

Southern African Institute of Forestry



Delivering a professional service to forestry

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SAIF Calendar : August 2022 -Mulcher Fire : Photograph Leigh Williams , Mpumalange Branch

From the President's Desk

Forestry Master Plan: Quo Vadis ? : Part 2

On the 11th of July 2022, the Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) hosted a Forestry Sector Masterplan Workshop. This event was presented both in person (face-to-face) and on-line and attended by several key players and stakeholders in the Forest and Forest products Industry. As indicated in Part 1 which appeared in the previous edition (July 2022) of the Newsletter, the Forestry Sector Masterplan (Masterplan) was compiled by a group of experts known as Strategy Execution Advisers (SEA) and approved by DFFE in September 2020 .

The Masterplan identified six Focus Areas namely :

1. Expansion of the Primary resources, Maintenance and Protection
2. Transformation of the sector
3. Processing and Value addition
4. Illegal timber and related criminal activities
5. Research Development and Innovation, Human Resources and Skills Development
6. Key inhibitors

It further states that if the Masterplan is successfully implemented, it will lead to Investment, Employment , Competitiveness and Inclusivity. These are admittedly all very noble goals and aims. The execution of the goals as set out in the Masterplan, were going to be ambitious and challenging given the time-frame of 5 years (2020-2025). The workshop was therefore a welcome step to measure performance against set goals or Deliverables approximately two years into the process or almost 40% down the line or as DFFE explains only 15 months starting only in April 2021.



During the Workshop the Governance structure was explained which involves a complex process of consultation and feedback by six “Focus Area Implementation Teams” reporting to DFFE Secretariat / Project Team which is responsible for Oversight and Performance tracking of implementation teams. This level reports to an Operational Manco which in turn reports to Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) interacting with the Public Private Growth Initiative.

According to the feedback provided by DFFE, 6237 jobs have created and R11billion invested. The following “dashboard” graph was shown to everybody who attended the workshop.

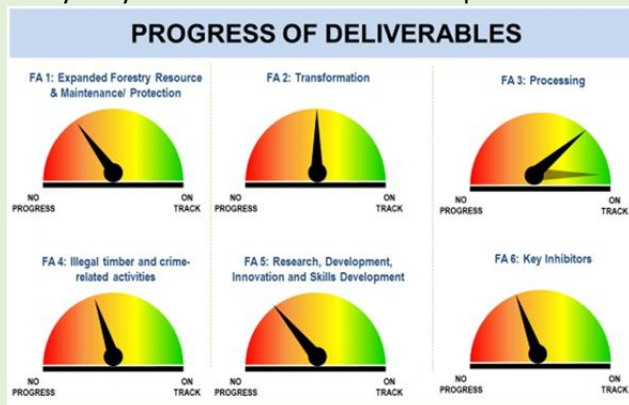


Figure 1: Progress of Masterplan Deliverables (DFFE July 2022)

As can be seen from the graph, the only Focus Area # 3 : Processing is “on track” while most of the other Focus Areas show very little if any progress with the possible exception of FA: 2 Transformation. The excellent performance by Processing is largely due to Industry placing their proverbial “money where their mouths are”. PG Bison was mentioned as one of the key performers in this area thanks to major expansions / upgrading at their Boksburg and Piet Retief plants and also other players in the Industry. In stark contrast to the progress made by Processing, is the absolutely dismal progress regarding Focus Area 1A which can be clearly seen on the 2nd graph displayed in the right-hand column. The scorecard on this issue reflects a very disappointing 18% score (achievement) !

The “score” awarded / shown for Focus Area 1B “Protection of Primary Resource” is slightly better at 38% but still below the “pass mark” .

This very poor performance is certainly a matter of grave concern for an Industry looking for positive signs of growth and progress.

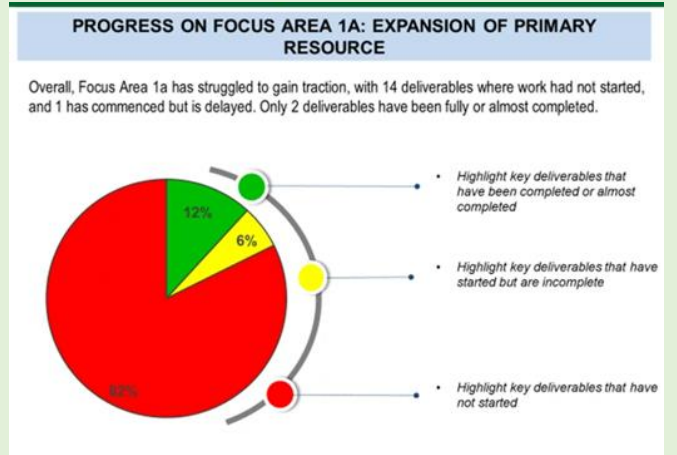


Figure 2: Progress on Focus Area 1a : Primary Resource

Sadly, no afforestation or recapitalisation of the existing plantations have commenced in support of the expansion and investment by Processing Industry despite all the good intentions expressed by government.

