

Southern African Institute of Forestry

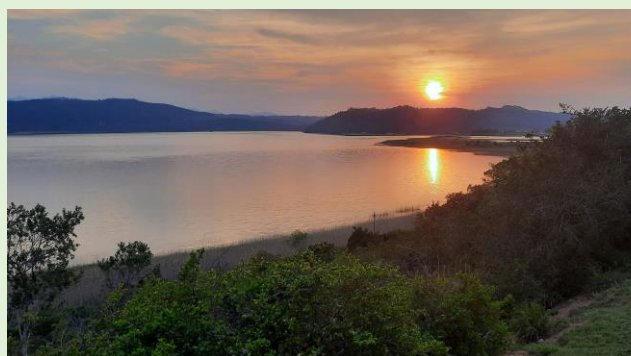


Delivering a professional service to forestry

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SAIF Calendar : Dec. 2022 : **A New Day : Sunrise over Swartvlei** : Braam du Preez (Southern Cape Branch)

From the President's Desk

A time to reflect and to look forward

As the year 2022 rapidly draws to a close and most of us are winding down to take a breather over the festive season, it is a good time to reflect on the past 12 months and also to look ahead.

It was another topsy turvy year for forestry and the forest products industry in South Africa. I firmly believe that foresters are some of the most resilient and adaptive people on the planet. I think that it has a lot to do with the long-term nature of the industry where you have to plant a tree today and only harvest it in 8 to 25 years from now. I found the following quote in a very recent article but not in a forestry related context but in a Newsletter of a Fire learning network ! We as foresters also know that fires probably pose the single biggest threat to our forestry operations. The article is titled "A pessimist's Guide to Functional Hope".

I take the entire paragraph directly from the article : "A 19th century sermon by theologian Hyacinthe Loyson contends that *"These trees which he plants, and under whose shade he shall never sit, he loves them for themselves, and for the sake of his children and his children's children."* His words inspired the old adage that those who plant trees knowing they will never sit under their shade are blessed for doing so."

There is certainly a lot of truth in this quote coming from an article with a rather cynical title.

The article goes further in stating that fire is a long-term



game very similar to tree-planting. We can certainly echo these words as we know that fire protection and more specifically integrated fire management, is a long-term strategy. Similar to creating a safety culture and so-called behavioural-based safety in a company, fire management is not a quick fix. The article alluded to goes further by stating that “Restoring our relationship with fire and the land it burns on is not a journey with an end destination – it’s an ongoing process of adaptation to a changing world.”

We as South Africans certainly have a lot to be concerned and pessimistic about. We don’t need to look much beyond the power / energy crisis , the upcoming ANC conference, the unacceptable levels of crime and just pure downright deterioration and decline of our infrastructure. This is certainly enough reason to become despondent and very negative about the future prospects for our beloved country.

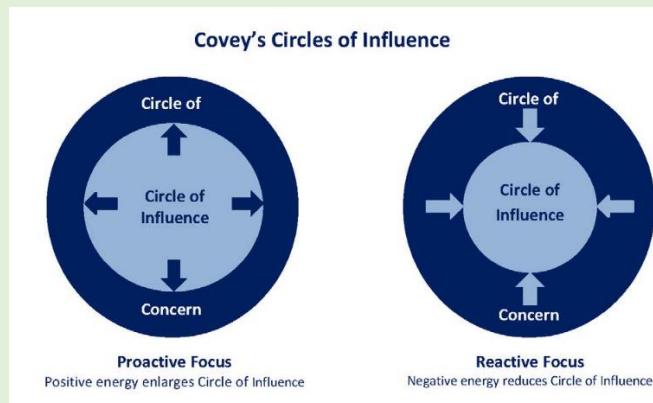
Like foresters, most South Africans have proved to be resilient and innovative over the years and able to face and solve many crises despite the crooked politicians who do not serve their citizens but are only there for self-interest.



