

SACAU CONFERENCE

2015

Managing rangelands

for profit

The wonder of UHSG

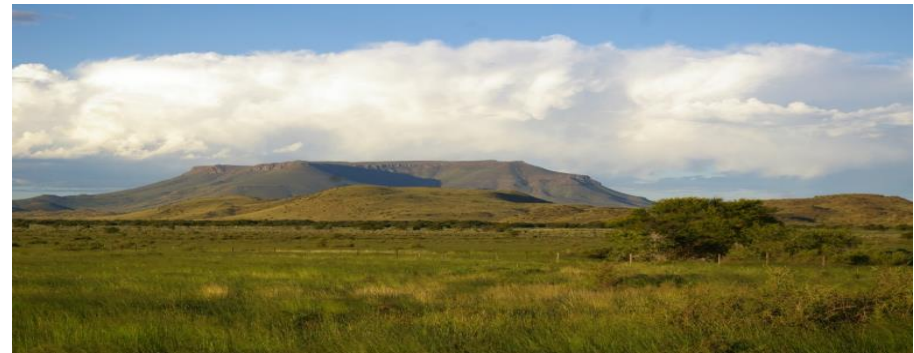


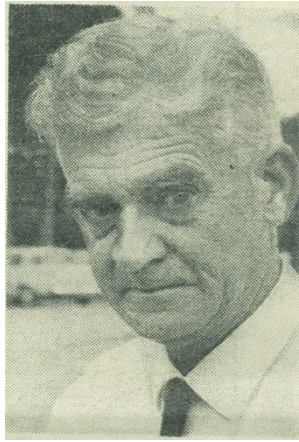
André Lund, Elandsfontein, Beaufort West, Central Karoo, South Africa

ELANDSFONTEIN



NAMA-KAROOVELD

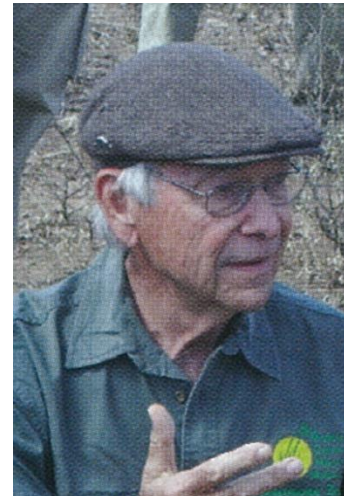
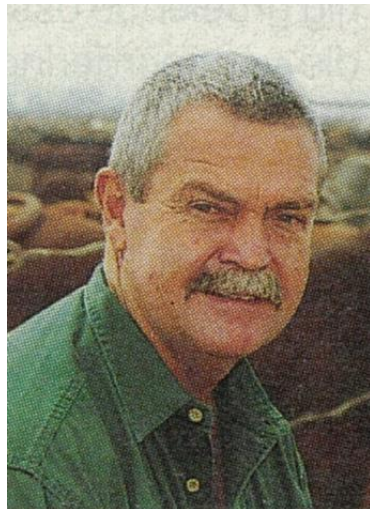




John Acocks
Famous Botanist of
South Arica and the
father of non -
selective grazing

**Johann
Zietsman**

Is renowned for his
work on Ultra High
density strip grazing
and cattle breeding

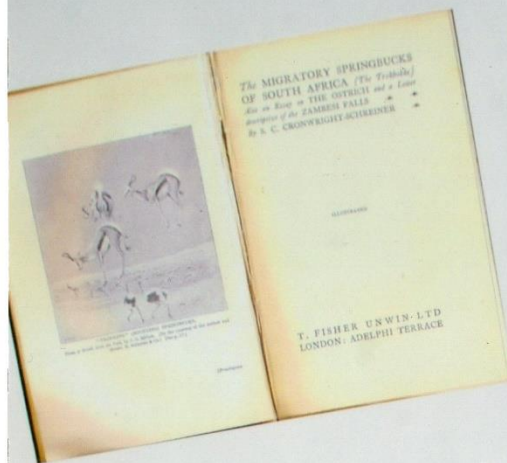


**Allan
Savory**
Is renowned for
his Holistic
Resource
Management

The Story of the Trekbokke

'the last great trek'

recorded great trek took place in 1896: an event recorded in some detail by Samuel Cronwright-Schreiner. The trek was first in the Kaaiken Bult, near Prieska where large numbers of springbok had congregated and kidded in the previous year. In July 1896 a springbok approached Karree Kloof, a farm in the district of Hopetown belonging to one of Schreiner's relatives who on believing it to be a particularly big trek wrote to him in Kimberley inviting Cronwright-Schreiner to come and see the phenomenon for himself.