The position of the so-called category B and C plantations was also discussed at this forum. Category B Plantations located primarily in the former homelands like Transkei, Ciskei, KwaZulu Natal and Kangwane have been identified to have commercial value and candidates for Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) but Category C plantations are essentially Community Forestry Projects in the form of woodlots. Community Forest Agreements (CFA’s) as explained in the National Forest Act (Act No 84 of 1998) is regarded as the suitable vehicle to manage these. There has been some movement and progress with the CFA’s but very little regarding PPP’s. Also refer to an article courtesy of SA Forestry elsewhere in this edition on Plantations in the Eastern Cape handed over to communities.

Commercial Lease Agreements are foreseen for approximately 50,000 ha of Plantations to be managed in terms of PPP.

As far as the ±22,000ha Western Cape Plantations formerly managed by MTO Forestry (Pty) Ltd is concerned, the proposed Action Plan and goal is to implement Lease Agreements by the 31st of March 2023 less than 8 months from now.

One can certainly be forgiven for being sceptical about this target date given the track record of the Department over the past 10 -20 years. Similar ambitious target dates have been set for the PPP Lease Agreements.

Question: Does DFFE and its partners have the capacity and political will to execute these plans?

Only time will tell!



Sponsor of the August 2022 Page in the SAIF Calendar

NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY

Change the World
mandela.ac.za

NMU : George Campus One of the Primary Tertiary Institutions training Foresters in South Africa



The NMU :George Campus (also formerly known as Saasveld) located at the foot of the Outeniqua Mountains of George in the Southern Cape, The George Campus of Nelson Mandela University aims at becoming a world-class knowledge catalyst for the green economy and a more sustainable future and plan to realise this through cutting edge research and engagement, quality teaching and learning; as well as competitive innovation and entrepreneurship. With brand new gym facilities, swimming pool, rugby stadium; football and cricket fields, tennis and squash courts, mountain bike and hiking trails; and many other sports facilities all at the foot of the Outeniqua Mountains, Nelson Mandela University George Campus is a haven for any sport enthusiast. The campus has beautiful residence facilities and offers an array of different programmes.

The George Campus: Faculty of Business & Economic Sciences, offers Business Studies, Marketing and Tourism Management .

The Faculty of Science offers a Certificate in Veldfire Management, Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas in Agricultural Management, Forestry, Nature Conservation and Wood Technology at the George Campus.

Further study options are available including postgraduate at Master's and Doctoral level

For more information follow the link shown below:
<https://georgecampus.mandela.ac.za/Courses-offered-at-George>

NMU Fire Symposium 23-25 November 2022

NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY

The Cluster of Natural Resource Management of the Nelson Mandela University (NMU) invites you to the 13th Fire Management Symposium:

"Preparing for the next Mega Fire"

Date: 23-25 November 2022
Venue: George, NMU (George Campus), Southern Cape, South Africa

Background and purpose

Globally, effective wildfire management is impeded by a lack of integration between research results, technological development, and efforts by fire managers. In the end, all role-players on the wildfire stage strive to prevent, suppress, and protect the environment, human wellbeing, and assets against wildfire.

This event aims to integrate the efforts of natural resource managers, engineers, fire managers and scientists. Through an integrated approach, different role-players will be sensitised about each other's realities, successes, and failures.

You are therefore invited to join fire managers and authorities from different disciplines and land uses (Nature Conservation, Agriculture, Disaster Management, Forestry, Local Authorities, etc.) for a range of informative presentations, and exciting networking opportunities.

Focus

Following the worst fire experienced in the history of South Africa (Southern Cape) on 7 June 2017, as well as numerous other mega wildfires/urban interface fires in South Africa, it was decided to dedicate our biannual wildfire symposium to the topic: "Preparing for the next Mega fire event".

Programme

The 2022 Fire Management Symposium promises to be a special event. Not only because of the unique setting of the venue in the heart of the Garden Route, but because of the conglomeration of top rated fire management specialists whom will share their expertise in a very practical and applied manner. Internationally renowned fire scientist Prof Pete Fule will deliver the first keynote address and will be supported by local fire specialists such as Pieter van der Merwe. We will also proudly host other national and international fire specialists. The 2nd day of the event (Hosted by The Southern Cape Fire Protection Association (SCPPA)), will provide opportunities to visit the Southern Cape region to visit pristine Fynbos vegetation areas, and learn about the unique fire ecology of the vegetation.