Credit unknown

As can be seen from this cartoon, one can easily get carried away by circumstances around you that you can become totally overwhelmed by the chaos around you and forget to have a life. Many of our ancestors lived through similar and even worse times like WW1 , the Great Depression and WW2 .

Many years ago, I read the well-known book authored by Stephen Covey titled the “7 Habits of Highly Effective People” (1989) I cannot remember much from the book but the one message which stuck with me, was his reference to the “Circles of Concern”. In the book he distinguishes between **pro-active people** who focus on what they can do and can influence as opposed to **reactive people** who focus their energy on things beyond their control. Reactive people maintain an attitude of victimisation and blame.



Covey's Circle of Concern & Circle of Influence
www.the-dp.co.uk

I am thankful to say that the majority of people whom I met during my career in forestry and nature conservation, displayed the former rather than the latter attitude. I was truly privileged to have some of these persons with this Pro-active attitude who spend most of their time and energy in their “Circle of Influence”, as my mentors. They daily displayed this positive energy which is often contagious and positively influence people around them and they understand that the sum of the parts is greater than the individual parts.

Does this mean that we should just ignore what is wrong and bad in our Area of Concern ? Certainly not ! “Ostrich Politics” will not solve these problems and just make them disappear. We should however focus most of our time in the Circle of Influence in 2023!

Let us approach 2023 one day at a time and acknowledge that some days will be better than others. Continue to plant trees ! Carpe diem !

References:

A Pessimist’s Guide to Functional Hope
<https://fireadaptednetwork.org/a-pessimists-guide-to-functional-hope/>



See the Funny Side

By Rob Thompson

The other day, in an operational meeting, we were all tearing our hair out in frustration, given the seemingly never-ending array of challenges, from all quarters, that we have been encountering.

“Nothing is the same anymore” complained a colleague. Whilst the statement she made is really open ended and non-specific, it certainly got me thinking. In a previous article, a long way back, I used the analogy of a frog in a slowly heating pond, resulting in it not realizing that change is happening until its way too late.

Has change occurrence accelerated to the extent that the analogy ought to be revised to that of a frog leaping unawares into an already boiling pond which circumstance will not end well? (at least for the frog...the pond should be ok).

I guess we all reflect on recent occurrences as we rapidly approach year end and perhaps unwittingly fall into an overthinking mode when it comes to change and challenge? Or maybe not! There are some very clear and very weird signals that the world is in a very strange place currently.

Who would have thought that Morocco would be in the semifinals of the 2022 soccer World Cup? Certainly not those who were convinced, mistakenly, that Brazil could easily beat Croatia in the quarter finals! And what about the recent Sevens Rugby in the Cape? America relegating South Africa to fourth place. You read that right...America. A country, the general populace of which could not tell a rugby pitch from an ice hockey rink.

Whilst still exploring sporting matters ...remember the days when rugby referees took decisions? Now it's over to the TMO's and global Twitter video circulations to determine whether the action was appropriate to the regulation and if the decision taken was in keeping to the principles of the world oversight organization, and correctly aligned to the sensitivities of the players union and in full consideration of crowd alignments. OK, so I exaggerate, but the regulation of sport rules is no longer limited to within the realm of a blown whistle. With all of the sporting-based intrigue that abounds, it's a wonder that there are players with courage enough to emerge from the change rooms to play!

Speaking of change rooms, did you know that around a year ago there was an estimated 21 definitions for gender?

If that does not surprise, you then you will certainly be non-plussed to hear that they are now speaking of between 63 and 72 gender definitions. “So where are you heading with this?” you may ask. Well, in the context of rapid change, consider for one moment the example of the life of a teacher in a private girl's school such as the one at which my by now, very resilient, wife works. It's called a girl's school, is attended by girls but it's not a girl's school and girls are not recognized there. Learners are. Exactly the same situation occurs at what are still referred to as boy's schools but are not boys' schools and at which boy's are not recognized. OK, so there are a lot of very relevant levels to explore here, but my focus is on the experience of the teacher suddenly confronted by these still expanding levels and expected to instantaneously understand, apply and condone, without skipping the proverbial teaching beat. It really must be a bit like belly flopping down into the boiling cauldron!

