

From Briza Publications

FYNBOS – Ecology and Management

Editors: Karen J. Esler, Shirley M. Pierce, Charl de Villiers

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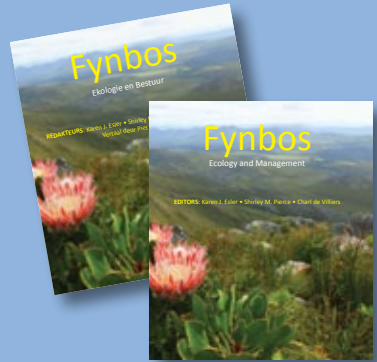
FYNBOS – Ekologie en Bestuur

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The fynbos region is one of the most spectacularly diverse places on Earth. This is not an idle statement. When one considers the diversity of insects, freshwater and marine species also associated with the Cape, this hotspot is arguably the hottest of all.

It is also confusingly heterogeneous, with a diversity of fine-scale habitats, from wetlands in the lowlands to seeps in the mountains, unique soil, nutrient, aspect and rainfall conditions, all of which combine to sustain and drive this diversity. Fynbos is a fire-adapted vegetation and needs fire to sustain itself: without fire the vegetation would thicken and senesce, permit trees to enter and dominate the system, and eventually exclude the precious nutrients liberated by fire and which the system depends upon for rejuvenation.

This book is a guide that will help people who visit, live, manage or own land in the Fynbos Biome to appreciate and manage its extraordinary natural richness.

ABOUT THE EDITORS: **Karen J. Esler** is a professor in the Department of Conservation Ecology & Entomology, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. She co-edited the related book: *Karoo Veld Ecology and Management* (Briza, 2006)

Shirley M Pierce PhD is a plant ecologist and science communication consultant. She has researched and published across a wide range of fields, from estuarine to fynbos systems. Currently she directs communication for invasive alien plant removal and spekboom thicket restoration.

Charl de Villiers is an environmental consultant with a keen interest in biodiversity mainstreaming and ecosystem-based management. Charl lectures on biodiversity and integrated environmental management at the three Western Cape universities.

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