On receipt of the letter Cronwright-Schreiner left Kimberley by train and alighted at Kran Kuil railway station on the Orange River. Following a ten hour cart-ride via Strydenburg he finally arrived at Karree Kloof by night-fall. The next day he set out by cape-cart to view the migration. By the time of Schreiner's arrival the hunting of the trekbokke was in full flight and many hundreds of springbok had been culled for biltong and even a leopard and wild dogs had been shot, as they followed the mass herd in search of an easy meal.

For several days Schreiner followed the trek across the veld where 'it was hardly possible to put one's foot down in the vast extent of country without treading on the spoor of the springbok'. Passing the many hundreds of farmers and hunters camps festooned with drying biltong and with wagons laden high with springbok Schreiner arrived at 'a vast, undisturbed, glittering plain' upon which 'throughout its whole extent the exquisite antelopes grazed peacefully in the warm afternoon winter sunshine' a sight 'as beautiful as it was wondrous'.

arriving at the plain Schreiner and his companions 'alighted from the cart, put our rifles aside and sat down to watch the bucks and in a sight we most certainly should never see again... we sat in silence and feasted our eyes on this wonderful spectacle'.

estimating the number of springbok before them the companions arrived at a count of 'not less than five hundred thousand-half a million in sight at one moment' which 'extended twenty-three hours in one direction and from two to three in the other'.



Springbok and Gemsbok in the Central Kalahari, Botswana
image courtesy of Mike Myers / Wilderness Safaris

The 1896 trekbok witnessed by Cronwright-Schreiner is considered to mark the last of the great springbok treks and in 1925 Schreiner himself stated 'it is probable that the days of the very large treks are passed'.



The Story of the Trekbokke

'beautiful as anything that breathes'

The last great springbok treks across the Karoo took place in 1892 and 1896. Dramatic eyewitness descriptions of these treks can be found in the records of two Karoo authors: William Charles Scully and Samuel Cronwright-Schreiner. William Scully was an Irish emigrant who became magistrate in Springfontein and Namaqualand and wrote extensively about his pioneering experiences in works including 'Between Sun and Sand' and 'Lodges in the Wilderness'. S. C. Cronwright-Schreiner, a politician and the husband of the famous English author Olive Schreiner, was the first person to fully research the trekbok phenomenon, publishing a book on the subject in 1925 entitled 'The Migratory Springbucks of South Africa'.

In 1892 Scully witnessed one of the last great treks to move from east to west across Bushmanland. Scully described the trek as a 'wave of antelopes that broke like foam against the western granite range'. Standing above the plains Scully watched the 'rising column of dust' marking out the area of the trekbokke 'as far as the eye could reach'.

Government rifles were issued to local farmers to help them protect their crops from the advancing springbok. Despite the defence the trekbokke managed to break through into cultivated fields and settlements: one springbok was even shot in the graveyard at Okiep then as with other such events 'The trek ended more suddenly than it began' and 'in a single night the springbucks totally disappeared'.

Scully called the springbok as 'beautiful as anything that breathes, destructive as locusts.' noting how in the country through which the migrations passed 'every vestige of vegetation is beaten out by the small, sharp, strong hoofs.' Unlike many earlier writers Scully's great sadness in the trekbok lamenting the 'hapless creatures...preyed upon by man and brute' and that the 'unbounded distances...hold for them no sanctuary'.



Game on Morning Market, Kimberley, 6 May 1905
image courtesy of McGregor Museum, Kimberley



While the trekbokke temporarily destroyed the vegetation in their path they also churned up and fertilised the soils.

