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NEWS-LETTER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF BOTANISTS
NUUSBRIEF VAN DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE GENOOTSAP VAN PLANTKUNDIGES

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VACANCY AT THE S.A. FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Grasslands ecologist: Futululu Forestry Research Station,
Mtubatuba.

Requirements: Recognised, appropriate 4 year B degree or appropriate 3 year B degree plus Honours degree. Forest science/nature conservation or grassland studies a requirement. Animal ecology studies will be a recommendation.

Duties: The Forestry Branch of the Department of Environment Affairs has an active research programme on terrestrial ecosystems of the coastal dunes and near-coastal lowlands of Zululand. The appointee would be responsible for developing an understanding of the interactions between soil, water, vegetation, fire and herbivory in the ecosystems in and around St. Lucia.

General: Salaries are negotiable dependant on qualifications. Appropriate research experience and training in statistics or biometrics or computer science would be a recommendation as would a proven ability to communicate scientific research results through the written and spoken word.

Application: Enquiries and applications on a Z.83 (accompanied by a Z.27) should be directed to:

The Director
S.A. Forestry Research Institute
P.O. Box 727
PRETORIA
0001

Telephone: (012) 28-7120 Mr P.A. Kirkman

JAARVERSLAG VAN DIE PRESIDENT VAN S.A.G.P. VIR 1986

Die afgelope jaar is weereens deur 'n aantal hoogtepunte in die bestaan van die S.A.G.P. gekenmerk, wat ten spyte van 'n aantal bedankings en skorsings nogtans deur 'n stadige groei in die ledetal en 'n meer doeltreffende funksionering van die bestuur gekenmerk is. Dit is vir my 'n groot genoë om verslag te doen oor die aktiwiteite van u Genootskap onder die volgende hoofde.

1. VERGADERINGS VAN DIE RAAD EN UITVOERENDE KOMITEE

1.1 Raadsvergaderings

Die raadsvergaderings was beperk tot drie te wete (a) Raadsvergadering direk na die afloop van die Algemene Jaarvergadering op 24 Januarie 1986 aan die Universiteit van Transkei; (b) Op 11 Augustus 1986 is die tweede Raadsvergadering aan die Universiteit van Pretoria gehou, en (c) die derde Raadsvergadering is gehou op 12 Januarie 1987 aan die Universiteit van Natal, Durban

1.2 Uitvoerende komitee

Een uitvoerende komitee vergadering is gehou waar alle lede teenwoordig was naamlik 24 Maart 1986. Ten einde kostes te bespaar is daar nie 'n tweede uitvoerende komitee vergadering gehou nie. Wanneer nodig was die vierde lid van die komitee wat nie in Pretoria woonagtig is nie, telefonies gekontak.

2. LEDETAL

Die ledetal het sedert 1985 goed gegroei en staan tans op 622 (562 in 1985). Gedurende die afgelope jaar het 1 lewenslid, 31 gewone, 30 studente en 6 affiliaatlede tot die Genootskap toegetree. Ongelukkig het daar ook 5 lede bedank en 6 lede is volgens die konstitusie geskors aangesien hulle nie hulle verpligtinge nagekom het nie of glad nie meer opgespoor kon word nie. 'n Verdere aantal lede loop gevaar om geskors te word indien hulle nie teen Maart 1986 hulle verpligtinge nagekom het nie of nie opgespoor kon word nie. Die opspoor van lede is steeds 'n finansiële las vir die Genootskap veral weens verhoogde postariewe.

3. MEDAL

3.1 S.A.A.B. Junior Medal

The Junior Medal is awarded to Dr K.H. Rogers of the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg (at present at the University of the Witwatersrand) for his thesis "The role of Potamogeton crispus L. in the Pongola River floodplain ecosystem". He worked under the guidance of Prof. C. Breen.

3.2 Certificate for young Botanists

The successful candidate for 1987 is Miss F.L. Blakeway from the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Natal, Durban who worked under the guidance of Mr B.R. Page.

4. CONGRESS MATTERS

The 1987 Congress has once again emphasized the valuable role that this annual event fulfils in bringing together botanists from various branches of Botany and creating the opportunity for the exchange of ideas, not only on a formal level but also informally. On behalf of all botanists I would like to thank the University of Natal, Durban for the facilities they made available as well as a special word of thanks to the organizing committee under the guidance of Dr A. Amory, for what they have done.

