

Southern African Institute of Forestry

Delivering a professional service to forestry

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Editorial

A new Year with New Challenges and Opportunities

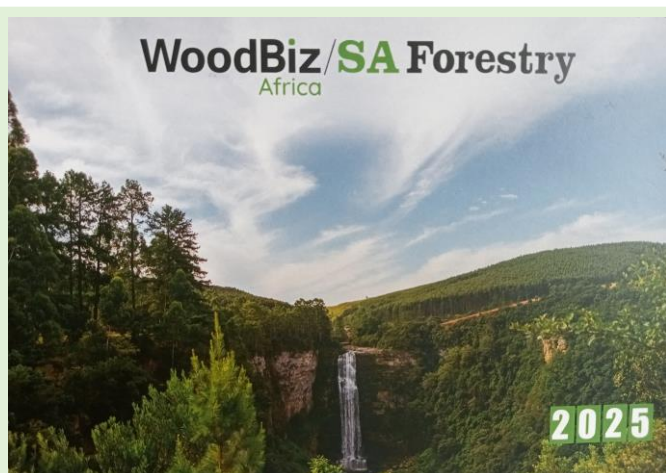
A New Year often starts with New Year's Resolutions and undertakings. It is also a time for a reality check and opportunity for planning and looking ahead and contemplating the future.

For many the outlook can be ominous while for others they are filled with excitement for what lies ahead. Our approach to the new year is often based on our personal experience as well as the way we look at things. Some see a "half- empty glass" while others see a "half-full glass".

We do know that life is uncertain and that there will be problems and challenges but at the same time opportunities will arise and our response will largely be based on how we approach life. A good friend of mine reminded me that without a test there cannot be a testimony.

The Forest and Forest Products Industry will no doubt also face its fair share of issues and challenges. Foresters have proved themselves over previous decades to be adaptable, resilient and innovative people who can adapt, make plans and not be overawed by the situation.

May we as foresters and other colleagues working in this wonderful industry continue to go from strength to strength and continue to make a difference not only in this industry where we work but also in our circle of influence.



Cover photograph on WoodBiz/SA Forestry 2025
Calendar



From the President's Desk

I was caught off guard by an enthusiastic editor in December when I didn't get my text to him on time and so am left with half a piece on the state of our students and education in Forestry, a theme which I am going to try to continually squeeze into the newsletter. At a minimum, we the SAIF want to congratulate all the new forestry graduates of 2024, from all Southern African educational institutes - we wish you a fulfilling career in Forestry.

Firstly, let me belatedly wish our readers all the best for 2025! When my generation were relative youngsters and television was still being rolled out across the country, there was a futuristic show called '1999', by which time humans would supposedly be living on other planets and jetting around in spaceships. Well, it's officially 2025 and, although six of the planets did align last week, we are still here and fortunately still dealing with relatively menial things like presidential elections and cricket. The screenwriters of '1999' might have been onto something though when it comes to the livability of our warming planet. This first month has once again been characterized by catastrophic and ongoing wildfires on the Pacific coast, fanned by mid-winter 'berg winds'. Back home, the mountains from Franschhoek pass to Villiersdorp were incinerated in a mostly fynbos fire that burned for 5-6 days in the early part of the month, although the fire season has otherwise been relatively quiet. Those that attended or read about Novembers' Fire Symposium in this newsletter will hopefully recall parts of Ronald Heath's keynote presentation, where he stated that the real cost of large wildfires is really unknown, or partially incalculable when including the social and ecological aspects.

As I write this, the Cape Doctor is buffeting us with what feels like a gale, but what yr.no reports as 9 m/s or 32 km/h winds (described as a near-gale). On the positive side, wind in the Cape apparently leads to good rains up-country, and trees (unlike road engineers) generally like good rain. A glance at a weather website shows that Cedara recorded 106 mm in January, with February being the longer-term wettest month. So, things are generally still looking good from a water perspective, those of you that are more specialized within climate and weather issues know that there is cause for concern in the future.

The presentation by Dr. Yolandi Ernst and Prof. Mary Scholes at the Forest Science Symposium (available here) reminded us that we are not safely home at all, and a lot more work is going to be needed in ensuring a sustained production of timber in the decades to come. Forget about the 1.5 °C threshold, the longer rotation (sawtimber) trees we plant may be harvested in a climate that is 2+ degrees warmer and in some areas, somewhat drier. Bill Gates apparently once said that 'we tend to overestimate the change that will occur in the next two years and underestimate the change that will occur in the next ten'. I believe he was talking about technical things here (certainly it was true eight years before ChatGPT was released), but I wonder whether the trend is not also applicable to climate prognoses.

Speaking of climate experts, many of our (SAIF) members live along the south-western Cape coast and I think all who have dipped a toe in the sea this summer would agree that the water along this coastline has been well warmer than anytime in living memory, which depending on the member, could represent a shorter or longer period.

