



Future Rural Africa

Funded by



MSc Thesis Opportunity: How does rangeland management shape savanna functioning?

Description:

Africa's savannas have long been home to herders and their livestock, and many rural households still depend on livestock keeping today. Rangelands are often communally managed. Key management factors (such as fire, stocking densities, and water access) interact with wildlife grazing and soil properties to shape a complex dryland ecosystem.

This thesis investigates **how these drivers influence taxonomic and functional plant diversity and key ecosystem services**, drawing on modern concepts of functional plant ecology.

Requirements:

- Open-minded Master student in Ecology (MEEC); fluent in English
- Robust to African climate, tough working conditions, and camping
- Experienced drivers welcome

Tasks:

- Ca. 6-7 weeks of fieldwork in Zambia and/or Namibia
- Vegetation and functional plant trait assessments
- Data analysis with R

Start & Duration:

- Start: earliest September 2026
- Six months (full-time) for entire MSc thesis

What we offer:

- Fieldwork in an international team
- Support of travel costs
- Participation in interdisciplinary research project (CRC „Future Rural Africa“)

Are you interested or have questions? Contact:

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