

Appointment of a new Fire Lecturer at the Nelson Mandela University



Nelson Mandela University, George Campus



New Fire Ecology and Conservation Lecturer, Samukelisiwe Msweli

The Nelson Mandela University, George Campus in South Africa, welcomes the new Fire Ecology and Conservation Lecturer, Samukelisiwe Msweli from Mtubatuba in KwaZulu Natal.

She has been appointed through the New Generation of Academics programme (nGAP), a Department of Higher Education initiative, to facilitate effective teaching and learning in the Veldfire Management field. The nGAP recruits highly capable scholars as new academics and supports research and teaching development.

Msweli studied at Nelson Mandela University since 2014 enrolled for a National Diploma in Nature Conservation and in 2020 graduated with a Master's Degree. Her dissertation on the flammability of native and invasive alien shrubs in the southern Cape was presented in the National Symposium of Biological Invasions, Thicket Forum, shared on SABC news and published two scientific articles.

Her research interests include fire ecology and understanding how the effects of climate change influence plant flammability. Msweli intends to obtain a PhD

and, in the future integrate plant flammability knowledge into wildfire management approaches suited for communities bordering flammable natural vegetation.

Prior to joining Nelson Mandela University, she worked for the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) where she was involved in vegetation mapping and contributed to the improvements of the National Vegetation Map, which were presented at the Arid Zone Ecology Forum and 18th National Biodiversity Planning Forum.

Her participation in the Intercultural Communication and Competencies course in Namibia by SPACES II and Environmental and Remote Sensing data analysis via Geospatial Technologies in Research Training from Goethe University have set a foundation for a determined young teacher and a researcher. Sam values education and aspires to be an example to upcoming academics. ▲

