

## Conditions of work at the Succulent Karoo Research Station, a South African NPO

SKRS is a registered South African NPO with the aim to **support organismal research in Namaqualand**. This is research on the ecology, evolution, physiology and behavior of organisms, especially small mammals.

As such, everybody working at SKRS must contribute to collecting data for scientific projects. Further, it is expected that students (from master students up to established scientists) write scientific publications arising from their stay at SKRS. Lastly, it is also expected that people staying at SKRS contribute to vulgarization of their results by contributing to the Facebook group of SKRS, writing popular science articles, and giving public presentations.

**SKRS has no funding body behind it.** Nobody pays SKRS an annual budget. Instead, everybody working at SKRS must be willing to contribute to cover the arising costs via paying rent and a research fee.



**MOA to be signed by all students and postdocs collecting data for their project at SKRS or using data collected at SKRS**

Everybody collecting data at SKRS must sign a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with one of the directors of SKRS. The MOA will state:

- Which help will be provided by
  - The directors (Carsten Schradin and / or Neville Pillay)
  - Research and station manager
  - Field assistants
- The student will become an honorary researcher at Wits (to be organized by Dr. Pillay)
- All arising publications must give Wits as one address of the student (the student can give additional addresses).
- All data collected at SKRS is the property of SKRS and can only be published when the directors of SKRS agree with this.
- Authorship (of the student, other students, directors of SKRS, supervisor) of arising publication will be determined according to the guidelines by Claxton 2005, Mutation Research 589:31-42.
- The rental fee will be stated.
- The research fee will be stated.
- The use of laboratories and expected / needed sample sizes will be stated.
- As an appendix, a short research plan will be attached, with following details
  - Research question
  - Hypothesis to be tested (it must be clear how these will be tested statistically)
  - Needed variables / measurements
  - Needed sample sizes
  - Duration of data collection
  - Which laboratories and other research equipment will be needed and how often.
  - Time schedule

**Fees at the Succulent Karoo Research Station**

Rental fee for people directly associated to the striped mouse project. The rental fee is typically paid by private funds or research funds of the principal investigators; SKRS has no funds to cover this (with the exception of research assistants and managers hired by SKRS). The rental fee is used to pay for the costs of maintaining the research station including the solar system, consumables at the research station, gas for cooking, and for the use of car. The rental fee has to be paid in cash to the research manager the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

**Rental fees for researchers not associated to the striped mouse / bush Karoo rat project: Euro 25/day or Euro 600/month.**

**Rental fee includes: Accommodation, electricity, internet, water, and gas for cooking / heating**

<b>Rent to be paid to SKRS:</b> Please note that rent has to be paid for the entire period you are at SKRS, which includes any holidays you might take during that period.	<b>Master students, PhD students, postdocs and researchers. Given are the amounts in Euro for internationals (reduced amount in ZAR for South Africans).</b> (Students who do not have funds available to cover their daily costs of living can ask the directors of SKRS to get a reduced rental fee, which always must be more than what field assistants pay. The application must be done in writing and co-signed by the supervisor. Send it to both Dr. Pillay and Dr. Schradin).	<b>Volunteer field assistants</b>
Per month 2024 2025 2025	<b>Euro 410 (R 4500)</b> <b>Euro 420 (R 4750)</b> <b>Euro 425 (R 5000)</b>	<b>R 2500</b> <b>R 2600</b> <b>R 2750</b>
Per day 2022- 2025	Euro 20 (R200)	R 100

**Rental fees for guests of students / researchers:**

Guests can stay the first three days for free in the dormitories if there is space.  
 Afterwards they have to pay R 200/day.  
 Guests that stay for periods of 1 month or longer pay the same fee as researchers.

**Research fee** per person. The research fee is used to maintain the research infrastructure (traps, centrifuges, laboratories), for consumables (bait, hair dye, alcohol, test tubes etc), and to pay for the research managers. It also pays to get access to long-term data. The research fee is a minimum. If researchers apply for a project to take part at SKRS, we ask them to apply for a research fee of €1000/ month in their grant application.

<b>Research fee per month to be paid to SKRS:</b>	<b>Students and postdocs directly supervised by the directors of SKRS.</b>	<b>Students, postdocs and researchers in collaboration with the striped mouse project but supervised by somebody else.* Given are the amounts in Euro for internationals (reduced amount in ZAR for South Africans).</b>
Per month 2023-2025	<b>R 0</b>	<b>Euro 600 (R 8500)</b>

\* A reduced research fee can be negotiated with the directors of SKRS if the project induces only low costs and does not need the support by the managers.