January should have been an opportunity to come up with some high-level philosophising about the state-of and future of the SAIF. Instead, let me share a few simple words about my holiday. It's always a pleasure to have a visit from Prof. Klaus von Gadow, who left our shores in the early 1990s but continues to publish extensively under a joint affiliation with Stellenbosch. What made his visit even more interesting this time is that Prof. Klaus was in town having discussions with the University library's special collection on the making of a copy of the Diepwalle Indigenous Forest Management Plan 1970/71 – 1979/80, a monumental publication including hundreds of pages of yield tables, species lists and maps (see figures below). As a young field officer, Prof von Gadow was the lead author of that plan, which ended up having quite an influence on my summer holiday.

It was probably some sub-conscious decision making, but before I knew it I was camping at De Vlucht and, on New Years' day, hiking at Diepwalle state forest. One of the hikes, a roughly 3 hour and 9 km affair through humid and still 'jungle', brought home how difficult it must be to do even a reasonable enumeration of such a forest and model the periodic yield relatively accurately.

A German forestry education is presumably more relevant in such a case, where they train in forests of multiple-species (nowhere near ours) and uneven ages, which is probably why a number of young German graduates worked in our state (indigenous) forests in the 1960s and 70s. What brought the whole experience more to life was that we downloaded Dalene Matthees Kringe in n bos (Circles in a Forest) audiobook, whose drama unfolds around Knysna, Diepwalle and neighbouring forests. Now if, like me, you think you've read the book as part of a setwork back in the day, you probably need to read it again to get the full story with all the complexities of social and ecological dimensions being addressed. Or listen to the 12 hour audiobook. It's one of few classic accounts of the difficulties faced by people who make their living in a forest environment, and comes across as the South African version of Ken Kesey's Sometimes a Great Notion, which deals with the only slightly different problems of forest workers in the Pacific Northwest. We all work in or around forestry and it is somehow important to maintain an awareness of the developments that have happened in setting the tone in our own country. What really cemented the whole experience was that on arriving back at work, I was coincidentally informed, by a source only once removed from the originator, that an elephant was spotted crossing a road in the Outeniqua just a few months back. I wish I had known to be more wary at the time. Anyhow, the gist of it is that we now plan to make an electronic copy of at least parts of Prof. Klaus' management plan, and will share the link to that with all of you later this year.

In closing, we want to say how excited we are to be a major contributor to the organization of the 5th Precision Forestry Symposium to be held in Stellenbosch in the first week of February. Together with IUFRO and Stellenbosch University, the SAIF remains a committed partner in supporting this event, not least through the publication of a special collection of selected papers in Southern Forests: A Journal of Forest Science. I would like to end by publicly thanking Dr David Everard for the sterling work he is doing as Editor-in-Chief, and not least, Forestry South Africa (FSA) for the continued support in co-funding that.

Once again, a wonderful 2025 to all our members and all foresters and forestry related staff and functionaries in general.

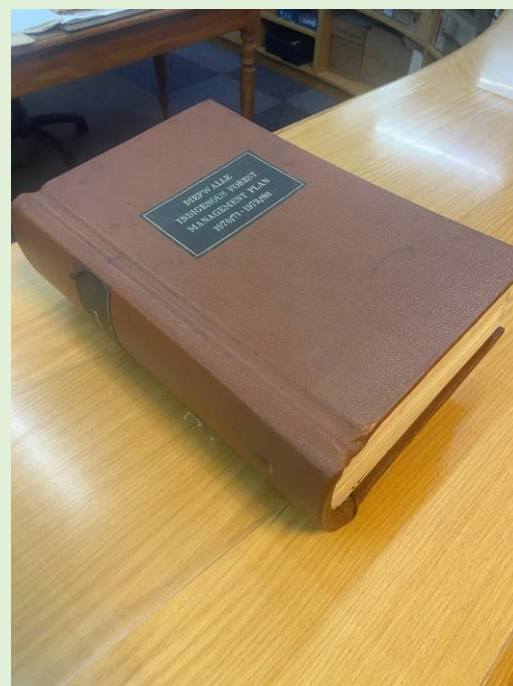


Figure 1 The Diepwalle Indigenous Forest Management Plan, 1970-1980

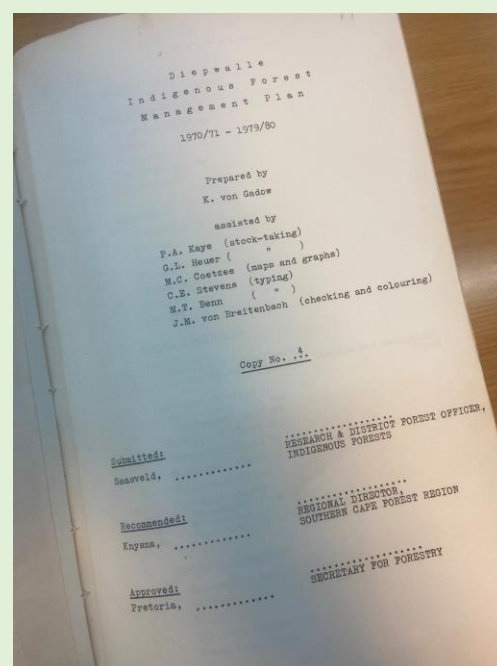


Figure 2 List of contributors

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Retirement lessons

By Rob Thompson

Retirement functions are generally bittersweet occasions.