We all appreciate the fact that Dr Y. Guterman from Israel was willing to come to South Africa at a very late stage and under difficult circumstances. We regret the fact that it was not possible for Dr Osborne from England to visit us due to political pressure.

The next congress is planned for Cape Town at Kirstenbosch during January 1988. The following congress is planned for Pretoria at the University of Pretoria in 1989.

The 1986 congress was very favourably evaluated by those who attended the annual general meeting. More than ninety percent of those present were of the opinion that the congress was well organised and that it was worthwhile holding the congress in a remote area. With this in mind the botanists from South West Africa are willing to organise the 1991 congress in Windhoek. Valuable criticism was also received and applied during the 1987 congress.

5. PUBLICITY

Unfortunately the publicity the Association is getting at present is still not nearly enough to ensure that S.A.A.B. is recognised for what it really is - the professional body to look after the interests of botanists in this country. With a membership of over 600 it is imperative that every one of us should try our utmost to bring to notice what we stand for. Favourable reaction was received from several institutions we were in contact with.

6. EVALUATION OF BOTANISTS BY THE F.R.D.

In reaction to the poor evaluation of botanists in general, Council came to the conclusion that since the evaluation is done by botanists, we are doing it to ourselves and the S.A.A.B. cannot do anything about it.

7. GROWING RESISTANCE TO SOUTH AFRICAN BOTANISTS FROM OVERSEAS

Council came to the conclusion that the only way we can overcome this problem is to make even more personal contact with colleagues overseas. A letter was written to the C.S.I.R. asking them to make more funds available for overseas visits. They also supplied us with guidelines on how to address this problem which will be published in Forum Botanicum.

8. STAND VAN PLANTKUNDE IN DIE REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Die Raad was versoek om 'n verslag in die verband uit te bring veral met verwysing na die posisie van die Navorsingsinstituut in die Departement Landbou en Watervoorsiening. Daar is onder andere aanbeveel dat alle hoofsaaklike basiese plantkundige navorsing en dienste wat met staatsfinansiering, veral binne die Departemente Landbou en Watervoorsiening en Omgewingsake uitgevoer word, binne een parastatale organisasie saamgesnoer moet word. Dat ten minste die N.I.P. en die N.B.T. amalgameer binne 'n parastatale organisasie onder beheer van die Departement Omgewingsake. Daar is ook aanbeveel dat alle hoofsaaklik plantkundige navorsing met spesiale verwysing na N.I.P. en N.B.T. rasionaliseer en binne een Statutêre Raad amalgameer.

9. NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR PLANT SYSTEMATICS

Council was requested by the Foundation for Research Develop-

ment for a statement concerning the stimulation of research and education in plant systematics. Council unanimously expressed support for the establishment (or stimulation) of a National Programme for Plant Systematics by the C.S.I.R. A meeting in this respect took place on Monday 12 January 1987 at the University of Natal, Durban.

10. VERSLAE

10.1 Liaison committee

The President was in contact with representatives of nature conservation, agriculture and representatives of independent and national states in connection with ethnobotany. To the present little reaction was received. The reaction of those who did reply was very favourable and there is an indication that this problem does receive more attention than many of us are aware of.

The willingness of botanists to help with the "muti"-trade has still to be determined. The main problem lies in the identification of plant species used in the "muti"-trade. More attention should be given to the growing or cultivation of species used in the trade.

10.2 S.A.G.P.-Natuurbewaringskomitee

Prof. A.E. van Wyk meld dat die bewaringstatus van die Nkandla-woud ondersoek is en dat kommer uitgespreek is oor die deel van die woud wat nie by die huidige bewaringsgebied ingesluit is nie.

Die komitee gee tans aandag aan broodboombeskerming. Daar is gevind dat die provinsiale natuurbewaringsinstansies van mening is dat met die beskikbare mannekrag die huidige beskermingswetgewing effektief is. Daar bestaan egter steeds probleme om plante sonder blare korrek te identifiseer. Die ondersoek sal afgerond word met 'n verslag oor die stand van broodboombewaring in Suid-Afrika.