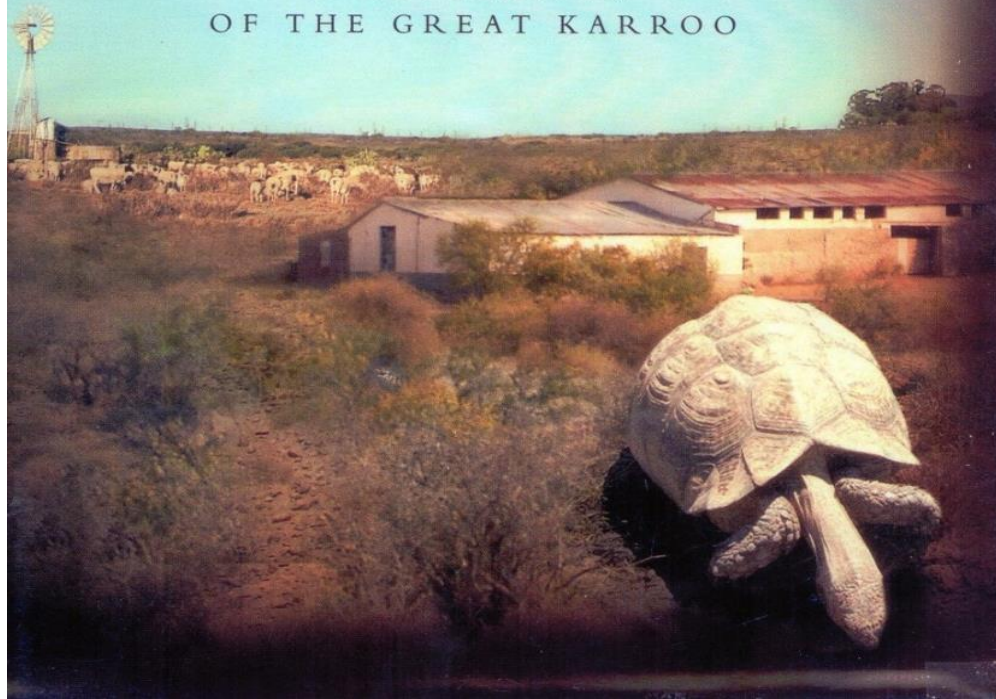
The migration is a quintessential ecological process of the Karoo.

