



AFRICAN
MOUNTAIN
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

SUPPORTING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
AND ECOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN
MOUNTAIN SYSTEMS TO ENHANCE WATER
SECURITY ACROSS SOUTHERN AFRICA.

OUR MISSION

African Mountain Research Foundation (AMRF) is a UK registered charity committed to supporting interventions that will assist southern Africa's mountains to continue providing ecosystems services, particularly fresh water, to the region's rural and urban populations.

As part of a long-term response to social-ecological challenges affecting southern African mountain systems – those south of the Congo Rainforest and Lake Rukwa, including Madagascar, the Comoros, and the Mascarenes – AMRF supports scientific research and ecological restoration programmes across these mountain systems by:

1

Purchasing, installing and maintaining international standard scientific equipment and research infrastructure to enable long-term social-ecological research and data collection.

2

Using this data to improve sustainable mountain development policy-making and conservation programmes at national and regional levels.

3

Supporting the growth of the community of practice of mountain scientists in southern Africa.

In support of its mission AMRF has entered into a joint venture with the Afromontane Research Unit (ARU) at the University of the Free State, Republic of South Africa.

SOUTHERN AFRICA'S MOUNTAIN SYSTEMS ARE DEGRADING, AND UNDER-STUDIED

Southern Africa is a semi-arid region already experiencing significant water stress. The region's biodiversity-rich mountains are vital in providing fresh water: 50% of South Africa's fresh water is generated by the 8% of its surface area, much of which is above 2,000m.

Fast-growing cities such as Cape Town, Luanda, Beira and Windhoek are dependent on water produced by southern African mountains.

The combined impacts of highly intensive land-uses (e.g. afforestation of natural grasslands, woody invasive species, deforestation of naturally limited forest cover, over-intensive rangeland use and indiscriminate mining) are degrading the ability of these mountains to provide critical ecosystem services, most notably water supplies.

Landscape degradation across southern Africa's mountains is being exacerbated by rapid climate change that appears to be driving increased drought frequency. Meanwhile, rapid population growth is driving up demand for fresh water.



Outside the Republic of South Africa, there is almost no high-elevation hydro-meteorological monitoring equipment in the region. This means that southern African scientists are forced to design their mountain restoration interventions using data and modelling provided by counterparts in the northern hemisphere. As a result, interventions are often inappropriate, and scientists from the region find it difficult to resist northern hemisphere restoration approaches which are often irrelevant (and likely harmful) to a southern African context.



Without informed action, water supplies to the region's agriculture and cities will deteriorate, with serious consequences for livelihoods and social and political cohesion.

OUR OBJECTIVES

DURING 2021-2025, AMRF WILL:

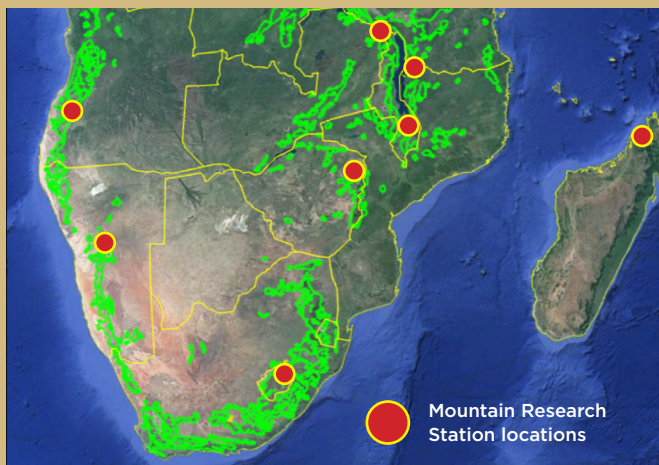
1

Install equipment: Purchase, install and maintain hydro-meteorological equipment, each with a data logging capability, in 40 locations above 2,000m across Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. This data will be collated by the Afromontane Research Unit (ARU) at the University of the Free State, and made available on an “open access, right to co-publish, right to disseminate for the public good, IP jointly owned” basis.

2

Mountain Research Stations: Establish, equip and support a network of research facilities, when possible, based in established ecotourism resorts in 8 remote and often unexplored locations in Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe. These Mountain Research Stations will be made available to scientists based in the region and from around the world.

