

SEOSAW Quarterly Newsletter

November 2021

Fieldwork

Many SEOSAW teams have been busy setting up plots and remeasuring existing ones. Here is a brief summary of the amazing work happening within the network. Apologies if I have forgotten anyone!

- In **Mozambique**, recensusing of the Nhamibita/Gorongosa plots has been completed three weeks ago by a field team led by Sa Lisboa. Beyond remeasuring trees, they also held a meeting with community members to discuss the work they did.
- In **Kenya**, two collaborators have joined SEOSAW! We are very excited to welcome them to our team!
 - Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) censused three plots in Tiva Forest. They are “stealth plots” where the trees are not tagged but carefully mapped because the forest is frequently used by local communities. They also conducted an expansive social study of use of Tiva Forest by community members.
 - Researchers from University of Nairobi have set up and censused two new plots in Southern Kenya near Mtito Andei.
- In **Angola**, fieldwork led by Francisco Maiato has commenced and there are potentially options for setting up new plots.
- In **Congo**, a recensus of the PSPs on Bateke Plateau was conducted by Suspense Averti Ifo and his team. Fieldwork was difficult due to many new recruits, but fieldwork was completed on November 8!
- In **Namibia**, a recensus of PSPs near Rundu was conducted by Vera de Cauwer and was "very successful"!
- In **South Africa**, Joris Cromsigt and Mariska te Beest are currently resampling their plots in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park with fieldwork likely to be completed by the end of the year.
- In **DRC**, Jonathan Muledi and his team from University of Lubumbashi have been busy recensusing and setting up a huge number new plots.
- In **Tanzania**, fieldwork is progressing

- Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI) has been busy recensusing plots around Kilwa. They have so far completed and now plan to head to the woodland plots near Likawage.
- Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI) are busy recensusing and retrofitting plots existing TAFORI plots to fit into SEOSAW.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our ambitious network!

Over the past year, SEOSAW has overcome many challenges conducting research and staying connected in the face of global pandemic, but we have thrived and expanded. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our ambitious network! As we approach 2022, SEOSAW plans to remain ambitious by beginning herbaceous data collection.

Training & Support

We are creating a **SEOSAW PhD group** to connect students working with SEOSAW data. We hope to have an event to connect students early in the new year!

Planning for the **herbaceous protocol training** is underway! The training is tentatively set for March 14-25, 2022 at one of the TAFORI sites in Tanzania. Planning is still in the early stages, but more information will be shared once the details are finalized.

People

We are excited to welcome [Dr. Musingo Tito E. Mbuvi](#) to the SEOSAW Steering Committee. He is the Principal Research Scientist at the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI).

Penny Mograbi has officially started as the SEOSAW Project Scientist.

Tatenda Gotore will start in January as a SEOSAW researcher in sustainable harvesting based at University of Witwatersrand.

SEOSAW Steering Committee member, **John Godlee**, passed his viva on November 4 and has completed his PhD. Congratulations John!

Protocols

A new herbaceous protocol is in development and was tested at Nhambita by Penny. The testing went well, and improvements are in the works. One of the main improvements to be

made is creating a glossary for herbaceous terminology to make the protocol more accessible.

A soil sampling protocol and a disturbance questionnaire have been developed in conjunction with the [SECO](#) grant. Both documents have been translated in French, Portuguese and Spanish. Versions in all languages are available on the SEOSAW website.

Science Meeting (30/9/21)

It was a great success with six wonderful presentations and 35+ attendees. A recording of the full meeting is available upon request. We will hold another Science Meeting in approximately six months. In the next meeting we plan to focus on field data collection and what data owners want to learn from SEOSAW.