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Editorial

Women's Day and Month

We once again have the opportunity to celebrate National Women's Day on Saturday the 9th of August 2025 and to celebrate the role of women in the forestry and forest products industry.

It was also significant as announced at the recent Southern African Institute of Forestry AGM that three of the top forestry students of 2024 were in fact ladies! The SAIF would like to congratulate Ms. Thandeka Mnisi (University of Mpumalanga) , Ms. Anneke Joubert (Stellenbosch University) and Ms. Zizipho Mbanga (Fort Cox College) and obviously also Tholinhlhla Ndlovu(Nelson Mandela University: Saasveld) with their achievements. Read more about the top four students later in this Newsletter.

SIFSA in co-operation with Forestry South Africa (FSA) will host the "She is Forestry SA Webinar 2025" on Thursday the 7th of August. This will be the fifth celebration of this annual webinar and the theme "Mentor Me Initiative" will be launched as well.

For many years many people believed that forestry is a man's job/ business. The role of women in forestry for the past few decades are there for all of us to see that women can be very successful in forestry. Ladies, enjoy "your" day & month

The month of August is also characterised by transition from winter to spring and is usually a very windy month country wide. The notice and warning regarding the risk of veld and forest fires issued by York Timbers (see later in Newsletter), would therefore be very appropriate for most of South Africa. Please take care with any fires !



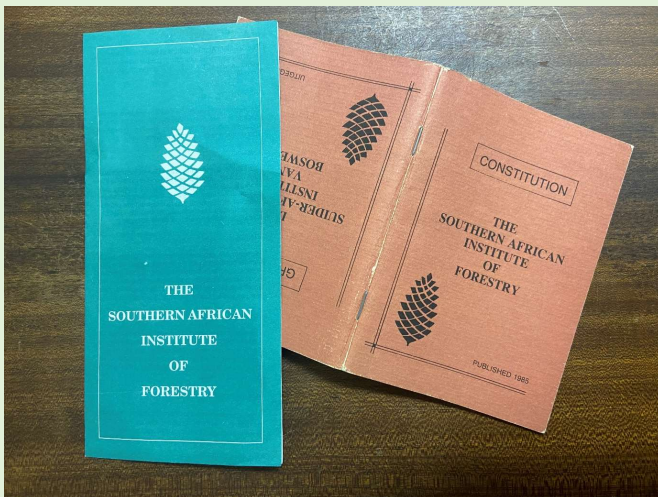
Biggest baobab at Skelmwater Reserve, Limpopo Province
Photo supplied by Georg von den Bussche



From the President's Desk

By Bruce Talbot

While we are all engaged in the forestry sector, our terms of reference no doubt differ somewhat. Working for a corporate or a contractor brings with it a range of different responsibilities and obligations, not one more or less than the other, but different, with different procedures and different consequences. In cleaning out an office in the Department of Forest and Wood Science here in Stellenbosch earlier this month, colleagues came across a heap of SAIF related documents from a bygone era that reminds us of how things once were. To start off, the SAIF constitution was published in a handy pocket-sized format so members could always have it near at hand. Corporate membership in 1985 was R 25.00 while students paid R 6.00 and Pensioners, R 7.00. If one compounds the R 25.00 over the 40 years since then, you need an average rate of almost 10% to get to today's membership fee of just under R 1000. Inflation was quite hairy in the 1980's, around 17% at some stage but has since been much more stable. What doesn't seem quite in proportion though, is that one could get bottle of Tassenberg and a plastic 'glass' for R 5.00 in a student bar in the late 80's at least, and that didn't seem overly expensive at the time, so maybe our membership fees have increased a bit more disproportionately since then.



What is a bit of a hard reminder though, is the Code of Ethics, a beautifully printed A3 document that was sent to all new members in the SAIF, some of you may still have it hanging somewhere. Interestingly, topping the list is *having the public interest at heart*, as foresters we must often have public interest at heart, but one

