

(Newsletter of the project The Future Okavango, covering the period September-October 2013)

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

- “Future Africa” - Conference of the African Studies Association in Germany (VAD) 11.-14. June 2014 **Call for papers open until 17th of November 2013!** <http://www.vad-ev.de/bayreuth2014/callforpapers/>
- **19 - 22 November 2013: TFO Workshop in Hamburg** on data integration, project outlook and *preparatory steps for the Rundu workshop*. Invitation has been sent out by Norbert Juergens on 09/16/2013. For the German partners please inform SPC about your participation. All African partners who are interested to attend virtually please inform SPC.
- **ATTENTION: 25 - 28 February 2014: “All hands TFO Workshop” in Rundu/Namibia** including a one-day 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.**
- **25 – 28 February 2014: “Between Protection and Production”.** Annual Conference of the Society for Tropical Ecology (Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie, gtö). Munich. <http://www.gtoe-conference.de/>
- **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)

- 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.

- On **23 October 2013** a one day TFO meeting at Hamburg took place to exchange experiences on the **Angolan part of the FORA**. Participants discussed results achieved so far and envisaged future activities. Especially they debated the potential and possibilities of meeting various stakeholder expectations at local and regional level with adequate project output. Minutes are available from SPC and will be provided for download in the MyTFO section of the TFO webpage.
- A **participatory film workshop** has been conducted in Angola by TFO members Miguel Sachilulo and Martin Gruber together with villagers from the Cusseque core site in September and October 2013. The film deals with the issues of honey production, which is an important source of subsistence and income in the area. The **40 minute-long film called “Huchi – Honey”** is currently in post-production and will soon be released on the TFO website. Village screenings of all three TFO films have been organized in Angola, Namibia and Botswana. The viewers were excited and interested to see the living conditions of rural dwellers in the other countries through these films.



Images by M.Gruber

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 **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
- In the course of our first major joint publication – the special edition of ‘Biodiversity & Ecology’ we have consulted several involved colleagues to find a unanimous **wording for our northernmost core-site**. The official name we will use within that publication and in future output will be ‘**Cusseque**’ and not Chitembo. Please note this and if necessary adapt your products to this decision.

Outside TFO: Reports from stakeholders’ activities

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

- The **Polytechnic of Namibia had a competition to guess the age of a Kiaat stem disc** shown at the UNCCD COP11 exhibition. The stem disc originates from a tree logged by the Directorate of Forestry near the Forestry Research Station of Hamoye (Kavango) and was collected for research purposes. Visitors could submit their guesses and a variety of responses was received. The competition was supported by The Future Okavango (TFO) project. The actual age of the stem disc is 59 years and its average diameter is 36 cm. The harvestable stem diameter of Kiaat (*Pterocarpus angolensis*) is 45 cm, so this tree was not big enough yet for commercial harvesting.

Winners of the competition were :

1. Brumelda, Africa One, Namibia - 1st price : the book "Trees and shrubs of Namibia"
 2. Mukumo Shoombe, UNAM, Namibia - 2nd price : a Kiaat wood carving of a giraffe of Hambera (Hambera is a trade mark of products that originate solely from community forests of Kavango)
 3. Harald Schmitt, Amusha, Namibia - 3rd price : a Kiaat wood carving of an elephant of Hambera
 4. Vilho Absalom, NaDEET, Namibia - 4th price : the book "Namibia, a spectacular journey"
- **TFO was presented** at the first session of the **lecture series „Sustainable cities of the future“** at the **University of Hamburg**. Besides TFO, the projects KlimZug-Nord (<http://klimzug-nord.de/>) and CliSap (<http://www.klimacampus.de/>) – all based at the University of Hamburg addressing climate change and sustainability – gave insights into their research activities. This introductory session of the lecture series introduced the idea of sustainability science from the view of the three projects, followed by a stimulating discussion on the role of science in society.

New Publications by us and/or others

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

- Merly, C., A. Chapman, and C. Mouvet. 2012. An End-Users Oriented Methodology for Enhancing the Integration of Knowledge on Soil–Water–Sediment Systems in River Basin Management: An Illustration from the AquaTerra Project. *Environmental Management* 49:111-129.
- Plieninger, T., C. Bieling, B. Ohnesorge, H. Schaich, C. Schleyer, and F. Wolff. 2013. Exploring Futures of Ecosystem Services in Cultural Landscapes through Participatory Scenario Development in the Swabian Alb, Germany. *Ecology and Society* 18.

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)

- We have been informed about an advert in NAMIBIAN newspaper on 22 Oct. announcing that there will be an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for **proposed irrigation projects** by Gerhardus van Wyk & Uwe Rentel at **Mupapama** near Rundu. Crops: Wheat/maize. A **public hearing will take place on 5th November at Ngandu Lodge, Rundu** at 17h30. The EIA will be done by Enviro Managment & Training Services. To register as Interested/Affected Party: Mail to mkatjiua@gmail.com or phone 081 2 928 825. Comments on project can be mailed to above e-mail address by 15 Nov.

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:

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