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Southern African Institute of Forestry

Delivering a professional service to forestry

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

Contents:

Magnificent baobab at Tshipise
Photo supplied by Georg von den Bussche

Editorial

Challenging Times

It is hard to believe that we already reached the halfway stage of 2025 !

We area officially now in the second half of 2025 and perhaps a good time and opportunity for reflection, also for us in the forest- and forest products industry. According to Statistics South Africa, the official unemployment rate was 32.9% in the first quarter of 2025. You may accept this figure as the most reliable or rather consider the outgoing Capitec CEO Gerrie Fourie's statement that the unemployment rate is perhaps much lower and could be as low as 10-15% if the so-called informal economy is also factored in. Whatever your view is on this matter, according to Statistics South Africa, the unemployment number increased by 237,000 in the 1st Quarter of 2025.

South Africa's real GDP growth is currently very low, with the latest data indicating a marginal increase of 0.1% in the first quarter of 2025. This follows a revised increase of 0.4% in the fourth quarter of 2024. Overall, the South African economy has experienced muted growth in recent years, with an average of only 0.7% growth over the past decade.

Against this background, of very low economic growth, the forest and forest products industry has not been unaffected and face numerous challenges. Some smaller forestry companies / growers are currently for sale or has changed ownership recently. The Forest and Forest Products Industry has proved before that it is very resilient and has the ability to bounce back from similar events and setbacks. We therefore remain hopeful.

From the President's Desk

The good old AGM

By Bruce Talbot

On the 25th of June the SAIF held its AGM, once again in an online format only. The absolute highpoints of the AGM being the excellent guest presentation given by Prof. Dave Drew at the outset and the awards made at the end of the meeting. Those of you who were fortunate enough to be able to listen in to Dave's presentation would have been impressed with not only the speed and extent of forest-science related development under the 4th Industrial Revolution (sensors / digitilisation / Internet-of-things) and 5th (Artificial Intelligence) but also the uptake and implementation in flagship projects such as the EucXylo Open-Air Lab at Lourensford estate (Somerset West) and the planned 'mirror' site to be located near FABI, Pretoria. The real impact of these being the opportunities given for cooperation across disciplines and institutes, which must warm the heart of the Hans Merensky Legacy Foundation, who cleverly sought to lift forest science and forestry into the new age.

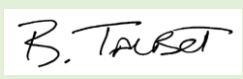
At the other end of the meeting, we had an award made to top performing undergraduates from several institutions. It must be a special feeling to come out of one's tertiary education top class but judging by the historic names on the list of medal winners here at Stellenbosch University, there is also a strong correlation with achievement throughout their careers. In that light we want to once again extend our congratulations to Ms Thandeka J. Mnisi (U Mpumalanga), Mr Zizipho Mbanga (Fort Cox Agricultural College), Mr Tholinhlanhla Ndlovu (Nelson Mandela University), and Ms Anneke Joubert (Stellenbosch University) – there is a good chance that these are our future captains of industry.

Finally, Jeremy Carr of NCT in Piet Retief was awarded the Forester of the Year award for his excellent work in timber procurement for NCT, given that this comes predominantly from a multitude of very thrifty tree farmers and not own plantations. It seems that throngs of foresters are reaching retirement age and the majority of them have no doubt deserved recognition for their respective contributions, so well done to Jeremy for taking the trophy home.

In between these bookends we did hear from our Editor-in-Chief at Southern Forests, Dr David Everard that there had been a fairly strong run on the submission of manuscripts to the journal. This is always a good sign and a glance through the table of contents of recent issues will show the health of the journal marked by the diversity and quality of papers published. Once again, a significant challenge faced by editors across the globe is the newer unavailability of researchers to review other's work, while all struggle to get their own submissions submitted, reviewed and accepted. It's always nice to see some of our own amongst the author names, and here we congratulate our vice-president Christopher Komakech and Annabel Fossey, Morries Chauke and Henry Mwambi, and many others on their recent papers, A link is embedded here in an attempt to get a few of you to browse some of these papers in the journal that your subscription gives you access to.

