

(Newsletter of the project The Future Okavango, covering the period November – December 2013)

What is coming up? TFO activities and deadlines, events of interest

- **ATTENTION: 25 - 28 February 2014: “TFO Scientific Symposium” in Rundu/Namibia** including a stakeholder and public information session. This is an occasion for TFO members from all countries to come together and join results. **Please all mark this date already.** *Further announcements will follow in due time.*
- **19 – 21 March 2014: Global Land Project**, 2nd Open Science Meeting 'Land Transformations: between global challenges and local realities' will take in **Berlin**: <http://www.glp-osm2014.org/>
- **FROM PAST TO PRESENT - Changing Climates, Ecosystems and Environments of Arid Southern Africa - A Tribute to Louis Scott - Bloemfontein 7-11 July 2014** . 29 November 2013 – call for titles & abstracts; online registration opens, 30 April 2014 – abstract submission closes; early bird registration closes. <http://lscott-tribute.co.za/>

Inside TFO: What has been done recently?

(Topics: Reports on recent TFO activities and workshops, research results, FIRM update)



- On 02 of November the fifth **Night of Knowledge** took place at the **University of Hamburg**. TFO was represented with a core team displaying posters and giving talks to an interested public. At 8 and 10 pm the TFO members Alexander Groengroeft (Introduction), Thorsten Weber (Climate Modelling), Lars Landschreiber (Soil investigations), Jan Wehberg (GIS application), Felix Haupts (Ethnology) and Laura Schmidt (Transdisciplinarity) gave insights into aims, methods and challenges of TFO, which were discussed with the audience afterwards. Participants discussed

the questions, how to integrate African interests in joint scientific research and what future developments in land use could be increasing sustainability.

- **TFO Workshop in Hamburg: From 19 - 22 November 2013** colleagues from all SPs met in the Biozentrum Klein Flottbek at Hamburg to discuss data integration, project outlook and preparatory steps for the Rundu workshop. Minutes and presentations will be available in the internal area of the webpage.
- The **scenario task force** has held its last meeting in **Trier in August**: it focused on the systemic functioning of the Okavango River Basin. The scenario task force created a sub-group - the Scenario core team - who are working on finishing the system analysis in order to prepare for the drafting of storylines during this winter. A scenario session will be organized during the Rundu TFO Symposium.
- The **TFO Coordination** team (SPC) is meeting on a weekly basis. Any requests, questions, news etc. can be directed to any member of SPC (Erb, Finckh, Groengroeft, Homburg, Juergens, Proepper, Schmidt) to be communicated further. Minutes of all SPC meetings exist in German.

Inside TFO: News, communication & other information

(Topics: New TFO members, new uploads or features in MyTFO, OBIS or website, information by PT/BMBF/GLUES)

- **TFO Subproject 01 will finish its work by the end of this year.** We thank the colleagues very much for their invaluable support!
- As a replacement for Henrike Seidel **SPC** has received a **new team member. Dr. Susanne Stirn** will start working for TFO from 01st of January on and will present herself to the whole team then.
- **TFO online calendar** available on OBIS: Please be so kind to take the time to **always add all events, deadlines, field-trips, conference dates** etc. that are of relevance for the TFO community and make use of the calendar as much as possible. You will need an OBIS account to get access to the calendar which is accessible for TFO members only. You can register on the OBIS website, in case you don't have an account yet. Link to the calendar (link can also be found at the upper right corner on the TFO website):

<http://leutra.geogr.uni-jena.de/obis/metadata/login.php?url=%2Fobis%2Fmetadata%2Fcalendar.php>
- Please make use of the TFO webpages internal area called MyTFO which allows you to update your participant details, generate mailing lists and download internal documents such as reports, minutes, presentations etc. You will find the MyTFO link in the upper right corner. You can receive your personal MyTFO - login from the TFO - webmaster at webmaster@future-okavango.org
- All SPs and Institutions please spend a minute to update your participant details on the TFO Webpage in the MyTFO area (see above) so that we get a clear picture who is participating at this stage. Please also provide information on your function and thematic and regional

expertise within TFO. If you identify colleagues of your SP who have left the project please send an email to the TFO - webmaster at webmaster@future-okavango.org

Outside TFO: Reports from stakeholders' activities

(Topics: Feedback from stakeholder meetings TFO attended, TFO members on stakeholders contacts, stakeholder activities....)

- **Richard Fynn of ORI has represented TFO** once more during the last **OKACOM meeting** at Gaborone on 21st of November 2013. He reported back on all progress of the various TFO projects (SP 1-10). The report was well received by OKACOM. For more information please contact Richard Fynn.

New Publications by us and/or others

(Topics: new publications by TFO members or other publication be of interest; interesting websites, data etc.)

- Easdale M.H., Domptail S.E. 2014. Fate can be changed! Arid rangelands in a globalizing world- a complementary co-evolutionary perspective on the current 'desert syndrome'. Journal of Arid Environments 100-101: 52-62pp.
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0140196313001791>
- Richter, F. (2013): Bird diversity and composition in a slash and burn agricultural matrix in Miombo woodlands of south-central Angola". MSc-Thesis at Biocentre Klein Flottbek, University of Hamburg.

All TFO participants who have completed MA, BA, PhD theses or other publications, please contact us if you would like to use the opportunity to have your work advertised here and please use the opportunity to contribute your work to the TFO publication-database on our webpage.

News from the Okavango region

(Topics: new policies, happenings etc. relevant for resource management in the Okavango Basin)

- The public hearing for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for **proposed irrigation projects** by Gerhardus van Wyk & Uwe Rentel at **Mupapama** near Rundu has taken place **on 5th November at Ngandu Lodge, Rundu** at 17h30. From TFO the Namibian Para-Ecologist Robert Mukuya took part. In case of interest please contact Robert directly.

Anything else...

(Here we offer space for all other information, which might be of interest for the TFO community)

***** Do you have any information for the TFO-community? *****

Upcoming events, new SP-members, publications, research results, news from the basin or interesting events to share – please let us know:

laura.schmidt@uni-hamburg.de & michael.proepper@uni-hamburg.de