10.3 Habitat Council

S.A.A.B. is represented by Dr J.C. Scheepers or Dr G.E. Gibbs Russell. The Habitat Council, as ever, continues to actively involve itself in matters concerning the environment. Activities of the year can be reported on briefly: Deforestation and degra-

dation of the Limpopo River banks has reached alarming proportions. Concern has also been expressed regarding inter alia : Atmospheric pollution in Northern Natal and Eastern Transvaal; Historic passes of the Cape Province; the Richtersveld and the Encroachment of Alien Vegetation on road reserves.

10.4 Suid-Afrikaanse Raad vir Natuurwetenskaplikes

Die plantkundiges word verteenwoordig deur Prof. N. Grobbelaar met dr B. de Winter as sekundus. Weens die vertroulike aard van S.A.R.N. se werksaamhede kan daar nie verder verslag gedoen word as die Nuusbrief wat geregistreerde lede ontvang nie.

10.5 South African Syntaxonomic Nomenclature Committee

Dr Scheepers reported that the S.A.S.N.C. Code will be distributed amongst members of the National Working Group for Vegetation Ecology, after approval. The work of Mr C. Boucher on syntaxonomic synthesis is farthest advanced and a first approximation synthesis of an area in the northwestern portion of the Grassland Biome receives attention.

Publication of the revised International Code of Syntaxonomic Nomenclature is expected in the near future. Approaches to the President of the International Nomenclature Commission of the International Association of Vegetation Science have been favourably received.

10.6 National Working Group for Vegetation Ecology

Two newsletters were circulated to those on the mailing list. Two courses one at Jonkershoek and one in Pretoria, were held on the practical application of the cover meter. Matrix data for 30 sets have been loaded onto the computer. The automatic classification program Phyto 22 has been under development and a program Phyto 00 for species sequencing for key construction was a breakthrough.

10.7 Koördinerende Komitee vir Houtanatomie

Mnr Swart doen verslag dat die komitee steeds aktief is en 'n byeenkoms is gereël tydens die kongres in 1987 in Durban.

10.8 Advieskomitee vir Plantkundige Navorsing

Die komitee het op 22 Oktober 1986 vergader. Die S.A.G.P. word

deur proff. H.A. van de Venter, J.G.C. Small, C.F. Cresswell, O.A.M. Lewis, J.J.A. van der Walt, G.K. Theron en H.P. van der Schijff verteenwoordig. Die S.A.G.P. is gevra om aandag te gee aan die nasionale prioriteit vir Plantkunde en die opleiding van taksonome en werksmoontlikhede vir taksonome. Die moontlike toekoms of posisie van N.I.P. binne Landbou of Omgewingsake het ook weer aandag geniet.

10.9 The Flora Conservation Committee of the Botanical Society of South Africa

Prof. J.J. Rourke reports that Prof. E.J. Moll was elected chairman of the F.C.C. after the resignation of Mr. P.D.M. Parker. Since the change of leadership the committee was largely engaged in defining its objectives. Further information is obtainable from Prof. Rourke.

10.10 Gesamentlike Raad van Natuurwetenskaplike Verenigings

Prof. Grobbelaar doen verslag dat verskeie van die televisieprogramme oor die natuurwetenskappe deur bemiddeling van die G.R.N.V., bevries is deur die SAUK.

Dit wil voorkom asof die ondersoek na die wenslikheid om 'n Raad of Instituut vir Fundamentele Biologiese Navorsing tot stand te bring ten einde geloop het, sonder dat daar veel daaruit sal voortvloei. Die G.R.N.V. beskou die tyd en finansiële klimaat tans as ongunstig vir die loodsing van so 'n projek.

10.11 Forum Botanicum

Mej. Welman doen verslag dat daar tydens 1986, vyf uitgawes verskyn het met 'n totaal van 100 bladsye. Daar is steeds 'n traagheid by Universiteite en ander instansies asook gewone lede van S.A.G.P. om nuusitems in te stuur. Daar was 'n merkbare styging in die kostes om Forum Botanicum te produseer.

10.12 South African Journal of Botany Suid-Afrikaanse Tydskrif vir Plantkunde

Volume 52 of the South African Journal of Botany was the second volume of the amalgamated J. of S. Afr. Bot. and S.A.J. Bot. There was a 72% increase in the number of papers published, but only a 17% increase in the number of pages. There was also a

91% increase in the number of South African referees used and 178% increase in the number of overseas referees. To solve storage problems manuscripts are only kept for six months after publication before they are destroyed. Authors are reminded that all original art work is sent to the Bureau by the Scientific Editorial Officer together with the accompanying manuscript.

