



1) Define your observation area and select your target species.

- Choose an area where you can check for the opening of flower buds on a regular basis. This must be an area where you are present often enough to notice the opening of the **first flower on an individual** to within 1-3 days. Select plants that are readily accessible and, if possible, define an area likely to remain intact for many years. Ideally, the same **individual** should be monitored each year. However, you can monitor multiple individuals of each chosen species within your observation area. A good idea is to mark your individual (or group of plants) with a tag / label to ensure repeat observations.
- Please only record flower opening in your defined observation area. For example, if you regularly monitor flowering in your own garden or neighbourhood, but then notice a plant beginning to flower whilst on an out-of-town visit, **DO NOT** record it on the data form. This will tell us nothing about what is happening in your regular observation area.
- If you are present in two separate areas on a regular basis, such as your home garden and the garden where you work, you are encouraged to observe and record flower opening dates in both areas. Please complete and return separate forms for the different areas.

2) Register your participation.

- To become an active **CLIMATE BUDDY**, complete the **registration form** with your details and return to **Dr Dave Thompson** by email, fax or post.

3) Describe your observation area.

- Please provide:
 - 1) a **description** of the area you are observing in (natural grassland, farm, residential, ...);
 - 2) your **location** (town, province, municipality, ...); and
 - 3) the **size** of your observation area (your garden, a town, whole farm, whole reserve).
- Be as accurate and **descriptive** as possible and include district / farm names, addresses and GPS co-ordinates if available.
- Although plants should be observed growing under **natural conditions** if possible, garden-grown plants can provide useful data if their growing conditions and flowering times are repeatedly recorded.



4) Select and observe your plants.

- For the purpose of this project, **priority species** include the **flowering monocotyledons** that occur in savanna and grassland habitats. The most common and easily identifiable representatives include aloes, kniphophias, amaryllids, irids and orchids.
- Please **do not collect** the plants – many are protected by law and are best enjoyed in their natural habitat.
- Select only those species that you are **familiar** with. However, you are welcome to add any other conspicuous flowering species to the list if you are certain of their identity. Remember that monitoring garden plants and ‘weeds’ can also generate valuable data if carried out long-term.
- Keep a **record of the date** you see each individual, or the first individual of each species, completely open its **first flower bud**.

5) Return the information.

- To catalogue your flower opening observations with SAEON, complete the attached **CLIMATE BUDDY** data form (one per target species) and return by the end of the year.



CLIMATE BUDDY Registration Form

Observers name	-----	

Description of observation area (natural, farmland, residential, ...)	-----	

Location of observation area (farm name, town, province, municipality, ...)	-----	

Extent / Size of observation area (garden, plot, town, reserve, ...)	-----	

GPS points		
List your target species	1 -	6 -
	2 -	7 -
	3 -	8 -
	4 -	9 -
	5 -	10 -
Telephone no.		
Email		
Postal address	-----	



CLIMATE BUDDY Data Form

Please complete and return a separate form for each individual or species you observe.
Fields marked with an asterisk* are required.

Observer (to link to your registration details)*

Name

Contact

Plant observed*

Scientific name

Common name

Date of 1st complete flower bud opening (dd-mm-yyyy)

Please mark the following -

<p><u>Exposure*</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> sunny & open <input type="checkbox"/> half-shade <input type="checkbox"/> shaded all day <input type="checkbox"/> Not certain	<p><u>Conditions*</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> natural <input type="checkbox"/> artificial (eg. plant watered)	<p><u>Slope*</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> flat <input type="checkbox"/> gentle <input type="checkbox"/> steep	<p><u>Distance to building*</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> 0-5m <input type="checkbox"/> 6-10m <input type="checkbox"/> 11-15m <input type="checkbox"/> > 15m
<p><u>Fire</u> <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no</p>			

Habitat* savanna grassland forest garden roadside

farmland plantation

Other:

Elevation (please specify meters or feet)

Aspect North NE East SE South SW West NW

Comments

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Plant observed*

Scientific name

Common name

Date of 1st complete flower bud opening (dd-mm-yyyy)

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Comments

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