Volume 5|Issue 8

August 2024

Southern African Institute of Forestry

Delivering a professional service to forestry

Southern African Institute of Forestry, Postnet Suite 329, Private Bag X4, Menlopark, 0102
www.saif.org.za, saif@mweb.co.za

Contents:

Pine Pollen Cloud at PG Bison South Cape Forests outside Sedgefield Western Cape (B. du Preez)

From the President's Desk

Time for Change

Similar to this time when the seasons are changing, likewise it is time for a change in the leadership of the SAIF.

After an extended term as President and past-president of the Institute, the time has come for Wayne Jones and myself to hand over the baton to our successors namely to Bruce Talbot as President and Christopher Komakech as Vice-President respectively. We are very grateful that both of them accepted their nominations to fill these positions.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the SAIF Council members including Bruce and Christoper for their support during the past three years. A special word of thanks and appreciation must go to Corine Viljoen our former National Secretary for her wonderful guidance and support up until her retirement in 2023. We are also very grateful that we found such a worthy and very competent successor in Intsia Kriel.

We should all be aware of the challenges facing the SAIF and I am therefore pleased in particular that Bruce who is ideally based at Stellenbosch University to have direct access to the younger generation, will be taking over as President. We have to find ways to get the younger forestry professionals interested and committed to the Institute.

I would like to wish Bruce and Christopher well for their term as office bearers for their respective terms and would also like to assure them of our support.

Meet the new President of SAIF
Prof. Bruce Talbot

Bruce Talbot works in Forest Engineering at the Department of Forest and Wood Science, Stellenbosch University. He grew up running around in Masonite and Hl&H plantations outside Greytown (KZN), and had grandparents in sawmilling in Sabie, so literally crawled out of the woods. He graduated from Stellenbosch with a BSc (For) in 1991 and spent a few years with State Forestry in the northern region of the former Transkei, then did harvesting planning with Merensky at Singisi Forest Products in southern KZN.

At the end of 1995 he moved to Denmark, where he first worked at a hardwood sawmill, then did an MSc at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, which today is a faculty under the University of Copenhagen. After that he joined the Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning, working on various projects related to harvesting and transport, much of which dealt with the biomass-to-bioenergy value chain. This led to a PhD in the topic, from which he graduated in 2004.

Bruce was involved in a number of scoping studies on biomass resource assessments, supply, conversion and export markets, in South Africa in the period 2004-2007. These projects were funded through the Danish government interaction with South Africa under the Kyoto Protocol, to which South Africa acceded in 2002. No one knew then that there would be rolling loadshedding and that it would take another 20 years for Eskom to allow IPPs to supply power into the grid! In 2010, Bruce moved from Denmark to Norway where he spent 10 years with the Norwegian Institute for Bioeconomy Research, NIBIO.

His work there continued along the broad lines of harvesting, transport and bioenergy, but now in 3D, with Norway being mountainous and a lot of operations taking place on steep slopes.

In 2020, he returned to South Africa to take up the position he currently holds, on the retirement of Prof. Pierre Ackerman. During the 25 years in Scandinavia, Bruce was involved in a number of national, EU, and international projects and networks. He spent over 20 years as country representative in the International Energy Agency (https://www.ieabioenergy.com/), and in the Nordic Forest Research network (https://nordicforestresearch.org/) as well as in IUFRO Division 3, where he will coordinate unit 3.04.00 (Forest Operations Management), for the next 5 year period .

Bruce served as chairperson of the Western Cape branch of the SAIF over the past three years. As he says, the age-class distribution in membership does not look sustainable, and a main ambition in taking over the reins as President would be to rejuvenate it, by making membership more attractive to Forestry students and younger graduates across the region. Bruce has been privileged to be able to attend conferences, meetings and study tours in many parts of the world and brings a very global perspective to Forests and Forestry, hopefully also to the SAIF.

———

Bruce Talbot
Associate Professor
Head of Department: Forest and Wood Product Science
Faculty of AgriSciences | Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe | IFakhalthi yeeNzululwazi zoLimo
Paul Sauer Building, room 1003, Bosman Street, Stellenbosch | South Africa

Stellenbosch UNIVERSITY IYUNIVESITHI UNIVERSITEIT

Are you remaining or at least being relevant?

By Rob Thompson

A long-standing SAIF member, well known forestry practitioner and newly qualified certification auditor, who shall remain anonymous in this article, and who has occasionally been heard to wish colleagues well using the term "May the source be with you" is retiring soon and recently came round to wish us "Adieu".

The farewell ceremony centered around a traditional "rusk-assessment" during which there was much talk about "chain of custard-y".

Placing the merits of UltraMel lathered over Malva aside for the time being, our departing friend mentioned that once retired he would want to resurrect his interest in photography again, a hobby which he has let slide (gettit?) over time. Given that a bunch of forestry "ballies" were assembled around the table, that statement turned the conversation towards the topic of the importance of remaining relevant in retirement and having something constructive to do and achieve.

"Remaining relevant or being relevant?", was the question that came to my mind repeatedly in the days following our conversation.