The AGM does always mark a time for reflection on the status, and especially the future of the Institute. The accounts are never a pretty sight, but we do manage to march along albeit on a declining balance sheet. Ideas for increasing income generation are always welcome while costs are already managed on a shoestring. Our National Secretary, Intsia Kriel, also provided us with an update on the general status of things, where it is always interesting to see the dynamics in our membership numbers over a year, hear how popular certain pieces of SAIF merchandise or books are while others are less so, and especially, to know that our accounts are well taken care of by both accountants and auditors. It was also good to hear of the SAIFs direct involvement in the highly successful Forest Science Symposium (ICFR/FSA/SAIF) as well as the Precision Forestry Symposium (U Stell./ IUFRO / SAIF) during the past year – where both events highlighted the breadth and capacity of our national forest research base.

There is cause for optimism and we continue to focus on growing our membership with enthusiastic and bright new graduates while aligning ourselves closer with organizations that can offer our members some tangible benefits.
Wishing all our members the best as preparations for fire season are well underway.



Worlds apart

By Rob Thompson

A few weeks back I had the distinct privilege of lecturing to the Forestry Advance Diploma students on site at NMU (Saasveld).

I say privilege, given that such an opportunity presents a unique insight into the modern forestry student and allows an outgoing practitioner such as myself, opportunity to compare their forestry experience to mine.

Dare I say it…our experiences are worlds apart…but, I am delighted to report, there are still distinct similarities to be found as well!

The distinct change in demographic structure of the student group is the first obvious difference that I encountered.

Huge positive inroads have been made to attract young people, previous generations of whom were excluded from the industry, into a career which is quite unique and specialized. So, there you have it, a different and more representative set of people, now engaged in what has always been considered, by the uninitiated, as a non-mainstream career choice. Those older readers of this newsletter will have plenty of recollections about curious people questioning their career. “So, you are a forester hey?” “What do you do all day?” “Watch trees grow and then chop them down?” No doubt they all had the inherent (forestry learned) ability to respond to such approaches in light vein… “Ja Boet, but we also spend some time sharpening our axes”. Looking at the young students in the class, I think that they too will experience strange queries about their profession, and I really hope that their retorts do justice to the humorous response-ability honed by their predecessors over the years. Of course, they now have AI to assist them so there are no excuses!

The second thing that I noticed was that the students are far more worldly wise than I recollect my generation being.

Conversation and discussion during my sessions, often drifted into serious matters such as inter personnel relations at the workplace, gender related matters, the cost of living, Management attitudes, work dress codes et al.

I’m guessing that the interconnectivity of social media, instant access to news and information, and a turbulent political climate globally, are stimulants to such inherent insight, concern and interest. Speaking from my own perspective, in my student days, news was delivered via a printed newspaper, days after the events described therein had occurred, and interconnectivity happened in person in the local student dives or on the sport fields or in student residences et al. Workplace, and for that matter, real life realities, still had to be experienced before they became a topic of conversation.

Reflecting on this, I do think it somewhat sad that student life or the study experience has arguably lost some of its innocence in the modern world. Young people are necessitated to grow up and adapt to the vicissitudes of life far earlier than my experience. I trust that the pleasures they find in the alternative stimuli available now make up for this.

And whilst on the topic of social media, therein lies the third very apparent difference between contemporary and past students viz. connectivity and computer savvy.

Every person has a cell phone embedded into their palm making it accessible for dexterous thumbs to input and receive instantaneous info from across the globe. Admittedly, even the older generation have now adapted to this, but in the context of a lecture room environment, it was made even more apparent that interconnectivity, at any time, and under any circumstance, is vital to modern living. Just as is access to a laptop for study purposes and research and the savvy to use this key piece of equipment effectively. A modern student simply cannot operate without connectivity. In the forestry world students and specialist practitioners are now even coding applications to deal with a plethora of challenges and you will definitely not find a computer illiterate individual at practitioner level.