In General

This event presents opportunities to people from different entities and parts of South Africa to network. In addition, the world of scientists who are engaged in research, will meet that of the hard-core fire manager who gets the smoke of wildfires in his/her eyes. Due to the capacity of the venue only 200 delegates can be accommodated for the event. Final cost of the event has not been finalised, but as in the past will be very reasonable to provide the opportunity for everybody to attend. The event dinner will take on the form of a spit braai with live music.



You are invited to complete 13th Nelson Mandela University Fire Management Symposium application, which will only take 8 minutes to submit. Please submit your application by 1 November 2022.

Attached kindly find:

1. Symposium programme
2. Symposium Information Flyer
3. Accommodation and Activity guide for George and surrounding area.

[13th Nelson Mandela University Fire Management Symposium application form](#)

For more information contact
tiaanp@mandela.ac.za 0723742347, Hannes van
Zyl Hannesvz@mandela.ac.za 0727331692 or
soniar@mandela.ac.za 044-8015091.

Rob Thompson Column August 2022

It's time to listen to our Ladies

I regard myself a full-blooded male forester, which inclination, I attribute no further than to nature for having assigned me that particular gender. I don't know what to assign the choice of career against, barring that perhaps the planets were aligned in a rather playful format at the time of me making a choice?

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not the "crush a beer can on the forehead" type of male (although certain foresters of my acquaintance have been known to practice that sport in their younger day) but certainly I do profess to have certain male type approaches to certain situations. How do I know this? Well, my wife tells me of course...something about me being from Mars?

Anyway, that said, this month of August is Woman's month, and I was unwittingly drawn into the feminine focus of the month via a series of experiences and observations, all which drove home to me, in no uncertain terms, that ladies don't receive nearly as much recognition as they truly deserve.

The first lighthearted clue I received in this regard, hailed from the far reaches of Bloemfontein, where my daughter and husband were invited to a warthog and guinea fowl hunt on a remote farm.

My family are not hunters but do share a strong interest in anything air rifles (used for static targets). My daughter was granted somewhat skeptical permission to carry her air rifle on the day and the group of seasoned Free State big game hunters set off in a pack comprising more heavy artillery than personnel. Six stalks and many hours later, the total group harvest was a round nul.

My daughter, deciding to opt out of the final group onslaught of the day, sidled off on her own, went to ground and surprised a flock of guinea fowl that were cleverly (or so they thought) circumventing the armed invaders. A single long distance well measured shot (my daughter being fastidious about a well zeroed rifle sight) resulted in a tasty fowl being clinically dispatched and which ultimately fed the whole non-productive hunting group, in the form of fresh baked game bird pies during the week to follow.

The summary of the muted and rather embarrassed conversation conducted on the return trip from the farm can be loosely and less vociferously translated into

"Gentlemen, just how is it possible that we only got one fowl and that by a non-hunter, a lady, sommer with a windbuks and the lowest rifle caliber of the party? Moral of the story? Ladies can and do...it's as simple as that!

As a loose and general rule, most forestry practitioners follow rugby. Remember however, the year 2010 - the soccer world cup held in South Africa, and we all had to brush up on soccer rules to be able to understand the matches!

Earlier in August, I experienced a déjà vu moment when I watched live on TV, the Women's Confederation of African Football (WAFCON) final between our own Banyana Banyana and Morocco. Our ladies were energetic and accurate and went on to win the final convincingly by two goals to one. Morocco simply left it too late in the game to recover adequate energy to make a comeback. What made this victory special however, was the direct comparison between mainstream male soccer finals. Male soccer is renowned for professional dives attempting to convince the referee of (unfounded) foul play, emotional appeals to the referee worthy of Oscar awards and macho bro-hugs when a goal is scored. In contrast, the girls just got on with the job clinically and energetically.

This intent focus was made all that more unbelievable given that illegally smuggled green laser pointers (an officially banned practice) were rife amongst the spectators and liberally shone into the faces of the goal keepers, penalty kick takers and tacklers at literally all of the critical moments in the game. The players on both sides nevertheless remained resolute and focused on the game. Now, can you just image the furor that would erupt should a laser be pointed into the eyes of the likes of Handre Pollard in a rugby test match? Well done girls, you made up proud of your win and of your positive conduct under exacting circumstances. You deserve being awarded the Team of the Year accolade and your coach (Desiree Ellis) should stand proud at being declared Coach of the Year. Clearly Ladies can do soccer and self-constraint, and they do these well!