For the older generation forester who has seen considerable change over the years, the challenge of retaining past individuality and uniqueness and remaining relevant may be the dominant drive and challenge. However, modern times, rise of universal wokeness, same-ness and unprecedented technological renderings may well be swinging the need for everyone regardless of age, to simply be relevant in order to survive and flourish. I'll illustrate this by means of the photography example. Who has noticed the decline in professional photographers over recent years? Very few people earn a living from standard photography any longer. Social media, smart phones and privacy legislation has literally put paid to the profession, forcing those practitioners to develop (gettit?) new approaches or sadly fade away. Hobbyist photographers are also now faced with the need to adapt to modern likes, equipment, media changes and ultimately the decision as to continue with the hobby or not. The question to young and old alike is … "Do I have a relevant role to play in this hobby choice?"

There is always 'exercise' to fall back on in the absence of a specific hobby, or can one?

I asked a retired friend the other day what he does to keep busy. He responded by saying that he has the daily grind of deciding between his mountain bike, the gym, or going to the beach. As a long-standing cyclist, I am drawn to explore those options in the context of remaining or being relevant. Cycling itself has become considerably more fashion conscious than ever before. No longer is it a case of choosing to get on the bike and to ride or not. If you are not really careful it can become a case of cycling circles determining the type of bike you ride, the colour and fit of the kit you wear, who you ride with and the compulsory declaration of every move you make on Strava for the world to see. One's relevance is measured by the amount of Vitality points earned and overall distance traveled, not the enjoyment gleaned or pleasure of the ride. There is always the guy, who, at the end of the ride or run, continues to ride or run, up and down, or in circles, until his smart watch determines that his minimum daily step or distance count has been met and sounds an all-clear alarm. This practice certainly begs the question…Just how relevant are you being?

An old colleague whom I hold in high esteem and to whom I reported for many years, instilled in me, and the rest of his staff at the time, the critical importance of having a notebook on hand, all the time. No, not the type with a folding screen and rechargeable battery and wi-fi connectivity. The Luddite type that you write in, with a pen, or a pencil and which has no internet connectivity at all. Its made of paper…anyone remember those? If you want to delete data, you tear the page out. If you want to retrieve data, you page through it until you locate that which you seek. If you wish to share data you lend your friend the book.

My mentor taught me the importance of noting down important points, items that needed action, thoughts and general useful scribbles that could come in useful at a later stage.

Not only was this a memory aid but one could manually page through the notes made, discuss with your peers, mutually enhance plans and most importantly act decisively on matters that remained unforgotten given the patience of the written word. One remained a relevant part of the recording and actioning process due to the tactile nature of the notebooks operation and the integral need to communicate oneself the content thereof.

Imagine my surprise, when, after a considerably long period of no contact, I met up with my mentor and within minutes of this reacquaintance his cell phone pinged to remind him of a matter requiring attention. The electronic age had caught up with him. Manual intervention replaced by a hands-off binary process, arguably producing similar results but rendering the operator less relevant to the ultimate outcome or process. This is not a criticism but merely an exploration of how we inherently adopt modern developments and how this inadvertently changes the level of our own relevance.

The same colleague and mentor has relocated Provinces recently and having moved into a new house, now requires certain specific functional furniture pieces to fill in some gaps. It was not that long ago when one could find any number of small hobbyists and or manufacturers to secure just the right furniture piece required. Many of us in the forestry profession were keen DIY enthusiasts and woodworkers and would not 'bat an eye' at making a dining room table or lounger out of indigenous or commercially grown timber. At that time, one was a very relevant part of the design and manufacturing process. Today one is more likely to purchase online, a mass-produced furniture item from any number of outlets and even have the item delivered within an hour of purchase. Through this one becomes a mere consumer rather than a really relevant participant.

Further to any discussion of relevance, one needs to consider today's writings. Ja, OK, ignore this ramble for now and focus on the offerings that one would for instance read via your Kindle. Have you noticed a general quality decline in some of the books you read?

Could this be due to the popularity of self-publishing which Kindle via Amazon is want to encourage, or, could it be the insidious result of AI generated material?

Even some published hard copy paper books (yes, they still exist) are rolling off the production line within time frames that would ostensibly not be remotely possible for even the most efficient author to achieve. As readers of this material, we need to be discerning and see ourselves as being a relevant enough part of the writing consumption chain so as to enforce quality offerings. If we don't take on this discerning role, in this and in other aspects of our lives and interactions we abdicate our relevance and are simply just existing.

As I have shared with you in previous articles (non-AI generated of course), forestry in many ways and for many reasons, has progressed (a term used loosely in this instance) from being a calling to a job. One can so easily lose all relevance within just a job, and I despair for newcomers to the profession who arrive without that once-valued calling to a profession. In a profession that demands of every forestry practitioner to be a politician, diplomat, lawyer, accountant, scientist, policeman, counsellor, and maybe even a forester, that newcomer, not claiming or displaying relevance from onset, is soon to be anxiously exploring alternative professions. That too is likely to go pear given that relevance underpins success in any profession.

