

Title: Improve understanding of relationships among wetland catchment hydrology, wetland habitat characteristics and select plant communities to forecast ecological response in the face of a changing climate.

Description: The ability to assess and forecast ecological responses to changes in hydrologic regimes forms a key component of sustainable resource management. This project will link wetland catchment groundwater and vadose zone “environmental flows” to wetland habitat characteristics and specific plant communities through a combination of plant physiology, soil, chemistry, and water level characterisation and monitoring, and modeling to understand the impact of altered hydrologic regimes on wetland ecosystem structure and function in South Africa’s winter rainfall region.

Field: Freshwater Ecology

Supervisors: Prof M Muasya (UCT), Ms N Job (SANBI), Prof J Van Tol (UFS)

University for registration: University of Cape Town

Level: PhD