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Fire and grazers in the West African savanna

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Curriculum Vitae

Erik Klop was born in Hellevoetsluis, the Netherlands, on 15 May 1975. After secondary school he started to study Animal Management in 1994 at the Van Hall Institute in Groningen and Leeuwarden. After graduating in 1998 (ing. degree, equivalent to BSc) he continued for his ir. degree (equivalent to MSc) in Biology at Wageningen University, where he graduated cum laude in 2001.

During his studies he participated in several research projects, both in the Netherlands and abroad. In 1997 he spent nearly nine months in the Philippines, where he did a study on endangered hornbills in the rainforests of Panay Island. In 1998 he worked with three other students on a population viability analysis of the reintroduction of the Eurasian otter in the Netherlands. In 2000 he went to the magnificent Okavango Delta in Botswana for a study on the effects of fluctuating water levels on local population densities and habitat utilization of ungulates.

In 2002 he started to work as Junior Expert Wildlife Management at the Institute of Environmental Sciences (CML) of Leiden University. From 2002 until 2005 he was based in Cameroon, where he lived in the town of Maroua. He continued working on ungulates and started a study on fire and grazers in the national park of Bénoué. After completing this project he got employed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in the UK, for which he set up a major biodiversity survey of Gola Forest in Sierra Leone. In 2007 he returned to the Netherlands to write his thesis on his work in Cameroon. He is currently working as an ecologist at Royal Haskoning in Groningen.