Marina Beal, NKF, 2009

ALFRED DE JAGER JACKSON

MANNA IN THE DESERT

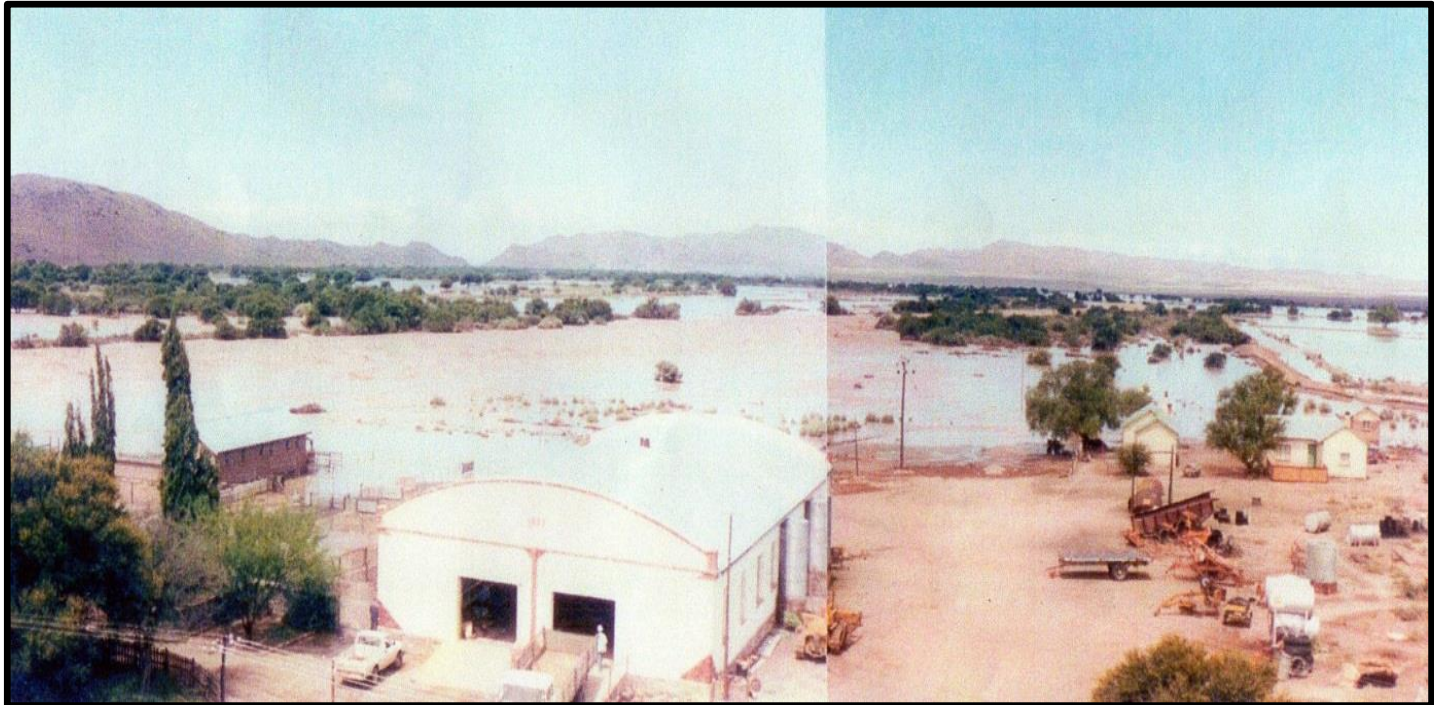
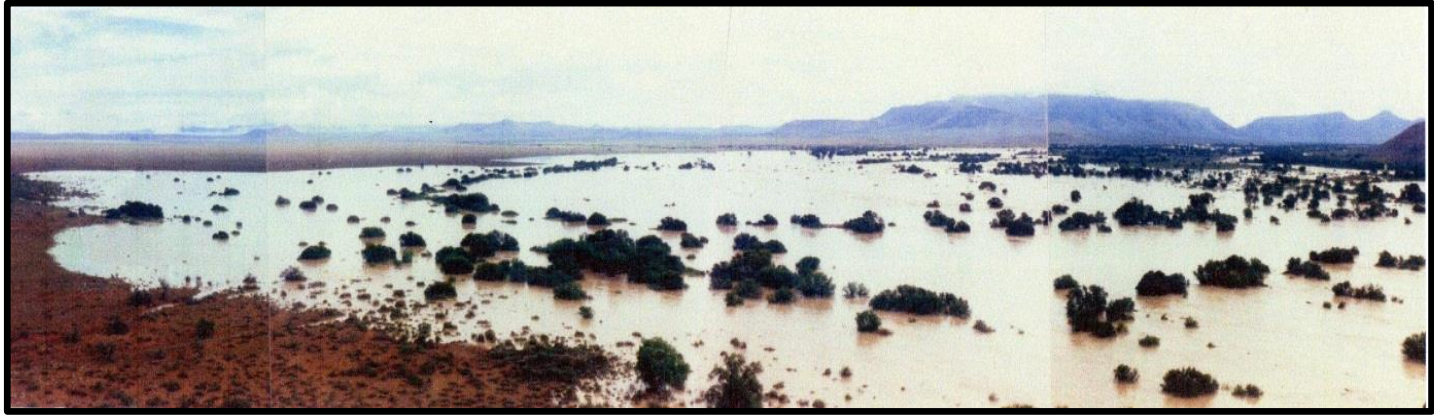
A REVELATION
OF THE GREAT KARROO