10.13 Die Raad vir Wetenskaplike Publikasies

Prof. Grobbelaar berig dat onderhandelings aan die gang is om te kyk of die bestaande Suid-Afrikaanse Tydskrif vir Natuurbewaring nie tot 'n Suid-Afrikaanse Tydskrif vir Ekologie omskep kan word nie. Die Suid-Afrikaanse Tydskrif vir Plantkunde se sirkulasie, getal artikels en getal bladsye per jaar vergelyk goed met ander nasionale tydskrifte maar is egter negende uit 'n totaal van 15 wat sy internasionale trefkrag betref. Die S.A.G.P. en meer spesifiek die Redaksie en ondersteunende personeel by Kirstenbosch se goeie werk met die Tydskrif word hoog deur die Raad vir Wetenskaplike Publikasies aangeslaan.

10.14 International Association of Plant Physiologists

A comprehensive report was received from Dr D. Graham through Prof. Grobbelaar. This report is available from the secretary (S.A.A.B.). The next International Congress of Plant Physiology is planned in New Delhi, India from 8 - 13 February 1988. A list of international meetings for 1987 to 1990 is supplied.

10.15 Internasionale Unie van Biologiese Wetenskappe

Prof. Grobbelaar is tans die voorsitter van die Nasionale Komitee van die I.U.B.W. Die Nasionale Komitee het in hul vergadering gedurende Augustus 1986 veral aandag gegee aan die stand van Taksonomie in Suid-Afrika. Sover dit die deelname aan die I.U.B.W. se wetenskaplike navorsingsprogram gaan is dit veral die projek oor "Responses of savannas to stress and disturbance" wat 'n onderdeel is van die projek "Decade of the Tropics" wat aandag geniet het met spesiale verwysing na die belangrike rol wat die Suid-Afrikaanse medewerkers in die projek speel.

10.16 Herbarium Curators Working Group

Items that received attention during the last meeting were:

1. Second edition of Index Herbariorum Austro-Africanorum
2. List of southern African species and synonyms

3. Scanning literature for recent changes in nomenclature
4. Conditions of loan of herbarium specimens
5. Standardization of collectors field labels
6. Herbarium hygiene
7. Herbarium manual
8. National collecting programme
9. Use of computers in Herbaria
10. Copying types from overseas Herbaria
11. Rationalization of Cryptogamic collections in Southern Africa
12. Sanctions and international relations

For more information Dr B. de Winter, Director, Botanical Research Institute can be contacted.

10.17 Working Group for the Flora of Southern Africa

According to Dr Gibbs Russell nineteen persons attended the annual meeting held in Umtata during January 1986. The AETFAT Secretariat in Hamburg has returned the questionnaires recording the taxonomic research interests of AETFAT members.

F.S.A. volumes published during 1986: Pteridophyta : E.A.C.L.E. Schelpe, Volumes 18,3 and Vol. 31, Part 1.

F.S.A. volumes in press are Vol. 16,3 and Bryophyta 1,2.

Nine manuscripts are with the editor namely no's 5; 8; 9,1; 10,2; 12; 16,3,1; 24; 27; 31. New research undertaken for the F.S.A. since 1 January 1986 includes contributions to eight volumes namely 2, 6, 9, 12, 16, 19, 24, 30.

10.18 Streeksverslae

Uit die verslae wat van die verskillende streke ontvang is, is dit duidelik dat al die streke 'n baie goeie en aktiewe en suksesvolle jaar beleef het.

10.19 Onderrigkomitee

Hierdie komitee het vir die eerste keer tydens die 1987 Kongres vergader. Geen verslag is beskikbaar nie.

11. BEOORDELINGS VAN PH.D-PROEFSKRIFTE

'n Gewysigde voorstel deur proff. A.J. Tew en E. Moll en dr B. McKenzie is aanvaar waarvolgens proefskrifte beoordeel sal word.

12. DIE RAAD

12.1 Samestelling van die Raad

Die volgende raadslede tree na 'n dienstermyn van tweejaar uit:
Prof. P.D.F. Kok en dr W.F. Reyneke.