could wonder at the many conflicting public interests that modern day South Africa deals with. A member should then undertake to *order their conduct in such a manner as to uphold the dignity and reputation of the profession*. This seems not overly difficult to meet with a little effort. Next, one undertakes to *strive to disseminate an understanding of forestry and counter the spread of untrue assertions concerning forestry*. This is probably easier for someone working in a research or educational institution, but all of us do play an important role here. It is important to know one's facts and be confident in using them appropriately. On the other hand, one can experience foresters tenaciously refuting assertions that are not necessarily untrue, but perhaps just used out of context. A lot can be said for acknowledging issues that are contentious and can be better argued for from a different angle. Next, one undertook to *not issue statements on forestry policy without indication on whose authority one is acting*. One can only imagine some of the incidents or discussions that precipitated the need for this undertaking. It certainly sounds like there were some disagreements and unhappiness. Then one should *refrain from publicly expressing an opinion on technical matters without informing oneself of all the facts* - which sounds like a good principle in theory but on that is never easy to live up to. The list goes on - *not attempt to supplant another professional forest or wood scientist, not undertake work for which my education and experience do not render me competent, or not use a salaried position to compete unfairly with other professional forest or wood scientist*. In total, about 25 points are used to make the rules very clear to any newcomer into the branch. So whatever terms of reference you currently use in your job (or in your retirement) it is unlikely that they are quite as prescriptive as what we used to have in the SAIF. Times have changed and society has more or less graciously moved along. However, a letter from the President of SAIF to the branch chairs in 1992 refers to 'the need to adapt to change to save the existence of the Institute, so here, little has changed.

Anyhow, anyone interested in gaining insight into some of the more 'historic' SAIF documents is welcome to get in touch.

Wishing you all well for the August winds, and please don't forget to support this week's Women in Forestry event.



What the Hadedas saw...

By Rob Thompson

If we are entirely honest as forestry practitioners, we would have to be the first to admit that the practice of forestry does alter the environment, limits biodiversity and changes the original landscape significantly. We can, and do, argue however, that the changes that we induce are “softer” than most other landscape changes. Here I’m thinking of developing cityscapes, major roadworks, industrialization, intensive agriculture et al.

So as a lifelong forester, what has made me think again of these fundamentals?

Would you believe a Hadedas?

Yes, the ubiquitous and raucous Hadedas or flying bin-rat that everyone loves to hate. In my case it was not Hadedas’s in general that caused a deep thought process, but rather a single particular Hadedas which, as per an old classic western movie became known to us as “She with no name”.

Around 14 years ago a namesake, but no relative, Dr Lindi Thompson (Ornithologist) requested permission to erect mist nets in our garden in order to capture Cape White Eyes for a metabolic study she was engaged in. During the capture process literally every avian visitor to our garden over a few days was netted and ringed along with two resident Hadedas.

For months thereafter, a bird without a ring was a scarce sight. Gradually however, time and circumstance dictated a steady decline in ring sightings until eventually “She with no name” was the sole visible remnant of the catch and release exercise. We know she was a “she” as she was regularly seen doing the dirty with a partner on our lawn. “She with no name” became a daily visitor, who got us into the habit of feeding her a daily ration of dog blocks in the evening.

This led to her establishing a nest in the Natal Mahogany close to our bedroom window and inviting her extended family and friends in to roost every night. From that point onwards there was no reason to set an alarm...and they say roosters start up early in the morning!

“She with no name” literally had two sets of youngsters a year, every year, for fourteen years.

She’d introduce us to the youngsters, and they’d hang around a few months before flying off towards their own destinies. It was during these observations that environmental realities became ever more apparent. Her 14 years with us were filled with paradox and drama. In her latter years she lived through the period of Covid and really thrived on the quietness of the neighbourhood. She became stressed and distant during the 2021 unrest with gunshots and smoke prevailing. Then came the devastating storms of 2021 and 2023 which trashed her roost, killed her kids and caused her to disappear for months, only to return bedraggled and eager to resume a daily dog block feed. Electric fences that appeared in the neighbourhood took their toll of another two of her offspring and a cold spell caused an almost fully fledged youngster to have to be rescued and rushed off to a local wildlife rehab centre due to exposure. Ja, it was just a Hadedas...don’t judge me!

We often watched her and her family march up and down the lawn systematically annihilating the few remaining crickets left available. This gave us the sense that this group relied on our lawn for sustenance possibly given that so many open areas in the neighbourhood and beyond had been paved and developed. A major part of her foraging area on the race course next door for instance, had become a major indoor swimming arena, thereby putting paid to a rich insect repository.

Anthropomorphic influence on wildlife remnants is not often noticeable unless one has a specific relationship or interest in something in the natural realm. Daily interaction with “She with no name” was making us inherently aware of just how climate change, human habits and encroachment and habitat change influence other species. Humans as apex inhabitants of this planet generally have scant regard for this influence and continue to “develop” to the eventual detriment of all (including themselves).

My recent articles have made mention of high-tech developments in Forestry research illustrating the unlimited extent of human intellect.



