

# Southern African Institute of Forestry



Delivering a professional service to forestry

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## From the President's Desk

### Goodbye to 2023

It is that time of year to reflect on the year which has almost come to its end with only one month remaining before we welcome the new year in January 2024. It has been a year with mixed success and mixed emotions. Not only did we witness an intensification in the Russian/ Ukrainian war but we also saw a major flare-up in violence and essentially a war starting between Hamas and Israel in Palestine since early October. The world in which we live and have to operate and also do our business as in industry, has become an even more unstable, unsafe and unpredictable place.

The forestry industry certainly had its "ups and downs" during 2023 with some disastrous fires in recent months and the one which stands out must be the horrific fire at Richards Bay which detrimentally and directly affected NCT, TWK and others. It was however once again a demonstration of the resilience and wonderful character of South Africans this is well explained in a media release by former colleague and dear friend John Swaine who on behalf of the TWK Executive express their 'heartfelt appreciation and thanks to not only TWK staff but also all other persons and organisations and the community of Zululand who were involved with the containment and extinguishing of the horrific fire'. He goes further and highlight their courage and sense of commitment to protect the TWK Mill. This is once again proof of what can be achieved when people work together towards a common goal.



A MOMENT TO REFLECT, GRASKOP | Photographer: Magdeleen Algera | Branch: MPLI

SAIF Calendar : November 2023 : "A Moment to Reflect Graskop" by Magdeleen Algera Mpumalanga Branch



In the same month (October), the Springboks showed similar resilience and their 'never say die' attitude saw them through to 'prove a point' by winning the Rugby World Cup in France for South Africa for a record fourth time ! Even the Protea Cricket team although having been beaten badly by India, gave the eventual winners Australia a run for their money in the Semi-final a few weeks later. Yes, perhaps the all too familiar 'choking' in World Cup tournaments took its toll, but the Proteas certainly bowed out while fighting till the end.

I think we can truly say that we South Africans are a special bunch of people and that there is power in diversity. We can achieve major things even despite challenges like load-shedding, when we set our differences apart and focus on a common goal.

### **Forestry Master Plan:**

It is also perhaps an appropriate time to assess what is happening regarding all the wonderful resolutions and goals set in the Forestry Master and agreed upon by all parties involved back in November 2020.

Just as a reminder, it was envisaged that an amount of R24.9bn would be invested in the Forest and Forest Products industry and >100,000 jobs created. You will recall that back in July 2022 when DFFE held a workshop, they admitted that they could only report on limited progress and success on most of the Key performance Indicators.

The management of the portions of the former MTO Exit Plantations due for re-commissioning(re-capitalisation) of ± 22,000 ha which were then put out on tender on 15 December 2022 and tenders closed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2023. Bids were received for all of the packages but bidders have been informed on more than one occasion that the process of awarding the tenders have been extended. The new target date has been set for January 2024. Meanwhile rumours were spreading that most of the packages have been awarded to a rather smallish forestry and forest products company. This was denied by DFFE officials.

In the mean time DFFE posted more tenders on their website namely Bid Number DFFE-T014 for "The Appointment of a Service Provider(-s) to undertake Environmental Impact Assessment Studies for Afforestation in Kwazulu Natal and Eastern Cape for a

period of 24 months". The closing date for this tender is on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2023. According to the Terms of Reference, this is related to Indicator 2 of the Key Performance Indicators of the Masterplan and more specifically the afforestation of ±60,000 ha. According to the TOR in the Tender document, it entails afforestation of ± 47,000 ha. This has been long awaited and although still some distance off, there is at least some movement in the right direction.

The other relevant tender (DFFE-RFP002) issued by DFFE involves the "Call for Proposal (CFP) for inviting proposals from investors willing to form strategic partnership with communities in managing the State forest Plantations in Eastern Cape, KZN , Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Northwest Provinces for a period of 35 years with the option to renew at the end of term to 70 years" . The closing date of this bid is also on 13 December 2023. This involves ±64,000 ha of "effective" Category B & C plantations which have also been indicated as a target in the Masterplan.

If all goes well, we might see some significant movement and progress on these matters in 2024.

2024 will undoubtedly bring with it more uncertainty and several challenges especially with an election which is regarded as the most important and significant since 1994, coming up.

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*The SAIF Newsletter will now take a break for the rest of 2023. The Council of the SAIF would like to wish all its members and readers a pleasant and a safe festive season.*



December Calendar Photo : Lane of Gums , Ugie  
Photo taken by Gerrit Marais (Mpumalanga Branch)



## The Rob Thompson Column

### The successful forestry practitioner. A secret discovered.

It is interesting to occasionally reflect on ones career and consider what it entails in practice and whether it has met ones initial (sometimes romantic) expectations. Forestry is arguably one of the most enigmatic careers that one could possibly choose.

What is forestry? What type of person is required to make a successful forestry practitioner? I don't think that there is a single person in the industry that can answer these questions with a high level of conviction, but nevertheless the topic makes for an interesting discussion.

Looking back, I imagine that we can all identify one or two individuals who have made an immense impact on our trajectory through life. It is the lessons learned from these individuals that often provide a real understanding of the more complicated questions we are confronted with.

In my case a well-respected General Manager under whom I previously worked, indicated to me that, when appointing a staff member, the most important attribute to look for in the candidate, is attitude., rather than mere qualification. Could this be the secret to a successful forestry practitioner? It certainly needs to be explored.