Die Raad vir 1987 sien soos volg daaruit:

President: Prof. R. Lubke

Uitgaande President: Prof. G.K. Theron

Sekretaris: Mnr A.R. Palmer

Tesourier: Prof. C.E.J. Botha

Gewone lede: Proff. J.N. Eloff, H.A. van de Venter, A.E. van Wyk, drr O.T. de Villiers en G.E. Gibbs Russell en mnr T.H. Arnold

Graag wil ek by dié geleentheid die uittredende raadslede opreg bedank vir hulle bydraes tot die ordelike funksionering van die Raad en Genootskap. Ons wens die twee uittredende lede 'n aangename rustyd toe en vir die twee nuwe Raadslede, sê ons baie welkom. Die Sekretariaat skuif nou na twee jaar na Grahamstad en ons wens prof. Lubke en sy span alle sterkte en voorspoed toe.

12.2 Verkiesingsprosedure van Raadslede

Aan die einde van 1987 moet sewe raadslede vir 'n periode van twee jaar verkies word. Hierdie lede sal weer volgens die ou prosedure verkies word, dit wil sê sonder 'n gepaardgaande curriculum vitae. Daar sal egter steeds nie direkte streeksverteenvoordiging wees nie.

Ek wil weereens 'n beroep doen dat met die verkiesing van die volgende Raad die S.A.G.P.-lede meer aktief betrokke sal raak sodat ons seker is dat die mense wat op die Raad dien dié is wat die lede graag daar wil sien.

13. BEDANKINGS

Vergun my om ten slotte, enkele persone uit te sonder aan wie 'n spesiale woord van dank gebring word. Aan elkeen van die Raadslede wat my in my dienstermyn bygestaan het baie dankie. In besonder wil ek dr W.F. Reyneke ons sekretaris en prof. P.D.F. Kok, ons tesourier van harte bedank vir hulle nougesette ywer en presiesheid waarmee hulle die groot take verrig het. Sonder hulle sou die S.A.G.P.-sake nie so goed verloop het nie en sou

my taak oneindig moeiliker gewees het. Mej. W.G. Welman baie dankie vir die hoogstaande werk wat u gelewer het met Forum Botanicum. Aan prof. J.N. Eloff ook ons opregte dank vir al die werk wat u ingesit het om die Tydskrif 'n groot sukses te maak en vir die hoë standaard wat gehandhaaf word. Ons dra ook ons dank oor aan mej. L. Bosman en die ander dames wat haar gehelp het, sonder wie se hulp die Tydskrif nie sal verskyn nie. Baie dankie ook aan al die komiteede en werksgroepe vir hulle bydraes asook vir die belangstelling van alle lede wat die taak van die Raad van die S.A.G.P. vergemaklik het. Laastens wil ek ook vir mev. J. de Jager, Sekretaresse van die Departement Plantkunde, Universiteit van Pretoria baie dankie sê vir al die tikwerk van die Sekreariaat oor die afgelope twee jaar.

'n Besondere woord van dank aan die komitee onder leiding van Dr A. Amory en mnr B.R. Page wat die 1987 kongres georganiseer het. Ons dank ook aan die Universiteit van Natal, Durban vir al die fasiliteite aan ons verleen asook vir ander hulp en bydraes.

Dit was vir my persoonlik 'n baie groot eer en voorreg om as President vir die afgelope twee jaar die Plantkundiges te kon gedien het.

G.K. Theron

SAAB SECRETARIAT MOVES TO GRAHAMSTOWN

For the next two years the secretariat of the association will be based at Rhodes University in Grahamstown. As we are somewhat out of the mainstream of action in the country I would just like to urge members to bring to the attention (of the Executive Committee of Council) any items of botanical interest by contacting us as follows:

President: Professor Roy A. Lubke
Phone: (0461) 22023 ext 593.

Secretary: Mr Tony Palmer
Phone: (0461) 22638

Treasurer: Professor Ted Botha
Phone: (0461) 22023 ext 592

Address for all correspondence:

South African Association of Botanists
C/O Department of Plant Sciences
Rhodes University
GRAHAMSTOWN, 6140

Of course our Vice-President and immediate past-President, Professor Guillaume Theron is still at the University of Pretoria (phone (021) 4209111). I look forward to serving our association and hearing from members whenever the need arises.

Roy A. Lubke, President.