Boundless resourcefulness across infinite disciplines has placed humankind as the apex inhabitant of planet Earth and has contributed to an exponential population growth curve looking all the more like an out-of-control rocket careening towards an inevitable and destructive collision with a distant asteroid.

If one supposes that the birthdates of the readership of this newsletter spans the period 1950 through to 2025, it is horrifying to note a population growth from 2.5 billion souls to well over 8.2 billion! In “She without a name’s” lifespan, the worlds population grew exponentially by some 2 billion people. That statistic has to resonate and cause some alarm bells to ring!

Estimations are that converse to human growth, the Earth loses circa 66 000 tonnes of atmospheric mass per annum so...simply put...humans are rapidly running out of space!

This one sees on a daily basis. Anyone noticed the traffic lately, or cities creeping inexorably into already dense suburbs? As foresters we experience ingress of people, litter, occupants, vehicles into our plantations literally every day. What we as humans don’t see enough of are innovations to try and halt or mitigate resource and habitat loss and to regulate human intersocial behaviour. Education curricula on all levels are also severely lacking in environmental protection and conservation awareness programmes. One horrifying and little-known statistic that I recently read is that the world’s insect population has decreased by 73% since circa 1980.

Rather than taking note of these declines, as apex beings, we choose rather to walk around with thumbs glued to a non-bio degradable mobile keyboard, pouting into a screen, all whilst buying bananas (already protected in a natural and biodegradable skin), packaged in durable plastic wrapper that will ultimately be discarded into the depleted landscape, take nigh on 700 years to degrade into microplastics to further infiltrate and irreversibly disrupt essential life sustaining systems.

So, how clever are we actually? OK...so I feel much better after that rant!

One of the last sightings we had of “She with no name” was of her frantically flying off to escape the terrifying stimulus of an inbound Hadededa with a plastic bag

wrapped around its leg.

The sound of the bag flapping in the wind as the carrier approached landing, terrified those foraging on the ground and they all took off sounding alarm calls. The scene was highly amusing but highly poignant at the same time. A Hadededa afflicted with a discarded plastic bag is really something that should not occur in nature in an ideal world, but no doubt is a common occurrence in reality.

A few days after this event we discovered “She without name” deceased, below her nest in the Mahogany tree. It was a bittersweet moment. Bitter in the sense that our natural mentor would no longer patrol our lawn but sweet in the fact that she had met her end via natural causes. We had known her for 14 years and who knows how old she was at time of ringing. I would guess that that was not a bad innings for a Hadededa. She had overcome a lot of adversity and had survived.

“She without name” saw a lot in her lifetime. We were fortunate to inherently gain from her experiences and contemplate the reasons for the occurrence of such. Thinking back on our interaction, her lifetime was a metaphor of human : environmental interaction. Not always pretty, not always sustainable, but always real.

You and I will never be able to change the pace at which humankind is destroying the environment. What we can do is remain curious about that which is going on around us and actively try to better understand the dynamics unfolding.

Useful metaphors are to be found everywhere and deep analysis of such makes our life so much more interesting and worthwhile despite the trajectory we are forced to take.

What the Hadededa saw can teach us so much if we are receptive to learn!



<https://www.loggingon.net/>



Giant Trees at Harkerville

By Georg von dem Bussche

Walking the Harkerville Hiking trail at the Garden Route, just 15 kilometres east of the coastal town of Knysna, you will reach a grove of very tall trees at the exit from the forest after crossing the lush Harkerville indigenous forest. A signboard at the foot of the trees read as follows:

“This stand of magnificent trees was planted in 1925 as one of a few experimental plots throughout the country. The biggest tree in this plot has a diameter of 180 cm, which is the largest recorded in this country for Redwoods, and it has a height of 33 meters. The tallest known Redwood in South Africa occurs at Grootvadersbos, near Heidelberg in the Western Cape, with a height 46 meters.

Californian Redwood is native to the West Coast of the United States of America, where it grows naturally in pure or mixed forests up to 100 meters tall with diameters of 4,5 meters or even more. They are also known as Giant Redwoods, being famous for their awe-inspiring size.”



Sequoia sempervirens (Redwoods)

{photo by G. von den Bussche}

The above photo of this stand of Redwoods shows clearly the damage, which was caused by the devastating veld fire of June 2017, which is known as the “Knysna Fire”. The blaze had jumped the extensive indigenous forest east of Knysna and after damaging the Redwood grove had burnt further along the coast all the way to Plettenberg Bay. Redwoods are however reasonably resistant to veld fires, because of their thick bark. It is therefore a blessing that that this group of trees survived, with one dead exception. The branches of other trees were damaged in the fire, which is a clear indication of the height of the fierce flames.