Prof Dave Drew of University Stellenbosch has recently described forestry as entering the fifth industrial (digital) revolution or Forestry 5.0. This statement was emphasized with examples of

"digital twins" being created of research sites, via high tech analytical tools reading high resolution data. This implies that our plantations are now open-air laboratories and the world is an oyster to any practitioner who can embed effectively into these new technical opportunities. Back in my world, we looked in awe at the chap in our class who had purchased and mastered a scientific and statistical calculator.

I looked across the young faces in the lecture room and wondered if they all really appreciated the "reach" and opportunity that modern technology and infinitely wide access to knowledge and data provides. It's there for the taking but in my opinion and from experience, requires a great deal of consideration to apply correctly. Perhaps there is still room for old and new worlds to interact and learn from each other? Is there still a way and time to apply positive old-world values to the application and acceptance of new world technologies. We are largely in the hands of the younger generation to prove if this is possible.

My stint as a lecturer, as short as it was, did force me to contemplate old school values in the forestry context. What stimulated this was that the young people in the class appeared to have arrived at this point of their lives, via a different route to that of my generation. These were youngsters who had possibly applied for any number of tertiary courses in the quest for a career and a decent living, and fate and availability had placed them in a forestry course. These were folk who had not necessarily been "called" into forestry as we were, in our world, back in the day. They had simply arrived and were now making do.

The effort that NMU has put into making this group stay for the long term, and reach advance diploma stage, is commendable and in my opinion, not recognized and celebrated enough. To turn a person who does not have the slightest clue about forestry, into a capable and effective and eager practitioner, takes effort and then some! All that said, I did notice that there is considerable room for the older generation to instill some basic environmental values into the new foresters of today. In my opinion these are values that are inherent and not easily learnt. Difficult backgrounds and a changed world has, in many cases, not allowed the basic tenants of environmental responsibility and care to sink into young minds.

Given that our generation was called, we should now "pay it forward" by setting the right example and using every opportunity to share the need of respect for nature. None of us can consider ourselves a complete forester without that respect fully ingrained into our psyche.

And so, my short visit to NMU came to an end. I really hope that some of what I had to say, sank in, and makes a positive difference over time. What I do know is that the interaction with these youngsters made a world of difference to me, and I certainly walked away all the better for the experience.

Abstract : Forest Research in the Digital age: using Open-air labs to understand how plantation trees grow

The 2025 AGM featured a presentation by Prof. Dave Drew, who discussed the evolution of forestry research in the context of advancing technology. He provided an overview of industrial changes leading to Industry 4.0 and the emerging Industry 5.0, emphasizing the role of AI and robotics in enabling mass customization within forestry. Prof. Drew showcased various AI tools, such as text-to-video and text-to-image technologies, highlighting their potential for enhancing data visualization and analysis.

He introduced the concept of open air laboratories for intensive monitoring of forest ecosystems, detailing a specific experiment with eucalyptus species in the Western Cape. Prof. Drew stressed the importance of effective data transfer solutions and modern analytical tools to maximize the value of collected data, while also mentioning ongoing collaborations aimed at understanding the effects of environmental factors on tree growth and health.

He expressed interest in exploring the implications of these advancements for forestry research and the tools available for leveraging artificial intelligence in this field. David presented insights on the evolution of forestry practices, emphasizing the shift towards precision forestry through the use of sensors and AI. He introduced the concept of open air laboratories as a research tool for monitoring tree growth and health, detailing a specific experiment involving various eucalyptus species. Drew also mentioned collaborations with other institutions to enhance research capabilities in this field.

SA government kills funding for best weapon against thirsty invasive trees

Centre for Biological Control deputy director, associate professor Grant Martin, hangs seed traps beneath the canopy of a silver wattle near Ficksburg in the Free State, in anticipation of releasing a new biocontrol agent here later this year. (Photo: Leonie Joubert)

Water-greedy alien trees – especially pine, eucalyptus and wattles – are among the biggest threats to South Africa's precarious water future. Infecting them with insects or diseases from their home countries is the most effective and affordable way to slow this form of pollution. But state funding disruptions have put a stop to any new research into novel biocontrol agents.