In just the same manner, the about to be retiree, the cyclist, the photographer, the reader or writer, the furniture buyer, the forester…Wait a sec, let's just say all of us, no matter who or what we are, or aim to be doing, should take the conscious decision to be relevant and to remain relevant in whatever we do or decide.

If we are not relevant, then just what on earth are we doing? Just existing?

Oh, and by the way, I'm not really against Strava users! Or cell phones that go ping! Or chain of custard-y practitioners.

In fact, I owe you all one for providing me with material with which to generate, I mean write, this article.

Just for heaven's sake don't go and buy a flippin' E-bike. Even non-relevance has it's limits!!

_____

Baobab, a Miracle Tree

By Georg von dem Bussche

The Baobab tree (*Adansonia digitata*) or "Kremetartboom" can be found in many African countries; mostly in hot, dry and even desert environments. A multitude of scientific articles relating to many aspects of the Baobab have been published. This short note should only draw your attention to a small reserve near Messina in the Limpopo province of South Africa. The significance of this reserve is that the growth pattern of the original 17 trees have been recorded since 1930 on an annual basis. The circumference of all numbered trees was measured at breast hight, mostly during May, at the end of the growing season, and meticulously recorded.

The reserve is called "Skelmwater" and consists of a small remnant of large landholdings which the early Department of Forestry controlled along the southern banks of the Limpopo River stretching from Botswana to Mozambique. When the land was handed over to farmers as of 1930, the District Forest Officer of the Department of Forestry at that time, the late Professor P. C. de Villiers (who was later to become the dean of the faculty of forestry at the Stellenbosch university) proposed and established the small Baobab reserve at one of the farms, close to the Great North Road. He also measured and recorded the girth of the numbered 17 trees at the site. Measurements continued, irregularly during the war years and the records were kept at the forestry research office at Pretoria and the forestry office at Louis Trichardt.

Dr Richard Poynton, the eminent forest botanist of the Department of Forestry, drew the attention of this reserve to the writer of this short note, who with the help of the clerk at the Hanglip forest station, Boetie van Niekerk, located the reserve, re-painted the faded white numbers and white circumference bands and continued with the annual measurements until 1992. Regular measurements were resumed by Dr Sarah Venter, at the time conservation planning officer at Louis Trichardt, until the present day. She continued with the annual measurements since then. The writer of this brief note had the sentimental pleasure to help her measuring the trees during May this year (2024) again.

A total of 13 of the original 17 trees are still present and two new trees of smaller diameters have been found to replenish the population. It is remarkable to note that only four trees have perished since the start of the recorded measurements in1930.

The largest of the group of Baobab trees at 901cm!

The biggest Baobab tree being measured in 2024

The measurements of the last 6 years have indicated that the mean annual girth increase per year per tree was 2 cm. One tree even achieved 3,3 cm annual increase while one of the bigger trees recorded only 1,3 cm. It is interesting to note that these increases compare well with average increases of indigenous trees in the Knysna Forests, as surveyed every 10 years at the Diepwalle research sites.

The slight variation of the increases of the trees at Skelmwater is probably related to the different site conditions.

It was further noted that all 15 trees at the site now have a circumference of more than 100 cm while no regeneration could be spotted, possibly because the site is used by game from the surrounding game farm, which has caused slight surface erosion and will have made regrowing of new seedlings difficult.

The conclusion of this note is quoted from the article of S Venter and Ted Witkowski (see below) as follows:

"Contrary to reports in the popular media, adult baobabs do not appear to be dying at an accelerated rate because of climate change. However, for these trees not to be the last survivors of the species, research on population viability based on demographic rate estimates and conservation efforts that mitigate recruitment threats is urgently required."

The present owner of the surrounding farm is environmental conscious and supports the continuation of this unusual research site, however refencing of the area and re-planting of the solid corner posts is of the present importance. - Any reader of this note, who is interested to support this project and the wider effort to preserve the Baobabs is encouraged to access the website of the "Baobab Foundation"(https://baobab-foundation.co.za) or to contact Sarah Venter at sarah@baobabfoundation.co.za for more detailed information.

Literature

- Diana H Mayne et al, 2022, Baobabs at the edge, published by Frontiers (Frontiers in Forests and Global Change).
- Sarah M Venter and Ed T F Witkowski, 2024. Baobabs as symbols of resilience, Nature Plants.

Registration is Open for the SAIF/FSA Forestry Science Symposium : 26-27 November 2024

Please note that the Registration for the 2024 Forestry Science Symposium is now open. For more information, please contact Wayne at Wayne.Jones@sappi.com or Ronald Heath at ronald@forestrysouthafrica.co.za. Or Karen at karin.nagel@icfr.ukzn.ac.za

Forestry Science SYMPOSIUM

1 August 2024

Dear Forestry Colleague,

You are invited to attend a Forestry Science Symposium (FSS) hosted by Forestry South Africa (FSA), the Southern African Institute of Forestry (SAIF) and the Institute for Commercial Forestry Research (ICFR), on the 26th to 27th of November 2024, in Pietermaritzburg.

