



Vegetation Survey of Namibia

Why a vegetation survey?

- Vegetation maps present an inventory of existing plant communities.
- Vegetation maps are scientific tools for analysing the environment
- Vegetation maps are valuable standards of reference for observing and measuring changes
- Vegetation maps can serve as a scientific basis for planning future land use.

Unfortunately, the only complete vegetation map of Namibia (Giess 1971) was meant as a preliminary map, and gives little or no useful background data and is thus not as useful as it could have been.

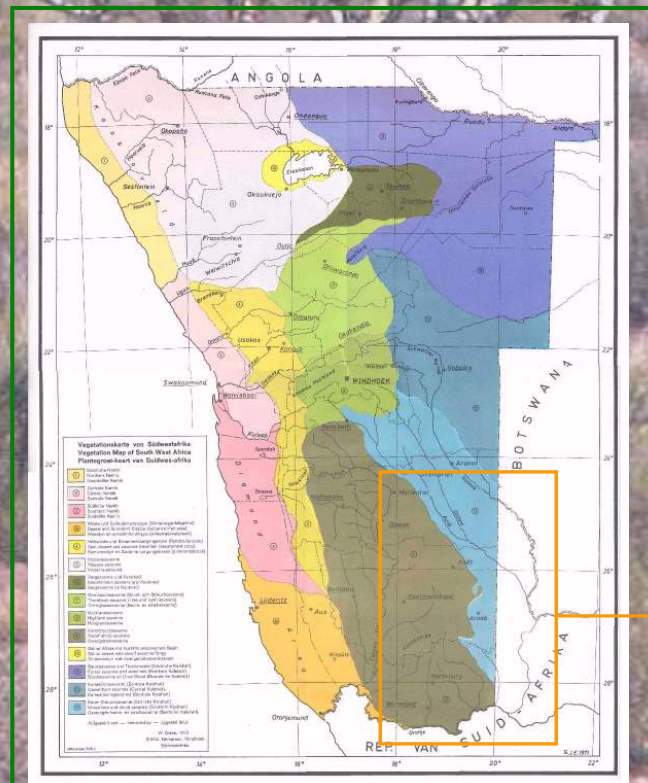
Methods:

Field surveys are done using standard Braun-Blanquet procedures: A series of 50x20 m survey plots are placed at various sites, in an attempt to sample the various landscapes as complete as possible. With time, the whole country is to be covered.

The data collected include a description of the habitat as well as a list of species occurring at the site, and an estimate of their abundance.

The data are subjected to classification procedures, from which the various veld types can be described.

Initial results from south-eastern Namibia are presented overleaf.



The Giess vegetation map from 1971.



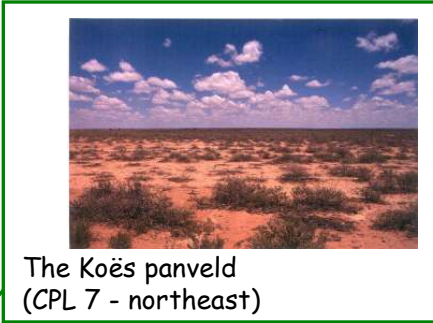
Southern Kalahari



Sloping plains with dolerite outcrops (CPL 7 - south west)



The Weissrand plateau (CPL 9)



The Koës panveld (CPL 7 - northeast)



Diverse, strongly dissected plains (CPL 4-9)



Plains with dunes (CPL 10)



Tall shrublands of the Karas Mountains table lands (CPL 13)



The Karas Mountain dwarf shrublands (CPL 14)



Grassy shrublands (CPL 15)



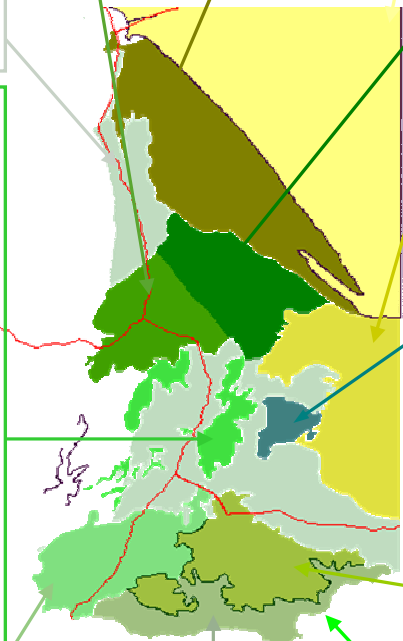
Edaphic dry, sparse shrublands (CPL 11)



The Orange River Valley (CPL 12)



Orange River Embankment



References:

GIESS, W. 1971. Preliminary vegetation map of S.W.A. Dinteria 4.
 STROHBACH, B.J. 2000. Vegetation Survey of Namibia. Paper presented at the 75th Anniversary Congress of the Namibia Scientific Society, Windhoek, 2-3 June 2000.

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