

## 18<sup>th</sup> RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

**Theme: Resilience Frontiers for African Rangelands in the Face of Natural Disasters**

**Date: 14<sup>h</sup> December 2022**

**Time: 08:30 – 10:30**

**Venue: LECTURE ROOM G1, University of Zimbabwe**

**Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3yHFyvn>**

**Supported by:**

**Research Platform -Production and Conservation in Partnership and ILRI**



### Concept Note

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### Background

Africa's rangelands are perceived and defined in many different ways, depending on geo-political, social and economic contexts. The International Grassland Congress and the International Rangeland Congress defined rangelands as domestic or wildlife grazing lands generally including grasslands, woodlands, shrublands, and some extent of deserts (Allen et al., 2011). About 21% of the African population directly depends on rangeland resources. African rangelands provide the primary (e.g., meat, bones, hide) and secondary (e.g., milk, manure, fibre, wool, traction, eggs) animal products for the livestock rearing activities of some 270,000,000 people, both pastoralists and agro-pastoralists (FAO, 2017; Phelps and Kaplan, 2017). Other ecosystem services supplied by rangelands include the provision of water resources, shelter,

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heritage and recreation, wildlife habitat conservation, and carbon sequestration (Lal, 2004; Sala et al., 2017).

The dependency on African rangeland resources is expected to grow due to the estimated increase of the African population to double by 2050 (UN DESA, 2019).

African rangelands are thus complex socio-ecological systems characterized by subsystems of ecological components, social systems and the interaction within and across these subsystems. This perception of rangelands requires the primary rangelands user communities, researchers and policy makers to appreciate the significance of rangelands, implications of human actions and opportunities for maintaining the integrity of these socio-ecological systems in the context of local, global and regional changes.

This special scientific session is thus meant to bring more prominence on rangelands in the context of RUFORUM scientific discussions in order to understand rangelands importance in agricultural, food and biodiversity systems, and influence deliberate considerations for future research, capacity building strategies and policies.

### **Expected outputs and outcomes**

- Focused appreciation of African rangelands complexities in relation to resilient food and biodiversity systems
- Increased visibility of rangelands research and development outputs from Africa
- Strengthened collective appreciation of pertinent future areas for attention in rangelands research, development and capacity development

### **Reference:**

D'Adamo F., Ogutu B., Brandt, M., Schurgers, g., and J. Dashauy Climatic and non-climatic vegetation cover changes in the rangelands of Africa. *Global and Planetary Change* Volume 202, July 2021, 103516  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloplacha.2021.103516>

## Programme

**Moderator/Chair: TBA**

Time	Activity
<b>Session 1: Opening and Setting the Scene</b>	
08:30 – 08:35	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks: Session Chairperson ...</b>
08:35 – 08:55	Keynote Address by Dr Igshaan Samuels, Range and Forage Sciences Specialist Researcher at Agricultural Research Council, South Africa; - Grassland Society of Southern Africa –President: 2021-2022; Keynote Address Title: <b>“Emerging issues for African rangelands resilience”</b>
08:55 – 09:00	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>Session 2: Plenary Presentations</b>	
09:00 – 09:10	<b>Kusiima N:</b> . Comparison of acid insoluble ash and acid detergent lignin as makers for estimating digestibility by open grazing goats: tackling barriers to enteric methane inventorying using the Tier 2 methodology.
09:10-09:20	<b>Jane Akot:</b> A review of agro pastoral practices and crop-livestock systems productivity under variable rainfall patterns in the cattle corridor of East Africa.
09:20-09:30	<b>Mathye MC:</b> Impact of livestock grazing management systems on soil C in the savanna biome of South Africa.
09:30-09:35	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>09:35-09:40</b>	<b>Comfort Break</b>
09:40-09:50	<b>PCP Researchers:</b> Resilience issues at the human- livestock-wildlife interphase
09:50-10: 00	Godfrey Manyawu and Irenie Chakoma: Integrated research and development perspectives for rangelands resilience: past and current ILRI strategies
10:00-10: 10	Vladimir Grosbois and Prisca Mugabe: Capacity building for rangeland resilience: Research Platform-Production and Conservation in partnership
10:10-10:15	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>10:15-10-30</b>	<b>General Discussion, Synthesis and Closing (Anthony Egeru +TBA)</b>

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