As far as the gear for a scientific experiment goes, this is about as low-tech as it gets. A few lengths of PVC piping from the local hardware store, about as long as a forearm and a little more stout. Upended into it is the top-half of a 2l plastic bottle, its downturned mouth funnelling to a porous white bag.

Five in all, hung from branches beneath the canopy of a mature silver wattle tree like homemade lanterns, with little more than roughly twisted fencing wire, gauge uncertain.

The most sophisticated bit of the experiment is the code, on a printed label: AC-FS-02-17.

"We're trying to measure the seed-rain," says Associate Professor Grant Martin, a researcher with the Department of Zoology and Entomology at the University of the Free State and deputy director of the Centre for Biological Control (CBC) at Rhodes University.

In just more than an hour, Martin and colleague Dr Kim Canavan, also a researcher with the CBC, have hung all their seed traps – five traps, five trees – but it's heavy going, beating their way through the dense thicket.

This should be open grassland, but there isn't room to swing a cat, given how well these non-native trees and other shrubs have muscled in. The canopy is as tall as a building and closed in; the understorey a claustrophobic tangle of weeds.

"It's almost all alien plants," says Canavan. "Mostly lamb's quarters and *khakibos*, not much else really." The indigenous ground cover has long been exiled.

The farmer who recently bought this neglected piece of land 25km west of Ficksburg in the Free State wants it restored to open grazing. Even if that's possible, it will take years to recover. But he seems willing to bet good money on the approach these two are recommending.

The solution is a diminutive Australian wasp that looks as though it's stepped out of a Beatrix Potter story book – small, cute, none of the aggression of a typical hornet – but it might be a heavyweight contender to slow this wattle's growth. If it does, it'll be one of the most viable front lines of defence for the country's heavily plant-invaded eastern grasslands, and the ecological water services they offer.

The wasp's name is a tongue twister – *Perilampella hecataeus* – but back in its home country it's a natural predator on silver wattles, attacking the flowers and dramatically reducing the number of seeds a tree can produce each season.

Martin and Canavan will release the wasp later this year, and monitor the trees' seed production for as many years into the future as they can.

However, state funding disruptions threaten the future of this field study, along with other efforts to find new biocontrol agents to tackle the country's barely controlled invasive tree problem.

The Mzimvubu catchment in the eastern grasslands is one of the country's most important water sources, and starts about 200 km south-east as the crow flies from the Ficksburg wasp release site. Recent aerial surveys show a 32 percent increase in the spread of invasive plants in just 15 years in this catchment. DFFE has not released any funding for ecosystem restoration work in the Eastern Cape in the

past two years, bringing many projects to a halt.(Map: SANBI)

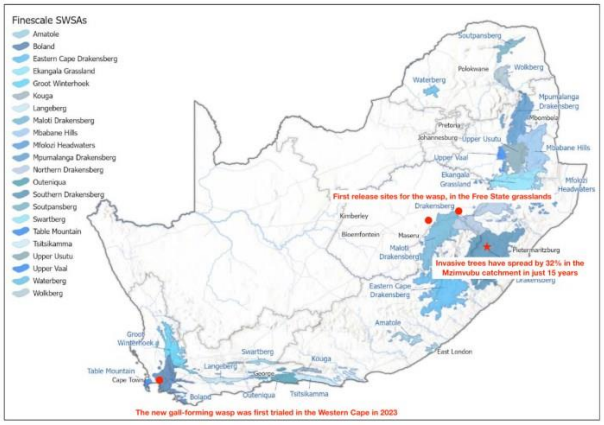


Figure 1: Fine-scale national Strategic Water Source Areas for surface water based on the downscaled Mean Annual Precipitation surface for South Africa.

The silver wattle is one of the most aggressive invaders in the country's grasslands and has already taken over an estimated 400,000 hectares across the biome.