A time old and effective way to temporarily escape and forget about reality has been to look towards the weather. Yeah right...what weather? We now have an annual series of extreme events that follow no particular pattern, but, contrive to impact as brutally as possible on the area of occurrence.

As I write, vast parts of Gauteng are under water, KZN rivers are in flood and the sea is a cesspool of sewage resulting from washed away reticulation pipes. Just prior to this deluge, we were all baking in a 35 degree C and higher, heat wave. Oh, and need I mention the runaway fires in the Cape? Nah, they always have fires, so they don't constitute a change illustration! The last official estimated time on the doomsday clock was 100 seconds to midnight. Our frog is teetering on the brink of the boiling pond!

Much to the mockery and scorn of the more robust, tanned right arm, 4X4 enthusiasts (think Ranger and Hilux) amongst whom I work, we purchased a Jimny. Initially making plans to do long road trips to outlandish and rugged terrain to test its mettle, we have come to realise now, that just the trip to work and back, puts the vehicle through paces far beyond that which it was designed for in 1st world Japan. Even some of our potholes have their own potholes making them prime 4X4 terrain. And that's even before we've left the freeway.

All of our timber hauliers agree that our road conditions have suddenly become nightmarish, particularly now that South Africa has become a critical coal exporter, via road and sea, to Europe. given a certain gas rich world leader suddenly invading his neighbour. Who would have thought in this day and age? Assuming cold water our frog dives in!

Further along the lines of change, our own President has recently discovered the pros and cons of using a couch for extensive foreign currency safe keeping. Our own government ethics committee is debating on how to instruct MP's to vote in the resultant impeachment process, from a party preservation perspective, and this while we enjoy the pleasures of level 6 load shedding and economic fallout.

So, the signals are showing us that rapid change is happening on all levels. Sport, work, personal, political, social, economic, climatical, leisure...literally any level that you can think of. That's the reality. We have landed in a really hot pond and it's really uncomfortable and unavoidable. Do we just allow ourselves to boil or can we do something?

Fortunately, the boiling pond is merely an analogy. We are not faced with immediate termination by boiling (we still have 100 seconds to go). As humans and particularly as South Africans, we can consciously adapt to changing circumstances in the pond in which we now find ourselves.

Developing an improved sense of humour for instance, is the first step towards a thicker and more resilient skin, capable of withstanding the frustration of change we encounter daily.

Focus on making a positive difference, even a small one daily, will likely make a reciprocal positive difference in your own life. The more positives, the more bearable our pond will become.

May you and yours have a wonderful and safe festive season. May you continue to see the funny side of our circumstances and may your positive contributions reward you all a hundredfold in the new year to come.

SAIF 2023 CALENDAR & PHOTO COMPETITION

We would like to congratulate the three winners of the Stihl products and everybody else who participated and were amongst those whose photos were selected for the 2023 SAIF Calendar.

The photos are truly outstanding and we should all be looking forward to receiving our 2023 calendars

The top 3 winners are as follows :

1. Madeleen Algera - MPU Branch - Prize: GTA 26 garden pruner
2. Gerrit Marais – MPU Branch – Prize: RE 100 PLUS Control high pressure cleaner
3. Marius Du Plessis - KZN Branch – Prize: SE 33 vacuum cleaner



The winner , Madeleen Algera (Specialist: Growth & Yield at SAFCOL, receiving her prize from Stihl



Shimmering Sun Rays Dancing through a Pine Stand : Lakenvlei Mpumalanga

RECENT EVENTS

SAIF / FSA Forestry Science Symposium 10 November 2022



The joint SAIF / FSA Forestry Science Symposium 2022 Science and Technology with the Theme **“Underpinning Sustainability”** was a great success and presentations delivered by some of South Africa’s primary scientists and experts in their individual fields were of a very high standard.

