

Announcement and call for participants

CarboAfrica Field Training Workshop Phalaborwa, South Africa 10-15 March 2008

The CarboAfrica Field Training Workshop, will be held at Phalaborwa, Kruger National Park, South Africa, 10th - 15th March 2008. The objective of the course is to expose trainees to a range of field-based methods relating to carbon cycle measurement. The training will be very practical and hands-on, with students working in small groups, each with an instructor. There is place for a maximum of 15 trainees. First preference will be given to trainees associated with CarboAfrica collaborators. If there is sufficient space, non-CarboAfrica students from Africa and Europe may also attend. Attendees should have at least a BSc degree in an appropriate field of study. The cost of the workshop is ZAR 2560 (about euro 240), which covers accommodation (sharing, for nights of 10-14 March), meals during the workshop and workshop transport. Attendees are responsible for their own travel arrangements to Phalaborwa. A limited amount of money is available to cover the workshop fee and airfare for attendees from Africa.

The venue

Most of the training will take place at the Malopeni flux site, in the world-famous Kruger National Park. Some laboratory-based work will take place at the offices of the South African Environmental Observing Network (SAEON) at Phalaborwa Gate.

Topics to be covered

- 1. Soil and vegetation characterisation** – Dr Bob Scholes (CSIR, South Africa)
- 2. Photosynthetic measurements** – Dr Werner Kutsch (Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry, Germany)
- 3. Eddy covariance flux measurements and processing** – Lutz Merbold (Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry)

Getting to the workshop

Many airlines fly from Europe and Africa to O.R. Tambo International airport in Johannesburg. Most arrive in the early morning after an overnight flight. There are daily connecting flights to Phalaborwa on SA Airlink, a subsidiary of South African Airways.

The workshop will begin at 13:00 on Monday 10 March, and end at 16:00 on 15 Friday 15 March. We therefore suggest you use the following flights:

Monday 10 March: Johannesburg to Phalarborwa:
SA8851 departing 07h05 arriving 08h15, or
SA8853 departing 10h40 arriving 11h50

Friday 14 March: Phalaborwa to Johannesburg
SA8858 departing 17h50 arriving 19h10
There are also the following flights:

Sunday 9 March: Johannesburg to Phalaborwa:
SA8853 departing 10h50 arriving 12h00
SA8857 departing 16h10 arriving 17h20

Saturday 15 March: Phalaborwa to Johannesburg:
SA8854 departing 12h10 arriving 13h30

Provide us with your itinerary and you will be picked up from Phalaborwa airport.

Accommodation and meals

Accommodation has been reserved for delegates at comfortable guest houses in the town of Phalaborwa, about 5 minutes drive from the SAEON offices. Transport between the guesthouses and the field site will be organised by the workshop. Breakfasts will be provided by the guest houses. Refreshments and a picnic lunch will be enjoyed in the field. Evening meals will be taken together as a group, in Phalaborwa. Please let the organisers know if you have any dietary restrictions.

What you need to bring

Field clothing for warm weather, including a hat and suitable shoes. A rain jacket in the unlikely event of rain. Sunscreen and insect repellent. You are advised to take prophylaxis against malaria, although the risk is low. A field notebook to write in, clipboard and writing materials. You may need a visa for South Africa – we will provide an invitation letter if necessary. Please note that it is essential that you have 2 blank pages in your passport.

Registration

In order to register for the workshop, please e-mail Bob Scholes (bscholes@csir.co.za) and send him a copy of your CV. In the e-mail please let him know if you require full or partial financial support in order to attend the workshop.

Enquiries

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