Around South Africa, these thirsty invaders typically congregate in water catchments, clogging up wetlands, streams and river banks. They crowd out indigenous species, dry out and hard-pack the soil, poison the ground so other plants can't grow, add to a fuel load that makes normal fires lethal to indigenous veld, and allow soils to wash downriver.

Recognising the threat that invasive plants pose to the country's water resources, agricultural production and grazing, biodiversity and ecosystem services, in 1995 the then water affairs minister Kader Asmal launched the Working for Water programme and offshoot initiatives aimed at restoring water catchments and creating jobs. These programmes have largely tackled the problem through mechanical clearing and herbicides, spending roughly R7.1-billion on this work between 1999 and 2020, according to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment's (DFFE) 2022 report on the state of biological invasions.

A recent study, based on aerial surveys across the country, tells a grim tale, though. In spite of decades of investment to contain the spread of invasive plant species, their footprint continues to grow. This study – a collaboration between various research institutions, an NGO and the DFFE – used low-flying airplanes to map the extent of invasive alien plant infestations. Completed in 2023, it found a 10.6% spread of invasive plants in the past 15 years, with wattle, eucalyptus, pine and mesquite species making up nearly three-quarters of this growth.

The same study, though, shows that biological control agents are the most effective, affordable and sustainable way to get on top of these spreading plants. Where there has been a notable decrease in the spread of certain invaders – particularly certain wattle species, hakea and cacti – biocontrol agents were working to suppress the populations.

A small portion of the Working for Water budget – R62.7-million annually between 2015 and 2020 – has gone towards allowing experts like those at the CBC and its affiliate organisations at various universities around the country to find and test new biocontrol agents, run mass rearing facilities, manage the agents' release and monitor effectiveness.

This is small change next to the amount needed to contain invasive plant invasions across the board: a 2024 estimate by, among others, the Centre for Invasion Biology at Stellenbosch University and the South African National Biodiversity Institute, puts the figure at R231.8-billion.

Where mechanical and chemical clearing are labour-intensive ways to mop up the pollution after it's clogged up wetlands and rivers, biocontrol agents turn off the pollution at the source, before it can damage more water courses.

But following Treasury's tightening of the purse strings after Covid-19, then environment minister Barbara Creecy cut Working for Water and related ecosystem restoration funding from R1.7-billion in the 2020/21 financial year to just R377-million in 2024. While the total budget for the DFFE's environmental programmes has remained relatively constant over the past four years (R2.6-billion for 2020/21 and 2021/22, R3.2-billion for 2022/23 and R2.9-billion for 2023/24) — Working for Water has seen a 78% decrease relative to the 2020/21 budget.

Where the CBC previously accessed DFFE funding through a rolling grant system, a switch to an onerous and slow tendering process has resulted in a complete

shutdown in funding to the CBC, which has partner institutions at several universities around the country.

"Funding was stopped in about 2020," says the CBC's director, Professor Martin Hill.

The most recent estimate for getting on top of the country's invasive plant problem is around R231.8-billion, but the country has only spent about 4% of that since 1960. (Photo: Leonie Joubert)

The centre was asked to submit a proposal in 2023, and amend it to reduce the total budget in response to the DFFE's request, but that is the last the CBC has heard from the department, according to Hill.

"To this day we have not received any official notification from the department as to our proposals not being accepted, or why it was not accepted."

In response to the recent aerial survey showing the steady bush encroachment from these trees, and Working for Water and CBC funding cuts and disruptions, Brian van Wilgen, co-author of the survey analysis and emeritus professor with the Centre for Invasion Biology at Stellenbosch University, raises the scientific community's concerns with the new environment minister, Dion George.

"Biological control has brought some of the worst problem invasive species under complete control or has substantially reduced the effort that will be needed to control them by other means," Van Wilgen says in a letter to the minister in August 2024.

"The practice offers an exceptionally cost-effective option for long-term, sustainable control of invasive species."

Several studies have been done to demonstrate the returns on investment from biological control agents.

