

Southern African Institute of Forestry

Delivering a professional service to forestry

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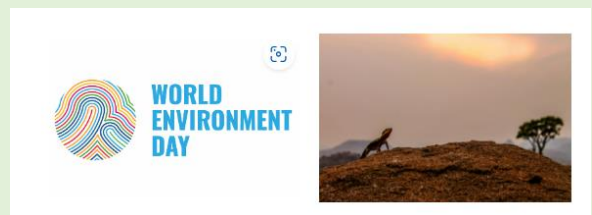
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SAIF Calendar : February 2023 : Maritzbos Waterfall
Tweefontein Plantation Mpumalanga , Gerrit Marais
(Mpumalanga Branch)

From the President's Desk

World Environment Day: Does it make any difference?



World Environment Day 2024 is a global event that is celebrated annually on the 5th of June. This year it focuses on three critical themes:

1. **Land Restoration:** The campaign emphasizes the restoration of degraded land, recognizing its importance for ecosystems, biodiversity, and sustainable development.
2. **Desertification:** Addressing desertification is crucial, as arid and semi-arid regions face challenges related to soil degradation, loss of vegetation, and water scarcity.
3. **Drought Resilience:** The theme highlights the need to build resilience against droughts, which can have severe impacts on communities, agriculture, and natural resources.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted the 2024 World Environment Day celebrations, rallying people around the slogan: *"Our land. Our future."*

So, why is this year's theme important? According to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, up to 40 per cent of the planet's land is degraded. This directly affects half of the world's population and threatening roughly half of global GDP (US\$44 trillion).



What are some practical ways to restore land?

Restoring land is crucial for maintaining healthy ecosystems and combating desertification. Here are some practical approaches:

1. **Afforestation and Reforestation:** Planting trees and native vegetation helps stabilize soil, prevent erosion, and enhance biodiversity. Choose species adapted to the local climate and soil conditions.
2. **Soil Conservation Techniques:**
 - a. Terracing: Creating stepped levels on slopes reduces water runoff and soil erosion.
 - b. Contour Farming: Planting crops along the natural contours of the land minimizes erosion.
 - c. Cover Crops: Growing cover crops during fallow periods protects soil from wind and water erosion.
3. **Agroforestry:** Integrating trees with crops or livestock provides multiple benefits. Trees improve soil structure, offer shade, and enhance nutrient cycling.
4. **Holistic Grazing Management:** Properly managed livestock grazing can improve soil health. Rotational grazing prevents overgrazing and allows vegetation recovery.
5. **Wetland Restoration:** Restoring wetlands helps filter water, sequester carbon, and support diverse wildlife. Re-establishing native wetland plants is essential.
6. **Bioengineering Techniques:** Use plants with deep roots (e.g., willows, grasses) to stabilize riverbanks and prevent erosion.

Successful land restoration projects involve community engagement, knowledge sharing, and sustainable practices.

It is interesting to note in this article, that Afforestation, Reforestation and Agroforestry are listed as key methods to counter, prevent or stop land degradation. Even some of the other focus areas mentioned are quite familiar to us in forestry e.g. wetland restoration.

Apart from creating awareness internationally on relevant issues like land degradation, World Environment Day also offers sharing of solutions to global problems and challenges.

It is also clear that commercial forestry can offer practi-

cal solutions to many of the issues facing decision-makers and planners.

It was therefore noted and learnt with disappointment and sadness that so little progress has been made over the past almost four years with implementation of Focus Area 1a namely Expansion and Maintenance of the primary resource as contained in the Forestry (Sector) Master Plan in particular. Bidders for the management of the former Exit State Plantations in the Western Cape to be returned to production (recommissioning), were informed that the date for announcement of the successful bidders has once again been extended (postponed) until end of September 2024. The afforestation of approximately 100,000ha in the Eastern Cape and Kwazulu-Natal which should contribute greatly to address land degradation in many parts of the country and also provide much needed employment at an estimated, 60,000 jobs has not taken off either despite an invitation to Bid: DFFE-T014(23/24) which was issued by DFFE in December 2023 calling for tenders to undertake Environmental Impact Assessment Studies for afforestation in KZN and the Eastern Cape. This is however not expected to be completed before 2026 and one can only guess when the first tree will be planted.

The Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) launched a “Ten Million Trees Programme” in November 2021 with the aim of attaining environmental sustainability and protection and to realise socioeconomic benefits for S.A. This is certainly a worthwhile cause. The question however arises whether progress has been measured and how many trees have been planted 2½ years after the programme has been launched. Good intentions are fine, but we are all too conscious of the old saying “the road to hell is paved with good intentions” and another well-known saying: “you only get what you measure”. We can only hope that the political will exists to bring all these wonderful projects into fruition and thereby fulfil the ideals of World Environment Day.

Resources:

- FSA: Dec, Newsletter: Forestry masterplan
- DFFE General Presentation on Master Plan: May 2021
- Global Theme announced for World Environment Day 2024 | Society for the Environment (socenv.org.uk)



The Rob Thompson Column

The Three Me's

I recently came across the concept of the “**Three Me's**”.

This concept outlines the fact that we each comprise of three entities. A **Past Me**, a **Current Me** and a **Future Me**. Our Past Me is milliseconds younger than the Current Me and the Future Me hasn't yet materialized and may never.

The *Current Me* takes center stage and significantly dictates the standing of the other two. *Past Me* cannot change its standing in any form. It is what it is ... literally water under the bridge. *Future Me's* standing can only be changed by Current Me, meaning that Current Me literally carries all the cards!

When one ponders this concept, it becomes clear that Current Me is most important and it is incumbent on Current Me to ensure that Current Me is well positioned, content and travelling along an appropriate and wanted trajectory.

Last month, I had the wonderful opportunity to lecture to some forestry diploma students at NMU and was able to indirectly apply the Three Me concept to guide the discussion that ensued.

As is my practice I asked the students to explain to me just how they came to be forestry students. What led them to being here today? Of course, I was hoping to hear stories of forestry type Damascus epiphanies and clarion calls to join the profession and to forever do and die for it!

Once again, the almost unanimous and rather disappointing response was: “I got a bursary”.

From my perspective, this is concerning as these youngsters have not necessarily followed a calling into forestry and are rather there due to the economic circumstances prevailing and the random manner in which the tertiary education opportunity dice fell.

To the university's credit, an interest in forestry and a desire to adopt forestry as a career path has been instilled in some, albeit in arrears of course entry. Imagine the students surprise however,

when I encouraged the group to really seriously consider their own individual positions and to change track soonest possible, if, what they were experiencing now, was not to their liking, or not in sync with their life ambition.

Their Current Me's would forever be unhappy if they pursued a forestry career without their heart being totally into it. Something would have to give in the not distant future and the unhappy Me would suffer the consequences, as well as the industry proponents who placed trust in the ostensible incoming forestry practitioner. The unhappy practitioner would forever be remonstrated by Past Me for creating a path less liked and Future Me would forever be crying out for Current Me to rally to the call for change and an amended path forward.

The Three Me concept is really a useful tool, particularly at a time when we all face an era full of change, both positive and negative and often outside of our sphere of influence.

We may for instance be facing the unknowns of a Government of National Unity, or the daunting prospect of retirement, or the potentially painful economic ramifications of an organizational change. We can draw strength for the Three Me's by consciously accepting that Past Me has absolutely no influence on Current Me despite its protestations and reminders of better times previously. Those times have gone, never to return.

Having dealt with Past Me, we can turn our attention to Future Me and apply similar disdain to the real non-impact that Future Me actually has. The noises that Future Me makes in an attempt to influence, have literally not even happened yet and are realistically subject to so many permutations so as to make those noises superfluous and mere irritations.

We do, however, have every control over Current Me, and with that understanding and recognition, have the ability to block out Past and Future Me influences and take conscious decisions that benefit the only entity that really matters, which is Current Me. If one has the objective of keeping Current Me happy on a sustained and ethical basis, the quality of the decision making that Current Me takes, will be top notch.

Our young students are now empowered to make a success of a forestry career, and thereby keep Current Me happy, or alternatively change direction to the same end.

Prospective retirees will determine the optimum retirement solution and persons faced with economic stress will be positioned to take innovative and far-reaching decisions aimed at keeping Current Me as content as possible.