The on-line event was well attended by and the two chairpersons of the sessions , Dr. Ronald Heath and Wayne Jones acquitted them very well . The session chairs, speakers and those in attendance were unanimous in their support of the event and the intention is to present this every two years. The desire was also expressed for those in attendance to meet in person and have a face-to-face next time.

The symposium covered a wide variety of topics and speakers included Dr. Arnulf Kanzler who spoke on the science of tree breeding and we gained appreciation for the pioneering work done in the past and the exciting work and technology involved taking it to the next level.

Prof. Bernard Slippers from FABI’s presentation was titled “Implementing a National Tree Health Management System in South Africa” and we were once again alerted to the ongoing battle against pests and diseases threatening commercial forestry .

Prof Bruce Talbot from Stellenbosch University was the next speaker and his talk was titled “Precision Forestry: Driving Competitiveness” and he focussed primarily on harvesting systems and developments.

Ms Sunita Kalan from the Department of Science and Innovation was the next speaker who gave us a government perspective in her talk titled “Public Private Partnership in Research: A Key Enabler” .

Next up was prof. Joshua Louw from the George Campus of Nelson Mandela University whose talk was titled “ Building capacity: The Foundation for the Future” highlighting trends in forest -related employment and tertiary training and how NMU was positioning itself to meet these requirements in 2030.

Prof. Zander Myburg from Pretoria University delivered an interesting yet challenging presentation titled “Large-scale Sequencing of Forest Tree Genomics for Enhanced Growth, Resilience and Sustainability” going into the genetics

The presentation delivered by Dr. Jacob Crous was titled “Resource Sustainability : Key to our Sectors Future” was enlightening and confirmation of our responsibility to manage plantations sustainably through our practices and actions as to guarantee sustainable yields in future. Practices like “ mulching” if applied correctly, offers a good alternative to burning as the only option to reduce fire fuel loads.

The final speaker at the symposium was Dr. Tatenda Mapeto lecturer at Nelson Mandela University and the very relevant and important topic of her talk was “ The Role of Youth in a Sustainable Forestry Research Landscape”

Mr. Wayne Jones gave a very good summary of the day’s proceedings and thanked each presenter for their preparation and contribution to this first joint Forest Science Symposium hosted by SAIF and FSA.

We certainly look forward to the next Symposium and our sincere gratitude to Ronald and Wayne for taking the initiative and arranging the Symposium.



<https://www.forestrysouthafrica.co.za/forestry-science-symposium-2022>



Stories from Africa hope to inspire climate action

December 2, 2022



The 2023 [Climate Story Lab ZA](#) is excited to announce that nine creative projects from five African countries have been selected to participate in the Lab.

The 4-day residential lab brings together climate experts, activists, and creatives to develop powerful stories and build engagement strategies to inspire meaningful action to address the climate crisis.

Close to 100 projects from nine countries were submitted representing a broad range of genres including film, VR, literature, investigative journalism, poetry, performance, fashion, visual art, podcasts, dance, and social media.

Four projects were selected from South Africa, one from Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Mozambique, and a collaboration between SA and Zimbabwe as well as a South African team working in Uganda.

“We were struck by how many projects we received and how diverse they were in genre and creative approach. It’s clear that creatives are committed to addressing the climate crisis, in many instances without much institutional support,” says Miki Redelinghuys, CSLZA co-director and impact producer.

Selected projects that will attend the Lab in Cape Town, South Africa in January 2023 are:

Burning Rebellion by Well Worn Theatre Company (South Africa) is an ecological protest poem that gives voice to a profound sense of injustice, a rightful rage, and a fear of what is to come. Represented by Kyla Davis and Sanelisiwe Yekani (Directed by Joni Barnard featuring and written by Sanelisiwe Yekani, Lerato Sefoloshe, Mlindeli Zondi, Jaques De Silva, and Kyla Davis).