"One study estimated that the costs of invasions in South Africa are currently reduced by up to R30-billion per year as a result of the historic and ongoing use of biological control," Van Wilgen writes.

A case from the Cape: *rooikrans* gets a clobbering

John Hoffmann is animated as he recounts a tale that's worthy of a screenplay, rather than where it's mostly been told – buried in academic journals and the odd government report. It's a story of field mice, fire, a flower-loving midge and a seed-eating weevil who have unwittingly been working together to beat back the bridgehead of *rooikrans* wattles, a tenacious invader in the Western Cape's fynbos.

An experiment like this doesn't deliver gold overnight. It needs years of patient watching, waiting and seed counting. The now retired entomologist and associate professor from the University of Cape Town's (UCT's) Department of Biological Sciences has been following the unfolding events since 1994 when a host-specific, seed-feeding weevil from Australia was introduced at some sites overrun with *rooikrans*. Then, in 2002, biocontrol experts introduced a midge that attacks the tree's flowers.

The battlefield advantage that wattles like *rooikrans* have is that they produce thousands of seeds a year. Once tucked away in the soil, seeds can remain viable for two decades, give or take. They also respond particularly well to fire, something that's natural to a fynbos system. Clear a thicket of *rooikrans*, but be ready for a second wave of growth as soon as a fire runs through.

Except at these biocontrolled sites.

"There's an accumulation of seeds in the soil, built up over many years," Hoffmann explains. "When the fire comes, the heat and smoke stimulate the seeds to germinate. But contrary to popular belief, many of the seeds are destroyed by the heat of the fire."

Those that do survive and germinate send up tender seedlings that now must survive the hot, dry Cape summer. "There's a huge mortality of seedlings at that stage."

Two years after a fire, all the seeds have either been scorched or they've germinated but with few seedlings able to get to seed-bearing age. "Without the biocontrol agents, the (adult) plants start producing seeds again."

But once the biocontrol agents are introduced, the

seed-fall drops. “It’s not a dramatic effect, but (seed numbers) gradually decline.”

By shutting off the source of the pollution like this, when the fire does its thing, and seed-eating animals like field mice take their share, it’s enough to stabilise a *rooikrans* population or even drive it into decline, particularly if other clearing methods are used alongside the biocontrol agents. At one study site following a fire, Hoffmann and his team found only one or two seeds in the soil, nothing more.

“By the time the infestation got big enough to burn again, there was no store of seeds in the soil.”

There’s no silver-bullet biocontrol agent and the time-horizons for a successful agent to bring a population of plants under control can run into a decade or two. But it’s a control method that does the work itself, quietly in the background. Each troublesome invader needs to be matched with its own natural predator or disease. Some will work in their new location. Some won’t. For instance, some biocontrol agents are working well against wattle species in the Western Cape, with its winter rainfall, but don’t work as well when released in the east of the country in summer rainfall areas. Biocontrol experts say this is why they need to continually search for and test new potential agents, to find the best solutions to the unique contexts in which these invasions are unfolding.

Breaking new ground

This CBC team has already collected five years’ worth of seed-fall data from silver wattles in the area, which will give them a solid baseline against which to measure a change in seed production at this site.

The wasp was first trialled for its potential to suppress silver wattle populations in the Western Cape, with almost immediate signs that the agent had established itself. Batches of wasps were released at a few sites in December 2023 and by August 2024 the trees were growing tumour-like galls where their flowers should have developed into seed pods.

Whether or not the CBC team will be able to continue monitoring the wasp’s success here in the eastern grasslands, though, and trial more releases, hangs in the balance as long as the funding disruptions continue. **DM Source**: Daily Maverick, 20 May 2025

FSC Forest Week 2025

Subject: FSC® Forest Week 2025, taking place from 20 to 26 September.

FSC has launched their annual Forest Week marketing campaign.

The following materials are available for Certificate Holders on the FSC Forest Week 2025 campaign page on FSC Brand Hub:

- **Campaign guide**: It contains the suggested campaign schedule and a useful checklist. Certificate Holders can adapt the schedule to fit their social media plans.