OK, so seeing that I have mentioned rugby let's move onto the 44-5-point win that our Women Springboks secured over Spain at the hallowed Emirates Airline Park (formerly Ellis Park) out to get

just prior to the Springbok vs All Blacks men's game over the weekend. We all know how the men's game turned out! Well done to the ladies for at least one very decisive victory on the day. Again, it was apparent that the ladies were focused and clinical and went the job done. Who was it that said ladies don't do rugby? They do, and they do it well!

Commentary on Ladies achievements in August would not be complete without quick mention of the fact that of 7 gold medals won at the Commonwealth games 4 were ladies. Well done Ladies!

Let's move away from sport now and back into the forestry arena which some would still argue is a male dominated profession. Whilst this premise arguably holds some water on the surface, I must share that experiencing the "She is Forestry" webinar held this month, totally changed my mind and exposed me to the real, unwavering and unfortunately little recognized positive foundation that Ladies provide the Forestry industry. I sat watching the webinar, not a single crushable beer can within reach, and was honestly mesmerized by a story of travail and purpose that I now wish far more men should be encouraged to hear.

The lot that Ladies bear, is not an easy one, and the route towards them becoming recognized functionaries within a hugely competitive Forestry industry, holds far more hurdles than those facing their male counterparts. Kudos therefore to Forestry South Africa (FSA) for sponsoring the webinar and the Forestry Sector Charter Council for hosting it and both for contributing meaningfully to the growing awareness of the role of women in forestry, on all levels. As a man I simply cannot relate to the challenges that our Ladies have to endure and overcome to enter their chosen career. By comparison and from physiological to educational to professional levels, we men have to simply admit that we are certainly from a distant and unconnected Mars, whilst our Ladies are firmly entrenched on a belligerent Earth but are rising persistently to the onslaughts encountered, no matter the cost. We must respect our Ladies for that. Clearly illustrating this point was the special recognition award given to small-scale grower Mrs. Nomthandazo Hlombe who has risen above the hurdles to establish a functional and successful small plantation in the Greytown area.

I tend to relate to noticeable differences in things that I observe, and the regular flow of heartfelt tears during the "She is Forestry" webinar was one such noticeable difference between an all-lady affair and a more macho men's gathering. It was refreshing and inspiring to witness. Iris Fynn, the keynote speaker, is full of bubbly energy, and yet her life story, which she shares willingly, is one of hardship and toil which she has painstakingly and emphatically defeated. An inspiration to all who listened to her. Again, I wish more men would make the opportunity to hear what she and her peers have to say.

Well, I trust that this short article conveys a note of respect to my female colleagues on all levels. May you all go from strength to strength within the industry and all along your life's journey further. May you be recognized for the extended effort that has been required to get where you are today and may you continue to progress along whatever path you choose.

And a note to self...Don't let my wife read this article. She may see a crack in the façade and a softening approach. That means she'll see no need for me to have any beer cans in the fridge...Damn!

✠ We mourn the passing away of one of our older and well-known members : Lewis Silberbauer



Lewis Christian Silberbauer
1935/06/17 - 2022/08/05



MEMORIAL SERVICE / CELEBRATION OF LIFE
Saturday 20th August 2022 11:30 am
at St. George's Church
Groot Drakenstein
Please feel free to share with family and friends of Lewis

Game, Set and Match: Growing Women – From the Ground Up

It's Women's Month in South Africa, a time to focus on the incomparable role that women shoulder in our society and country as caregivers, businesswomen, volunteers, friends, and family. It's also a time to shine a light on the many fantastic initiatives and projects that support women, and the companies and individuals involved.

One such company is the [MTO Group](#), a circular economy business that has interests in forestry, agriculture, manufacturing, energy, and ecotourism, along with a thriving integrated training division. It is also active in transformation and empowerment – of its employees and the communities in which it works.

Of the many initiatives MTO is involved in, the Game "[Groundnuts](#)" initiative is perhaps one of the most exemplary of an organisation's approach to a 360-degree circle of life that also achieves several of the United Nations' Development Goals.

Currently, 92 women-led households from the Game community near White River, Mpumalanga, have planted groundnuts between the rows of young Eucalyptus trees on 37 hectares of MTO's Lowveld plantation.

Aside from availing the land and welcoming the women to plant their crops free of charge, MTO has also assisted the women in finding a market for their produce, which has resulted in a profitable partnership with a peanut butter manufacturer.

Recognising that to be sustainable the women required business knowledge, MTO formed a five-year partnership with SEDA and have now put 42 of the women through a business financial management skills course that is already bearing fruit.

Itumeleng Langeni, MTO's Chief Stakeholder Relations officer is committed to driving the company's agenda in uplifting and enriching the lives of the communities around the company's business locations. Of this project, she says: "Working with a company for whom holistic transformation is an action and an imperative, not words on a piece of paper, means that we are given the license to really make an impact on the lives of the people we interact with and even depend upon."