The clump of Redwood trees at Harkerville and Grootvadersbos are not the only plantings, which were experimentally carried out by the then Department of Forestry during the 1920,s; magnificent examples can be admired at Hogsback in the Eastern Cape for example.

As this group of trees at Harkerville has reached the age of 100 years it is opportune to elaborate more about this special species, which is protected worldwide under the IUCN declaration as “endangered”. *Sequoia sempervirens*, commonly known as “California Redwoods”, is the only known species of the genus *Sequoia* and the only known naturally occurring hexaploidy conifer. Trees in their natural environment at the Redwood and Humboldt National Park are 110 meters tall with diameters up to 5 meters. The oldest tree on record is supposed to be over 2200 years old. The annual rings counted at a log at the Humboldt National Park has 2267 rings. (Reference: “The Gymnosperm Database” edited by Christopher J Earl, 2025).

Besides the ancient *Sequoia sempervirens* two other species, also each having only one species per genus, can be mentioned in this context. They are the *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, commonly called Sierra Redwood, which occurs at a few groves at the Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks. The General Grant and General Sherman trees are well known examples of this species. The oldest known tree is over 3000 years old ! This species is also thicker in diameter than the California or Coastal Redwood, which is however taller than the Sierra Redwoods.



The third species of this exclusive group is *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, commonly called Dawn Redwood. This deciduous conifer was believed to be extinct but was rediscovered in China and is now planted as an ornamental tree all over the world. All three species are single representatives of one genus each. They used to belong to the Taxodiaceae family but have now been added to the larger Cupressaceae family. (Reference: Colin Tudge, 20025, *The Secret Life of Trees*, Pinguin Books, page 111).



Photo of *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*
[\(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metasequoia>\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metasequoia)

Lastly it can be mentioned that even though the Harkerville now 100-year-old Redwoods are situated on State Forest Land the concession-holders MTO (Mountain to Ocean) and the Parks Board claim that they are the custodians. At least it can be assumed that they are well looked after.

Rare sighting: Oupoot spotted in Karatara

This was the headline in a recent edition of the Knysna-Plett Herald on the 24th of July 2025.



KARATARA NEWS - A rare sighting of Oupoot, the last known elephant of the Knysna forest, has sparked excitement after a video showing the lone elephant roaming farmland in the Karatara region went viral on social media this week.

The video, captured by local farmer, Oubaas Fourie on Thursday, 17 July, shows the elephant calmly moving through his property - a rare event, given Oupoot's elusive nature and the declining visibility of forest elephants in the region over the past decades.

In response, Phokela "PK" Lebea, SANParks Regional Communications Manager, confirmed that they are aware of the video and is working to verify the sighting.

"We are in contact with our rangers in the area to confirm whether it is indeed Oupoot roaming in Karatara, which is highly likely," said Lebea.

"SANParks is currently undertaking a comprehensive risk assessment process to guide any future decisions regarding the protection of the Knysna elephant. At this stage, the process is still ongoing." SANParks has encouraged the public to celebrate the presence of Knysna's last remaining elephant responsibly, by not revealing her location or trying to track her.

SANParks says such actions could harm the elephant as well as those pursuing her.

Both officials and the public have expressed concern for her safety.



SAIF Forester of the Year : Jeremy Carr



Jeremy Carr joined NCT some 20 years back as a forester in the NCT Piet Retief satellite office. He rapidly established his credentials as a trustworthy and effective forester and was promoted to District Manager of the whole Vryheid District (including Piet Retief and Mpumalanga) when the incumbent Manager retired. Jeremy worked tirelessly at increasing the trade volume through the District and by the time he retired (February 2025), he had managed to set a record volume through the area under his jurisdiction. Vryheid District had become the primary wattle source area for NCT and provided the stability and reliability of supply that NCT critically required.

Jeremy established strong personal and working relationships with his suppliers and provided co-operative based services reliably and effectively to all of his farmer members. Farmers are invariably under considerable financial stress and are reliant on market access. Jeremy developed a tact that served him well in the District. He was fair and purposeful and was able to communicate both good and bad news to members without severing established relationships.

Making his achievement even more worthy of note is the fact that Jeremy's office is remote and he was generally necessitated to work independently without readily available support or accompaniment.