That piece of advice stood me in good stead and the closer that I get to the big R(etirement), having traversed a rocky forestry road sans 4X4 for years, the more I value people with a positive attitude. It's that attitude which carries them over the hurdles and obstacles, not necessarily the BTech or PhD.

Still a disbeliever? Well ok then...Let's draft a CV for an ideal forestry practitioner and match that to an applicable qualification.

#### **Wanted. Forestry practitioner with the following qualifications: -**

A communications expert, preferably multi-lingual, with ability to converse with staff and public clearly and tactfully without furthering global conflict. Alternatively, the ability to gently confuse all parties (without their knowledge) and retreat from confrontation, would be a recommendation.

Tactical ability enabling the incumbent to divert from one task to the other seamlessly and continuously, all whilst never attracting an under-achiever label. The expectation is that tasks embarked upon ought to be completed before global warming renders their outcome obsolete.

Ability to deal with complaints from suppliers, contractors, employees, supervisors and generally the greater populace at large with dignity and aplomb or alternatively be very thick skinned. All applicants shall be tested accordingly. Kindly indicate your level of aversion to needles.

A proven tolerance to consistently high levels of caffeine. This habit is widely endorsed in forestry circles and understandably often leads to the complete segregation of Rooibos drinkers.

A clear and demonstrable understanding that forestry is totally not about trees.

- Note to applicants: - All previous applicants with acute forestry knowledge failed to adapt to a forestry environment that can only be described as .....(definition still to be determined by a panel of experts).

Recognised political attributes. No, not party affiliation, but rather the ability to interact with communities, state representatives, media and inter-organisational personnel without succumbing to PTSD. The ability to Toyi-toyi is not a requisite but the skill is certainly encouraged (and endorsed by the SPCA) as a stress relief. Why the SPCA? Well, after a good toyi-toyi you lose the urge to go home and kick the dog!

Actually, be able to drive a manual vehicle. Yes, these do still exist, and they do have to be driven from time to time using the full array of available gears. Your practical test shall include a thorough examination of your understanding of the letter R displayed on the stick shift, before the road test.

Have the tolerance required to act as a regular last-minute courier for all manner of items, being sent between offices and or staff. Alternatively, travel by stealth.

Have proven experience in matters IT. If you have not yet mastered the art of restarting the computer when it fails to co-operate, then the industry simply has no place for you.

Demonstrate the fact that your forestry qualification was merely an HR degree in disguise enabling you to conduct disciplinarys, act as a counsellor, do staff assessments, wage negotiations, settle disputes, mediate, write personnel reports, write policies, monitor policies, recommend promotions (and demotions), et al. If you don't like HR what on earth were you doing studying forestry? Go figure...

Have full grasp of matters accounting. Drawing fully from your B.Tech Forestry or B.Sc Forest Science qualification be able to run the accounts of a multi-billion Rand enterprise efficiently and cost effectively. Applicants are not tested in this arena. We have full faith in your abilities.

It might be in the applicants favour to have some knowledge of forestry. For instance, a basic understanding of the terminology Silviculture, Enumeration, Age Class distribution, Rotation, Harvesting, Tree breeding etc. may be useful at some stage during your career.

OK, so I may have been trying to be a bit tongue in cheek in terms of the daily realities that we all face as practitioners. That said, the aspects listed are not totally devoid of the truth.

We are all faced with a multitude of tasks which by and large seem not remotely related to matters forestry. We are of necessity multi skilled individuals, and I think it is valuable to recognize this from time to time. Whilst we cannot be masters of all the skill requirements, I think that we can take pride in the wide exposure we get within and indeed outside of the industry.

There really is no end to the qualification list required, but this discussion causes the words of my erstwhile GM to once again ring in my ear "Look for a good attitude in a person. The rest will follow!"

Good attitude is sometimes hard to find, but certainly well worth the search! It is certainly the secret towards a practitioner's success.

Here's wishing all the members of SAIF and their families a very blessed Christmas and safe and happy festive season. See you all next year.

**NCT**

Rob Thompson

Manager Member Services Department

## Farewell Dinner for Corine Viljoen



Corine receives her gift from Braam on behalf of the SAIF as a token of the SAIF's appreciation for her wonderful and loyal service to the Institute for more than 30 years

Finally, we had an opportunity to say goodbye to Corine Viljoen in a more appropriate way after she retired at the end of August 2023. Corine has served the SAIF with dedication for many years and just greeting her and wishing her well at the conclusion of the 2023 SAIF AGM at the end of August, just did not seem right.

Words are simply not enough to thank Corine for what she has achieved and having to put up with so many Presidents and Councils over the years.

We have been so privileged and blessed to work with Corine and we will not forget her friendly smile and patience with all of us. We will miss her very much but trust that she will enjoy the next phase of her life and spending more time with her husband, children, and grandchildren. Obviously, she should have more time to visit the Kruger National Park and Kgalagadi where she can use the Roberts' Birds App which she received to its full potential! Corine, we love you and appreciate you. Do enjoy the time with your loved ones.



