

SALLnet – South African Limpopo Landscapes Network

Seminar

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Six years of DroughtAct: What have we learnt for drought resistance and resilience?

The DroughtAct experiment was established in 2014 with the main aim to understand the combined effects of a centennial-scale drought and grazing on a dry savanna ecosystem. We compare resistance and resilience of vegetation to a two-year and a six-year drought using the annual net primary production (ANPP) and species composition as proxies. We found a high resilience of the rangeland vegetation to a two-year drought. Grazing might be beneficial and stimulate the recovery. Under ongoing drought however, results show a collapse of ANPP and a decreasing rain-use efficiency, indicating a degradation of vegetation which is even accelerated by grazing.



Figure 1: Core treatments of DroughtAct in the sixth observation year (2020). Pictures: Vincent Mokoka

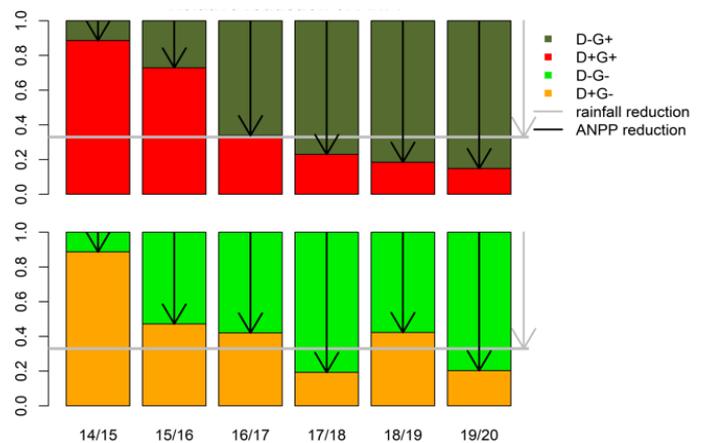


Figure 2: Response ratio of Drought (D+) compared to ambient rainfall conditions (D-). The black arrow indicates the relative reduction of ANPP in the D+ plots compared to D- plots, while the grey line indicates the relative rainfall in the D+ plots (33% of the ambient rainfall).

Thursday, 20 May 2021, 11:00 CET/SAST
Online

Contact:

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