Jeremy's retirement earlier in the year saw multiple sad farewells from his members and many accolades from his colleagues, all sad to see him leave. He certainly does leave a void in NCT and as per my analogy in the article I wrote, Jeremy is a Plus Tree that will be difficult to replace in the stand. It has been a privilege to work with Jeremy over all these years.

The positive and irreplaceable legacy that Jeremy has left NCT, is actually the true focus for this reward. There is no doubt that Jeremy stands his man against many worthy individuals in the industry. The Forester of the Year Award is a true accolade and will serve to illustrate to Jeremy the esteem in which the industry held him .



Photograph of Rob Thompson handing over the Forester of the Year Award to Jeremy Carr , taken at the NCT Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday the 30th of July 2025.

Jeremy is surely a worthy recipient of this reward and we would like to wish him a pleasant retirement.



SHE IS FORESTRY SA WEBINAR: 7 AUGUST 2025

The Program

Item	Description	Timing	Item	Description	Timing
OPENING	Welcome to the 5 th She Is Forestry SA Webinar	09:00	BACK-TO-BODY	Paper Drive	10:20
	Hosts Bethobele Ntshingis, SPSA Director & Chair Katy Johnson, SPSA Webinar Coordinator			Introducing Mentorship Concept & Speakers Katy Johnson & Bethobele Ntshingis	10:30
	Facilitator Jacqui Meyer, Forestry Consultant			TEDTalk One: Resilience and Grit: Stories & Strategies for Overcoming Obstacles and Maintaining Motivation Nelly Ndlovu, Mondi Zimlele CEO	10:40
5 YEARS ON	Five Years in Five Minutes Kholo Mavimbela, SPSA Director & Coordinator	09:10	MENTOR ME TALKS	TEDTalk Two: Mentorship and Sponsorship: The Distinction Between the Two and How to Seek Out Both in the Workplace Mangweni Nkomo, Sappi Divisional Environmental Manager	10:55
	Five Years that has Impacted Hundreds of Lives Julia Rees, SPSA Director & Treasurer	09:20		TEDTalk Three: Navigating Gender Bias Ntshingis Lungeni, MTD Group Chief Stakeholder Relations Officer	11:10
KEYNOTE SPEAKER	Introducing the Keynote Speaker Kholo Mavimbela, SPSA Director & Coordinator	09:30			Q&A Session – Hosted by Katy Johnson
	Keynote Address Dr Feleang Yende, FFSM Seta CEO	09:40			
	Thank You Inene Mthabehle, SPSA Director	10:00			
PAMS SA SPONSORED COMFORT BREAK – 10:10			FSA SPONSORED LUNCH BREAK – 11:40		

The Speakers

Keynote Speaker
Dr Feleang Yende
FFSM Seta
CEO

Mentor Me TEDtalks
Bethobele Ntshingis
SPSA
Divisional Environmental
Manager
Ntshingis Lungeni
MTD
Group Chief Stakeholder
Relations Officer

Webinar Hosts
Bethobele Ntshingis
SPSA
Divisional Environmental
Manager
Katy Johnson
Forestry South Africa
Communication
Consultant

SIFSA Role Models
Trudy Sechelebe
Sapfi Forest
Certification
Manager
Nosibo Khosha
Mondi
Junior GIS Analyst

Mentor Me Guest Speakers
Amy Dlamathandini
Jampana Marketing Ltd
Company Director
Crystal Daniels
Centre for Human Health
& Human Performance,
Psychology & Wellbeing
Intern Counselling Psychologist
Jacqui Meyer
Life Coach
Khamisoa Khosa
Microcity
Tree Improvement Specialist

Role Model Panel
Leeti Mthosi
NSI Forestry SA
Founder

Treasurer
Julia Rees
Design Pines
Owner/Director

Secretary
Nelly Mulaqi
She Is Forestry SA
Director

Coordinator
Makhosazana Mavimbela
Forest Sector Cluster
Council
Executive Director
Inene Mthabehle
Department of
Forestry, Fisheries & the
Environment
Deputy Director, Sector
Leisure & Capacity
Development
Mongweni Leshe
Department of Forestry,
Fisheries & the
Environment
Chief Director
Forestry Operations
Nobhenhla
Bathobele-Owensweacht
Shamwani Consultancy
CEO

Forestry In Focus



The latest edition of Forestry in Focus published by Forestry South Africa is now available on their website

Top Forestry Student : University of Mpumalanga

Thandeka Jullecsia Mnisi



Thank you once again for recognition and I am honoured to be acknowledged.