This network of Research Stations will follow a basic science plan developed by ARU and will conform to international Long Term Social Ecological Research (LTSER) protocols. Our focus will be on meteorological and hydrological data generation but the programme will be expandable to include a wide range of disciplines including biodiversity research. Our goal is to provide world class research infrastructure to African and international scientists.



Each Station will possess a standardised laboratory providing facilities that meet international standards.

Installing research infrastructure across southern Africa, 2021-2025

OBJECTIVES CONTINUED

3

Southern African Mountain Conference (SAMC): As the SAMC's strategic partner we will provide financial and logistical support to this event which will take place in the Maloti-Drakensberg Mountains on 14-17th March 2022.
www.samc2022.africa

The SAMC will, for the first time, bring together scientists, policy-makers and stakeholders from the region, across Africa and around the world to discuss the welfare of Southern African mountains. The four-day, multi-disciplinary programme will aim to strengthen connections between academics, policy makers and practitioners to enable a science-policy-action based system for Southern African Mountains.

PLEASE HELP US SAFEGUARD THESE VITAL MOUNTAIN SYSTEMS.

African Mountain Research Foundation is looking to secure funding from corporate, government and foundation sources to implement our 5 year programme.

WE REQUIRE FUNDS TO:

- Buy and install hydro-meteorological monitoring equipment in 40 locations across southern Africa. One standard piece of equipment is an Atmos 41 all-in-one weather station made by Meter Group, a US firm (around £3,000 per unit for basic kit).
- Set up and equip Mountain Research Stations in Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe. International standard LTSER programmes can cost tens of thousands of pounds to buy, install and maintain and facilitate a wide range of research activity. Each project is different and the costs will be driven by individual research priorities, local conditions and the availability of in-country resources and support.
- Work with the ARU to plan, deliver and host the Southern African Mountain Conference in 2022.

DIRECTOR



Clara Hickman

Clara is AMRF's Director. She has a background in tv production, project management and community organising.

Contact Clara at:
clara@africanmountainresearch.com

TRUSTEES



Dr V. Ralph Clark

Ralph is the pioneer Director of the Afromontane Research Unit (ARU, QwaQwa Campus: University of the Free State). The ARU is located at the foot of the highest mountains in Africa south of Mt Kilimanjaro: the Maloti-Drakensberg. Other than driving a competent, multi-disciplinary mountain research team and international collaborations, Ralph's personal research expertise focus on southern African mountain plant diversity and endemism.



Alex Hickman (Chair)

Alex has a background in journalism, business and political campaigning. He currently works in No10 Downing Street as a Special Adviser to Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Alex spent 20 years as a volunteer, staffer and Trustee of Restless Development, a UK-based NGO with operations across Africa and Asia. He is co-founder of Plant For Our Lives, an award-winning community tree planting initiative in Wiltshire.

TRUSTEES



Professor Martin Price

Martin established the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) Centre for Mountain Studies in 2000, and co-ordinated the UHI's MSc Sustainable Mountain Development from 2004 – 2021. He held the UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Mountain Development from 2009 to 2021.

Martin's current responsibilities include Thematic Group Leader on biosphere reserves, Commission on Ecosystem Management, IUCN; Chair, UK National Committee for UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme; and Scientific Advisor to EOCA on mountain projects and issues. In 2007, Martin was recognised for his work as a Principal Lead Author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) when he, and other members of the IPCC, shared the Nobel Peace Prize with former US Vice-President Al Gore.



Graham Thomas

Graham has over 25 years of investment banking and private equity experience and currently runs Stage Capital, a private equity firm specialising in secondary direct transactions.

Graham serves as the Chairman of the Investment Committee of Menhaden Capital Advisors, the manager of Menhaden Capital PLC. In addition he is a member of the investment committee of Apis Partners, a firm which backs growth financial service innovators who create transformative impact in their communities. He is a Fellow and Trustee of the Rivers Trust.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a mountain landscape. In the foreground, there are large, dark, jagged rocks and green vegetation, including a prominent tree with yellow flowers on the left. The middle ground shows rolling green hills. The background features a large, hazy mountain peak under a light blue sky. A dark grey banner is in the top left corner, and a large, light blue triangle is on the right side of the page.

**AFRICAN
MOUNTAIN
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION**

For more information
please contact Clara Hickman.

clara@africanmountainresearch.com

African Mountain Research Foundation

T +447590046191

W africanmountainresearch.com

AMRF is registered in the UK as a charitable company
(Companies House number 12373395).