## Sponsor of the Month: Forestry South Africa (FSA)

Responsible forestry requires attention to sustainable, efficient and effective practices that have the lowest environmental impact and yield the greatest social and economic benefit, while producing an array of renewable and versatile end-products. To this end, Forestry South Africa (FSA) represents 11 corporate forestry companies, approximately 1 100 commercial timber farmers and some 20 000 small-scale growers. Collectively, these growers own or control no less than 93% of the country's total plantation area of 1.2 million hectares. It supports the industry in common and precompetitive areas such as research and protection and against pests and disease, environmental issues, education and training and legislation.

Commercial forestry is much like any other farming practice. The crops are considered a renewable resource, used to make sawn timber, pulp, paper, poles, mining timber, matches, charcoal, and cellulose-based products. Specific species of trees are planted, harvested, and replanted in sustainable rotation. This ensures that there are trees at various stages of growth and maturity, ready to harvest for generations to come.

Forestry is more than the science of planting, managing, and caring for timber plantations. It's also about looking after the landscape which timber plantations share with other animal and plant species as well as the people and communities that the Forestry and Forest Products Industry touches.

The South African forestry landscape is a tapestry of commercial timber plantations – or tree farms – interwoven by natural spaces of unplanted land to enhance and conserve biodiversity, grasslands, wetlands and indigenous forests. With some 80% of the country's timber plantations certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, South Africa has one of the highest degree of forest certification in the world. South Africans can be proud of their Forestry Industry as one that is environmentally, socially and economically responsible.

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The SAIF would like to express its gratitude for the excellent support from FSA to not only the SAIF but the whole of the Forestry Industry.

## FSA wins all matters in the Supreme Court of Appeal!

Michael Peter, Forestry South Africa Executive Director

15 November 2023

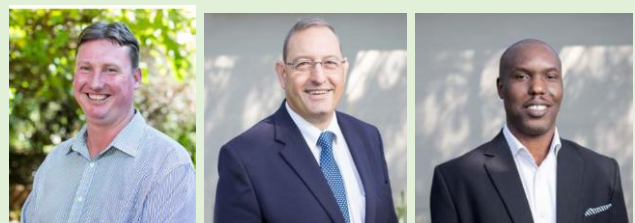
Forestry South Africa is delighted to inform its members that a full bench of the Supreme Court of Appeal has awarded in FSA's favour unanimously and with costs, on the important matter of the definition of existing lawful water use! This confirms our long-held position that all plantations that were in existence around the time of the introduction of the National Water Act in 1998, are deemed to be an existing lawful water use, irrespective of whether they were previously authorised under pre-1998 legislation. It also means that those rights cannot arbitrarily be withdrawn or expropriated by the State.

In further good news the Court upheld the High Court's original rulings in our favour on Genus Exchange, the "use it or lose it", the many points in limine and the costs which were also awarded in our favour by the High Court!

FSA would like to thank members for their ongoing patience and support in achieving these crucial judgments. As mentioned previously, we hope that the leadership of the DWS will put the matter to rest and prevent the wayward officials from seeking yet more appeals in the Constitutional Court, as the Supreme Court of Appeal were unequivocal in their ruling and the officials themselves are now at risk of personal costs orders!

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This is a significant victory for the Forestry industry after a long and painful battle and Michael and his team need to be congratulated with this outcome.



Three of the key persons at FSA who work tirelessly to serve the forestry industry namely Ronald Heath, Michael Peter and Norman Dlamini.

## Minister Creecy officially launches Gauteng Working for Water (WFW) Environmental Programmes

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) is launching a five-year programme worth R2.67 billion rand to implement the Working for Water Programme which aims to eradicate invasive alien plants in our communities. Over the next 5 years, we aim to create 38 839 work opportunities every year primarily in rural communities throughout the country.

Biological invasions by alien plants are a major threat to biodiversity and ecosystem services, water resources and sustainable livelihoods. Invasive species exacerbate floods, droughts and wildfires, and have negative impacts for the forestry and agriculture sectors.

“In short, biological invasions will exacerbate the effects of context of climate change and the extreme weather events associated with global warming,” said Minister Creecy. “It is for this reason our department is happy today to announce this five-year programme to combat alien species and the damage they do to our land, wetlands and rivers,” the Minister added.

The South African National Biodiversity Institute’s (SANBI) 2019 Report on Biological Invasions and their management details the impact of invasive species on South Africa’s biodiversity and economy. Invasive trees use 3-5% of South Africa’s runoff water every year, which is a significant loss for a water-scarce country. Many species of invasive plants are also less drought-resistant than indigenous ones and pose a greater fire risk. By displacing indigenous species and creating single species plantations, alien invasives also undermine our country’s rich biodiversity which in turn negatively impacts our tourism potential.

Invasive species also interfere in natural processes that can help mitigate the effects of natural disasters through the provision of ecosystem services, examples being the role estuaries, wetlands and indigenous forests play during natural disasters such as cyclones and floods.

“Thus, by clearing waterways and managing the spread of invasive species we are restoring natural habitats and simultaneously restoring ecosystem services that will assist us in the fight against the effects of climate change,” said Minister Creecy.

To ensure sustainable clearing of alien species on a regular basis as well as sustained public employment, the department has made is contracting over a longer five-year period, as opposed to short-term contracts in the previous cycle.