Whilst celebrating and acknowledging the retiree's contributions, there is generally an element of trepidation regarding who that person's successor might be and how that new person will engage and perform going forward. Arguably, there might well be a mathematical and linear relationship between the level of trepidation experienced and the extent of the contribution made by the outgoing individual?

It appears as if SAIF members are currently in retirement mode.

Recently we saw Axel Jooste retire after a long and productive career with Sappi. Sappi will certainly miss him.

This month, we see two more SAIF members retire. Craig Norris, a towering pillar of forestry knowledge and experience, enters the retirement paddock. He will be closely followed next month, by Jeremy Carr, a stalwart and solid forester if ever there was one, who has also reached the end of an illustrious and successful career. NCT will be all the poorer as we wish these two men a wonderful, well deserved and rewarding retirement.

This is a forestry newsletter, so, for all you purists out there, Craig is by definition not a trained professional forester, but rather a teacher. His forestry knowledge however, gleaned from years of exposure to matters forest science, coupled to a keen intellect, places Craig definitively in the position of natural-born forester, which accolade is one that many trained foresters would wish for! As for Jeremy, he went to Saasveld, but don't judge him...said the U/S author of this article...and so the argument starts!

The above retirements, and the resulting trepidation level experienced (refer first paragraph), got me thinking about exactly what it is that make some individuals stand out above the rest. These individuals were not edge-trees that basked in freely accessible opportunities and simply grew without effort or contribution.

No, these are individuals situated well in the middle of mixed stands, and who have competed with the best to rise high above the canopy and be seen and duly recognized as performers and plus-trees. Having penetrated the canopy, they have defied the rules of forest ecology and rather than dominating those around them, have instead nurtured and sustained their peers, thereby contributing to overall stand health and vitality. Such is their reach that they have positively influenced individuals in neighbouring and ever further flung stands.

Fortunately, retirement does not equate to terminal harvesting in this analogy! All three individuals remain positioned as plus-trees albeit that their roles now change. Whilst they continue to contribute towards the sustention of f

orest industry health by way of formal or informal consulting, they now have the added challenge of navigating themselves through the uncharted waters of retirement and the positives, and no doubt some negatives, that this journey entails.

So, what are the attributes of plus-tree foresters and what makes them stand out from the rest? What are the take home lessons to those younger individuals that will follow up and fill the places of those plus-trees, now retired?

From my observations of the outgoing trio, **humility** tops the list of attributes. Each member of the trio, has immense knowledge of forestry and the industry but still has the ability to temper outputs humbly, rather than ostentatiously. By so doing they are able to gain the meaningful attention of those they interact with, rather than forced and pretentious focus.

Community association is the next attribute that I perceive being a major part of the genetics of these three plus-tree foresters. By community, I mean full engagement and investment with the organisations that they worked for, the members and clients they served, associations such as SAIF that they subscribed to, outside associations in sporting and other disciplines that they contributed to, and general ability to interact with people from all walks of life, family included. As plus-trees, they have an inherent ability to reach out to all other stand individuals and make a positive and significant difference to their lives and careers.

Positive attitude is a top attribute which, in my experience is not too common. Fewer and fewer people appear to be demonstrating the presence of this attribute. Conversely, our retirees have positive attitude in bucketfuls, and this has stood them in good stead throughout careers in very turbulent industry waters. I will never forget a senior and very astute fellow forester who had an immense influence on my career say to me that good attitude trumps a person's qualification. A golden piece of advice in my opinion.

A plus-tree is one with the genetic makeup to be a success. It has an inherent drive to push through boundaries and challenge opposing forces. It follows a determined course with failure not being an option. It grows in the presence of fellows but does not restrict itself to their achievements. Plus-trees are simply "called" to be plus-trees.

I often worry about the industry in terms of the "missing middle". Who will replace the wave of retirees, and will they have the capacity to fill big boots? Will these up-and-coming foresters have a true calling for forestry or does the profession remain just a job to them?

Perhaps the observations of attributes made in this article will spur up and coming individuals in the mixed stand, to emulate the visible plus-trees and take on the required attributes to grow beyond the canopy.

Fortunately, in human terms, we are not limited to a genetic programme. We have the ability to take decisions and make meaningful changes to our attitude and life trajectory.

My challenge to all the inhabitants of our mixed stand is to project yourselves forward to the time of your retirement and determine if you too will likely receive the accolades such as being proffered to the three individuals discussed herein.

If not, then now is the time to take some far-reaching decisions. It's yours for the taking.

Do yourselves and us proud!