The symposium, with core themes around sustainability, provides a collaborative platform for networking between scientists, foresters and managers, and opportunity for developing scientists to present their work to the industry, their peers, and mentors.

Subthemes for the symposium are as follows:

- Dynamic Breeding Initiatives
- Addressing Climate Change Physical Risks
- Addressing Climate Change Transition Risks
- Biotic Threats
- Biodiversity
- Foresty Products
- Precision Forestry

To learn more about the event, including registration, abstracts and sponsorships, please refer to the FSS page on ICFR's website (https://icfr.co.za/forestry-science-symposium/).

Important dates for the event are as follows:

Abstract submission closing date (extended)	20/08/2024 (R 1 750.00 for presenters)
Early bird registration closing date	13/09/2024 (R 1 750.00 early bird rate)
Registrations and sponsorship closing date	01/11/2024 (R 2 012.50 normal/late rate)

We look forward to your registration and abstract submissions, and to engaging with you at the symposium in November.

Yours sincerely,

FSS Organizing Committee

Ronald Heath
ronald@forestrysouthafrica.co.za
083 611 6946

Wayne Jones
wayne.jones@sappi.com
083 229 2843

SA Forestry ONLINE

Researchers discover new type of wood

Tulip Tree in Cambridge University Botanic Garden.

Researchers have identified an entirely new type of wood that does not fit into either category of hardwood or softwood.

**This article was first published by the University of Cambridge on their website www.cam.ac.uk.*

Scientists from the Sainsbury Laboratory at Cambridge University and Jagiellonian University, Poland made the discovery while undertaking an evolutionary survey of the microscopic structure of wood from some of the world's most iconic trees and shrubs.

They found that Tulip Trees, which are related to magnolias and can grow over 30 metres (100 feet) tall, have a unique type of wood. This discovery may explain why the trees, which diverged from magnolias when earth's atmospheric CO^2 concentrations were relatively low, grow so tall and so fast. This opens new opportunities to improve carbon capture and storage in plantation forests by planting a fast-growing tree more commonly seen in ornamental gardens, or breeding Tulip Tree-like wood into other tree species.

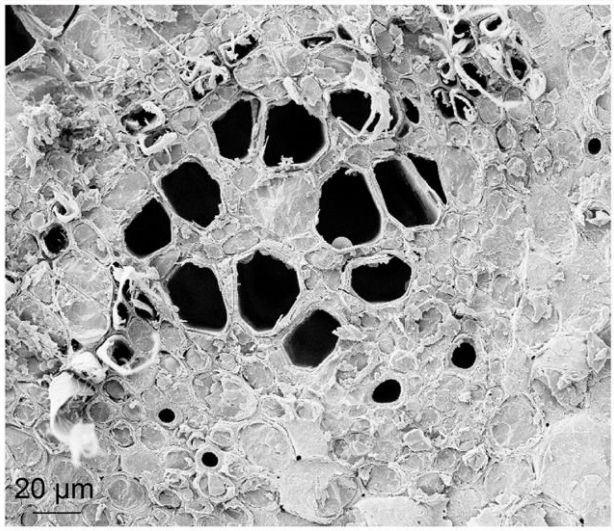
The discovery was part of an evolutionary survey of the microscopic structure of wood from 33 tree species from the Cambridge University Botanic Garden's Living Collections. The survey explored how wood ultrastructure evolved across softwoods (gymnosperms such as pines and conifers) and hardwoods (angiosperms including oak, ash, birch, and eucalypts).

The wood samples were collected from trees in the Botanic Garden in coordination with its Collections Coordinator. Fresh samples of wood, deposited in the previous spring growing season, were collected from a selection of trees to reflect the evolutionary history of gymnosperm and angiosperm populations as they diverged and evolved.

Using the Sainsbury Laboratory's low temperature scanning electron microscope (cryo-SEM), the team imaged and measured the size of the nanoscale architecture of secondary cell walls (wood) in their native hydrated state.

Microscopy Core Facility Manager at the Sainsbury Laboratory, Dr Raymond Wightman, said: "We analysed some of the world's most iconic trees like the Coast Redwood, Wollemi Pine and so-called 'living fossils' such as *Amborella trichopoda*, which is the sole surviving species of a family of plants that was the earliest still existing group to evolve separately from all other flowering plants.

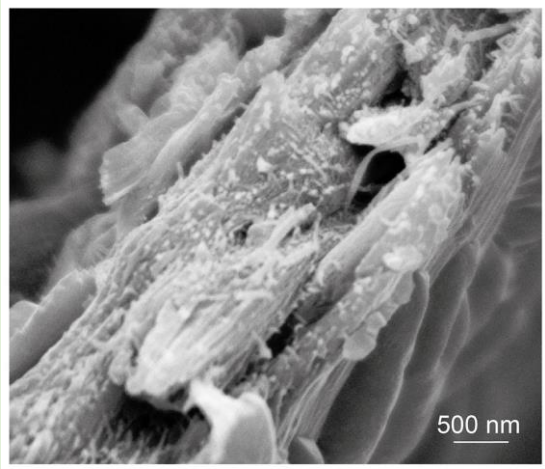
"Our survey data has given us new insights into the evolutionary relationships between wood nanostructure and the cell wall composition, which differs across the lineages of angiosperm and gymnosperm plants. Angiosperm cell walls possess characteristic narrower elementary units, called macrofibrils, compared to gymnosperms."