ADJUDICATION FOR THE S.A.A.B. JUNIOR MEDAL

COMMITTEE: Prof. A.J. Tew (Convenor), Prof. E. Moll, Dr. B. McKenzie.

1. AIM

1.1 To set a standard manner for the adjudication of theses for the award of the SAAB Junior medal.

1.2 To evaluate the five theses submitted for adjudication.

2. ASSUMPTIONS

2.1 All theses submitted meet at least the average quality that is required to obtain the minimum standard for a doctoral degree.

2.2 The SAAB Junior medal is only awarded for a thesis that is above average or of exceptional quality.

2.3 If no exceptional thesis is identified then the Junior medal is not awarded.

3. METHOD

3.1 The first phase of the adjudication process should attempt to identify those theses that are of an above average quality.

3.2 The second phase would be to rank those above average theses to identify the best contribution.

4. PROCESS

4.1 Phase 1.

Four criteria (listed below) were selected to discriminate between the theses presented. Each adjudicator evaluates each thesis against these criteria using sub criteria on a scale of 1 to 10, remembering that an average for each criterum has probably been obtained. 1 to 2 indicate a weak input, 3 to 6 an average input, 7 to 8 above average input and 9 and 10 an excellent input.

The criteria with sub criteria selected are as follows:

4.1.1	<u>Philosophical base</u>	
4.1.1.1	Statement of a central hypothesis	Rank 1-10
4.1.1.2	Testing of the hypothesis	Rank 1-10
4.1.1.3	Extension of the hypothesis and conclusions	Rank 1-10
	Overall impression (average)	Resultant rank
4.1.2	<u>Importance of the contribution</u>	
4.1.2.1	Originality of approach	Rank 1-10
4.1.2.2	Contribution to knowledge	Rank 1-10
4.1.2.3	Publishability	Rank 1-10
	Overall impression (average)	Resultant rank
4.1.3	<u>Completeness of study</u>	
4.1.3.1	Integration of ideas	Rank 1-10
4.1.3.2	Appropriateness of experimental method	Rank 1-10
4.1.3.3	Appropriateness of analytical method	Rank 1-10
	Overall impression (average)	Resultant rank
4.1.4	<u>General</u>	
4.1.4.1	Explicitness of the title and appropriateness of the summary	Rank 1-10
4.1.4.2	Readability	Rank 1-10
4.1.4.3	Presentation	Rank 1-10
4.1.4.4	Conciseness	Rank 1-10
	Overall impression (average)	Resultant rank
4.1.5	TOTAL. Sum of resultant rank values (maximum of 40)	

NOTE: A Thesis that attains a total of 28 or over for these purposes should be considered an above average thesis.

4.2 Phase 2.

This phase of adjudication only applies to two or more theses that have attained an average total from all adjudicators of 28 or more.

In a case of two or more theses being considered for the medal the adjudicators should be advised of the total scores of these theses. Each adjudicator should then consider the award in this light and should give his impression which thesis or theses is/are worthy of the medal, in the form of a report.

BRIEF VAN DIE WNNR INSAKE INTERNASIONALE POGINGS OM SUID-AFRIKAANSE PLANTKUNDIGES EN ANDER WETENSKAPLIKES TE ISOLEER

Die WNNR en die Stigting vir Navorsingsontwikkeling is maar al te bewus van die probleme wat verband hou met die onrus en huidige politieke situasie waarin Suid-Afrika hom bevind. Ek wil met u saarstem dat ons alle moontlike pogings moet aanwend om kontak te behou met kollegas in die buiteland wat nie bereid is om voor politieke druk te swig nie en nog 'n mate van goedge-sindheid jeens ons openbaar.

Ons gebruik verskeie meganismes om die pogings tot isolering van die Suid-Afrikaanse wetenskap te bekamp. Dit is die volgende:

(i) die onderskeie skemas van die Hoofprogram vir Navorsings-ondersteuning soos in die Gids van die program uiteengesit. Meriete van die besoeker (lang en kort besoeke) en sy voorgestelde program in Suid-Afrika sal steeds 'n belangrike rol speel by besluite in dié verband. Die aspekte is vir my belangrik en behoort steeds te geld ten einde te voorkom dat ons besoekers hier kry wat geen wesentliche bydrae kan lewer nie. Dieselfde maatstawwe moet natuurlik ook geld ten opsigte van Suid-Afrikaners (studente en wetenskaplikes) wat na die buiteland wil gaan, hetsy vir na-graadse studie, sabbatsverlof, konferensiebywoning of kort besoeke vir 'n bepaalde doel. Hierdie persone word gesien as die uitstalvenster vir Suid-Afrikaanse wetenskap en moet 'n beeld van wetenskaplike voortreflikheid en uitmuntendheid na buite dra anders verloor wetenskaplikes in die buiteland alle respek en verflou die belangstelling van diegene wat nog bande met ons wil behou.

