

SEOSAW Quarterly Newsletter February 2022

Grants

A **Swedish Links** grant has been won by a group of SEOSAW researchers and led by Sheila Holmes, Mariska te Beest, Joris Cromsight, Francisco Maiato and Natasha Ribeiro. The title of the project is “Faunal Activities for Climate Action: A southern Africa network to find synergies between biodiversity and carbon storage in woodlands”. This project aims to test the hypothesis that restoring animal diversity will promote the successful dispersal and pollination of a broad diversity of tree species, essential for carbon storage and other ecosystem services. It will involve the set-up of new SEOSAW plots in Madagascar and setting acoustic monitors on several SEOSAW plots to assess animal diversity.

A **NERC Discipline Hopping** Grant was awarded to Casey Ryan, Penny Mograbi, Geoff Wells, and Janet Fisher to improve the understanding of savanna socio-ecological dynamics by bringing together social and natural scientists to develop new ways of working. The goals of the project include synthesising a conceptual framework of savanna socio-ecological change that pays equal attention to the social and ecological and operationalising the conceptual framework into research methods and approaches that can be used by both social and natural scientists.

In December, the SEOSAW steering committee put together a proposal with the Miombo Network for the **African Forest Forum**’s call for research on permanent sample plots in savanna woodlands and dry forest vegetation. The proposal aims to provide new knowledge about the impacts of climate change on both savanna woodland and dry tropical forest dynamics using the SEOSAW PSP network. We are still waiting for the outcome of this proposal.

Protocols

The SEOSAW **field manual** has been updated and made available on the [website](#). The primary change to this version is the addition of a section on how to take measurements from a plot that is severely damaged/compromised and where further censuses are unlikely. This may be used when, for example, a plot may have been clear-felled, heavily impacted by timber harvesting/charcoal production, or the majority of tags have been removed. Other

changes to the manual include a new figure to explain stem mapping and updates to stem codes.

This version of the manual is currently being translated into Portuguese and French. We hope to also have it translated into Swahili soon. It is our goal to have the manual available in these languages by the end of April or May.

There is also an **equipment list** available on the website and updated fieldsheets .

Training & Events

The **herbaceous protocol training** is only a few weeks away! It is set for March 16-25 in Morogoro Tanzania and is hosted in collaboration with the Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI). The training will take place on the TAFORI-SEOSAW plots outside of Morogoro with coordination by Dr. Elisha E Njoghomi, Dr. Sally Archibald, Dr. Casey Ryan, and Dr. Penny Mograbi. The workshop will cover how to sample grasses and other non-woody vegetation according to the Global Grassland Group Herbaceous Protocol, as well as providing a beta field test for the GGG protocol. Eight participants from across the network were awarded funding to attend. They will be joined by Tanzanian taxonomists and researchers who will provide their expertise.

SEOSAW will be hosting another **Science Meeting**! We are tentatively setting the meeting for the afternoon of Friday April 29. An email with more information will be sent out soon.

People

Tatenda Gotore has started as a researcher in sustainable harvesting based at the University of Witwatersrand, with a focus on using the SEOSAW data to support SEOSAW and the Miombo Network's goals in using SEOSAW data to support sustainable use of the woodlands.

There was strong SEOSAW presence at the **CCARDESA Forestry Symposium** ("Achieving sustainable forest management through research and development in SADC") on November 17 and 18, 2021.

SEOSAW will also be well represented at the upcoming **Savanna Science Network Meeting** (6 – 10 March 2022) at Kruger National Park, South Africa.

Fieldwork

Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI) finished re-censusing the Kilwa PSPs, in SE Tanzania. This marks a decade of work at that site!

Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI) finished retrofitting existing TAFORI plots to fit into SEOSAW.

Duncan Mutiso Chalo and Collins Masinde from University of Nairobi, joined by Vivian Kathambi from National Museums of Kenya, finished the first census of plots at Mtito-Andei and completed some herbaceous sampling.

Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) collected soil from their plots at Tiva and are exploring options for future PSPs in Kenya.

Dr Clemence Zimudzi (U. Zimbabwe) and Edwin Nyamugadza (currently Zim Forestry Commission, soon to study at UZ) will set up some SEOSAW plots in Wedza district, Zimbabwe in the coming months.

Vera De Cauwer is currently leading measurements at a PSP in Kanovlei, Namibia with three students and John Godlee. Vera and John also visited Ongava this month to explore the possibility of setting up PSPs there.