Tulip Tree wood cells and cell walls

Łyczakowski added: "Both Tulip Tree species are known to be exceptionally efficient at locking in carbon, and their enlarged macrofibril structure could be an adaptation to help them more readily

capture and store larger quantities of carbon when the availability of atmospheric carbon was being reduced. Tulip Trees may end up being useful for carbon capture plantations. Some east Asian countries are already using Liriodendron plantations to efficiently lock in carbon, and we now think this might be related to its novel wood structure."



Liriodendron tulipifera are native to northern America and *Liriodendron chinense* is a native species of central and southern China and Vietnam.

Łyczakowski said: "Despite its importance, we know little about how the structure of wood evolves and adapts to the external environment. We made some key new discoveries in this survey – an entirely novel form of wood ultrastructure never observed before and a family of gymnosperms with angiosperm-like hardwood instead of the typical gymnosperm softwood.

"The main building blocks of wood are the secondary cell walls, and it is the architecture of these cell walls that give wood its density and strength that we rely on for construction. Secondary cell walls are also the largest repository of carbon in the biosphere, which makes it even more important to understand their diversity to further our carbon capture programmes to help mitigate climate change.

This research was funded by the National Science Centre Poland and The Gatsby Charitable Foundation.

This article was first published by the University of Cambridge on their website www.cam.ac.uk. Article link: Scientists discover entirely new wood type that could be highly efficient at carbon storage | University of Cambridge

Photos supplied courtesy of the University of Cambridge

Sappi's third quarter lifted by strong pulp market

Pulp and paper producer says underlying profitability remains steady despite the third quarter being seasonally the weakest

by Jacqueline Mackenzie

One of Sappi's pulp mills. Picture: FINANCIAL MAIL

Pulp and paper producer Sappi has delivered a strong third-quarter operating performance despite the period being traditionally the weakest for its business.

Sales for the three months to end-June were up 3% to $1.37bn, while profit for the period rose 28% to $51m. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (ebitda) excluding special items of $151m was 42% ahead of a year ago.

"Despite the third quarter being seasonally the weakest for our business and a sluggish global economy, the underlying profitability, excluding a $30m impact of the scheduled maintenance shuts at Saiccor and Somerset mills, remained steady quarter on quarter," the group said in a statement on Thursday.

The performance was driven by sustained strong market conditions in the pulp segment, offset by a muted recovery in paper markets. Included in ebitda was a positive plantation fair value price adjustment of $3m.

Globally consumer sentiment showed signs of improvement as inflation subsides, which provided a boost for packaging and textile markets. However, graphic papers markets generally remained subdued with the recovery after the destocking cycle of 2023 slowing during the quarter.

Market conditions for dissolving pulp remained favourable, supported by tight supply and strong demand, which was enhanced by high downstream viscose staple fibre operating rates and low inventory levels.

Pulp sales volumes declined by 5% compared with the previous year and quarter, driven by low inventory levels at the beginning of the quarter and lower external high yield pulp sales due to the scheduled annual maintenance shut at the Matane Mill in Canada.

Graphic papers sales volumes increased by 13% compared with the weak performance last year, which supported a substantial year-on-year improvement in profitability for the segment.
The packaging and speciality papers segment experienced a challenging quarter. Paperboard demand in North America rebounded, but selling prices came under pressure and the scheduled Somerset Mill maintenance shut had a negative effect on the region.

European demand also improved, albeit off of a low base.

A weaker-than-forecast citrus fruit season, due to adverse weather, had a negative effect on containerboard demand in SA. Despite these headwinds, sales volumes were 22% above the prior year and improved by 10% quarter on quarter.
The positive sales volumes momentum was offset by rising costs and declining prices, which negatively affected the profitability of the segment.
While global macroeconomic conditions and consumer sentiment are slowly improving, a high level of uncertainty remains, worsened by logistical challenges.

Sappi said it remained well positioned with its competitive dissolving pulp business and strategic focus on growing the packaging and speciality papers segment to benefit from a global economic rebound.
Capital expenditure for the full year is expected to be slightly below previous guidance due to phasing projects and was likely to be in the region of $480m. This includes about $154m for the Somerset PM2 conversion and expansion project.

"Market prices for hardwood timber have reduced in recent weeks and we anticipate that the plantation fair value price adjustment for the fourth quarter will offset the majority of the gain from prior quarters," it said.
Notwithstanding the slow recovery in global macroeconomic conditions, and taking into consideration the effect of rising costs, the group expects ebitda for the fourth quarter to be above that of the equivalent quarter last year.
mackenziej@arena.africa

BusinessDay

Timber Construction Conference

To find out, register for the Timber Construction Conference today:
https://lnkd.in/ds6hGHtQ

Seats are limited, so don't wait.

