

(Newsletter of the project The Future Okavango, covering the period January – March 2014)

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

- **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?

- **TFO Symposium in Rundu, Namibia, 2014:** From February 24<sup>th</sup> to February 27<sup>th</sup> the TFO symposium took place in Rundu, Namibia. More than sixty participants from Angola, Botswana, Namibia and Germany met to exchange their results and discuss the next steps of data integration within the “Future Okavango” project. After opening words from the Master of Ceremony Ben Strohbach, Polytechnic of Namibia, and Prof. Norbert Jürgens, University of Hamburg, on behalf of the TFO-consortium, results from the respective subprojects were presented to inform each other about the latest results. The talks and work groups during the next two days dealt with interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary topics: The state of the art of the scenario building process was presented as well as preliminary results from the interviews with stakeholders concerning their involvement in TFO and their expectations towards the project results. In the working groups monetary and non-monetary valuation of ecosystem services, trends and drivers of change, trade-offs as well as governance aspects were discussed. On the last evening the special TFO-issue of Biodiversity & Ecology was launched and the three participatory films produced within the TFO project were presented to the interested public.





Impressions from the TFO symposium and field trip. Photos by Susanne Stirn.

## Inside TFO: News, communication & other information

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

- **SPC** under the leading coordination of the new team member **Dr. Susanne Stirn** has accomplished the 'Verbundzwischenbericht 2013' the main yearly report to the donor. Copies were mailed and sent out in due time to the PT. Thanks to all contributors.
- Copies of TFO films and flyers are available at the SASSCAL office in Windhoek.
- 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](mailto: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](mailto:webmaster@future-okavango.org).

## Outside TFO: Reports from stakeholders' activities

---

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

## New Publications by us and/or others

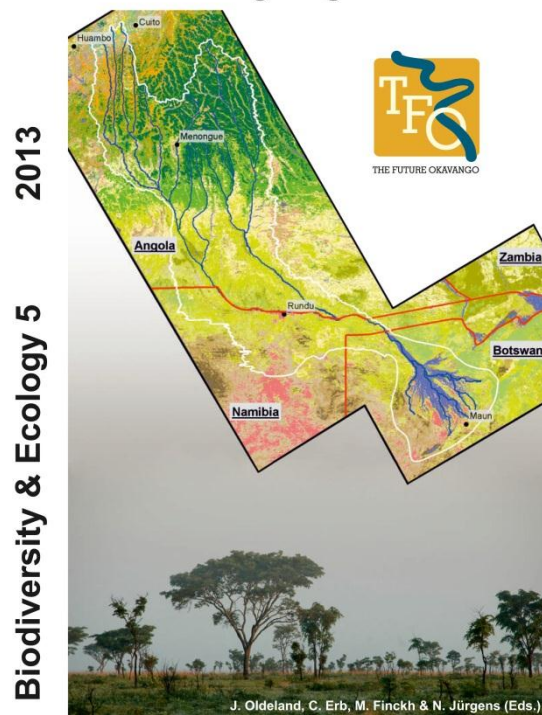
---

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

- The **new volume 5 of the Journal 'Biodiversity & Ecology'** is now online available as open access! This special issue is presenting our multiple research efforts in Angola, Namibia and Botswana. You can use the following web-link to access the full publication:

[http://www.biodiversity-plants.de/biodivers\\_ecol/vol5.php](http://www.biodiversity-plants.de/biodivers_ecol/vol5.php)

### Environmental Assessments in the Okavango Region



- Miya Kabajani, a Honours student Nature Conservation of the Polytechnic, submitted her thesis "The Population structure of *Pterocarpus angolensis* (Kiaat) in response to recent harvesting in western Kavango, Namibia" in October 2013.
- The article "Potential, realised, future distribution and environmental suitability for *Pterocarpus angolensis* DC in southern Africa" by De Cauwer, Muys, Revermann & Trabucco (2014) was published in Forest Ecology and Management. Link : <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378112713008359>.

*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)*

## 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](mailto:laura.schmidt@uni-hamburg.de) & [michael.proepper@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:michael.proepper@uni-hamburg.de)**