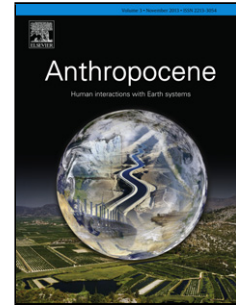


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Shifting baselines in a changing world: identifying management targets in endangered heathlands of the Cape Floristic Region, South Africa

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Highlights

- We used palaeo-techniques to study environmental change in a biodiversity hotspot
 - Fossil pollen, spores and charcoal were analysed over the past ca.1300 years
 - The data showed that fire and herbivory have been anomalously high since ca.1950s
 - Reduced burning and grazing are needed to restore pre-colonial ecological conditions
 - Longer term data is needed to understand an ecosystem's normal range of variability
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