THE FARM KAMFERSKRAAL



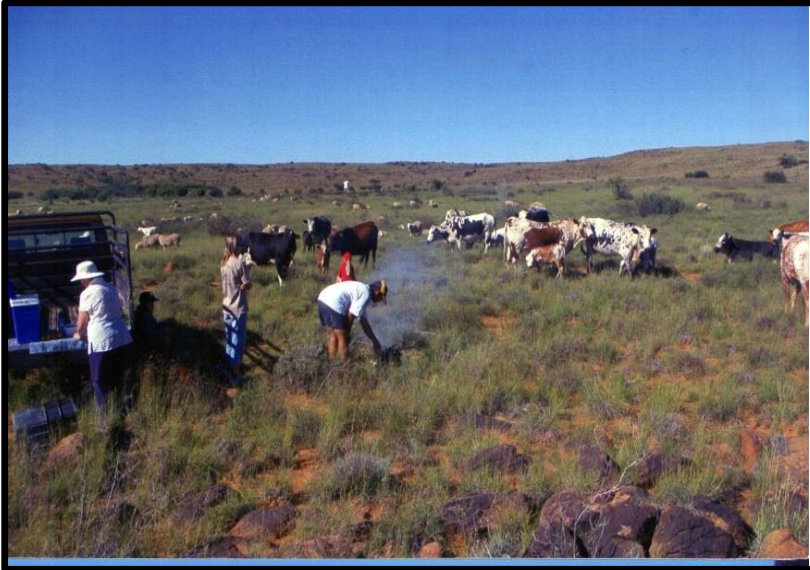
SALT RIVER - 1988



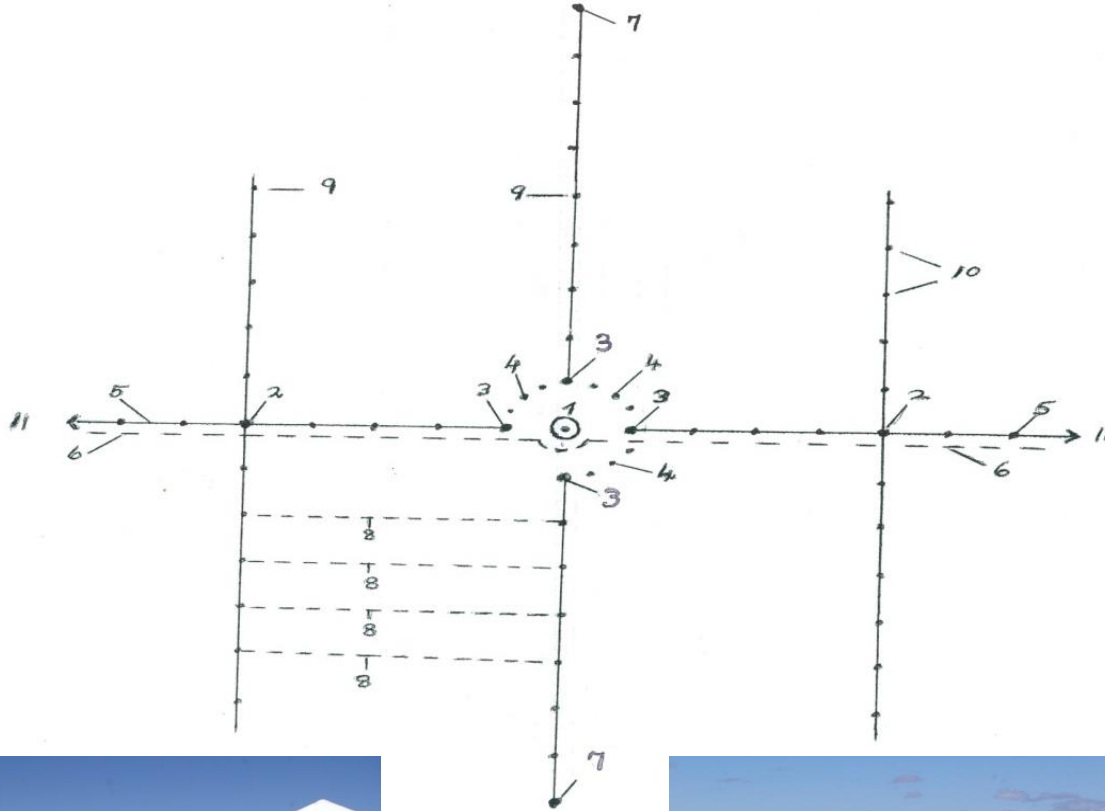
ULTRA HIGH DENSITY STRIPGRAZING



SUNDAY MORNING PICNIC



Portable Ultra High-density Stripgrazing Lay-Out

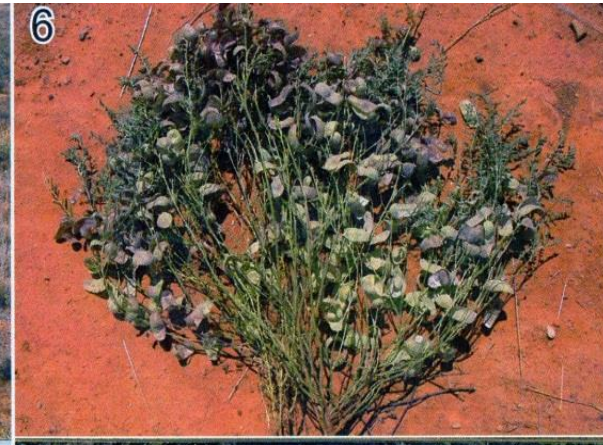
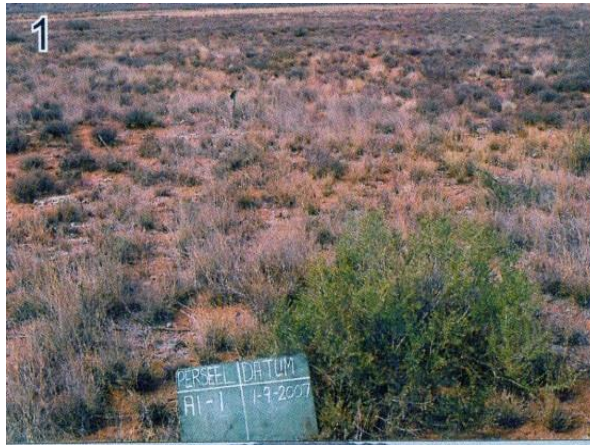


