rehabilitation, with specific emphasis on successes and failures. He presented the progress and planned work about his MSc project that is focusing on investigating spatial and temporal patterns of plant health of *Welwitschia mirabilis* in the central Namib Desert. Apart from good networking with researchers in land rehabilitation, he also learned the importance of scientific principles in establishing successful land rehabilitation. He hopes to use the skills gained from the conference and information from his project for better management plan that includes mitigations of potential impacts as well restoration options for *Welwitschia* population. For more information visit: LaRSSA <http://www.larssa.co.za/conference2014/> and Gobabeb www.gobabeb.org.

— Titus Shuuya



Master's Students attend AZEF 2014

Master's students Emma Shidolo, Klaudia Amutenya, Johannes Amutenya and Kuniberth Shamathe attended the annual Arid Zone Ecology Forum combined with the Thicket Fusion Forum on the 8th-14th September 2014 at Rhodes University, Grahamstown. This year the forum focused on

facilitating the exchange of knowledge and research ideas concerning vegetation. Topics such as: Ecosystem drivers, Biome determinants, Long-term monitoring, Stewardship, Restoration and Renewable Energy were the main themes of the forum. The students got a chance to present their posters, interact and get input from experts in various fields, on how to improve and go about their research. They also took part in a field trip to the thicket areas and to see how degraded thickets are being restored. After the forum the students drove from Grahamstown to Cape Town then finally back to Windhoek to get an overview of how the vegetation changes along this route. Hope to see you there next time!!

— Emma Shidolo



Forestry research collaboration in eastern Kavango

A group of researchers and students from Göttingen University in Germany, University College of Ghent in Belgium, University of Stellenbosch in South Africa and Polytechnic of Namibia recently spent several weeks in eastern Kavango, doing forestry research on various topics. Research topics ranged from forest inventories, natural regeneration assessments and annual diameter growth comparisons. The team assessed a total of 69 inventory plots in the Hamoye state forest, the Ncaute community forest and the communal area in Divundu.

It was a great learning and knowledge exchange experience for everyone who was involved. The excursion was made possible with the funding assistance of the Merensky foundation in Germany and The Future Okavango (TFO) project in Namibia with assistance from the Polytechnic of Namibia and the Directorate of Forestry.

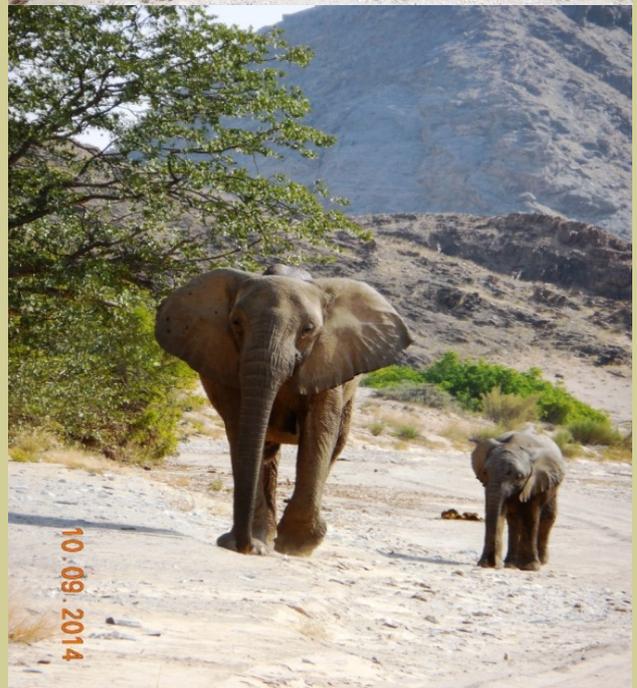
— Miya Kabajani



water and land management issues in the Kunene region.

The trip focused on Community Conservation and Techniques, to expose students to practical situations, to illustrate what they had been taught in class. Students visited the Torra, Anabeb, Sesfontien and #Khoadi-//Hoas conservancies as well as the Palmwag concession area and called in at the Save the Rhino Trust, to discuss the pertinent issue of what is being done to keep rhino safe from poachers.

— Kaarina Shilula, Abel Nehemia and Shirley Bethune



Nature Conservation Students' excursion to Kunene

A group of 2nd year Natural Resource Management students and their lecturers Ms. Shirley Bethune and Mr. Willi Adank, recently undertook a week-long excursion to find out more about conservancies in the North-east and investigate

Feel neglected, ignored, overlooked?

Send your news snippets and photos to Ben Strohbach, bstrohbach@polytechnic.edu.na.

All contributions welcome!