The Game Groundnuts initiative exemplifies MTO's commitment to making this happen.

"It is a symbiotic relationship between all parties; the women and their families and the community, between them and the company and vice versa, as well as between the groundnuts and the eucalyptus saplings themselves. Everyone works together for the benefit of the whole and it has been incredible watching the project evolve and take on a life of its own."

The MTO Game Groundnuts initiative is a humble lesson in synergistic success where from the seeds of an idea, a tree is grown and then an entire forest of achievements.



The MTO Group's business is premised on four pillars, which include its forestry & manufacturing, energy, agriculture as well as a thriving ecotourism business that sees hiking, trail running, mountain biking and birding take place across its plantations, which now also offer accommodation. www.mto.group



Southern Forests: A Journal of Forest Science – some facts and figures to ponder by D. Everard

Producing Southern Forests: a Journal of Forest Science is a key service provided by SAIF and something the Institute should be really proud of. SAIF took on this role way back in the 1960's (I think) with the production of the South African Forestry Journal. In 1996 the Journal expanded its scope to include Southern Africa and became known as the Southern African Forestry Journal but soon found that it should expand its scope even further and in 2007 was renamed Southern Forests: a Journal of Forest Science. Although the scope of the journal has been expanding, it remains a niche journal publishing articles in forest science and management of fast-growing, planted or natural forests in the Southern Hemisphere and the tropics. The question of whether the Journal is succeeding in advancing forest science and management in the southern hemisphere can be answered by reporting on and considering the following important metrics.

1. **Usage:** the total number of times articles are downloaded from any platform that hosts the journal. The numbers for SF since 2017 are shown the graph below (Fig. 1). These numbers indicate a very pleasing increasing trend meaning more and more articles are being read by an increasing readership.

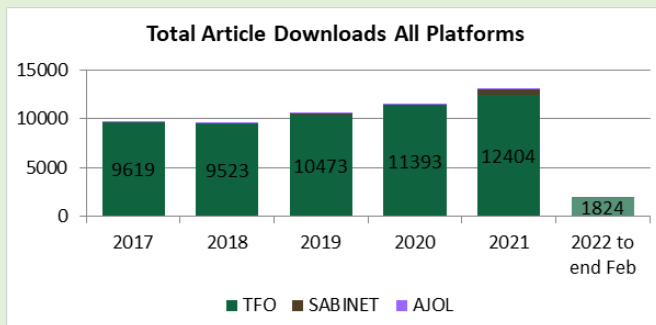


Figure 1 Total number of SF articles downloaded since 2017

2. **Impact Factor:** the impact factor is an average number of citations received by articles published within a two-year window. To clarify, this refers to the number of times articles published in SF are used and cited in other published scientific articles over the next 2 years and is probably the most important metric used to show how a Journal is advancing science and to compare journals. A five-year impact factor is also reported as it indicates the contribution in advancing science more comprehensively.

These indices are presented in Table 1. An impact factor above 1.0 is considered good and will generally contribute to institutions subscribing to the journal and encourage established scientists and authors to publish in the journal. These numbers again show a very pleasing increase, however the prediction for 2021 indicated a drop, but this apparently is common to most journals and reflects broader scientific and economic trends during this post-covid period rather than specific drop-off for SF.

JCR Year	Journal Impact Factor (JIF)	JIF rank Forestry	5 Year JIF	5-Yr JIF rank Forestry
2012	0.388	49 of 62 (Q3)	0.583	44 of 51 (Q4)
2013	0.521	50 of 64 (Q4)	0.759	39 of 57 (Q3)
2014	0.904	36 of 65 (Q3)	0.718	40 of 61 (Q3)
2015	0.696	43 of 66 (Q3)	0.785	41 of 63 (Q3)
2016	0.848	39 of 64 (Q3)	0.809	43 of 61 (Q3)
2017	0.972	43 of 66 (Q3)	0.908	43 of 63 (Q3)
2018	0.896	48 of 67 (Q3)	1.131	43 of 64 (Q3)
2019	1.16	47 of 68 (Q3)	1.223	45 of 66 (Q3)
2020	1.193	49 of 67 (Q3)	1.668	42 of 66 (Q3)
2021	0.889 (Prediction)	Pending	1.308 (Prediction)	Pending

Table 1 Impact factors for SF

3. **Submissions** are always interesting in that they show how many articles have been submitted for publication, where they are from and the rate of acceptance. Table 2 presents some of these statistics. It shows that approximately 150 articles are submitted per year with an acceptance rate of about 17%. This rate of acceptance is well within the norm for most journals. It is also interesting to see that most articles are submitted by authors based in Africa with South America coming a close second. The low acceptance rate for papers from Asia, Europe and North America is more due to these papers being out of scope for the journal rather than poor quality or poor science.
4. Another important measurement which influences authors when choosing which journal to submit articles to, is the **time taken from submission to first decision**. This is probably the most difficult aspect to manage as the process of assessing manuscripts and peer review relies on a variety of busy scientists, all giving their time voluntarily. For the majority of submissions SF has a very good turnaround time, thanks to commitment of associate editors and peer reviewers.