Where are you originally from (town and province)? I am originally from Bushbuckridge (ka Kumana) in Mpumalanga.

How did you hear about or decided to study forestry? I was introduced to forestry through my own curiosity, having grown up in a village where tree cutting was a normal part of life. This sparked my interest in learning how forests can be used responsibly and sustainably.

Where did you study? I am currently studying at the University of Mpumalanga, where I am doing my third year of Bachelor of Science in Forestry and tutoring second-year forestry students.

What sort of job would you like to work in the future? In future, I aspire to work as a forest biometrician using data and models to support sustainable forest management and planning.

Any advice to scholars considering forestry studies? My advice to scholars considering forestry is to remember that forestry is more than just trees — it's about climate, people, policy, and the future of our planet.



Top Forestry Student : Stellenbosch University

Anneke Joubert



Where are you originally from (town and province)?

Originally born and bred in Pretoria, but grew up in the small town of Heidelberg (the one in Gauteng).

How did you hear about or decided to study forestry?

Forestry as a career choice was a series of unpredictable interventions which I can only attribute God Himself starting with a YouTube video titled "Amazing Forestry Machines!!" and ending in high school chemistry results that lead the engineering department concluding that for the sake of the greater good I should probably not pursue Civil Engineering as was my original idea. Queue the Stellenbosch University admin ladies advising that I try for my second option, Forestry.

Where did you study? Stellenbosch University.

What are you currently doing? Four years and countless adventures later I am now currently working for SAPPI as an FEIT (Forest Engineer in Training) paired with one of their harvesting foresters, David Keyser who is teaching me the ins and outs regards all things Harvesting and Roads related.

What sort of job would you like to work in the future? As far as near future career aspirations go, harvesting forester is definitely more alluring than silviculture forester. And being who I am, enthusiastic and optimistic aspirations of changing the world are never far of when planning the far future. How that plays out remains to be seen but I am sure I will find an area in the forestry sector that provides ample opportunity to push the limits of what we think are possible.

Any advice to scholars considering forestry studies? The three main pieces of immortal wisdom passed to me over the course of vacation work and now my actual work career are as follows: 1) You cannot change the world in a day, but every step in the right direction counts. 2) Dream bigger than practical, aim higher than possible. But stay down to earth and remember to be present in the here and now. 3) Most importantly Though: Every tree, is a lavatory.

Top Forestry Student : NMU , George Campus

Tholinhlanhla Ndlovu



Where are you originally from (town and province)?

I was born in Greytown in a rural area called Eshane. When I was twelve we moved to Pietermaritzburg in the area called Mafunze.

How did you hear about or decided to study forestry?

I heard about forestry from Mr Xolani Colvelle an ICFR Technical Research Forester, after years of trying to get employment using my first qualification BSc Agricultural Economics obtained at UKZN 2015.

Where did you study? I studied at UKZN between the years 2009 and 2014, where I started on the Science foundation program due to the entry point system and that I'm from disadvantage school background (Langalakhe High School Q3 level). After I received my qualification in 2015, I was in and out of temporary employment until I decided to go back to school. I then studied a Diploma in Forestry from 2022 to 2024 at Nelson Mandela University.

What are you currently doing? I am currently doing an internship program at Forestry South Africa (FSA).

What sort of job would you like to work in the future? In the near future, I can be happy if I become a permanent staff member here at FSA. I also like to become a field forester if and when the opportunity presents itself but in the long run, I wish to have my own operational contractor.

Any advice to scholars considering forestry studies? For scholars who are considering forestry studies I'll advice them to be at their best behaviour because this industry is small, almost like everyone knows everyone, and it is well integrated. Be willing to unlearn and learn because not everything is in black and white, network more cause you don't know what the future hold. Lastly, respect your colleagues because they are your best aid you can ever get.



Top Forestry Student : Fort Cox

Zizopho Mbanga

(Photo unavailable)

Where are you originally from (town and province)?

I am originally from Matatiele, Eastern Cape.

How did you hear about or decided to study forestry?

I first heard about forestry from a friend who also studied it, which motivated me to do my own research, and I found the field to be incredibly interesting.

Where did you study?

I studied my Diploma in Forestry at Fort Cox Agriculture and Forestry Training Institute, and I am currently pursuing my Advanced Diploma at the same institution.

What sort of job would you like to work in the future?

At present, I am dedicated to completing my studies and gaining more practical experience to prepare for my future career.