Time literally flies by for everyone and whilst it is great to reminisce about the good old days, too much of this takes the focus away from the reality of change. Gone are the days when youngsters were called into a profession. The modern world hardly ever offers that opportunity any longer. Careers are entered and forged along pathways that continuously evolve and are often without precedent. Change factors appear in our pathway without warning and the monsters of stress and angst live amongst us.

In my opinion, it is through focused and ethical engagement with Current Me, that we will overcome positively the unpredictability of what faces us all. Current Me provides the litmus test of our decisions. If a particular decision emphatically works for Current Me, then in all likelihood that is the way to go. If Current Me balks at the decision, then potentially one needs to walk away from it.

Past and Future Me will simply have to live with the fact that they play no decision-making role and are merely there for the record.

Hopefully, Current Me can guide all of us, each in an independent and innovative manner, along a pathway that leads to us leaving an indelible and positive record.

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FISNA Webinar: 20 June 2024

Webinar I
Invasive plants affecting Africa's natural and planted forests
 Thursday 20 June 2024
 10:30 - 12:00 UTC+2
[REGISTER USING THIS ZOOM LINK](#)

Several invasive plant species have established themselves in Africa, posing significant threats to forests, trees, and agrosilvopastoral systems. Join us to address these challenges and discuss successful strategies for their management.

English and French interpretation will be available for this webinar.

FAD REGIONAL ASSESSMENT ON THE STATUS OF FOREST INVASIVE SPECIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
 Erez Hurley
 FISNA Coordinator
 Professor
 FRI, University of Pretoria
 South Africa

PROSOPIS JULIFLORA DISTRIBUTION, COMMUNITY PERCEPTION AND COST-EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS IN ETHIOPIA
 Agnes Anjelo
 Senior researcher, Associate Professor
 EFD, Addis Ababa University
 Ethiopia

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION AND ECOLOGY OF INVASIVE PLANTS: THE CASE OF MIMOSA PIGRA, SENNA SPECTABILIS AND PROSOPIS JULIFLORA IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
 Stephane Nazaire Madiapovo
 Assistant Professor
 University of Bangui
 Central African Republic

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ALIEN INVASIVE PLANTS IN NATURAL FORESTS: A CASE STUDY OF DOLICHANDRA UNGUIS-CATI IN SOUTH AFRICA.
 Anthony King
 Researcher
 Wood biological control
 Agricultural Research Council
 South Africa

INVASIVE PLANTS & THE PRIVATE SECTOR: FROM ECONOMIC IMPACT TO MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES
 David Searcy
 Chairperson
 Sustainable African Forestry Assurance
 Scheme (SAF-AS) Council
 South Africa

INVITED PANELISTS

Miriam Gathogo
 Senior Research Scientist
 Kenya Forestry Research
 Institute (KEFRI)
 Kenya

Debbie Muir
 Pesticide Risk
 Manager/Biodiversity
 Officer Control
 South Africa

Pomerayi Mutoto
 Tree Breeder
 Forestry Commission
 Zimbabwe

THURSDAY 20 JUNE 2024
 10:30 - 12:00 UTC+2
 ENGLISH AND FRENCH INTERPRETATION WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS WEBINAR.
[REGISTER USING THIS ZOOM LINK](#)

#PhilosophicalThoughts

"Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow."

— Anthony J. D'Angelo

In Memoriam: Gerrit Marais, FSC Africa Ecosystems Services Lead (1954 - 2024)

<https://africa.fsc.org/en-cd/newsfeed/in-memoriam-gerrit-marais-fsc-africa-ecosystems-services-lead-1954-2024>

The FSC Africa family is deeply saddened to announce the passing of Gerrit Marais, our esteemed Ecosystems Services Lead, on Sunday, May 19th, 2024. Here are some of the memories from his colleagues who worked with him at FSC.

May 28, 2024



Gerrit's dedication to sustainable forestry spanned decades. Before joining the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®), he played a pivotal role in securing the first mainstream FSC certificate in South Africa and Africa in 1997 as part of the SAFCOL -South African Forestry Company SOC Limited team. Gerrit was widely recognized as a world-wide expert in forest and Chain-of-Custody certification with extensive certification experience including managing the SGS global forest certification programme for more than 13 years.