Forestry South Africa(FSA) announces s dates for its Annual Regional Meetings

FSA will hold their Annual Regional Meetings in February 2025 at the following venues

- **Piet Retief/Lothair:** Tuesday 4 February – 14:00 – Welterdiend Guest House & Function Centre, Piet Retief
- **E Mpumalanga:** Wednesday 5 February – 14:00 – Old Airport, Nelspruit
- **Limpopo :** Thursday 6 February – 14:00 – Magoebaskloof Hotel, Magoebaskloof
- **Northern KwaZulu-Natal :** Tuesday 11 February @ 13:30 : Kambula Farmers Hall
- **Zululand :** Wednesday 12 February @ 10:30 : Penicuik Station, Kwambonambi

The other dates / KZN venues are as follows :

- **Tuesday 18 Feb** at 14:00 – Umvoti / Main Line at the Unicorn Club
- **Wednesday 19 Feb** at 14:00 – Alfred County at Harding CC
- **Thursday 20 Feb** at 10:30 – Eston/Mid-Illovo/Richmond/Ixopo at Mid-Illovo Club

Southern Cape :

- **Tuesday 1 April** (originally 24/04)| at 13:30 – S Cape at MTO Conference Room, George.

NOTE: This will be a General Meeting of Members

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New Eucalyptus Clones in the market

Clonal hybrids are becoming essential to forestry businesses to enable them to adapt to evolving markets and a changing environment.

A changing climate, emergence of new pests and diseases and volatile markets call for tree plantations that are resilient, adaptable to a wide range of climatic conditions, and can serve multiple timber markets. Clonal hybrids combine favourable characteristics of the two parent species and often result in hybrid vigour.

Hybrids are generally deployed as cuttings (clones) because this allows for the selection of the best individual and then multiplying through a cutting programme. The form and uniformity of clonal hybrids is generally good making them suitable for diverse markets.

NCT manages a programme (Hybrid Clone Consortium-HCC) to screen hybrid material and select individuals for clonal deployment. Member nurseries contribute to funding this programme and have the rights to propagate and sell material developed by HCC. Local nurseries that are part of this programme include CPS Seedlings, Ezigro Seedlings, Sunshine Seedlings and Sutherland Seedlings. Several new clones are now available for purchase from these nurseries.

Warm temperate and subtropical clones:

GU 400 and GU 412:

These two clones are recommended for the Zululand coastal plain. They are tolerant of various pests and diseases such as *Leptocybe invasa*. GU 400 is an excellent volume producer, whilst GU 412 has better form. These clones should not be planted at mid-altitude, warm temperate regions due to susceptibility to *Elsinoe masingae*.

GU 411, 483 and 488:

These clones were selected from trials of the old GU 111, 083 and 088. The old clones were mixes of hybrids and the trials were screened to identify good trees that were then fingerprinted and given a new identity.

GU411 is a good volume producer for mid-altitude, high potential sites. It is essentially a cleaned-up clone from the GU 111 mix. It is expected to have similar site

requirements and performance to its 'predecessor'. The clone is tolerant of *Elsinoe masingae* and has potential as a pole producer.

GU 483 should grow well on mid-altitude, warm temperate sites. It is tolerant of *Elsinoe masingae* and has good potential as a pole producer.

GU 488 is a cleaned-up clone from the old GU 088 stands. The clone is suited for mid-altitude, warm temperate sites. It can grow well on marginal and/or drier sites. It is also tolerant of *Elsinoe masingae*

SU 107:

SU 107 is a *E. saligna* x *E. urophylla* hybrid originally bred for sawtimber. It is an excellent volume producer at mid-altitude, high potential sites. The clone is accepted in sawtimber, pole and pulp markets. It has a higher wood density compared to *E. grandis* and the GU hybrids and will thus give better tonnes over weighbridge.

GL 222:

GL 222 is a *E. grandis* x *E. longirostrata* hybrid with excellent form. It grows well on marginal, dry and hot sites. This clone has a similar density to black wattle and will thus give good tonnage over weighbridge. The logs have low splitting, but the high density make chemical penetration into the wood difficult, and pole markets may not accept this hybrid. However, it has potential for peeler log markets. The clone is tolerant of *Elsinoe masingae*.

Cold-tolerant clones:

GN 389, 311 and 350:

GN 389, GN 311 and 350 are new generation *E. grandis* x *E. nitens* hybrid clones that have recently been released to nurseries. GN 311 and 350 have been tested for pole suitability and have acceptable splitting, form and penetration.

GN 350 grows best on sites with deep soils, good rainfall and above 1200m elevation. GN 311 can be planted on more marginal sites above 1100m. These clones should be kept away from snow-prone areas. GN 389 is an excellent volume producer suited for pulpwood. Growth and yield of this clone is significantly better than GN 2107. It should be planted on high potential sites.

