



Search Archives

NEW CHAMPION FOR GAUTENG GRASSLANDS

Posted by Administrator on Wednesday, 10 July 2013 in Grasslands News 2013

Print PDF Bookmark



The future of biodiversity mainstreaming into Gauteng's urban economy looks good. This is after the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) appointed Abigail Kamineth as the new Deputy Director of Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Stewardship. The creation of this post is part of department's plan to continue with the biodiversity mainstreaming gains made in partnership with the South African National Biodiversity Institute's (SANBI) Grasslands Programme over the past five (5) years.

The Grasslands Programme has been working with GDARD to ensure that biodiversity management is incorporated into the urban economy. Why is this important in a region known as South Africa's economic powerhouse? Eighty-three percent (83%) of Gauteng falls within the Highveld grasslands, which are one of the most threatened grassland

ecosystems in South Africa. About 70% of Gauteng's grasslands have been transformed and with rapid urbanisation, the remaining natural areas are under increasing pressure and fragmented. So easily in our busy urban lives we take for granted these remaining natural areas that nourish the soul, inspire creativity, sustain biodiversity, and protect us through regulating ecosystem services. Like the bridges, roads, sewers and electricity infrastructure that bring development, the wetlands, rivers, and ridges in Gauteng are examples of ecological infrastructure that support sustainable development.

Working closely with municipalities is one of the many ways the Grasslands Programme has supported GDARD and ensures the integration of biodiversity (and the ecological infrastructure it underpins) into the municipal planning and operations. The new Deputy Director will work closely with the Grasslands Programme's Urban Coordinator to ensure that the achievements that have already been made are continued. Her previous experience stands her in good stead. Ms. Kamineth holds a Master's Degree in Botany which she obtained from the then University of Port Elizabeth (now Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University). She completed an internship with SANBI in 2004 based at the Eastern Cape's Bioregional Programme Projects Office under the mentorship of Mandy Cadman. After the internship she moved back to the University of Port Elizabeth where she assisted with research and field work. In 2007, she was permanently employed by the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Open Space System (NMB MOSS) where she was responsible for co-ordinating planning and implementation processes linked to the NMB MOSS.

Her responsibilities at GDARD include providing strategic leadership, institutional management and administration in the areas of biodiversity mainstreaming and stewardship. She will support municipalities in the implementation of bioregional plans and tools, and will help land-use planners to avoid development in critical biodiversity areas. She will also guide the development of a biodiversity stewardship programme for the Gauteng province and will ensure that public land of significant conservation value is consolidated in accordance with the Protected Areas Act.

She describes her first five months as daunting, particularly adapting to the big city setting, but she is settling in well. The grasslands team welcomes Ms. Kamineth and wishes her well during her stay.

Tags: Untagged

in Share Tweet 0

f Like Share Sign Up to see what your friends like.

- ▶ Spring 2013
- ▶ Winter 2013
- ▶ Autumn 2013
- ▶ Summer 2012
- ▶ Spring 2012
- ▶ April 2012

Powered by EasyBlog for Joomla!

Copyright 2010. Grasslands website design by Rodoyo.com