For local small enterprises in rural communities this also offers a reliable revenue that can assist the enterprises to invest their businesses to ensure future opportunities. “This means that the Working for Water Programme is growing and is advancing the inclusion of previously disadvantaged enterprises to participate more meaningfully in the value chain of clearing invasive alien species. In this way the Working for Water Programme advances transformation and prioritises the inclusive economy policies of government,” said Minister Creecy.

The Department has committed R2.67 billion to clear hectares whilst creating 194 195 work opportunities over a five-year period.

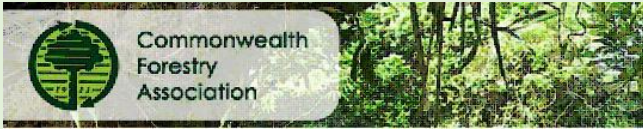
### The provincial profile of the budget, work opportunities and hectares for clearing over a five-year period

Province	Budget	Work opportunities (p/a)	Hectares (5 yrs)
Free State	156 649,00	2695	66 391
Gauteng	152 141,00	2723	74 781
KZN	209 320,00	3981	84424
Limpopo	211 482,00	1215	48860
Mpumalanga	147 642,00	587	85108
North-West	186 447,00	1363	125395
Northern Cape	177 891,00	960	65213
SANParks	947 710,00	18142	431237
Eastern Cape	297 000,00	5109	145 500
Western Cape	191 598,00	2064	76 500
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 677 880,00</b>	<b>38839</b>	<b>1 203 409,00</b>

The department also collaborates with its entities, the South African National Parks (SANParks) to implement the Working for Water Programme. SANParks: the budget allocated is R 947 710 million to create 90 710 work opportunities through clearing 431 237 hectares over a five-year period.

[https://www.dffe.gov.za/mediareleases/creecy\\_wfw\\_gautenginvasiveplants](https://www.dffe.gov.za/mediareleases/creecy_wfw_gautenginvasiveplants)

## Upcoming Events



Dear Colleague

I would like to invite you to attend the **AGM** of the **Commonwealth Forestry Association** on **11th December, 2023**.

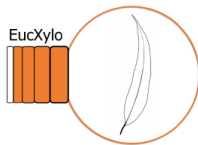
If you would like to accept the invitation, please get back to me and I will arrange for the Agenda to be sent to you.

Best wishes  
Alan Pottinger



**Alan Pottinger**  
Executive Director  
Tel. +44 (0)1588 672868  
Web [www.cfa-international.org](http://www.cfa-international.org)

## PhD Scholarship



### Funded PhD Positions Available

Interested candidates are invited to apply to undertake a PhD degree as part of the team at the Hans Merensky Chair in Advanced Modelling of Eucalypt Wood Formation (EucXylo) at Stellenbosch University. The study will utilise an experiment involving the intensive monitoring of growth, ecophysiology and wood formation in four eucalypt varieties over 18 – 24 months. The successful student will need to set up and use various cutting-edge scientific instrumentation (e.g. dendrometers, sap flow, weather station, soil water sensors, etc.) and manage and analyse large volumes of detailed data using analytics tools and approaches. Students who also have skills/background in wood anatomy will be particularly well suited to this project.

Project topics are open to discussion. Possible projects include:

- Getting to know the grim reaper: the fundamentals of tree mortality under varied competition in different eucalypt species.
- Understanding seasonal variability in photosynthesis and sequestration in eucalypts: getting to the bottom of the problem source and sink.
- A new model of stem size variation and growth in eucalypts as driven by cell production and hydraulics.
- The ecophysiology of pest and disease attack in eucalypts under various levels of environmental stress.

This PhD scholarship is offered to students who start their studies in 2024 academic year and aim to complete it by 2026 or 2027. The tax-free scholarship of ZAR 195,000 per year is offered for a maximum of 3 years for successful candidates. For more information go to <http://blogs.sun.ac.za/eucxylo/> or contact Dr. David Drew at [drew@sun.ac.za](mailto:drew@sun.ac.za)

## Continuous Service Excellence Award to the Forestry Industry: Tiaan Pool



THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN  
INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY

## CONTINUOUS SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Awarded to

**Tiaan Pool**

in recognition of continuous and outstanding  
service to the forestry industry

President:

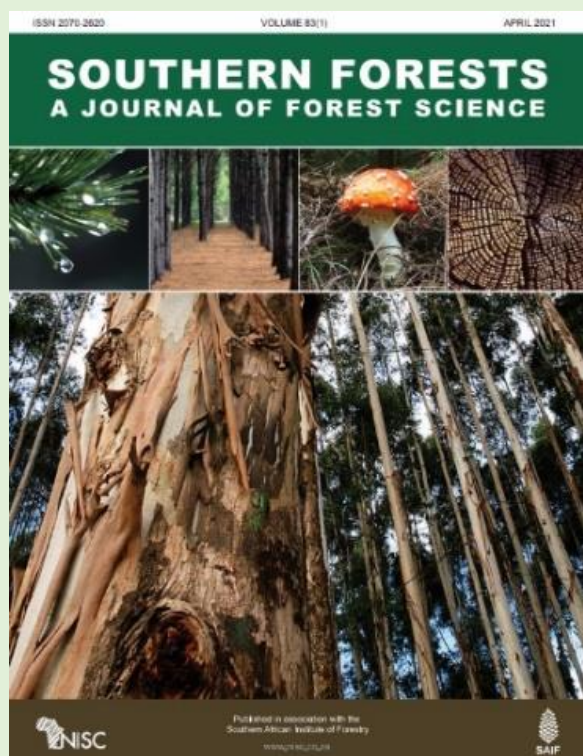
Date: 31 August 2023



Braam du Preez hands over the Award for Continuous Service Excellence to Tiaan Pool at the NMU : Higher Certificate of Veldfire Advisory Board meeting on the NMU George Campus

Tiaan has become synonymous with Veldfire Management training, as editor of the Fire Management Handbook and organiser of the NMU Fire Symposiums. He has delivered an exceptional service to the Forestry industry through the years and the SAIF honours him for his significant contribution. Thank you Tiaan. We look forward to the next Fire Symposium in 2024. Keep it up!