GS 211:

This is a novel hybrid between *E. grandis* and *E. smithii* with good pulping and paper making characteristics. The clone is tolerant of Phytophthora and can be grown on frost-free sites from 800m to 1300m. It has outperformed seedling and clonal controls in trials planted in this altitude range. Samples have been sent to HKP (NCT wood chip customer) for pulping tests to verify if they will accept wood from this hybrid to be mixed with *E. smithii* wood chips.

How to plant clones

- Take special care to prepare deep (30cm), friable pits to encourage sinker roots and avoid J rooting. Cuttings lack a strong tap root.
- Make sure that the root plug is not rootbound, a healthy well consolidated plug with healthy white shoots will result in a balanced root system.
- Most clones have plugs with growing medium that drains rapidly, make sure that the plug is saturated before planting. This is especially important for paper-pot plugs.
- Ensure planting teams are well trained and supervised. Blanking (gapping) of newly planted compartments should not be required if the correct planting technique is followed.

Final thoughts:

- For the best results, plant clones on high potential sites. Avoid marginal sites and shallow soils. The exception to this rule is hardy clones such as GL 222 and GU 488.
- Warm temperate/subtropical clones should be kept away from frost and snow prone areas.

Final thoughts:

- For the best results, plant clones on high potential sites. Avoid marginal sites and shallow soils. The exception to this rule is hardy clones such as GL 222 and GU 488.
- Warm temperate/subtropical clones should be kept away from frost and snow prone areas.

Source: [NCT](#)

An open-air laboratory that could change the face of forestry



An open-air laboratory that could change the face of forestry

To the uneducated eye, the 10 hectare plot that has been planted near the University of Stellenbosch looks no different to the other hundreds of thousands of hectares of Eucalyptus being planted every year across South Africa. However, none of the other plots have their own army of scientists and state-of-the-art remote sensing systems including drones, laser scanners and highly specialised advanced LiDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) technology that will monitor every aspect of the eucalypts growth and development, from root to canopy, for the duration of their rotation.

“The 10-hectare, Intensive Monitoring of Planting and Competing Trees Open-Air Laboratory (IMPACT OAL) plot will play an important role in how we adapt our Eucalyptus silviculture strategies going forward to meet the challenges posed by climate change and related fire, insect and disease risks,” explains Prof David Drew, the Research Chair of EucXylo. This programme is based at Stellenbosch University to better understand the processes of ecophysiology, growth and wood formation of eucalypts, funded by the Hans Merensky Legacy Foundation.

Currently the connection between physical stress, reduced growth rate and higher mortality in eucalypts is only partially understood. The development of the long-term research plantation to intensively monitor Eucalyptus growth, officially opened in September 2024 by Dr Khotso Mokhele from the Hans Merensky Legacy Foundation and,

Professor Sibusiso Moyo, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research Innovation and Postgraduate Studies at Stellenbosch University, will not only provide a far better understanding of how these are connected it will also enable plantation management techniques to be adjusted accordingly and for wood formation models to be updated.

“This is not science for science-sake. We currently have knowledge gaps that hinder our ability to adapt silviculture practices accordingly to navigate the challenges associated with climate change.

Left unaddressed, we are placing the productivity of our plantations at risk and opening ourselves to the economic and employment consequences associated with this. The IMPACT OAL will provide us with the field data needed to plug those knowledge gaps and inform the industry’s silviculture practices and decisions going forward.” Drew continues.

The IMPACT OAL project is one of the first facilities in South Africa to intensively monitor Eucalyptus tree growth dynamics from seedling to harvesting, using a multi-species approach and different levels of stand density. “

A key component of the research is to investigate the role of competition on eucalypt growth and physiology, which is achieved by planting the trees at different spacings (1m 2, 2m2, 3m 2 and 5m 2) to get a range of stand densities that will give a high contrast between the level of competition that the trees will experience during growth. As well as being planted as monocultures at the different densities, the four species of Eucalyptus (E grandis, E urophylla, E cloeziana and E cladocalyx) will also be studied in mixed-species plots,” explains Drew.



By including mixed-species plots we can start determining how these species interact with each other as very little is known about how eucalypts respond to other members of the genus. From research conducted on other plants and trees, it is known that there is a benefit to using mixed-species plots, as monocultures tend to be predisposed for certain pests and diseases, while in mixed-species plots the effect is less severe. It is becoming a standard practice in Europe to plant forestry species in mixed-species plots and the question is how would eucalypts fare, particularly if you start introducing competition?

“The IMPACT OAL is an exciting, novel and potentially very powerful research tool, that provides opportunities that go beyond helping our Sector navigate both current and future challenges associated with climate change and its related risks. It offers a platform for cross-Sector collaboration, with research and students from all backgrounds, who are interested in studying the ecology of plantation forests and the growth and wood-forming processes of trees, invited to apply to IMPACT OAL.

It also provides an opportunity to better inform the general public and education institutions about plantation forestry, in particular the sustainable approach being taken in South Africa, as it is open to both,” Drew concludes.