In the future, I aspire to become an enumeration forester, as I believe this role will allow me to contribute directly to sustainable forestry management and conservation.

Any advice to scholars considering forestry studies?

To fellow students considering forestry studies, I advise staying curious, seeking mentorship, and gaining practical experience—these efforts will deepen your understanding and open doors to exciting career opportunities in the forestry sector.

I believe that there is a need for more practical training and exposure to real-world forestry challenges to better prepare students for the demands of the sector. Overall, I am eager to develop my skills further and make a meaningful impact in the forestry industry.



Did You Know?

Sustainable forestry as a formal concept dates back to 18th-century Germany—specifically to 1713, when Hans Carl von Carlowitz, a German mining administrator, published a groundbreaking book called *Sylvicultura Oeconomica*.



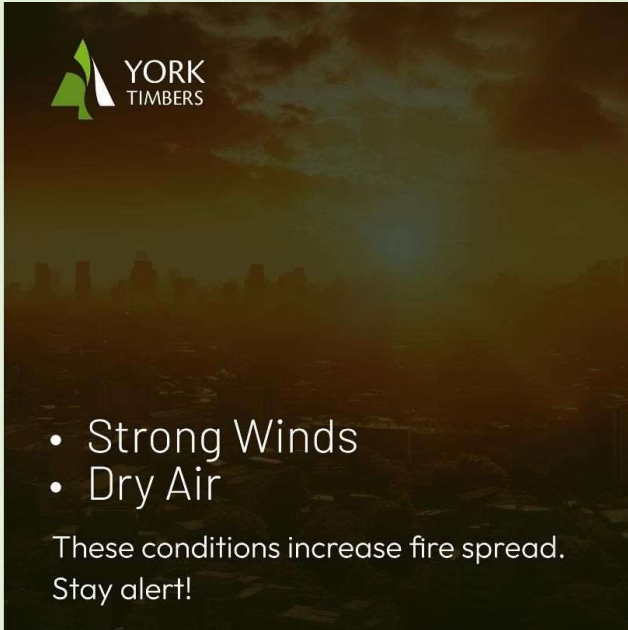
In this book, Carlowitz argued that forests should be managed in a way that ensured they could regenerate and provide wood indefinitely. This was revolutionary at the time because Europe—especially mining regions like Saxony—was facing severe timber shortages.

His idea? “Nachhaltigkeit”—a German word meaning “sustainability”—became the foundation for modern sustainable forestry and even broader environmental policy.

So, while the term "sustainability" feels modern, the practice began over 300 years ago!



Veld Fire Alert!



YORK TIMBERS

- Strong Winds
- Dry Air

These conditions increase fire spread.
Stay alert!

Dry air and strong winds increase the risk of runaway fires. Let's protect our forests and communities:

- Report fires immediately
- Clear debris around your property
- Don't burn trash or grass
- Never toss cigarette butts out your car window

Stay alert. Stay safe.

Report fires: 0860 663 473

SAWS : Seasonal Forecast

https://www.weathersa.co.za/Documents/SeasonalForecast/SCOLF202507_05082025084356.pdf



South African Weather Service

Seasonal Climate Watch

August to December 2025

Date issued: 05 August 2025

1. Overview

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is firmly in a neutral state and is predicted to be in a neutral state for the foreseeable future. ENSO, however, has limited influence on the South Africa during the winter seasons and is not expected to have a significant impact.