(ii) die uitruiling van wetenskaplikes tussen Suid-Afrika en lande soos Israel en die Republiek van China onderskeidelik, ingevolge ooreenkomste wat met hierdie lande gesluit is en wat deur die Afdeling Internasionale Betrekkinge van die Inligtings- en Navorsingsdienste van die WNNR administreer word. (Die Departement van Landbou en Watervoorsiening het sover my kennis strek soortgelyke ooreenkomste gesluit met dié twee lande en dit is seker nie onwaarskynlik dat veral ook Suid-Afrikaanse plantkundiges by die bestaan van hierdie skemas sal kan baatvind nie).

(iii) Die WNNR se betrokkenheid by die International Commission for Scientific Unions (ICSU). ICSU is 'n magtige internasionale organisasie wat onder andere deur middel van sy borging van inter

nasionale byeenkomste wat deur sy Unies gereël word, tot dusver voet by stuk gehou het, oor die vrye beweging van wetenskaplikes. Baie werk in die verband vind steeds agter die skerms plaas. Die ongeluk is natuurlik dat Suid-Afrikaners dikwels byeenkomste in die buiteland wat nie onder die beskerming en met ondersteuning van ICSU gereël word nie, wil bywoon en dat daar dan weinig gedoen kan word om hulle behulpsaam te wees.

(iv) Die WNNR Navorsingsgenootskapskema (in teenstelling met die van die SNO). Ons het wat hierdie skema betref 'n redelike mate van sukses, maar akademiëci wat ook in die voordele van die skema kan deel is maar redelik traag om met voorstelle en benoemings na vore te kom. Dit is wel so dat ons dikwels aanbiedinge maak aan uitstaande buitelandse wetenskaplikes en dat hulle vuur en vlam is om die uitnodigings te aanvaar, maar dan op die laaste nippertjie "verhinder" word om te kom. Ons hou egter steeds vol met ons pogings en behaal tog sukses. Soos u egter sal begryp kan ons die skema nie in die buiteland adverteer nie en is ons op Suid-Afrikaanse wetenskaplikes aangewese om die name en besonderhede van buitelanders wat onder die skema sou kon kwalifiseer, en wat bereid sou wees om formele uitnodigings te aanvaar, aan ons te verstrek.

'n Ander uitvloeisel van die WNNR Genootskapskema en wat ook spesifiek gemik is op die verbreking van isolasie en die verbetering van wetenskaplike betrekkings, is die sogenaamde "diamantklas-skema". Hiervolgens kan Suid-Afrikaanse wetenskaplikes ook die name en besonderhede van wetenskapsleiers, meningsvormers en beleidmakers aan ons beskikbaar stel indien hulle (die Suid-Afrikaners) bereid sou wees om as gashere op te tree en 'n program van besoeke te reël. Hierdie skema word uit die aard van die saak ook nie geadverteer nie dog indien lede van die SAGP wel van sulke persone bewus is, wat bereid sou wees om na Suid-Afrika te kom, is hulle welkom om met my of mnr W.J. Weideman (telefoon 012 86-9211 x 2435) te skakel.

R.R. Arndt
Adjunk President
HOOF: STIGTING VIR NAVORSINGS-
ONTWIKKELING

RESEARCH POST FOR A PLANT ECOLOGIST AT THE BOTANICAL RESEARCH
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Applications are invited for a researcher post within the Experimental Ecology Division of the Botanical Research Institute, Department of Agriculture and Water Supply in Cape Town. This Division is based within the Department of Botany of the University of Cape Town in Rondebosch and also cooperates within both the CSIR administered Fynbos and Karoo Biome Programmes. Current emphasis is on basic, yet problem-orientated terrestrial ecological research in various parts of the south-western Cape. A high priority is placed on regular publishing of research results.

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