Source: [FSA Magazine \(Pages 22 – 23\)](#)



Stellenbosch
UNIVERSITY
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forward together
sonke siya phambili
saam vorentoe

Post-doctoral Fellowship

An individual tree, mechanistic modelling framework for plantation eucalypts

The research project

See <https://eucxylo.sun.ac.za/open-air-lab/> for more information.

Fresh News from FSA !

Environmental Guidelines for Commercial Forestry Plantations in South Africa

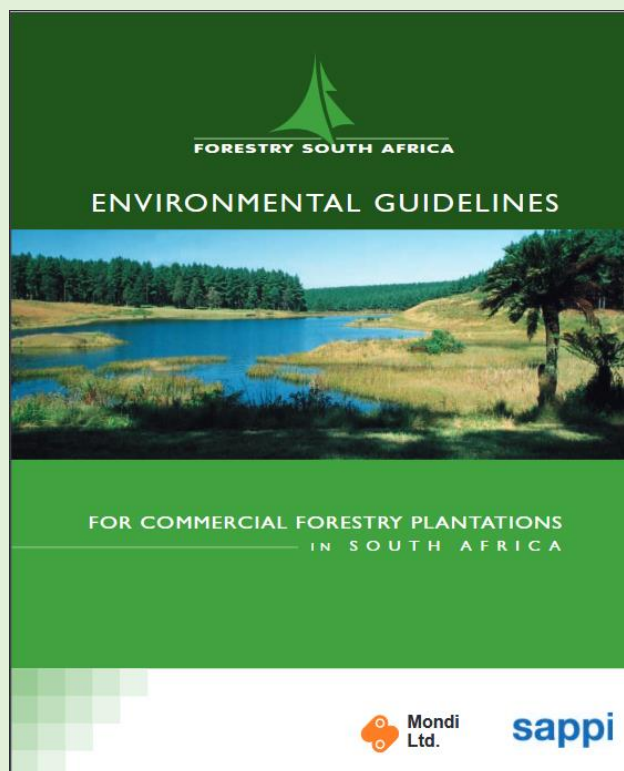
Forestry South Africa Announcement

21 January 2025, FSA are pleased to announce the publication of the latest version of the Environmental Guidelines for Commercial Forestry Plantations in South Africa (Revision 5 - 2024).

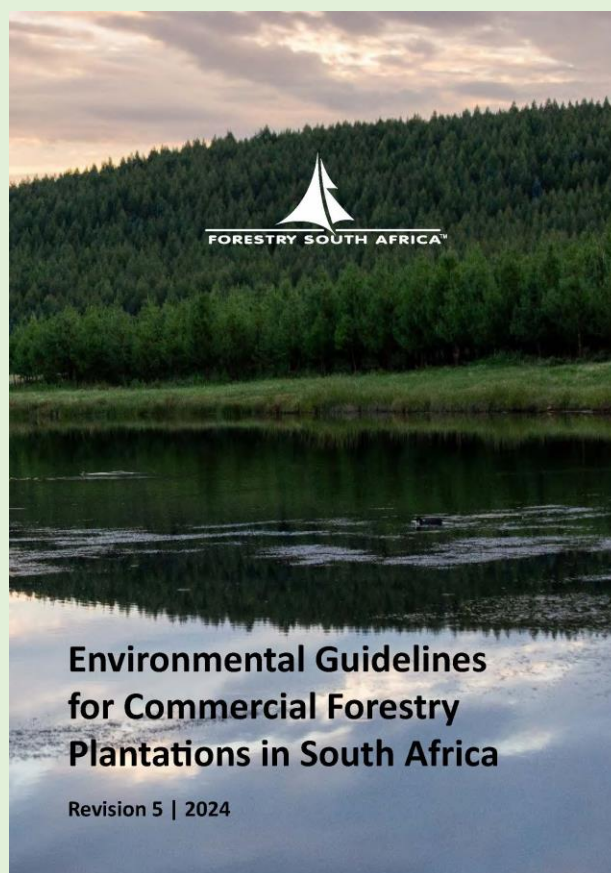
The first edition of the Guidelines for Environmental Conservation Management in Commercial Forests in South Africa appeared in February 1995 as a printed document that could only be reproduced by photocopying. Since then, there have been a number of printed versions. It was in 2016 that the first electronic version was produced and made available on the Forestry South Africa website.

This 5th revision includes updates on applicable legislation, best practices, chemicals and pesticide uses, carbon calculations, climate change implications and the inclusion of new chapters on emergency incidents and disaster management, greenhouse gas reporting, regulations for hazardous chemical agents and integrated pest management. Sustainable forest management is the forestry component of sustainable development which was defined in 1997 by the World Commission on Environment and Development as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Early definitions of sustainable forest management focused on the continuous supply of specified wood products but more recently, the focus has included other products and services, such as broad social issues and ecosystem services and structure, water supply, soils, cultural sites and carbon sequestration. Some would say that the definition of sustainable is not possible since the word “sustain” is to “keep something going over time or continuously” and this can only be determined after the event.