## Reporting from SAIF's Scientific corner



If one considers the SAIF's mission which is *to assist members to achieve excellence in the practice of forestry, and to promote growth and sustainability in the industry whilst being responsible custodians of a sensitive environment*, it is little wonder that one of its flagship offerings is to publish a scientific journal on forest science.

**Southern Forests: a Journal of Forest Science** is a niche journal dedicated to publishing scientific and management articles that are of interest to the South (tropics and the southern hemisphere). It is recognised that the journal wishes to promote forest science from the developing world. This niche comes with both some important benefits but also with some disadvantages. The benefits are that it provides a Journal for both experienced and emerging forest scientists from the developing world to publish work that is of importance to this region. It also helps the developing world and South Africa to make its mark in the wider scientific community. Some of the disadvantages are that we get fewer submissions and also there is the perception that the Journal is less well-regarded and so some researchers prefer to submit papers to more prestigious journals. With this in mind, let's consider how we are doing.

Currently the Impact Factor (IF) of the Journal is 0.8. The impact factor is an index that measures the average number of times a paper published in the Journal is cited in another publication over the last 2 years.

A high IF shows that papers are used and cited frequently in the scientific literature, thus the journal is having an impact. Is an IF of 0.8 good or bad? Well, it is a little below the average journal and ideally we would like it to get to 1 and above, which it has been in the past. The only way to achieve this is to publish good papers that advance forest science and so are cited.

With respect to serving the south, the following table shows that of the 101 papers that have been submitted to date, this year we have processed and made a decision on 86, with 22 having been accepted. Fifteen papers are still in the process of being reviewed. This is an acceptance rate of 25.5% which is pretty much par for the course for most scientific journals. The table does show that most submissions, by far, come from Brazil, with South Africa coming a distant second, but if one looks at the total submissions from Africa it is a relatively healthy number of 35. I do believe the table shows that we are meeting our "southern developing world" scope.

Country/Region	Total
Australia	2
Benin	1
Brazil	28
Cameroon	2
China	7
Congo (the Democratic Republic of the)	2
Ethiopia	5
Germany	1
Ghana	1
India	3
Indonesia	4
Kenya	1
Korea (the Republic of)	1
Malawi	1
Malaysia	1
Mozambique	3
Nepal	1
Nigeria	4
Pakistan	1
South Africa	10
Tanzania, United Republic of	4
Zambia	1
Zimbabwe	1
Other	1

Table showing Country or Region of Origin of Articles submitted for publication in Southern Forests.



My three comments from this table are as follows:

1. **Come on South Africa**, clearly, we are doing good science with an extraordinary success rate. Submit more papers – it is after all your own Journal, funded by you, and publishing good papers increases the Impact Factor.
2. Our reach into Africa is growing rapidly but all need to do more to get African science on the map because much future global action will be based on Africa's people and resources. Forests and forestry in Africa must play a major role in the future sustainability of Earth.
3. **Watch out Africa, here comes South America**. We want South American participation, support and to be challenged by what they are doing. What we don't want is to be swamped by South America with the Journal essentially becoming South American but produced by our hard work and funding.

With these thoughts, cheers from SAIF's Scientific Corner. Next time I will give some insight into content of some of the papers that have been published over the year.

Compiled by :  
Dr David Everard  
Editor-in-Chief, Southern Forests: a Journal of Forest Science



The Council of the SAIF would like to honour and thank David for his dedication in building and taking Southern Forests to the next level

## Photo Competition and Calendar

Most of you would have noticed that the SAIF did not initiate the annual photo competition and Calendar for 2024. It is obviously with a fair amount of sadness that we did not manage to arrange the photo competition and produce another stunning calendar as in 2023 and before. We would however like to share our proposal with you for a revised photo competition for 2024.

Owing to the demise of the postal system in S.A. and the costs involved with publishing and distributing a calendar, the SAIF photographic competition will now run as follows:

Each month of 2024 will have the following theme:

Month	Theme	Cut-off date for entries
January	Forestry, a place of beauty	8 Jan. 2024
February	Forestry, a place of work - silviculture	5 Feb. 2024
March	Forestry, a place of work – harvesting & transport	4 Mar. 2024
April	Forestry, weather	5 Apr. 2024
May	Forestry, water	6 May 2024
June	Forestry, trees	7 Jun 2024
July	Forestry, infrastructure	5 Jul 2024
August	Forestry, animal biodiversity	5 Aug 2024
September	Forestry, plant biodiversity	6 Sep 2024
October	Forestry, fire	7 Oct 2024
November	Forestry, conservation/sustainability	8 Nov 2024
December	Forestry, fun	6 Dec 2024

Photographs must be entered according to one of the above themes and must reach Intsia before the cut-off date for that theme. Each photograph must be accompanied with the following.