Chikukwa Custodians tells the story of Zeddy Chikukwa’s quest to regenerate indigenous practices of food growing in a remote mountainous region of Zimbabwe. The short documentary is produced by Mycelium Media Colab (South Africa/ Zimbabwe) and directed by Jacqueline van Meygaarden with the support of Rumbi Katedza as Zimbabwean co-producer.



A thrilling podcast series from the DRC – Congo en Panne by Radio Workshop follows the devastating impact of the Inga dam development for hydroelectricity on local communities. This four-part narrative series tells stories at the intersection of energy generation and human rights. Bob Yala is the lead reporter and producer, working with Amélie Guyot-Staal as impact support.

Set in the mystical Nyami Nyami region near Lake Kariba, The Conservationist tells the powerful story of Moreangels Mbizah, who has dedicated her life to restoring the balance between rural communities and nature. This is a documentary feature film by Mai Jai Films (Zimbabwe) directed and produced by Rumbi Katedza and co-produced by Siza Mukwedini.

Forest Spirits of AZIBO (South Africa) is an original African folk tale physical theatre storytelling experience created and directed by Naledi award-winning artist, Menzi Mkhwane performed by Sbusiso Mngqobi Mhlongo and Andile Vilakazi.

The village AZIBO lies near a sacred forest, which

comes under threat when a factory seeks to expand. The work is designed to teach a young audience (aged 7-13) about the climate crisis.

Namaqua – The Green Frontier is a short documentary film that tracks the impact of mining for green energy in the Northern Cape, South Africa. Directed by Haroon Gunn-Salie who collaborates with producer Alexandria Hotz from WoMin African Alliance, the film tells the story of the brave Namakwaland women who lead the charge against transnational corporations and the state.

Nakhodha and the Mermaid is a Virtual Reality (VR), mixed media project by YC Productions (Mozambique) with Yara Costa as creative director. This is a climate change story told through a love-chanting affair between a dhow sailor, the Nakhodha, and a mermaid, drawing attention to the imminent threat of rising sea levels that can destroy the coastal fishing communities.

Ada’s Harvest is a story of stubborn optimism. The 104-year-old Ada worked hard to make sure her son is educated. Today this is paying off as Prof Adipala leads a pan-African research team that seeks to marry science and traditional knowledge to build resilience against the climate crisis and find pathways to feeding the world. Filmed in Uganda by South African filmmaker, Jo Higgs, the feature documentary is produced by Liezel Vermeulen.

Ulwandle Lushile – Meeting the tide is an intimate short documentary about a group of fisherwomen in rural KwaZulu-Natal, who live on the doorstep of the world-renowned Isimangaliso Wetland Park. The film is directed by marine scientist, Tembisa Jordaan, who invites the women to share their indigenous knowledge and stories of survival amidst dwindling marine resources.

“Creative storytelling is a driving force of change and our intention is that the projects selected will help communicate the crisis and support movement building,” says Anita Khanna, CSLZA co-director and climate activist.

<https://thegreentimes.co.za/stories-from-africa-hope-to-inspire-climate-action/>

2 Billion New Trees: Suzano, Santander Launch Massive Planting Push in Brazil

The world’s largest pulp producer is among six companies aiming to plant millions of hectares of trees in Brazil, financed by the sale of carbon offsets.



AN area the size of Switzerland, made of protected trees. That’s the plan being hatched by a group of six companies that includes the world’s largest pulp producer Suzano and Spanish retail-banking giant Santander. More specifically, they’re proposing to plant and preserve a total of 4 million hectares (15,000 square miles) of trees in deforested parts of Brazil, financing the project by selling carbon offset credits on the voluntary market.