The Environmental Guidelines has become a very important reference book for all foresters and persons working in the Forestry Industry.



The cover of the first version of the Environmental Guidelines issued in 1998



Cover page of the New 2024 Edition (No. 5) of the Environmental Guidelines

What if there were no Planted Forests?

By Dr. Katy Johnson (FSA Communications)



An exciting collaboration between South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and South America aimed at shining a light on the benefits plantation forestry bring

Tired of confronting the same misconceptions, lack of understanding and hostility towards planted forests; Forestry South Africa, Responsible Wood Australia, New Zealand and South America have joined forces with an independent service provider, SCION, to develop a concept White Paper on Planted Forests that bring together all aspects of the value and benefits of planted forests in one place to give a global perspective. This will be supported by a peer review scientific paper and comprehensive bibliography.

“Such a White Paper has never been done before and will provide a valuable reference point for discussions and understanding on the global value of planted forests.” Tim Payn, SCION, Principal Scientist: Planted Forests, Sustainability, Climate Change and the Environment.

There are plenty of global statistics that illustrate the integral role planted forests play in a green, circular economy and their potential to reduce our reliance on fossil fuel derived products. These are further supported by a myriad of country specific case studies talking to the positive stewardship potential of the Sector.

Be it social stewardship created when forestry companies invest in community initiatives, skills

development and rural enterprises, or environmental stewardship opportunities found within the forestry landscape. The challenge has always been in communicating these in a way that is not considered ‘green washing’ by those opposed to forestry and accessible to the wider public.

By joining forces with other Southern Hemisphere countries and creating a global perspective backed by science, we will have created a strong foundation for future communication strategies. We will also create a consistency within the messaging, so future communications are supported by statements being made by other Southern Hemisphere timber growing nations rather than being a source of conflicting messaging.

Forestry South Africa has been highly involved in phase one of the project which is drawing to a completion. To date there have been a series of workshops FSA has attended with representatives from the other Southern Hemisphere countries to develop the concept and the structure of the White Paper. A mock-up of which has been created and will be used to support the raising of investments required for phase two. Phase two will be open to a much wider pool of contributors, with a plan to raise the investment needed in early 2025. Once funding has been secured, the full White Paper and supporting material will be developed by SCION.

“FSA, as always, supports a collective and collaborative approach regarding pre-competitive outputs. In this regard, all participants will not only benefit but learn from each other and ultimately produce a strong argument for the value of our Sector based on peer reviewed science.” Dr Ronald Heath, FSA Director of Research And Protection.





Precision Forestry Symposium

Stellenbosch, South Africa

February 5-7, 2025

Precision in Forest Operations and Wood Supply

- Optimization & Simulation
- Machine Learning / AI
- Applications for Remote and Proximal Sensing
- Forest Machine Data Handling and Interpretation
- Robotics and Unmanned Platforms
- Geographic Information Technologies and Geomatics
- Forest Management, Planning and Scheduling Systems
- Precision Infrastructure Planning, Construction and Monitoring
- Energy expenditure and Emissions in wood supply
- The Man-Machine Interface and Operator Performance & Wellbeing

The PF-Symposium is hosted by Stellenbosch University, Faculty of AgriSciences, in conjunction with the Southern African Institute of Forestry and IUFRO Working Groups:

- 3.04 Forest Operations Management
- 3.10 Forest Robotics and Digital Forest Operations

Symposium Costs :

Participation	SADC member (ZAR)	Rest of World
PhD workshop & dinner	R 650	€ 50 / US\$55
Commercial workshops includes lunch / refreshments	R 550	€ 25 / US\$28
Symposium* (ice breaker, refreshments, wine tasting, lunches, braai, conference dinner)	R 2950	€ 250 / US\$ 280

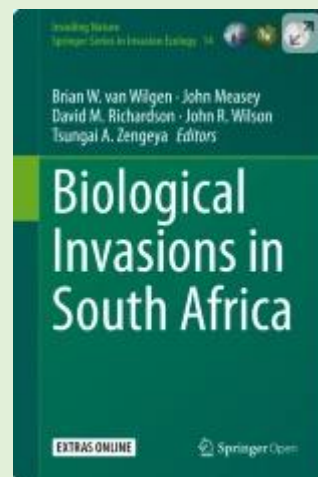
Registration

Registration is open, payment can be made on this link:

[Book tickets for Precision Forestry Symposium 2025](#)

Questions

Please contact Dr. Justin Erasmus (erasj@sun.ac.za) should you have any questions or simply want to indicate your interest in attending.