A true forester at heart, his passion for the cause was evident in everything he did.

Just four months ago, Gerrit embarked on a new chapter as the FSC Lead for Climate and Ecosystem Services: Africa. He envisioned leveraging his extensive experience in forest management and certification to promote nature-based solutions to combat environmental challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss.

Gerrit's legacy extends far beyond his titles.

He was instrumental in developing the Continuous Improvement process, spearheaded numerous FSC -

training programs, and was renowned for his in depth knowledge of FSC Africa. Colleagues remember him as a kind and patient mentor, always willing to share his wisdom and expertise. His calm demeanor, clear communication style, and unwavering support left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him.

Peter Alele, Regional Director, Africa:

"After his immense contribution to FSC work in his previous roles, we took a decision to bring Gerrit into the team in 2023. We hoped that the team would benefit from his knowledge and mentorship in addition to helping develop the climate & ecosystems portfolio in Africa. Gerrit's wisdom, humility and gentle nature stood out and impacted the team in his short time with us. We will miss him dearly."

Richard Fergusson, Sub Regional Coordinator, Southern Africa:

Gerrit was a legendary name I knew long before I met him. Upon our first encounter, discussing FSC Africa matters, it became clear: he was absolutely passionate about forest management, deeply knowledgeable, and a wonderful human being. His extensive African industry experience, amazing memory, and willingness to answer our questions were hugely valuable – we will miss that dearly.

Joining FSC in December 2023, we embarked on new journeys in the realm of Climate and Ecosystem Services (C&ES) – new territory for him and for most of us. His ability to grasp past efforts, assess African needs, and strategize success demonstrated his experience and practicality. We began discussions with potential ES clients, with Gerrit as the technical lead, his expertise readily available.

Israel Bionyi, Communications Manager, Africa:

"Gerrit's passing leaves a void in our team. His ability to translate complex issues into clear language made him a valuable asset. We will continue to honour his memory by carrying forward his work on the upcoming International Day of the Environment event."

Gerrit's absence leaves a profound hole in the FSC Africa community. His dedication, expertise, and kindness will be deeply missed. We offer our heartfelt condolences to his wife, family, and loved ones. May he rest in peace.

Distinguished Forestry Award : Gerrit Marais

The SAIF Council approved that the Distinguished Forestry Award be handed to Gerrit Marais posthumously.

Not only did Gerrit have an illustrious career as a forester serving the industry in various capacities and at various forums, he also served the SAIF with distinction for many years. Gerrit also received the Dedicated Service Award from the SAIF previously after his service as Mpumalnga Branch Chair from 1998 until 2002. This was followed by being Vice President of the SAIF from 2003 until 2004 whereafter he succeeded Colin Smith as President in 2005. He had an extended period as president from May 2005 until April 2008.



Although we will all miss Gerrit who passed away on the 20th of May 2024, his legacy lives on as witnessed by many of his colleagues who worked with him. One such person is Willie Louw who not only studied with Gerrit at Stellenbosch when he did his BSc. Forestry degree, but also grew up with Gerrit in Namaqualand. "Gerrit was a very pleasant person and a wonderful schoolmate who will be sorely missed."

Source: Brian Bredenkamp, Forester's News, 31 May 2024

Save the Date : SAIF/FSA Forestry Science Symposium : 26-27 November 2024



The Planning for the Forestry Science Symposium which will be jointly presented by the Southern African Institute of Forestry (SAIF) , Forestry South Africa(FSA) and the Institute of Commercial Forestry Research (ICFR), is advancing well. Please diarise the dates . We look forward to this event !

For any queries or contributions, please contact Wayne at Wayne.Jones@sappi.com

She is Forestry Webinar 1 August 2024



For more details, please contact Ms. Khosi Mavimbela at the following Email address: makhosazana@forestsectorcharter.co.za www.forestsectorchartercouncil.co.za

Back to Lowveld

Personal notes from a sentimental Journey

11 – 26 May 2024

By Georg von dem Bussche

We experienced twelve wonderful years working and living in the forestry – and natural environment of the old “Verre Noord Transvaal”. This journey brought back many memories of a more personal nature, which was thought by the Editor, might be of interest to the forestry community.