The companies involved—Suzano, Santander, Brazilian bank Itaú, the Netherlands’ Rabobank, Brazilian mining company Vale and Brazilian meatpacker Marfrig—are creating a new company called **Biomass**, which will start by identifying areas that have suffered from deforestation, including in the Amazon, the Mata Atlantica rainforest and the savanna area of Cerrado. Each partner will invest Real 20 million (\$3.8 million). **Biomass** plans to rely on the experience of Brazilian companies that already run massive eucalyptus farms. Suzano and its peers, for example, plant more than a million eucalyptus trees a day, although many are later harvested. By 2025, the group expects to start hiring workers and establishing tree nurseries, where seedlings will be planted before moving to the fields. They aim to plant more than 2 billion native trees across 2 million hectares, while investing in the conservation of another 2 million hectares of native forests in 20yrs. **Source** : <https://businessmirror.com>



Sponsors of the 2022 Calendar

December 2022



Transforming and shaping the African timber and agri landscape responsibly and sustainably

MTO Forestry(Pty) Ltd consists of two geographic regions namely MTO Cape and MTO Lowveld.

Apart from 20 commercial plantations (forestry farms) located between Cape Town and P.E. (Gqeberha) as well as around White River and Hazyview, the company also operate two sawmills, three treatment plants, a Central Merchandizing Depot and DC.

It furthermore also invested in the Energy sector by using forestry biomass and converting into energy and selling steam to neighbouring businesses.



The company also offers adventures in the form of overnight accommodation, hiking trails and various mountain biking trails on its estates .



MTO Forestry also realize that investment in their biggest asset namely people and therefore created an FP&M SETA and TETA accredited Training Academy which trains and equips people for their careers in forestry.



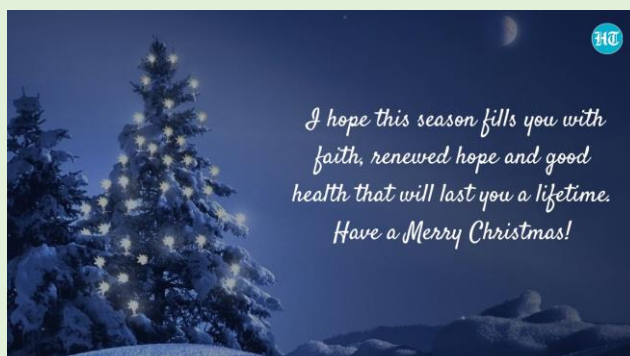
A Few Final Thoughts for 2022

With credit to one of our longest serving and loyal members : Georg von dem Bussche

*Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.
(Albert Einstein)*



The Council members of the Southern African Institute of Forestry, would like to thank all our members for their contributions. loyalty and support during the past year . We would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas, a safe and peaceful festive season and all the best for 2023.



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BIRTHDAYS: DECEMBER 2022

VON KROSIGK ,FRITZ	Dec-02	PEROLD, MAURITS	Dec-15
HEATH, RONALD	Dec-02	FISCHER, PHILLIP	Dec-15
CHAPMAN, CHRIS	Dec-02	LINDNER, GERARD	Dec-16
BESTER, JOHAN	Dec-03	LOUW, JOS	Dec-18
LYLE, GEOFFREY	Dec-05	DAVIDSON, WILLIAM	Dec-20
VERMEULEN, WESSEL	Dec-05	LE BRASSEUR, JOHN	Dec-20
JORDAN, JOHN	Dec-06	ALGERA , MADELEEN	Dec-20
JAKAVULA, MCOSELELI	Dec-06	STRYDOM, HERMANN	Dec-25
ODENDAAL, PIETER	Dec-10	DLAMINI, CLIFF	Dec-25
VIERO, PAUL	Dec-10	KOMAKECH, CHRISTOPHER	Dec-29
MASON, MURRAY	Dec-11	PANNIFER, PAUL	Dec-30
SCHOOMBEE, PIET	Dec-11	HURLEY, BRETT	Dec-30
ROGANS, DAVE	Dec-14	ZUMA, SANELE	Dec-30



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

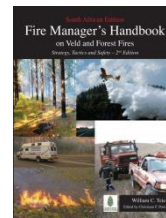
Non members: R500



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 and postage **(within SA)**

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