- Photographer
- Theme entered.
- Short description or title
- Camera, lens, and settings used (see example)

Each month the best 3 photos as judged by the panel will be published online in the SAIF newsletter, on the SAIF website and on the SAIF social media.



In December all 36 published photographs will be submitted to a panel of judges and the top 3 will be awarded prizes sponsored by our sponsors.

Copywrite of entered photographs will lie with SAIF and may be used, with acknowledgment in publications and promotional material.

Photographs will also be available for members to use with acknowledgement) in presentations and publications.

Entry requirements:

- Format – JPEG
- File size –
- Resolution –

Example:



Photographer: David Everard

Theme: Forestry, water and/or Forestry, animal biodiversity

Title: "Keep moving"

Description: African Jacana on Satellite Dam, Sappi Clan Plantation in the KZN midlands

Details: Camera Nikon D7100, Lens Nikor 200 -500 mm f/5.6 at 500mm. Exposure: 1/1000 sec at f/9.0 ISO 200

Photographs must be submitted to the National Secretary monthly before the deadline in order to be considered for the competition.

We would love to get your feedback on this matter and hope to start receiving some splendid photographs from our talented SAIF members soon.



## Formation and History

SAFCA was inaugurated on 13 October 1989 as a national organisation to represent and assist forestry contractors and forward their interests in the commercial forestry industry. The inauguration took place at Kaapsehoop, Mpumalanga and SAFCA was formed with 9 initial members. The organization was formed to further the common purpose of forestry contractors, without infringing on contractor competitive position or serving individual interests.

Various services like a Provident Fund, Medical Aid, Legal Aid, Central Buying, Public Liability insurance, Quality Audits, Training facilitation and Capacity Development, Short-Term insurance, Costing model development, forestry-technical advice and representation on various industry forums were part of the SAFCA services. Over the years and from experience SAFCA retained the services of insurance, capacity development, forestry-technical advice & costing, training facilitation and capacity development and representation on different forums (universities, Forestry Charter Council, SETA).

## Roger Johnston : New CEO of SAFCA

### Roger Johnston is the new CEO of SAFCA

Crop and livestock farmer, tree grower, timber haulier, and forestry contractor are among the careers Roger Johnston will draw on as the newly appointed chief executive of the South African Forestry Contractors Association (SAFCA).

By Joy Crane

Roger is a caring and fair leader who keenly understands human nature. He is fluent in Zulu and is committed to employee welfare, skills development, and adherence to standard operating procedures.

He has extensive experience in management, financial analysis, budgeting, contract negotiation, and operational excellence. His exceptional leadership skills are recognised through his board memberships and tenure as chairman of the Nottingham Road Farmers Association.

In the 1970s, equipped with a diploma in agriculture from Cedara, Roger ventured into crop and livestock farming. His experience managing a tract of timber on his land near Balgovan in the Midlands interested him in forestry.

In the 1990s, Roger sold the trees to Mondi and saw a business opportunity in hauling timber. The

Timber Haulage Trust (THT) was born and initially specialised in hauling logs for the Weza sawmill. THT sold the haulage business in Harding and continued operating as Westfield Farming Estates, trading as THT.

In 2008, Roger "took the plunge to branch into mechanised harvesting" and began contracting to forest owners, including Safcol, Mersnsky, Sappi, Mondi, and PG Bison. The work exposed him to the full spectrum of forestry. It took him from the rocky, red and hard underfoot soils of

KwaZulu-Natal to the sandy, dune-like soils of the southern Cape.

His experience includes working with a local manufacturer to develop a timber-truck-forwarder with a crane on board and pilot testing other machines.

I met Roger early in 2018 when PG

Bison contracted his teams to help

salvage trees in its burnt plantations

after the 2017 configurations in



Roger Johnston

the southern Cape. I was struck by his rapport with his staff and love for nature. Instead of finding fixed accommodation in the Sedgefield area, he anchored his caravan in a campsite near a lake for a year.

Roger, congratulations on the appointment. We wish you and SAFCA's members continuous progress and success. 🌲

Source: <https://www.woodbizafrica.co.za/october-2023-issue-31/>



## Sappi Southern Africa : Media Release

### Collaboration brings prosperity for new transport venture

A KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) based transport company received a tremendous boost thanks to an enterprise and supplier development partnership MOU signed in 2022 between Sappi Southern Africa and the Ithala Development Finance Corporation Limited (IDFC). Sanele Mkhize, Managing Director of Exodec 384 CC, took delivery of three brand new Mercedes trucks valued at R11.6 million on Thursday 26 October, thanks to a financing agreement from IDFC. Since the signing of this MOU between Sappi and IDFC, four transactions amounting to R45.9 million and resulting in a total of 157 direct jobs have been concluded. The MOU provides funding from IDFC to SMEs who are part of the Sappi Enterprise Supplier Development (ESD) programme, where Sappi provides the training and development and access to market through the provision of long-term contracts.

As a former employee in the Finance Department of Sappi Forests, Sanele is no stranger to the forestry industry. He has put this knowledge to good use in establishing his transport company, which will provide long-haul transport from Sappi Forests plantations in the KZN Midlands and its KZN South district to the Sappi Saiccor Mill. The Pietermaritzburg-based company – which employs 13 permanent staff members- was awarded a five year contract, which commenced on 01 October.