1. Portable water trough in place



8. Stock in strip. Tjopline with automatic gate set for 1½ hours

VELD IMPROVEMENT



THE INFLUENCE OF DIFFERENT GRAZING - PRESSURE LEVELS ON THE ECONOMICAL / ECOLOGICAL

VEGETATION STRUCTURES OF NAMA - KAROOVELD. ELANDSFONTEIN BEAUFORT WEST

ULTRA HIGH DENSITY STRIPGRAZING

HIGH DENSITY GRAZING

ECONOMICAL / ECOLOGICAL

LOW DENSITY GRAZING

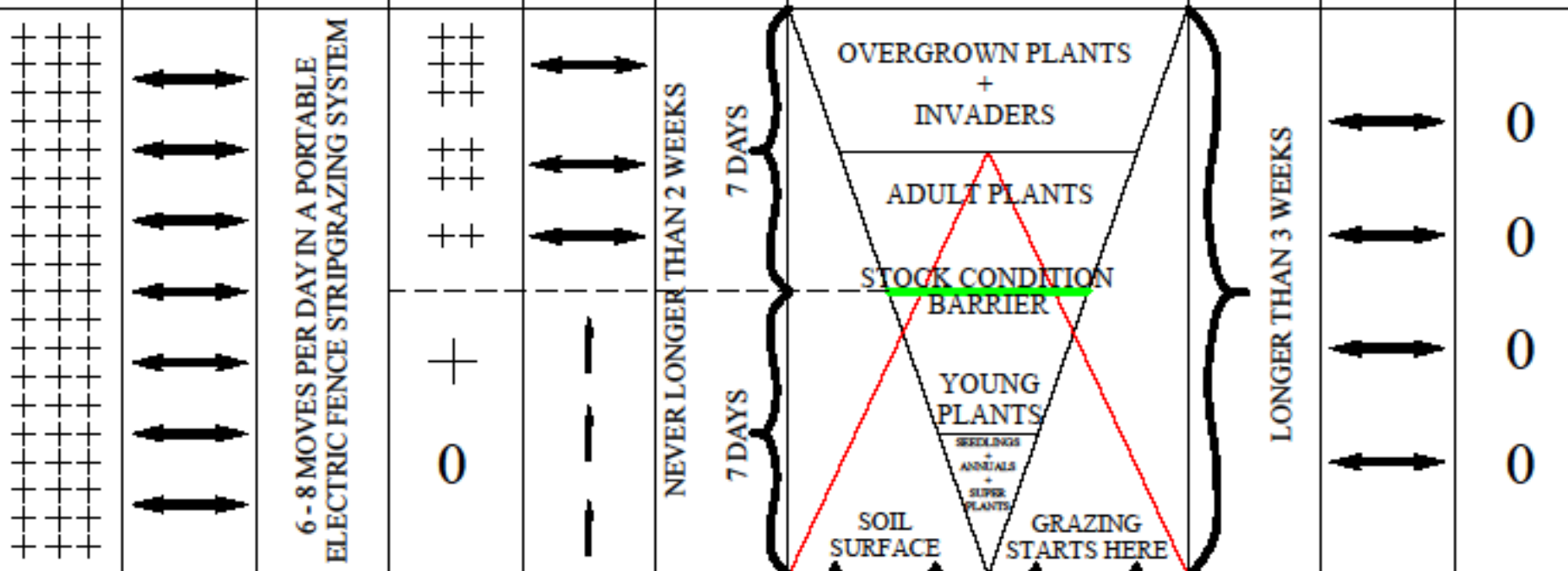
STOCK DENSITY
764 - 1019 LSU / Ha

STOCK DENSITY
5 - 8 LSU / Ha

CLASSIFICATION & VEGETATION

STOCK DENSITY
1.68 LSU / Ha

ANIMAL IMPACT	STOCK CONDITION	GRAZING PERIOD	ANIMAL IMPACT	STOCK CONDITION	GRAZING PERIOD	DISTRIBUTION CATEGORIES	GRAZING PERIOD	STOCK CONDITION	ANIMAL IMPACT