Region	Articles Accepted	Articles Rejected	Total Submissions	% Acceptance
Africa	29	102	131	22.14%
Asia	2	47	49	4.08%
Europe	2	15	17	11.76%
North America	0	2	2	0.00%
Oceania	2	8	10	20.00%
South America	20	95	115	17.39%
Total since 2020	55	269	324	16.98%

Table 2. Number of submissions and acceptance rate per region

Figure 2 indicates that by far the vast majority of submissions receive a first decision within 30 days. Delays are caused by the difficulty in finding reviewers for certain papers and then getting reviewers to carry out the review in a timely manner.

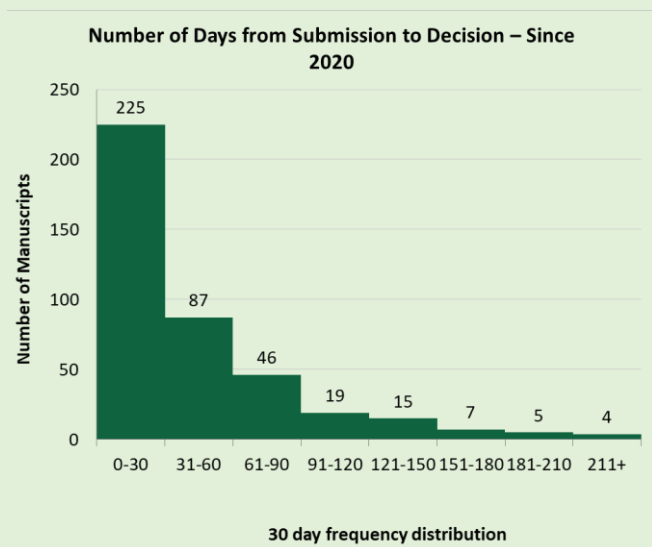


Figure 2. Time taken in days from submission to first decision.

5. The final statistic of general interest is that nearly 3000 institutions have **access to the journal** via subscription to the Taylor & Francis collections. I think we can safely say the Journal is getting out there and is having the desired impact. Well done to all that have been involved.

In conclusion I would like to encourage all members of SAIF to support the journal. Use it, read it, submit articles and encourage colleagues to publish their scientific work in it. It is a big commitment for SAIF, both financially and administratively and requires hard work by those involved, but it does SAIF proud.

David Everard, Editor-in-Chief



August : Women’s Month

Item	Description	Timing
WELCOME	Introducing the Webinar Format Webinar Facilitator: Katy Johnson - Forestry South Africa (FSA) Site In Forestry: Winona & Awards Coordinator Webinar Host: Adria Chelso - TerraNova	10h00
PRESENTATION	Panel Discussion: What is asked to be Covered Nelly Mafisi - Mendi Zimbe, Chief Executive Officer Kerry Muffett - NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Limited, Chief Financial Officer Prissy Moodley - Sappi Southern Africa, Chief Financial Officer	12h15
PRESENTATION	Panel Discussion: The importance of finding a work/life balance Ingaal Meyer - Women's Burnout Coach, Director	12h35
PRESENTATION	Panel Discussion: Presenting the best version of you Bathole Subelman - MTO Group, Chief People Officer Zanya Genelde - SAFCOL Group OD and Talent Manager	13h00
PRESENTATION	Panel Discussion: Being a woman is not enough Makhosazane Mavimbela - Forest Sector Charter Council, Executive Director	13h20
PRESENTATION	Panel Discussion: The importance of finding a work/life balance Ingaal Meyer - Women's Burnout Coach, Director	13h35
PRESENTATION	Panel Discussion: Presenting the best version of you Bathole Subelman - MTO Group, Chief People Officer Zanya Genelde - SAFCOL Group OD and Talent Manager	13h50
PRESENTATION	Panel Discussion: Being a woman is not enough Makhosazane Mavimbela - Forest Sector Charter Council, Executive Director	13h50

