

# Dr. K Mopipi

✉ **Name:** Keletso Mopipi

**Current Position:** Head of Department

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**Academic Qualifications:** PhD (Grassland Science), University of KwaZulu-Natal; MSc (Agric) in Pasture Science (University of Fort Hare; BSc (Biology) in Ecology (University of Botswana).

## Teaching Responsibilities:

Introduction to Range and Pasture Ecology, Veld and Pasture Management, Applied Range Management, Veld Rehabilitation, Range and Pasture Research Techniques, Seminar Writing Honours Coursework.

## Post-graduate Supervision

- M. Chiloane. B Agric (Hons). Graduated in 2006.
- T.W. Xotyeni. B Agri (Hons) 2007.
- T.V. Mabuza BSc Agric 2009.
- T.V. Mabuza MSc Agric. MSc (Agric) 2011.
- M. Magawana MSc Agic 2012.
- Z. Ndovela. BSc Agric (Hons). 2012.
- A. Kwaza. BSc Agric (Hons). 2013.
- U. Gulwa. BSc Agric (Hons). 2013
- T. Mjamba. MSc Agric. Currently registered.
- Z. Ndovela MSc Agric. Currently registered.
- M. Mndela. MSc Agric. Currently registered.

## Research Interests:

- Bush encroachment in grasslands and savannas
- The roles of competition, fire and herbivory on plant community dynamics in grasslands and savannas.
- Range condition monitoring in communal grazing areas
- Rangeland degradation and rehabilitation

## Current research

- Rangeland assessment and monitoring in communal farms of the Eastern Cape Province, South

Africa (Didikana, Kwezana & Peddie)

- The role of frequency and season of burning on plant and soil attributes in the sweetveld (Alice) and sourveld (Dohne, Stutterheim) of the Eastern Cape.
- Soil seed bank composition and diversity in communal rangelands (Alice, Peddie)
- The role of fire on light interception and primary productivity in mesic grasslands and semi-arid savannas of the Eastern Cape.

## Publications

- Keletso Mopipi, Kevin Kirkman. Long-term effects of burning frequency on light interception, leaf area index and biomass in a South African semi-arid savanna. To be submitted to the *Journal of Vegetation Science* in 2012.
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- Keletso Mopipi, Kevin Kirkman and Craig D. Morris. Evaluating long-term effects of fire frequency on herbaceous species composition in a South-African semi-arid savannah. To be submitted to the *African Journal of Ecology* in 2012.
  - Z. Ndovela and K. Mopipi. Long-term effects of season of burning on species composition, plant density and basal cover in the Dohne Sourveld of the Eastern Cape, South Africa. Under Review by the *African Journal of Range & Forage Science*.
  - Magawana M. and **Mopipi K.** Investigating a long-term effects of burning frequency and seasonality on nutritional contents of selected grass species in a South African semi-arid savanna. Under Review by the *Open Journal Ecology*.
  - Mabuza T.V. and **Mopipi K.** 2012. Long-term effects of burning frequency on herbaceous vegetation and soil seed bank diversity in a semi-arid savanna. Accepted for publication *African Journal of Range and Forage Science*.
  - **K. Mopipi**, W.S.W. Trollope and P.F. Scogings (2009). Effects of moisture, nitrogen, grass competition and simulated browsing on the survival and growth of *Acacia karroo* seedlings. *African Journal of Ecology* 47: 680-687.
  - P.F. Scogings and **K. Mopipi** (2008). Effect of water, grass and N responses of *Acacia karroo* seedlings to early wet season simulated browsing: Aboveground growth and biomass allocation. *Journal of Arid Environments* 72: 509-522.

## Conference Proceedings

- Ayanda Kwaza\*, Solomon Tefera and **Keletso Mopipi**. 2012. *Effect of altitude and season on the yield and nutritive value of selected grass species in the Eastern Cape communal grazing areas*. Poster. Proceedings of the 47th Annual Congress of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa, 16-20 July 2012, Langebaan, RSA.
- Siyabulela Simanga\*, Solomon Tefera and **Keletso Mopipi**. 2012. *Effects of watering points on vegetation and soil in three land use systems of the Eastern Cape, South Africa*.

Poster. Proceedings of the 47th Annual Congress of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa, 16-20 July 2012, Langebaan, RSA.