The first highlight: The Swallows at Makopeng (alias Potgietersrus). An idyllic little guesthouse under wonderful trees and a caring host, who not only organized a pizza for us but also provided talkative entertainment.

Then the trip along the Great North Road to Louis Trichardt and further via Wyllie’s Poort and the “Hendrik Verwoerd” tunnel (still the real name) to the lowveld with mild air, baobabs and mopane. Easy welcome at Tshipise and after a beer the first dip into the warm pool. At our rondavel, under the huge nyala tree, we were visited by a group of banded mongooses, while the evening sun, orange and red glowing, slowly sank behind the thorn trees. The evening meal at the restaurant was not special and we decided not to frequent it again.



Our rondavel

Monday morning. A regiment of baboons is walking past. We will have to live with them as well as the more curious and regularly instigating vervet monkeys. It is “salig” and slightly cloudy but the dry, mild air makes us happy and comfortable. We drove 10 km to the charming “Citrus Spens”, a farm store plus rural eatery on a hill overlooking the colourful bushveld. Huge ancient *Khaya* trees shelter us from wind and sun. What a friendly and well managed place, where we enjoyed tasty citrus snacks.

After a rest and an afternoon dip in the restoring warm water we have our first braai under the trees. Once the boerewors and the toasted cheese and tomato sandwiches were nearly done and the sun had disappeared, an adventurous monkey dropped out of the tall tree over the braai and snatched one of the sandwiches off the hot braai; luckily, Barbara had prepared three of them, so the rest was enjoyed specially. 😊

Tuesday morning, I met Sarah Venter at Bokmakierie and we went to measure, as many times before, the baobabs at the “Skelmwater” a forestry reserve, which was, as always, a sentimental exercise for me. Forty-four years ago, I measured the trees for the first time.



Measuring baobabs at Skelmwater

The reserve was set aside by a ‘far looking’ forester, P.C. de Villiers, to collect growth data of these special trees and have been measured, recently annually. We found that during the last 5 years all trees, even the very big and old ones, had increased the circumference. I will have to write another detailed story about the baobab reserve at a later stage.

Then we rushed to the nearby town of Musina (alias Messina) to investigate the destruction of two huge baobabs at the edge of the overpopulated township, which seems to be run by Pakistanis, who settled there more than twenty years ago. Sarah displayed her talents as a forensic investigator. She traced the owner of the site as well as the contractor, who performed the abdominal damage with the help of a supportive and friendly Pakistani furniture maker in the centre of the “African market”, where we had to venture. I was supposed to be her bodyguard, but I felt more like being protected by her unafraid determination to go to the source of this possible crime.

During one of our enjoyable lunches under the huge *Khaya* trees at the Citrus Spens we met dominee Petrus Kriel from Levubu, who knew our old forestry friend Willem de Villiers from Entabeni. Petrus Kriel, as keen member of the Dendrological Society, had surveyed the indigenous forests. It was a moving experience for me to talk to someone, who must have been with me at tree identification outings about forty years ago in the “Verre Noord Transvaal”.

Thursday morning at 6am our walking pals Nina & Craig arrived, and we walked, while the sun rose pink and orange and the bright yellow through the bushveld trees, around the “koppie”, the picturesque mountain adjoining our resort. A soul refreshing walk of about 5km around the signature mountain. We just walked and talked and there was only little time to admire the trees.



Tshipise “koppie”

At 7:20 on Thursday morning we left for the Pafuri gate of the Kruger Park. The park greeted us with many green trees, some of them showing already autumn colours and plenty of yellow grass.

Close to the Levubu river there was no grass anymore and even bushes and trees had been mutilated. Crossing the river, we spotted our first crock and a nyala bull with one horn only. Then we were heading east towards Crooks Corner, where the Levubu meets the great Limpopo and the RSA borders onto Zimbabwe and Mozambique. A special site. We admired a herd of sleeping hippos on the bank of the river and saw many animals, including Barbara’s giraffes, unfortunately only in the distance. Elephants were also around, and we came across a group buffalo, who glanced at us suspiciously. I took some photos in honour of our son, Julius, the buffalo hunter and nearly also a buffalo farmer.