More than half of NSW's forests and woodlands are gone as ongoing logging increases extinction risks, study shows

From ***The Conversation*** : 4 August 2024

Since European colonisation, 29 million hectares (54%) of the forests and woodlands that once existed in New South Wales have been destroyed. A further 9 million ha have been degraded in the past two centuries. This amounts to more than 60% of the state's forest estate.

We will never know the full impacts this rampant clearing and degradation have had on the state's wildlife and plants. But it is now possible to put into perspective the impacts of logging practices in the past two decades on species that have already suffered enormous loss.

Cutting down native vegetation for timber destroys habitat for forest-dependent species. Our research, published today, has found ongoing logging in NSW affects the habitat of at least 150 species considered at risk of extinction, due mostly to historical deforestation and degradation.

Thirteen of these species are listed as critically endangered. This means there is a 20% probability of extinction in ten years (or five generations, whichever is longer) without urgent conservation action.

The bare and highly disturbed areas created by logging also increase risks of erosion, fire and invasion by non-native species.

Cleared areas of forest increase risks of erosion, fire and invasion by non-native species. Mick Tsikas/AAP

Other states and countries ban native forest logging

Despite these impacts, Australia still logs native forests. Many countries have now banned native forest logging.

They have recognised the enormous impact of intact forests on biodiversity and climate change, and rely entirely on plantations for wood production. New Zealand, for example, banned native forest logging two decades ago, in 2002.

In Australia, South Australia has protected native forests since the 1870s. The ACT banned logging in the 1980s. As of 2024, Western Australia and Victoria have ended their native forest logging operations (except logging for fire breaks, salvage logging after windstorms, and logging on private land).

The reasons are clear: native forestry is unpopular and unprofitable, contributes heavily to climate change and is a major cause of species decline.

Yet government-owned logging operations in NSW, Tasmania and Queensland continue to erode their remaining forest estates.

Logging impacts on habitats and species add up

The current practice of impact assessment means logging activities are evaluated individually, without looking at the broader history of land management. On their own, small areas of logging might seem insignificant. However, logging these small areas can add up to a much larger long-term habitat loss.

To assess what logging today means in terms of impacts on species, we need to assess how much habitat has been lost or degraded over long time periods.

We used historical loss and degradation as a baseline to evaluate recent logging events (from 2000 to 2022) across NSW. We found continued logging is having impacts on 150 threatened species.

Forty-three of these species now have 50% or less of their intact habitat remaining in NSW. They include the three brothers wattle, regent parrot and growling grass frog. Two species, Sloane's froglet and Glenugie karaka, have less than 10% of intact habitat remaining.

Some species' distributions had high overlaps with recent logging. They include the floodplain rustyhood (75% overlap with logging), Orara boronia (26%), *Hakea archaeoides* (24%), long-footed potoroo (14%), southern mainland long-nosed potoroo (12%) and southern brown bandicoot (9%).

Species with the most distribution by area that overlapped with logging included koala (400,000 ha), south-eastern glossy black-cockatoo (370,000 ha) and spot-tailed quoll (southeast mainland population, 310,000 ha).

Our research shows the importance of a historical perspective. Almost all the forest-dependent species we assessed have suffered terribly from land clearing and fires over the past two centuries. They now survive in small parts of their natural range.

Logging this remaining habitat is forcing many of these species into an extinction vortex. Environmental impact assessments and decisions about land use (such as converting land into conservation zones, solar farms or logging areas) must consider the historical legacies of logging for these species.

How can we retain our remaining forest estate?

Australia is a signatory to many international conservation goals. For instance, the Global Biodiversity Framework aims to "ensure urgent management actions to halt human-induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species". The Glasgow Leaders' Declaration committed us to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030.

Logging native forests stands in stark contrast to these undertakings.

In Australia, the states regulate forestry and, strangely, own the forestry business themselves. However, the Commonwealth has the power to intervene and halt native forest logging. With the federal government in the throes of reforming nature laws and an election coming up, the choice is simple: lock in extinction by continuing rampant logging, or lock in species recovery by working with land managers to secure the future of these species.

Australia has a chequered recent history when it comes to protecting its environment. We have one of the highest mammal extinction rates in the world and the highest per capita greenhouse gas emissions of all OECD member countries. We are also the only developed nation identified as a deforestation hotspot.

Native forests are essential for carbon sequestration, biodiversity and the cultural wellbeing of First Nations and local communities. An easy win for all these interests is within our reach. Shifting from native forest logging to sustainable plantations will help protect these essential forests while still meeting wood demands.

NTE : Wattle Extract Since 1920

https://nte.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/01-corpbuild.jpg

World-Class Facilities

NTE has two manufacturing plants strategically placed within close proximity to the raw material base making it one of the largest producers of mimosa vegetable extracts in the world.

NTE has access to 60,000 ha of wattle plantations managed on a sustainable and environmentally friendly 10-year cycle by its shareholders and bark suppliers.