The company is currently busy with RTMS (Road Transport Management System) certification – a prerequisite for all companies providing transport services to Sappi. The certification process is 70% completed and preparation is already underway for the first audit, likely to take place in December. Sappi will continue to provide business support, mentorship and coaching to Sanele and his team, as part of the services its ESD department delivers to SMEs that are on the programme.

Lesiba Lamola, Sappi's Regional ESD Sourcing Manager commented at the event: "This partnership with IDFC supports our Enterprise Supplier Development (ESD) objectives, that are aimed at building thriving local economies within the communities where we operate. We have been encouraged by the progress that has been made since partnering with IDFC and the boost it has given our capacity building programmes for SMEs."

As the province's development financier and provider of commercial and industrial property, Ithala Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) has embarked on a strategic partnership initiative with the private and public sector to drive economic participation of emerging black entrepreneurs operating in all sectors of the economy, particularly those operating in rural and township areas. Their commitment to socio-economic transformation is borne out by concrete action of putting money where its vision is.

"We want to thank Sappi for entrusting us with the task of being a strategic partner in transforming the lives of ordinary citizens in our province. and look forward to a fruitful and mutually beneficial relationship", said Mr Sihle Mkhize, IDFC Chairman of the Board of Directors. "Remaining close to our customers and partnering with the private sector who share our values of driving socio-economic transformation in the province is a key ingredient in supporting the provincial government's economic recovery plan," he said.

"This partnership ensures that we also facilitate access to funding, in turn providing access to essential infrastructure and resources that are necessary to ensure business sustainability and growth. With this in place, we can focus on providing access to markets, providing the essential business and technical skills development required and assist in building up sustainable, thriving enterprises", said Lamola.

"With Sanele at the helm of this business we have no doubt that it is going to thrive", said Mark Barnardo, General Manager of Sappi Forests in KZN. "We know him to be focused and diligent in everything he does, and we are extremely pleased that we can welcome him to our vast network of contractors, with whom we have excellent relationships. Sappi adheres to a very strict code of conduct, and we expect our suppliers to uphold the same ethical standards in all

their dealings – be it in governance, HR or safety matters, “he said

Sanele was effusive in his thanks to the IDFC and Sappi for granting him this opportunity. He takes a hands-on approach in all aspects of the business and has big plans for his fleet – where each of the new trucks is sporting one of his clan’s names – and he hopes to expand in five years’ time.

Through IDFC’s business finance solutions, coupled with Sappi Southern Africa’s ESD initiative, the partnership is committed to providing financial muscle and unlocking the full potential and entrepreneurial spirit of SMEs in Kwa-Zulu Natal

Issued Jointly by:

**Sappi Southern Africa & Ithala Development Finance Corporation**

### **About Sappi Southern Africa**

Sappi is a leading global provider of powerful everyday materials made from woodfibre-based renewable resources. As a diversified, innovative and trusted leader focused on sustainable processes and products, we seek to support a more circular economy.

Sappi is powered by the expertise of more than 12,000 people worldwide; with headquarters in four key regions: South Africa, Europe, North America and Asia.

Locally, we have a footprint in Gauteng (head office), KwaZulu Natal (three mills, forestry operations and a shared services hub), Mpumalanga (two mills and forestry operations) and the Western Cape (sales office staff). Our product offering in SA include dissolving pulp, packaging and specialities, graphic papers and forestry products.

We also generate shared value in the communities in which we operate, by investing in skills training and SMME development to boost employment and grow the economy.

Sappi will continue to build a thriving world by acting boldly to support the planet, people and prosperity. [www.sappi.com](http://www.sappi.com)



## **Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden named best botanical garden in Africa**

*‘... a beautiful space to relax and explore the bounties of South Africa’s biodiversity’*

The World Luxury Travel Awards has named Kirstenbosch National Botanical the best botanical garden in Africa.

The Award acknowledges sustained commitment to excellence and outstanding achievement in global luxury travel.

“The World Luxury Travel Awards are voted for by the public and are awarded to travel establishments across a diverse variety of categories, presented on a global, continent, regional, and country basis,” says Nontsikelelo Mpulo, Director, Marketing, Communication and Commercialisation.

“Kirstenbosch is dedicated to delivering experiences that create memories that last a lifetime. The garden team invites visitors to immerse themselves in the natural heritage of the garden and relish the exceptional service the team offers. The Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden is delighted that the garden has won this accolade.”

The Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden is managed and maintained by the South African National Biodiversity Institute that generates information and knowledge, builds capacity, provides policy advice, showcases and conserves biodiversity at 11 national botanical gardens across South Africa and at the National Zoological Garden in Pretoria.

