



RECRUITING: PhD, MSc AND HONOURS PROJECTS AND
POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS, FROM NOVEMBER 2021

Examining the impacts of climate change in the Drakensberg

An exciting new NRF-funded project is kicking off soon, and we are looking to recruit energetic students and post-docs to investigate the ecological impacts of changing environmental conditions on the composition and functioning of the flora of the Drakensberg. This project is studying fine- and broad-scale variation in vascular plant species composition, functional traits and grazing value, examining both intra- and inter-specific variation, in relation to a range of microclimatic, topographic and soil variables. Results from this research will improve our understanding of how alpine grasslands will respond to changing temperature and rainfall regimes.

This project is being lead by Prof Peter le Roux (Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Pretoria), and involves researchers from several specializations at the University of Pretoria, the Afromontane Research Unit (University of Free State), the National University of Lesotho, Helsinki University (Finland) and the University of Oulu (Finland). Students working on this project will have ample opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Will you be a good fit to this project? We are looking for students who:

- are excited about ecology and related fields (and preferably have a strong background in the field),
- are enthusiastic to conduct challenging fieldwork (requiring long periods in the field),
- are interested to work with large datasets,
- have the ability and appetite to publish their research in high profile journals, and
- can work well within a diverse team.

While this project does not have bursaries to allocate, strong candidates will be supported in their applications for funding at the University of Pretoria and for external funding. There are several funding options currently open, so don't delay!

Be part of this exciting multidisciplinary project, working to improve the management and conservation of these biodiversity-rich grasslands!

For more information, please see <https://tinyurl.com/leRouxEcology> and/or contact Prof Peter le Roux (peter.leroux@up.ac.za).