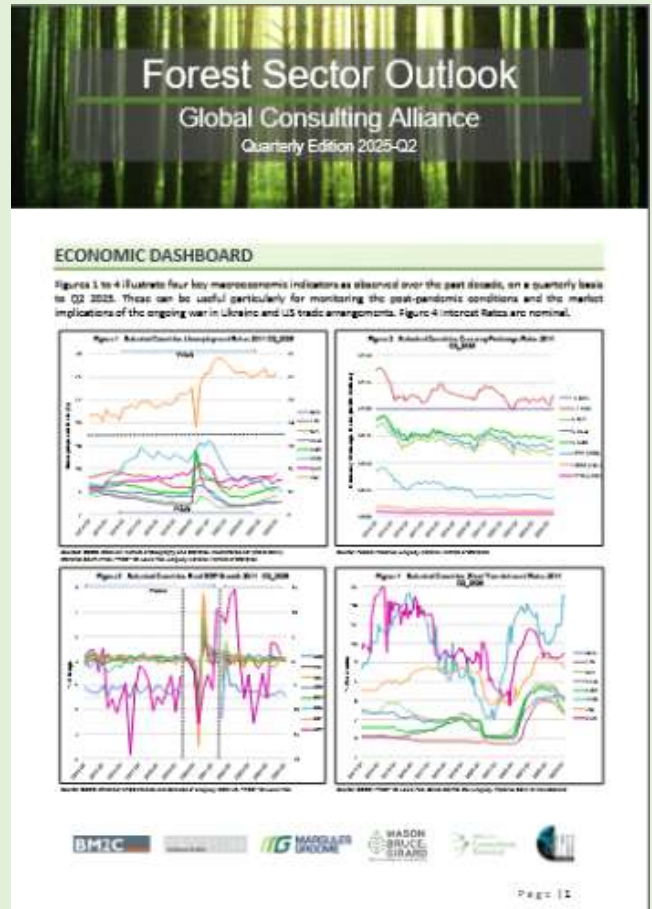
With the start of the spring and early summer seasons, the eastern parts of the country normally start receiving significant rainfall. During early- and mid-spring the eastern and south-eastern areas of the country are expected to receive above-normal rainfall with most other areas expected to be below-normal. During the late-spring season, however, most areas of the country are expected to receive below-normal rainfall.

Minimum and maximum temperatures are largely expected to be above-normal for the most parts during the spring seasons.

The SAWS will continue to monitor the weather and climate conditions and provide updates on any future assessments that may provide more clarity on the current expectations for the coming season.

Forest Sector Outlook

Published by Margules Groome



Forest Sector Outlook

Global Consulting Alliance
Quarterly Edition 2025-Q2

ECONOMIC DASHBOARD

Figures 1 to 4 illustrate four key macroeconomic indicators as observed over the past decade, on a quarterly basis to Q2 2025. These can be useful particularly for monitoring the post-pandemic conditions and the market implications of the ongoing war in Ukraine and US trade arrangements. Figure 4 interest rates are nominal.

Figure 1: Relative Domestic Consumption (Billion R, 2015=100)
Figure 2: Relative Domestic Savings (Billion R, 2015=100)
Figure 3: Relative Domestic Investment (Billion R, 2015=100)
Figure 4: Relative Domestic Real Trade Balance (Billion R, 2015=100)

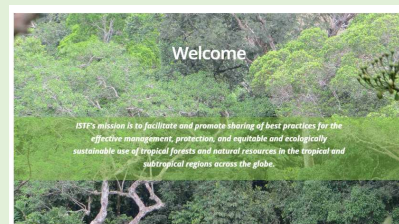
Logos: BMC, MARGULES GROOME, WATSON BRUCE STRAND

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<https://margulesgroome.com/publications/forest-sector-outlook-q2-2025/>

International Society of Tropical Foresters

Founded in the 1950s in response to a worldwide concern for the fate of tropical and subtropical forests, the International Society of Tropical Foresters is committed to the protection, wise management and rational use of the world's tropical forests.



<https://tropicalforesters.org/>



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—



The following members celebrate their birthdays in August



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
06 Aug	SAMKELISIWE MBELE	19 Aug	NICO ERASMUS
07 Aug	WARREN HEATHMAN	19 Aug	DIEK VAN DER ZEL
07 Aug	MANDY ALLPASS	28 Aug	KEN LEISEGANG
08 Aug	MARTIN VAN EIJK	28 Aug	FLIC BLAKEWAY
09 Aug	ANDIE IMMELMAN	29 Aug	TERRY NEWTON
12 Aug	JACOB CROUS	31 Aug	JOHN HUGHES
12 Aug	CLIVE MATTISON	31 Aug	STEFAN DU PLESSIS



The following members will be celebrating their Birthdays in September



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 Sept	TIAAN POOL	13 Sept	PIETER VAN NIEKERK
01 Sept	NKOSINATHI THWALA	16 Sept	WYNAND DE SWARDT
05 Sept	BRETT DUSTAN	17 Sept	PHILLIP CROFT
07 Sept	DAVID JAMES	18 Sept	MARTIN HILL
11 Sept	PAUL CLEGG	19 Sept	GREG FULLER
12 Sept	SAMANTHA BUSH	26 Sept	TIENIE VAN VUUREN
12 Sept	JACQUES DE VILLIERS		

The SAIF would like to wish every member who celebrate his/ her birthday in July and August, a very Happy Birthday and congratulations with reaching another milestone. Thank you for your continued support and God bless for the next year ahead.





The Southern African Institute of Forestry

Handbook order form

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

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South African Forestry Handbook

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