“Kirstenbosch is a beautiful space to relax and explore the bounties of South Africa’s biodiversity. The World Luxury Travel Award recognises the hard work of the garden team there, and the pleasure we derive from sharing this garden with the world,” Nontsikelelo says. More information at [www.theworldluxurytravelawards.com](http://www.theworldluxurytravelawards.com) and <https://www.sanbi.org/gardens/kirstenbosch/>

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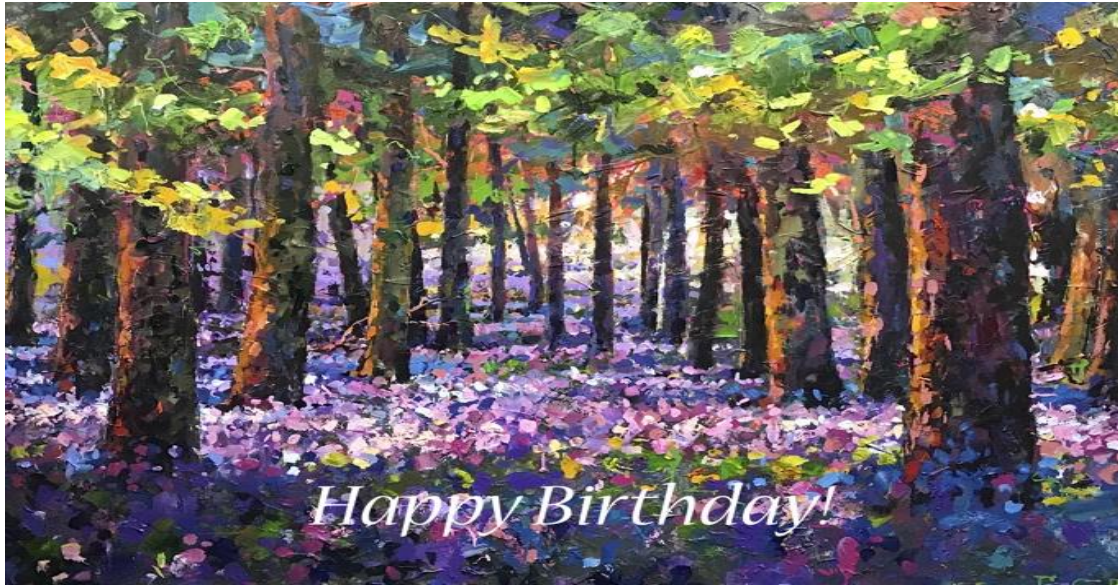
### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

03-Nov	GIOVANNI SALE	14-Nov	NDUDUZO NGCOBO
04-Nov	BILL BAINBRIDGE	15-Nov	IAN HORRELL
04-Nov	RADIE LOUBSER	15-Nov	RIAAN WEBB
05-Nov	SANDISIWE JALI	16-Nov	ABEDNIGO COLVELLE
05-Nov	MANDLAKAZI MELANE	21-Nov	STEVEN DOVEY
08-Nov	DEON VON BENEKE	28-Nov	PAXIE CHIRWA
10-Nov	SEAN SNEYD	29-Nov	JAYCE LANE
12-Nov	RALF GEVERS	30-Nov	BERRIE LINDE



### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

02-Dec	FRITZ VON KROSIGK	15-Dec	GEORGE THEART
02-Dec	RONALD HEATH	15-Dec	PHILLIP FISCHER
02-Dec	CHRIS CHAPMAN	16-Dec	GERARD LINDNER
03-Dec	JOHAN BESTER	18-Dec	JOSUA LOUW
05-Dec	GEOFFREY LYLE	20-Dec	WILLIAM DAVIDSON
05-Dec	WESSEL VERMEULEN	20-Dec	JOHN LE BRASSEUR
06-Dec	MCOSELELI JAKAVULA	20-Dec	MADALEEN ALGERA
10-Dec	PIETER ODENDAAL	21-Dec	NOMUSA MNCWANGO
11-Dec	MURRAY MASON	25-Dec	CLIFF DLAMINI
11-Dec	PIET SCHOOMBEE	29-Dec	CHRISTOPHER KOMAKECH
11-Dec	WERNER MEYER	30-Dec	BRETT HURLEY
14-Dec	DAVE ROGANS	30-Dec	SANELE ZUMA
15-Dec	MAURITS PEROLD	30-Dec	LESLEY KAPFUMVUTI



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

02-Jan	PHILIP CRAFFORD	17-Jan	LEE CUNNINGHAM
03-Jan	JAMES BALLANTYNE	18-Jan	DIRK LÄNGIN
07-Jan	ED HAYTER	18-Jan	JOHAN ERWEE
07-Jan	ILSE BOTMAN	20-Jan	ELIZE ADE
08-Jan	DUANE ROOTHMAN	21-Jan	CARL SEELE
08-Jan	WILLEM KOTZE	24-Jan	GAVIN BURNHAMS
09-Jan	CRAIG NORRIS	25-Jan	LUKE VAN VUGT
10-Jan	TAMMY SWAIN	25-Jan	LOUIS VAN ZYL
11-Jan	JEFF BADENHORST	25-Jan	JOH SCRIBA
11-Jan	PETE ODELL	26-Jan	RICHARD MULLER
12-Jan	DAVE DOBSON	27-Jan	GARY HODGE
13-Jan	P.E VON BUDDENBROCK	30-Jan	CHURCHILL MKWALO
15-Jan	FRANCOIS MALAN	31-Jan	RICHARD LIVERSAGE
16-Jan	GJALT HOOGHIEMSTRA	31-Jan	J.N SWART
16-Jan	ERIC DROOMER		

***Happy Birthday and congratulations to all our members who celebrate(d) their birthdays in November as well as those members who will celebrate their birthdays in December and January 2024***