Crossing the Levubu River

Our main interest, the trees along the river, were amazing. I caught baobabs, nyala trees, leadwoods, huge sausage trees and jackalberry trees on my little camera. It was sad to see that the fever tree forest consisted now only of dying or badly damaged trees. It was obvious that the ‘ellies’ caused the decline and not “climate change” as it is mentioned at times. It is not the fault of the beautiful ancient giants; it is the fault of management.



Hippos in the sun at Crook’s Corner

Part two of Georg’s sentimental journey will be published in the next Newsletter.



NCT beefs up Chain of Custody assurance



NCT's Roger Poole and Eric Msomi inform the growers of the strict new chain-of-custody requirements. (Photo courtesy Mfundo Ngcobo/NCT).

Small-scale tree farming on tribal land in the KZN midlands is alive and well, as evidenced by an enthusiastic turnout at a recent NCT field day at the co-op's Ahrens timber depot, near Greytown.

This was a combined field day hosted by NCT's Greytown regional office for growers supplying their timber to the Glenside and Ahrens depots. Around 80 tree farmers from the surrounding areas attended the field day to hear presentations from the NCT forestry team. The focus of the day was on the need for growers to comply with NCT's chain-of-custody protocols which are designed to ensure that every stick of timber crossing the weighbridge at the depot is legitimate, can be traced directly back to the grower, and can be verified by NCT head office if required to do so.

The reason for the elevation of chain-of-custody assurance to 'High Priority' in this little corner of South Africa is the growing raft of regulations around the world that are designed to prevent any illegal or stolen timber from entering the global supply chain, and more specifically, to stop illegal logging and deforestation.

European Union Deforestation Regulation

Central to all of this is the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) which came into effect in June 2023. This regulation requires that any product placed on the market or exported from the European Union did not result in deforestation anywhere along the supply chain, and that the products have been grown, harvested or obtained in accordance with the relevant laws of the country where the production took place. The timber grown by NCT's small grower members around the KZN

Midlands and in Zululand is sold as 'controlled wood' either directly as wood chips to markets in China and Japan, or to the Sappi-Saiccor mill on the south coast which exports the chemical pulp it produces to markets across the world. The wood chips and pulp are further processed abroad into paper and packaging materials or fabric, much of the which inevitably ends up as finished products in the European Union. The beginning of this global supply chain goes all the way back to every NCT member tree farmer who supplies timber to one of NCT's depots – including the small-scale growers harvesting tiny one or two ha woodlots in Matimatolo.

Certified or controlled wood

In fact, this regulation impacts upon every single farmer in South Africa that grows and sells timber that is used as raw material in the manufacture of products destined for mainstream global markets. This timber must either be certified by FSC or PEFC – or both – or at the very least must be sold as 'controlled wood' with full assurance of the legality of the whole supply chain.

At the Ahrens field day where the NCT team spelled out their requirements for purchasing members' timber delivered to the depot. NCT is busy developing an app that runs on a mobile phone which will assist the growers to provide the essential info required to comply with their chain-of custody assurance. This includes taking and uploading a photo of the timber they have harvested before it leaves their plot on the short haul journey to the NCT depot. A marketer of clothing in Stockholm or Rome might request that photo to verify that the product he is selling has legitimate origins. Failure to be able to trace that timber all the way back to the grower would result in the mill gate being shut in the face of the timber supplier.

Another area of risk for the 'controlled wood' requirements of growers is the short haul transport from plantation to depot. If the vehicle and the driver and the load are not fully legal and legit, it's game over. The chain of custody is broken, and the timber cannot be sold as 'controlled wood'. The mill gate will be shut once again. The growers attending the field day took the news about beefing up their chain of custody assurance pretty well. Some had questions around the difficulties they face in arranging suitable short haul transport, or navigating the technology required to use the app. But those are just some of the challenges that are going to have to be overcome if the timber supply chain is to remain intact.

STIHL supports rhino dehorning project



The rhino are darted and then the horn is cut off just above the growth point, using a chainsaw. The process is quick and painless.

There has been an alarming surge in rhino poaching, particularly within the Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park (HiP), forcing Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, in collaboration with WWF South Africa, to undertake a rhino dehorning programme. KZN lost a total of 325 rhinos in 2023, with 307 of those poached within HiP, despite concerted efforts to stem the tide.