The world's finest wattle tannin products

NTE is one of the largest producers of wattle extract in the world. We manufacture a range of wattle-tannin products with applications in the leather, timber, mining, water treatment and agricultural industries. NTE has been a market leader for over a century, and we pride ourselves on products that are prized for consistency and quality.

Excellence is NTE's heritage

Over a 100-year history, NTE's products have been designed and developed by highly qualified and experienced technical teams. NTE is are driven to provide consistent quality and complete customer satisfaction, and we aim for continuous improvement and innovation.

Exporting tannins to customers on five continents

NTE delivers products globally to a wide range of industries and sectors. NTE's reputation is built on delivering outstanding technical support and a service commitment that has built business relationships that have endured for decades. If you have a challenge that natural tannins might solve, speak to NTE and find out how we can help you.

TIPWG: TIMBER INDUSTRY PESTICIDE WORKING GROUP
LEADING THE WAY
LOCAL FORESTY SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Update on two new pests of wattle

Following from the emails sent on 11th and 29th April which reported two new pests of Acacia mearnsii in South Africa, FABI has now confirmed the identifications of these species and thus updated the pest alerts –

- Agrilus grandis (Buprestidae) on Acacia mearnsii
- Melanterius inconspicuus on Acacia mearnsii

For more information on these two pests identified on Acacia mearnsii, contact : Brett Hurley, Professor Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI)

Department of Zoology and Entomology,University of Pretoria, South Africa

www.fabinet.up.ac.za/index.php/people-profile?profile=909

The passing of a legend

Fire & Rescue International Newsletter

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of the passing of Jake Oosthuizen. He was not only a legend in the forestry and fire industry but also a deeply loved and respected individual. His son, Willem Oosthuizen, said, “He was a father, a mentor to many and a source of strength and wisdom. His legacy will continue to guide us all. We mourn his loss together, and we extend our deepest sympathies to all who knew and loved him.”

After 16 years of Aerial Spraying and Aerial Fire Fighting, Jake Oosthuizen formed Zululand Fire Protection Services cc. (ZFPS) in 1994 with the object of providing a service to the Zululand timber industry. Initially, the operation was started by taking over the control centre of the Zululand Fire Protection Association (ZFPA), which coordinated all fire fighting operations in the Zululand Coastal Area (approximately 80 000 hectares of timber).
At that time, the Control Centre was very low profile and provided a basic communication service to the timber growers in the area. Over time, the Control Centre became the heart of all firefighting operations in Zululand. ZFPS expanded to include the management of ZIFPA.
In 1994, ZFPS became involved in digital fire detection and formed a company called Alasia Marketing cc. This company was instrumental in the development of the FireHawk system that is today used in South Africa, Chile, Brazil, Malawi and Ghana. FireHawk was the first computerised fire detection system in the world and has been operating commercially for the past 26 years. The first system was installed in Richmond in 1994 and is still operational today

Book the date! - 14th Fire management Symposium: Registration now open !

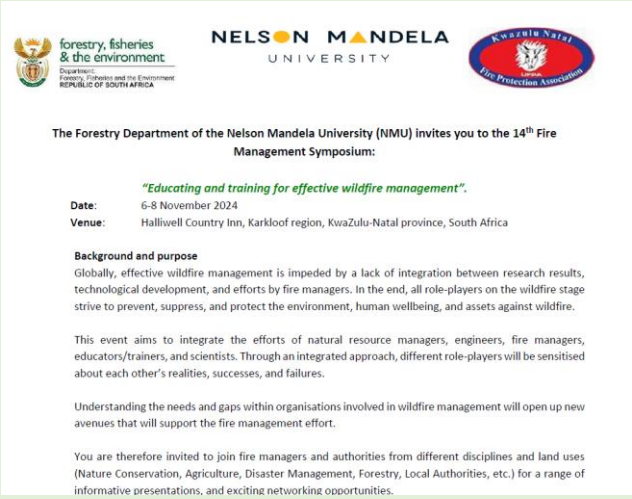
Registration for the Fire Symposium is now open! Please follow the link below to register.

https://forms.office.com/r/2DjiWCM6WR

The field day (7 November) will include two parts. Our first stop will be at a fire demonstration on a sugarcane farm and the second stop will take us to the Shafton Airstrip where a mini expo will take place.

There are already lively interest in the expo and it promise to be a worth while event to attend on its own. The second day will end with our gala dinner at Halliwell Country Inn.

For more information, please contact Tiaan at Tiaan.Pool@mandela.ac.za



forestry, fisheries & the environment
Department: Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

KwaZulu Natal Fire Protection Association

The Forestry Department of the Nelson Mandela University (NMU) invites you to the 14th Fire Management Symposium:

"Educating and training for effective wildfire management".

