

Nicholas Paul ('Nick') Zaloumis

University of Cape Town, South Africa



“Researcher, knowledge coordinator and data analyst. Main responsibility to undergo a systemic review of the relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem resilience based on global and local case studies. Identifying gaps in our knowledge and research in the South African context. Explore successful examples of Ecosystem-based Adaptation projects that can be used to help in the development of project, program and policy framework in South Africa”.

Nicks’s MSc had two parts to it: firstly it involved establishing what the main criteria for South African primary grassland are by studying their characteristic floral biodiversity. The main focus is on grassland forbs. The second part looked at how several human-related disturbances (mining, plantations, agriculture, grazing and alien invasion) have affected this grassland diversity and integrity. How and if they recover from these naturally and what methods we could use (if any) to restore these systems to a biologically and economically viable state. His work was based in Kwa-Zulu Natal and Mpumalanga [Buffelskloof Nature Reserve] and involved Temperate and sub-Tropical grasslands in Southern Africa.



His studies on Buffelskloof during 2010-2011, comprised comparative studies between pristine montane grassland, and secondary grassland recently established after pine plantations, demonstrating the slowness of re-established grassland to recover its natural state.

Nick’s MSc thesis (2013), under the supervision of world-renowned ecologist, Prof. William Bond, was entitled: *South African Grassland Ecology and its Restoration*.

Nick writes, in his thesis:

“I would like to thank John and Sandie Burrows for making me feel welcome at Buffelskloof Nature Reserve, offering me discounted accommodation and for all their help in identifying difficult plant specimens and for the several discussions on the matter of grasslands, their restoration and problems that Nature Reserve managers face. Also for letting me use several of the resources available at Buffelskloof Nature Reserve.”

Nick Zaloumis is currently employed as a Research Ecologist with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI).

John Burrows, 29 August 2019