Overview

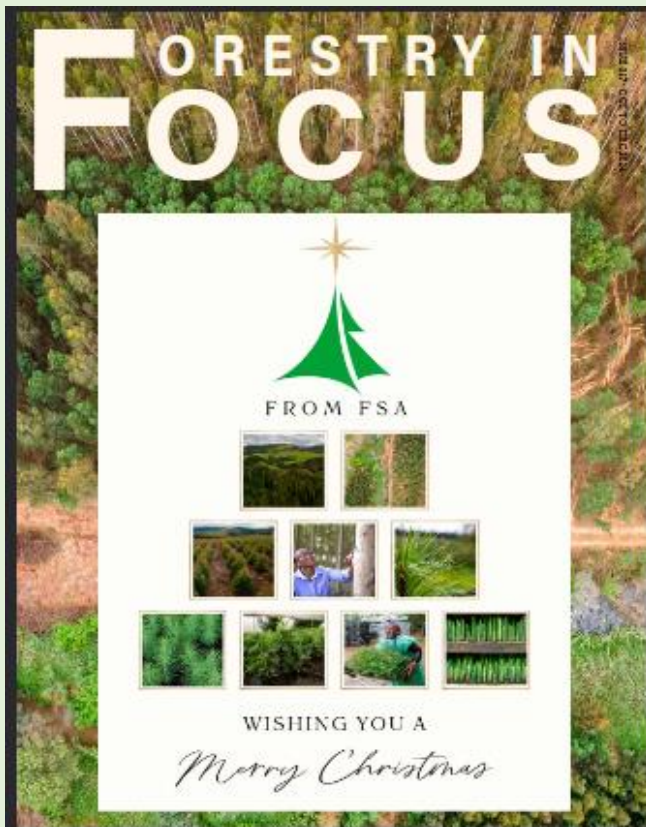
Editors: Brian W. van Wilgen, John Measey,
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- Provides an encyclopedic overview of all aspects of biological invasions in South Africa, a megadiverse country that is a global leader in invasion science
- Chronicles the history of introductions, invasions, and the emergence of invasion science in South Africa, and the development of policy and legislation for dealing with invasions, spanning 150 years
- Reviews knowledge of alien species from all taxonomic groups in terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments, the determinants of invasions, their impacts, and diverse insights on management
- Assesses of the extent and effectiveness of management interventions using unique and innovative approaches

ENVIRONMENTAL DAYS

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References and Links to Relevant Websites for further reading



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Forest Engineering (logging) includes timber harvesting, tree processing, extraction and transport of forest logs and biomass. It also includes all forest road activities.

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DFFE representative	Vacant	

**The following members have celebrated their
birthdays in January**



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

02 Jan	PHILIP CRAFTFORD	16 Jan	ERIC DROOMER
03 Jan	JAMES BALLANTYNE	17 Jan	LEE CUNNINGHAM
05 Jan	MIKKA PARAG	18 Jan	DIRK LÄNGIN
06 Jan	SANDISO SOTIYA	18 Jan	JOHAN ERWEE
07 Jan	ED HAYTER	20 Jan	ELIZE ADE
07 Jan	ILSE BOTMAN	21 Jan	CARL SEELE
08 Jan	DUANE ROTHMAN	24 Jan	GAVIN BURNHAMS
08 Jan	WILLEM KOTZE	25 Jan	LUKE VAN VUGT
09 Jan	CRAIG NORRIS	25 Jan	LOUIS VAN ZYL
10 Jan	S.B MNGOMEZULU	25 Jan	JOH SCRIBA
11 Jan	JEFF BADENHORST	26 Jan	RICHARD MULLER
11 Jan	PETE ODELL	27 Jan	GARY HODGE
12 Jan	DAVE DOBSON	30 Jan	CHURCHILL MKWALO
13 Jan	P.E VON BUDDENBROCK	31 Jan	RICHARD LIVERSAGE
15 Jan	FRANCOIS MALAN	31 Jan	JACK SWART
16 Jan	GJALT HOOGHIEEMSTRA		

The following members will be celebrating their birthdays in February



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02 Feb	FRANCIS ZHANGAZHA	13 Feb	STEPHAN CRAFTFORD
02 Feb	AZWIANEWI MAKATU	14 Feb	JOLANDA ROUX
03 Feb	ARTHUR DAUGHERTY	16 Feb	WAYNE JONES
03 Feb	WILLEM HOLLESTEIN	17 Feb	AVELILE CISHE
04 Feb	NICKY JONES	17 Feb	GAVIN SCHAFER
05 Feb	ROBIN HULL	21 Feb	NIGEL PAYNE
05 Feb	GRAEME HARRISON	21 Feb	COLIN SMITH
06 Feb	JACOB KOTZè	21 Feb	TIM ROSS
08 Feb	JOHAN NEL	22 Feb	PHILIP DAY
09 Feb	TATENDA MAPETO	22 Feb	OWEN PETERSEN
12 Feb	PETER KEYWORTH	23 Feb	PETA HARDY
12 Feb	ABONGILE PAMA	24 Feb	KYLA VAN ZYL
13 Feb	ANDREW McEWAN	25 Feb	JEREMY CARR

The SAIF would like to wish every member who has celebrating their birthday in December and January as well as those who will have their birthday in February, a very Happy Birthday and congratulations with reaching another milestone



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