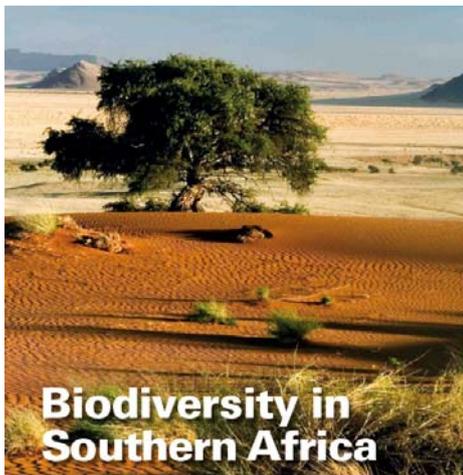
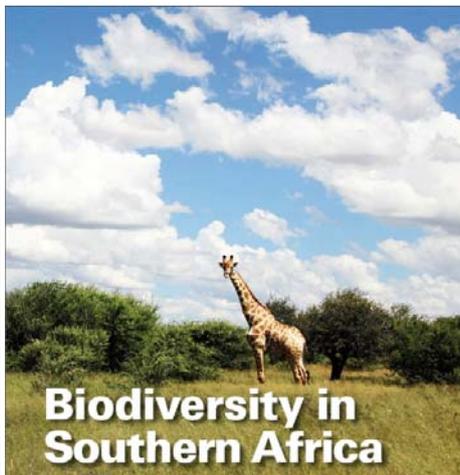


Fresh from the press...



Vol. 1
Patterns at Local Scale
The BIOTA Observatories



Vol. 2
Patterns and Processes
at Regional Scale



Vol. 3
Implications for Landuse
and Management



Recently, the 3-volume series “Biodiversity in southern Africa” has been published. On nearly 1,500 pages, 200 researchers from various countries report on the results of one decade of joint research by South African, Namibian, and German institutions within the project “BIOTA Southern Africa”.

The “backbone” of BIOTA Southern Africa is a globally unique transect through six biomes with 37 BIOTA Observatories of 1 km² each, on which biodiversity data of various taxa (lichens, biological soil crusts, vascular plants, millipedes, several taxa of insects) as well as the major drivers of biodiversity (weather, soil, land use) have been recorded according to standardised protocols. For the vegetation (vascular plants), the sampling was particularly elaborate with many replicates, different spatial scales, and annual repetition.

Volume 1 reports on the sampling methods and presents the biodiversity baseline data for all Observatories in a detailed and informative manner. Volume 2 analyses the data along the transect and in relation to climate and land use change. Finally, Volume 3 combines the results from the various disciplines into integrated views per biome, linking findings of the natural sciences to socioeconomic perspectives.

With its attractive full-colour layout, its magnificent photographs, and its moderate price, the series is not only attractive for scientists of the included disciplines (botany, zoology, ecology, soil science, agriculture, social sciences, etc.) but also practitioners (farmers, conservationists, politicians), and interested laypersons. Thanks to the uniqueness of the presented data from a subcontinent particularly susceptible to climate change and the innovative sampling approach, the series will also be valuable to researchers outside southern Africa.

The series was launched on the 7th of October in South Africa at the Arid Zone Ecology Forum (AZEF) in Gariiep Dam (Free State, South Africa). Further public launch events in Namibia and Germany are planned for beginning of 2011.

Jürgens, N., Haarmeyer, D. H., Luther-Mosebach, J., Dengler, J., Finckh, M., Schmiedel, U. (2010) [Eds.]: *Biodiversity in southern Africa. Volume 1: Patterns at local scale – the BIOTA Observatories.* – XX + 801 pp., Klaus Hess Publishers, Göttingen & Windhoek.

Schmiedel, U., Jürgens, N. [Eds.]: *Biodiversity in southern Africa. Volume 2: Patterns and processes at regional scale.* – XII + 348 pp., Klaus Hess Publishers, Göttingen & Windhoek.

Hoffman, M. T., Schmiedel, U., Jürgens, N. (2010) [Eds.]: *Biodiversity in southern Africa. Volume 3: Implications for landuse and management.* – XII + 226 pp. + CD-ROM, Klaus Hess Publishers, Göttingen & Windhoek.

The books are available as complete series only from the publisher and from book shops.

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ISBN: 978-99916-57-30-1; suggested retail prize: 600.00 N\$/ZAR (including VAT, plus postage)

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Further information about the BIOTA AFRICA project:

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