Date: 6-8 November 2024
Venue: Halliwell Country Inn, Karkloof region, KwaZulu-Natal province, South Africa

Background and purpose

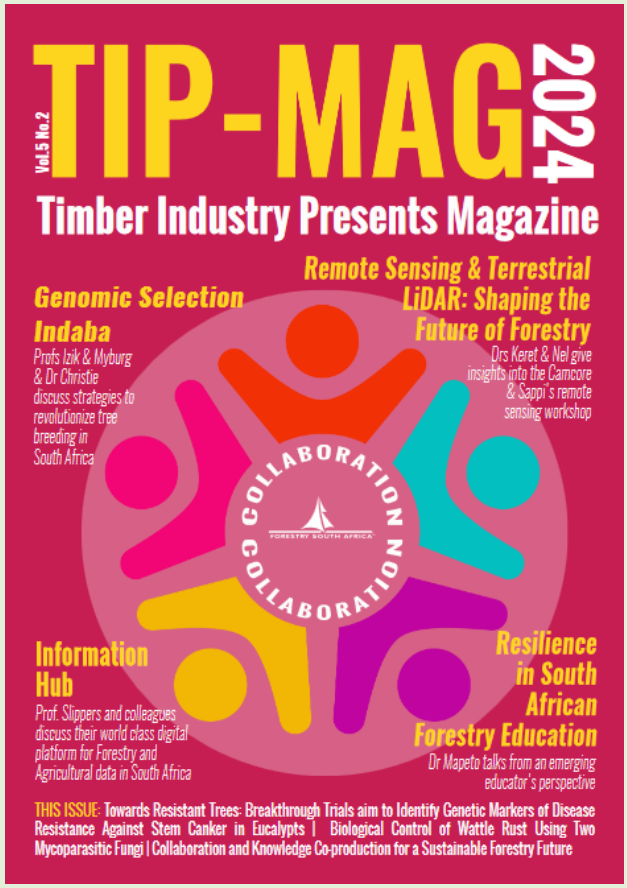
Globally, effective wildfire management is impeded by a lack of integration between research results, technological development, and efforts by fire managers. In the end, all role-players on the wildfire stage strive to prevent, suppress, and protect the environment, human wellbeing, and assets against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

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

Understanding the needs and gaps within organisations involved in wildfire management will open up new avenues that will support the fire management effort.

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.

For More interesting articles related to the Forestry Industry, visit the following websites / online magazines



https://www.forestrysouthafrica.co.za/tip-mag/
www.forestryexplained.co.za

https://saforestryonline.co.za

SA Forestry ONLINE

https://www.woodbizafrica.co.za/

WoodBiz Africa
MAY 2024 / ISSUE 37
Forestry / Biomass / Logyard / Sawmilling / Timber / Boards / Furniture

https://forestry.co.za/

FORESTRY IN SOUTH AFRICA

SAIF Contact Details

	Name	Email
President	Prof. Bruce Talbot	president@saif.org.za
Vice-president	Dr. Christopher Komakech	christopher.komakech@gmail.com>
Past-president	Braam du Preez	past-president@saif.org,za
National secretary	Ms. Intsia Kriel	admin@saif.org.za/ saif@mweb.co.za
SF Journal Editor	Dr. David Everard	drdavideverard@gmail.com
KwaZulu-Natal	Sinuka Lelethu (Acting)	kzn@saif.org.za
Gauteng	Vacant	gauteng@saif.org.za
Mpumalanga	Vacant	admin@saif.org.za
Southern Cape	Dr. Tatenda Mapeto	southern-cape@saif.org.za
Western Cape	Vacant	western-cape@saif.org.za
DFFE representative	Vacant	

August Birthdays

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

September Birthdays

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS			
01 Sep	TIAAN POOL	16 Sep	WYNAND DE SWARDT
05 Sep	BRETT DUSTAN	17 Sep	PHILLIP CROFT
07 Sep	DAVID JAMES	18-Sep	MARTIN HILL
11 Sep	PAUL CLEGG	19-Sep	GREG FULLER
12 Sep	SAMANTHA BUSH	20-Sep	EUGENE KRAAMWINKEL
13 Sep	PIETER VAN NIEKERK	26-Sep	TIENIE VAN VUUREN
13 Sep	OLIVER BOSCH		

Happy Birthday and congratulations to all our members who celebrate(d) their birthdays in July 2024 as well as those members who will celebrate their birthdays in August 2024.

The Southern African Institute of Forestry

Handbook order form

The Southern African Institute of Forestry publishes three industry specific handbooks.

I would like to order:

☐ **South African Forestry Handbook**
Price: SAIF members: R400
Non members: R500

☐ **Fire Manager's Handbook on Veld and Forest Fires**
Price: SAIF members: R300
Non members: R400

☐ **There's Honey in the Forest**
Price: SAIF members: R100
Non members: R150

International orders must contact the Secretariat for a quote due to currency and postage fluctuations.

A bulk discount of 10% applies on orders of 10 or more copies.
Price includes VAT.

An extra R50 per book will be charged if we need to courier the book to you.

I am ☐ a member ☐ non-member of the SAIF.

Name	
Company	
Postal address	
Contact number	
Email address	

Bank details: Nedbank Branch code: 169745 Account: 1697009913 Account name: SAIF
Email proof of payment to: saif@mweb.co.za.