- Zamukulunga Ndovela<sup>1,2\*</sup>, **Keletso Mopipi**<sup>#</sup> and Tony (A) R Palmer 2012. **Long-term effect of season of burning on Photosynthetically Active Radiation, Leaf Area Index, biomass production and soil chemical properties in the Dohne sourveld of the Eastern Cape, South Africa.** Poster. Proceedings of the 47th Annual Congress of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa, 16-20 July 2012, Langebaan, RSA.
- Mthunzi Mandela\*, **Keletso Mopipi**<sup>#</sup> and Solomon Tefera-Beyene. **Assessment of range condition for improvement of Nguni cattle performance in the Komga and Pedi communal areas of the Eastern Cape, South Africa.** Poster. Proceedings of the 47th Annual Congress of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa, 16-20 July 2012, Langebaan, RSA.
- **K. Mopipi**, K. Kirkman and C.D. Morris. 2011. Long-term effects of frequency of fire on light interception, Leaf Area Index and aboveground biomass in a South African semi-arid savanna. Poster. Proceedings of the 9th International Rangeland Congress, Rosario, Argentina, 2nd -9th April, 2011.
- Thembisile Mabuza and **Keletso Mopipi**. 2011. Long-term effects of fire frequency on soil seed bank diversity in the False Thornveld of the Eastern Cape, South Africa. Poster. Proceedings of the 9th International Rangeland Congress, Rosario, Argentina, 2nd -9th April, 2011.
- **K. Mopipi**, K. Kirkman and C.D. Morris. 2011. Long-term effects of burning frequency on herbaceous species composition in the False Thornveld of the Eastern Cape, South Africa. . 46th Congress of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa. Middelburg, 17-22 July 2011.
- Zamukulunga Ndovela and **Keletso Mopipi**. 2011. Investigating long-term effects of season of burn on species composition, basal cover and plant density in the Dohne Sourveld of the Eastern Cape, South Africa. 46th Congress of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa. Middelburg, 17-22 July 2011.
- T. Mjamba, **K. Mopipi**, S. Tefera-Beyene. 2011. Evaluating range condition and soil characteristics in Sakhi and Cangca communal rangelands of the Eastern Cape. 46th Congress of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa. Middelburg, 17-22 July 2011.
- M. Magawana and **K. Mopipi**. 2010. Investigating a long-term effects of burning frequency and seasonality on nutritional contents of selected grass species in a South African semi-arid savanna. 45th Congress of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa. Kimberly, 19-24 July 2010.
- Mabuza T.V. and **Mopipi K.** 2010. Long-term effects of fire frequency on soil seed bank diversity in the False Thornveld of the Eastern Cape, South Africa. 45th Congress of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa. Kimberly, 19-24 July 2010.
- Mabuza T.V. and **Mopipi K.** 2009. Long-term effects of fire frequency on herbaceous species composition in the False Thornveld of the Eastern Cape, South Africa. 44th Congress of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa. Johannesburg, 20-24 July 2009.
- **K. Mopipi**, K. Kirkman & C.D. Morris. 2009. Effect of fire frequency on light availability and aboveground biomass production in the False Thornveld of the Eastern Cape, South Africa. 44th Congress of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa. Johannesburg, 20-24 July 2009.
- **Keletso Mopipi**. 2008. **Melica decumbens** Thunb. A conservationist's treasure, but a farmer's nightmare. Poster. 43rd Annual Congress of the GSSA held in Nelspruit, RSA in July 2008.
- Thembisile V. Mabuza and **K. Mopipi**. 2008. Investigating the effect of fire frequency on soil seed banks in the False Thornveld of the Eastern Cape, South Africa. Poster. 43rd Annual Congress of the GSSA held in Nelspruit, RSA in July 2008.
- Scogings P.F., **Mopipi K.**, Trollope, WSW. 2005. Poster: Effects of moisture, nitrogen, grass competition and simulated browsing on the leaf chemistry of **Acacia karroo** seedlings. International

Ecology Conference. Montreal, Canada.

- **Mopipi K**, Trollope WSW, Scogings P (2005). Effects of moisture, nitrogen, grass competition and simulated browsing on the growth rate and biomass allocation of ***Acacia karroo*** seedlings. 40th Annual Congress of the GSSA held in Port Shepstone, RSA in July 2005.
- **Mopipi K**, Trollope WSW, Scogings P (2004). Poster: Effects of moisture, grass competition and simulated browsing on the survival and growth rate of ***Acacia karroo*** seedlings. 39th Annual Congress of the GSSA held in Worcester, RSA in July 2004.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2005 Awarded Prize Best Lecturer during the Academic Achievement Awards for the Faculty of Science & Agriculture Academic Achievements. The nominations for the prize-winner were made by students in the Faculty.
- 2002 Awarded Distinction for BSc. Dissertation.
- 1990 Awarded Best Student in Biology, English Language and Literature in English, and Overall Best Student for the academic year at Matsha College, Botswana.

## AFFILIATION

- Professional Member, Grassland Society of Southern Africa (GSSA).

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### Links:

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