



MSc Thesis opportunity: Plant biodiversity along grazing gradients in Namibian savannas

Description:

Overgrazing and drought can lead to so-called desertification tipping points (DTPs) in semi-arid grassland ecosystems. There is still a research gap of how ecosystems close to a DTP look like, and whether there are indicators to define such a stage. Within the NamTip project (namtip.uni-bonn.de) we strive to understand ecological processes, societal and management causes around DTPs in Namibia's savanna rangelands. Plant biodiversity may be one important indicator for DTPs.

The prospective student will aim to identify patterns by means of collected data along grazing gradients in 2021. The dataset may be complemented by fieldwork in 2022.

Requirements:

- Master studies in ecology (MEEC, botany, or similar)
- Interest in botany and dryland ecology
- English proficiency: C1

Tasks:

- Analyse existing dataset
- Calculate biodiversity indices & statistical analysis
- Optional: 4 weeks fieldwork (Feb 2022)

Start and Duration:

- Start: October 2021
- 6 months for a MSc thesis or 3 months for a project

We offer:

- Participation in the NamTip project
- Work in an international research group
- Financial support for fieldwork

Interested? Contact:

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