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← ARE BUILT UP → MICROBIAL ACTIVITY IN THE TOPSOIL ← ARE BROKEN DOWN →

60 LSG D / Ha / YEAR

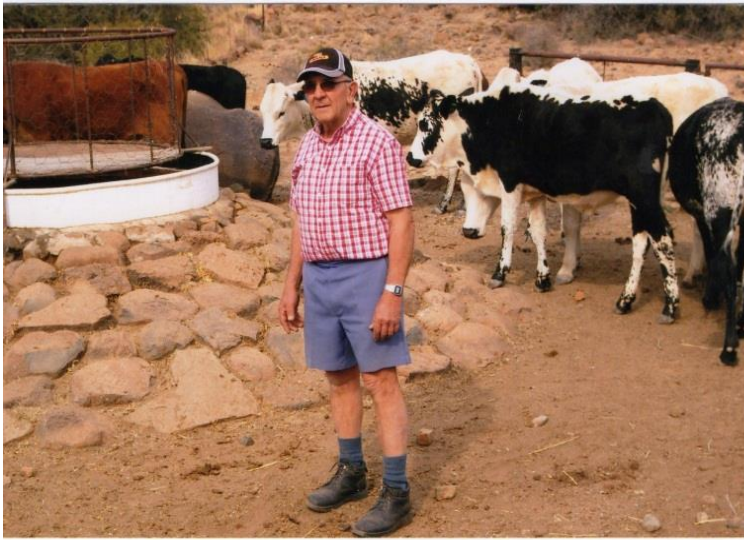
30 LSG D / Ha / YEAR

16.5 LSG D / Ha / YEAR

CARRYING CAPACITY 3.72 Ha / LSU / Y

CARRYING CAPACITY 12 Ha / LSU / Y

CARRYING CAPACITY 24 Ha / LSU / Y

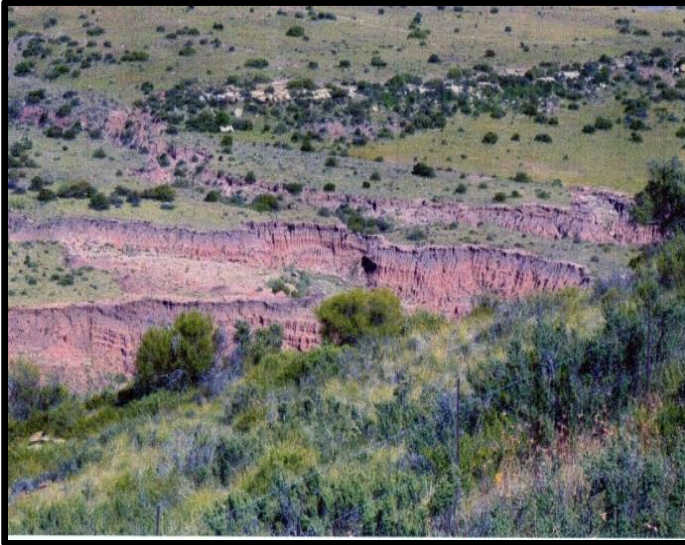


WHO
CAN
DO
IT
?

LESOTHO



EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE



THANK YOU

THERE WILL BE A DISPLAY OF
MY UHDSG EQUIPMENT AT
LANDBOUWEEKBLAD
CONFERENCE
BLOEMFONTEIN
5 AND 6 OCTOBER 2015