Speakers

- Keynote:** Mendi Zimbe, Chief Executive Officer
- Guest:** Ingaal Meyer, Women's Burnout Coach, Director
- SIF:** Makhosazane Mavimbela, Forest Sector Charter Council, Executive Director
- Motivational:** Ingaal Meyer, Women's Burnout Coach, Director
- Facilitator:** Katy Johnson, Forestry South Africa, Communication Consultant
- HR Panel:** Bathole Subelman, MTO Group, Chief People Officer
- HR Panel:** Zanya Genelde, SAFCOL Group, OD and Talent Management
- C-Level:** Nelly Mafisi, Site In Forestry, Chief Executive Officer
- C-Level:** Kerry Muffett, NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Limited, Chief Financial Officer
- C-Level:** Prissy Moodley, Sappi Southern Africa, Chief Financial Officer
- Chairperson:** Bathole Subelman, MTO Group, Chief People Officer
- Treasurer:** Julia Raes, Dapple Reef, Owner/Director
- Secretary:** Nelly Mafisi, Site In Forestry, Director
- Secretary:** Ingaal Meyer, Women's Burnout Coach, Director
- Secretary:** Susan Moringoos Lesibe, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Deputy Director: Sector Culture and Capacity Development, Chief Director, Forestry Operations

Following on from the success of the 2021 “She is Forestry” Webinar, which attracted an audience from across the South African Forestry Sector and beyond, raised over R109 000 used to support five worthy schools in forestry provinces, this year was the third She is Forestry Webinar - just ahead of South Africa’s Women’s Day.

This year, the intention was to shift the focus of the webinar inwards, giving back to the women in our Industry who are helping to drive it forwards and facilitating those looking to join the Sector. The webinar promoted continued learning, professional development and the acquisition of life skills, placing emphasis on how investing in yourself benefits both your family and your career. We will also be announcing the first recipients of the She Is Forestry Awards, celebrating the contribution these women have made to the Sector and their studies. <https://forestryexplained.co.za/forestry-in-focus/>

E Cape State plantations handed over to local communities

By Justin Nyakudanga : July 20, 2022



Batlokoa Chief Montoeli Lehana with DFFE Deputy Minister Makhotso Sotyu at the plantation handover.

The Deputy Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Hon Ms. Makhotso Sotyu (MP) handed over three category C plantations - namely Lehana, Fort Usher, and Makhoba - to the Batlokoa and the Makhoba Traditional Councils. The handing over of these plantations took place at a ceremony held in Mount Fletcher in the Eastern Cape recently, and is in line with the provisions of the National Forests Act, 1998 (Act No.84 of 1998).

The plantation handover follows the signing of an MoU between DFFE and the Dept of Public works and Infrastructure that states that all State land with expired leases should be recommissioned back for forestry commercial plantations, with the aim of entering into a Community Forestry Agreement with communities that are currently occupying the land.

The plantations have a combined hectareage of 362 ha and were established between 1978 - 1984 for purposes of job creation and to provide fuel wood for locals. The current tree species growing on the plantations include hardwoods such as *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, *Eucalyptus badjensis*, and *Acacia mearnsii* (black wattle). Located at an elevation of 1 441 meters above sea level, Mount Fletcher has an average yearly temperature of 18.18 degrees C, (-3% lower than South Africa's average) and receives about 575 mm annual rainfall.

The Mean Annual Increment for hardwoods in the

district is estimated to be between 10-12 tons per hectare per annum.

It is understood that the plantations will need to be clear-felled and re-planted in order to bring them back into production. Chief Montoeli Lehana, the traditional leader of the Batlokoa Traditional Council, bemoaned the neglect of the plantations by government foresters from the year 1998. The Chief said that the plantations were well managed up until the early 1990s, but since then they have been neglected and degraded by fire and rampant timber theft.

The Deputy Minister acknowledged that the forestry sector in the rural areas had been neglected for quite a long time. However she said her Department is busy working on turning the situation around. She hinted that her department had crafted a Master Development Plan involving many stakeholders including local rural communities, Working on Fire, local police, traditional authorities, local municipalities, and forestry and community development specialists.

When asked for comment with regards to the plantation rehabilitation plan, the local DFFE officials indicated that they were considering planting short-term rotation (6-8 years) species such as cold-tolerant *Eucalyptus* hybrids for pulp and wood chips markets on the better sites, and pine species on the poorer sites where a long term view is required. The plantations have the potential to create 30 permanent jobs and an extra 20 seasonal jobs. The closest timber markets include PG Bison's board plant in Ugie, local sawmills, and the Sappi Saiccor pulp mill in Umkomaas.

The communities that have been entrusted with these plantations will have to establish some sort of business structures to operate them and secure the funding and support that they will need to get them up and running.

The Mayor of Matatiele Cllr Sonwabile Mngenele thanked the minister for stepping in to assist with this project and assured her that the district would work hard to get things going and make the project a success.