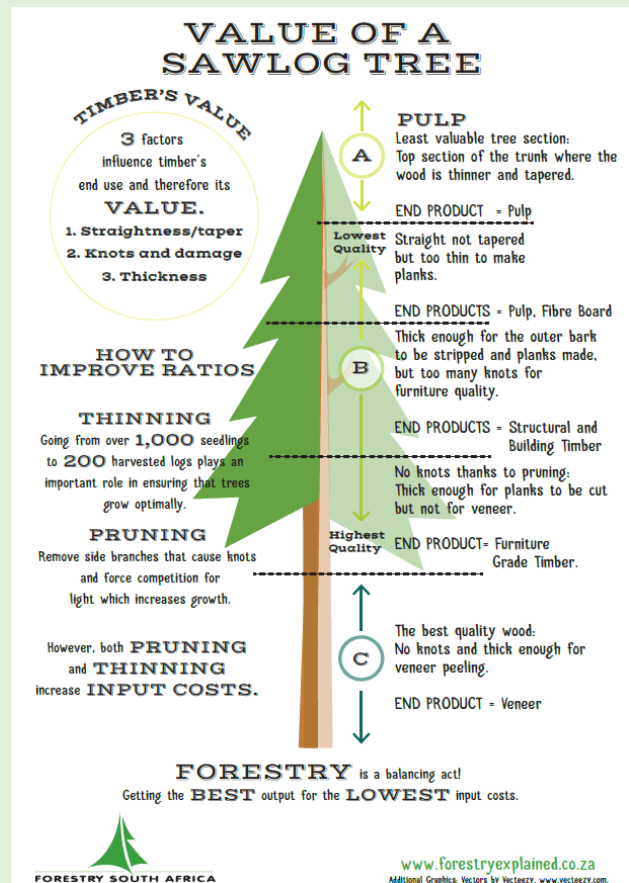
The dehorning programme complements the recently approved Ezemvelo KZN Guardianship Strategy for Rhinoceros, which aims to significantly reduce poaching incidents. To ensure that the dehorning process is as fast and as safe as possible, STIHL SA has donated equipment to WWF South Africa to support this cause, including eight high-powered chainsaws, sharpeners and protective chainsaw pants to be worn by those doing the dehorning.

“If removing their horns is the only way we can save the lives of our magnificent rhinos, then it has to be done, albeit with a sense of sadness,” says STIHL managing director, Hayden Hutton. “We are humbled to be able to play a part in this project, undertaken in such tragic circumstances. We hope this will ensure the survival of this species so that the next generation of humans is able to see rhinos in their natural environment - not only in picture books.”

Compiled by Chris Chapman, Editor-in-Chief SA Forestry
chris@saforestrymagazine.co.za

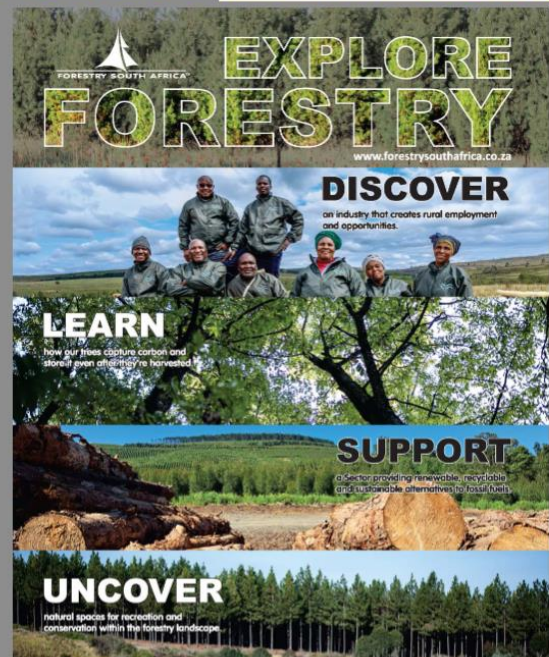
<https://saforestryonline.co.za>

Interesting facts from FSA : Forestry Explained



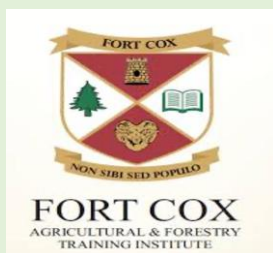
www.forestryexplained.co.za

Forestry South Africa's FORESTRY IN FOCUS



<https://forestrysouthafrica.co.za/fsa-magazine/>

**Top Student Award : Fort Cox Agriculture and Forestry Training Institute :
Ms. Pilasande Bhentsu**



It is truly an honour to be recognised by such a big organisation, and I would like to express my gratitude for being considered for this award, I am humbled.

Where are you originally from (Town and Province)?

I am from Mdantsane (Township outside of East London), Eastern Cape.

How did you hear about or decided to study forestry?

I decided to study Forestry because I love nature and Forestry provides one with the flexibility of being in the office and outside (nature).

Where did you study?

I studied at Fort Cox Agriculture and Forestry Training Institute.

What are you currently doing?

I am currently doing my Advance Diploma in Forestry with Nelson Mandela University.

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

I would like to be a Silviculture Specialist.

Any advice to scholars considering forestry studies?

Forestry is broad, find your niche and run with it.

**Top Student Award : University of Venda
Ms. Ronewa Nethononda**



Good day, firstly I would like to thank you for being given this opportunity.

Where are you originally from (town and province)?

I am originally from Lukau a small village in Limpopo province.

How did you hear about or decided to study forestry?

I am fascinated about how our planet is changing as i did geography in high school. Hence, studying forestry is my way of contributing to the preservation and restoration of Earth's lungs in an era of climate change and environmental crises.

Where did you study?

I pursued my studies at the University of Venda.

What are you currently doing?

As I have recently completed my WIL program am now ready for the job market.

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

I aspire to work as a silvicultural forester.

Any advice to scholars considering forestry studies?

To scholars considering forestry studies, I would say the forestry sector needs more brains on deck, fuelled by the passion for achieving a greener, sustainable future.

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

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

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

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

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

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



NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY



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

"Educating and training for effective wildfire management".

Date: 6-8 November 2024

Venue: Halliwell Country Inn, Karkloof region, KwaZulu-Natal province, South Africa

Background and purpose

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

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

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

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

14th Nelson Mandela University Fire Management Symposium



Food for Thought



Weather Forecast



<https://www.frimedia.org/>

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DFFE representative	Vacant	

June/ July Birthdays



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Jun 01	WERNER MEYER	Jun 14	WILLI GEVERS
Jun 01	ILARIA GERMISHUIZEN	Jun 14	THOBISELA MHONE
Jun 02	GODFREY VISAGIE	Jun 15	CLIVE HENDERSON
Jun 03	LEIGH WILLIAMS	Jun 15	HEYNS KOTZE
Jun 04	JOCK BOAKE	Jun 16	MARTIN BUCHLER
Jun 06	JOHN FEELY	Jun 17	MUEDANYI RAMANTSWANA
Jun 06	DALI LUBALA	Jun 17	JOHAN BOTHMA
Jun 07	FANELE MABASO	Jun 19	ROB THOMPSON
Jun 08	ANDREW MORRIS	Jun 20	RAJESH RAMSAMY
Jun 08	JOHN CRAWFORD-BRUNT	Jun 21	BENICE SIVPARSAD
Jun 10	MARTINA MEINCKEN	Jun 23	IAN HARRISON
Jun 13	NONSIKELELO MHLONGO	Jun 30	JAN JANSEN



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Jul 03	STU VALINTINE	Jul 22	NOMVUYISO TSHANGISA
Jul 08	DIRK STAAL	Jul 23	NIC DE WAAL
Jul 08	ROB PALLETT	Jul 23	ANTON KUNNEKE
Jul 11	JACK HUBBLE	Jul 24	PHILLIP McINTYRE
Jul 16	TONY WINTER	Jul 25	DEAN DA COSTA
Jul 19	KAREN EATWELL	Jul 25	ROB GARDNER
Jul 20	MIKE HOWARD	Jul 31	RORY MACK
Jul 21	LUVUYO TYHODA		

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



The Southern African Institute of Forestry

Handbook order form

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

I would like to order:

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



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



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



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

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

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

I am a member non-member of the SAIF.

Name	
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Postal address	
Contact number	
Email address	

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