Source : <https://saforestryonline.co.za/articles/e-cape-state-plantations-handed-over-to-local-communities/>

URGENT ATTENTION SAIF PHOTO COMPETITION 2022

The popular SAIF photo competition will again be taking place in 2022. The top 14 photos will be used to compile the 2023 SAIF calendar.

Stihl has kindly confirmed sponsorship of the photographic competition prizes as follows :

- 1st Prize:** GTA 26 Handheld Garden Pruner
- 2nd Prize:** RE 100 PLUS Control High Pressure Cleaner
- 3rd Prize:** SE 33 Vacuum Cleaner

We would like to thank Stihl for the continued support for the annual calendar competition.

Please note that the closing date for the competition is **31 August 2022**.



One of the winning photos of 2021



“Growing Out “ : Photographer Izette Greyling

Come on ladies and gents, please send your photos to Corine now !!!

A career made out of wood

Together with the Paper Manufacturers Association of South Africa (PAMSA), Forestry South Africa has developed an eye-catching infographic detailing: **Five reasons why there is a career for you in forestry or forest products.**

Targeting High School students who may not have considered the sector as a possible career path. The infographic hopes to open learners’ minds to the myriad of career opportunities that the forest product sector has to offer, from the obvious ones in forestry to the “behind the scenes” roles that keep the industry moving forward.

It will also expose learners to the truly global nature of the industry as well as the green and renewable foundations upon which the industry is based, not to mention, the many products with origins in farmed wood. By doing this, it attracts a whole new spectrum of potential graduates who may have previously dismissed the industry.

To download, share or print the infographic, visit www.forestryexplained.co.za and check out the [careers section](#) on the people page.

FIVE REASONS WHY THERE IS A CAREER FOR YOU IN FORESTRY OR FOREST PRODUCTS.

- 1 IN THE FOREST**
In South Africa, 1.2 million hectares of commercial trees are farmed for their wood. Plantations are sustainably managed, with new trees planted in the place of those cut down. Around 25% of forestry land is not planted with trees but is conserved for the biodiversity as grasslands, wetlands and indigenous forests. Managing these plantations takes a large team of people, from nursery workers, drivers, foresters, researchers, chainsaw and machine operators, fire officials, engineers, community development officers and environmentalists!
- 2 MAKING OUR PRODUCTS**
Our industry produces everyday essentials and the products of the future. It takes a small army of people to make printing paper, tissue, packaging, pencils, poles and furniture. Among them are chemical and process engineers, sawmillers, machine operators and product developers. It's an exciting, evolving industry that produces far more than paper!
- 3 IN A GREEN INDUSTRY**
Wood is a carbon-neutral, renewable material. While the trees grow, they absorb carbon dioxide, store it as carbon and release oxygen. Wood can be used to replace plastic and fossil fuels. It can be used to make fabric, cellphone and laptop screens, or added to lipstick, medicine and food. Help scientists, researchers and many others keep our industry a global green leader.
- 4 A GLOBAL NETWORK**
Our wood-based products are used everywhere from Europe to Asia. Be part of the team that helps South Africa service the world.
- 5 BEHIND THE SCENES**
Thousands of people also keep things running behind the scenes in human resources, accounting, law, information technology and health and safety.

THERE ARE MANY CAREER PATHS IN FORESTRY, PULP AND PAPER. JUST LIKE OUR TREES, THIS IS AN AREA THAT IS ALWAYS GROWING.

Visit these websites for more information:
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Career Brochure Infographic

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BIRTHDAYS AUGUST 2022			
Aug-02	MPHAHLELE LBOGANG	Aug-14	SINUKA LELETHU
Aug-04	GOUS GERHARD	Aug-15	BARNARD WILHELM
Aug-05	SCHROEDER EDDIE	Aug-19	ERASMUS NICO
Aug-07	HEATHMAN WARREN	Aug-19	VAN DER ZEL DIEK
Aug-07	ALLPASS MANDY	Aug-19	MPHAHLELE MMOLEDI
Aug-09	IMMELMAN ANDIE	Aug-26	PRIGGE DIETER
Aug-09	BEZUIDENHOUT RUTH	Aug-28	LEISEGANG KEN
Aug-12	CROUS JACOB	Aug-28	BLAKEWAY FLIC
Aug-12	MATTISON CLIVE	Aug-29	NEWTON TERRY
Aug-14	ESTERHUYSE NEELS	Aug-31	HUGHES JOHN
Aug-14	MABENA KENEILWE	Aug-31	DU PLESSIS STEFAN



The Southern African Institute of Forestry

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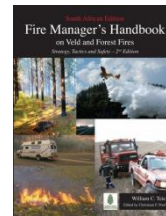
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