- **Key visual (KV)**: This folder includes the campaign’s KV files and the KV guide which outlines all the rules regarding the use of the KV.

- **9 social assets including visuals and copy** – 1 pre-campaign post, 1 post for each day of the campaign, and 1 post-campaign post. All posts are available in two dimensions, as well as the Registered (R) or Trademark (TM) marks. Certificate Holders can find customized copies for the social media posts depending on their type of certificate (CoCs, FMs), as well as customized copies for each social media platform.

- **For online engagement,** Certificate Holders have access to an email signature banner and a digital background, which can be used on Teams or Zoom. For on-ground activities, FSC has designed print roll-up banners as well.

This notification was issued by SGS:

https://www.sgs.com/en-za/newsletters/subscription-center-form

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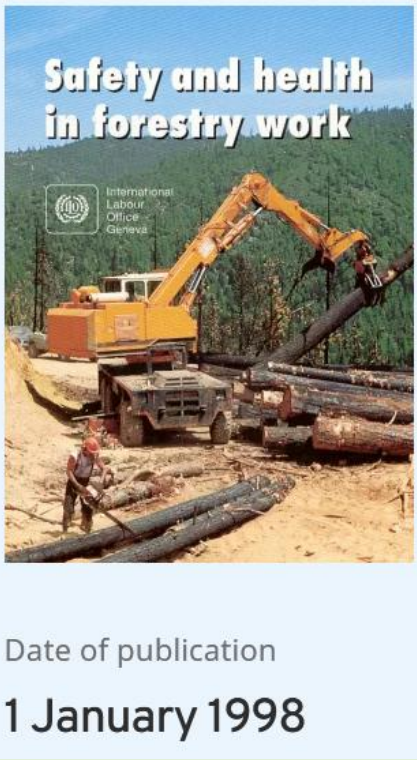
2025 ILO Safety and Health in Forestry Work

The *ILO Safety and Health in Forestry Work* code has just been released by the International Labour Organisation.

The new edition replaces the previous edition which is probably known to most of those working in the forestry industry. This document has been in use for the past 27 years.

The ILO states on their website : “Forestry continues to be one of the most hazardous industrial sectors in most countries. Around the world, there are often discouraging trends of rising accident rates and a high incidence of occupational diseases and of early retirement among forestry workers. However, clear evidence shows that good safety and health performance in forestry is feasible. Many ILO constituents recognize that safety at work is not only an ethical imperative, but that it makes "dollars and sense". In forestry, it is also a prerequisite for environmentally sound management and utilization of natural resources. Significantly, these governments, enterprises, employers' and workers' organizations are willing to do something about it. “

It goes further : “This code is not a legally binding instrument intended to supersede national legislation. It has been designed to provide guidance to ILO constituents in their endeavour to improve the safety and health performance of their national forestry sectors or enterprises. The code is based on state-of-the-art international experience, and is intended to be relevant and practicable in most countries and enterprises. It aims to protect workers from hazards in forestry work and to prevent or reduce the incidence of occupational illness or injury. It contains useful ideas even for countries and enterprises with well-developed prevention strategies, but is especially valuable for those that lack relevant regulations and guidelines.”



SGS has already notified their clients that the new code will be used(applied) during all forthcoming FSC Audits. It is therefore recommended that forestry companies acquire and familiarize themselves with the contents and prepare accordingly.

Source: https://www.ilo.org/resource/other/safety-and-health-forestry-work

@Future Africa, Pretoria, South Africa
28-30 October 2025

IUFRO is an international network of forest scientists working in a very broad range of research areas, including forest health and the management of invasive species.

This will be a joint meeting of two IUFRO working groups, and will focus on research related to the biological control, insect behaviour and chemical ecology of forest pests, and importantly the meeting will explore the interaction between these different disciplines.

Working group meetings are generally small enough to facilitate engagement with fellow researchers.

For more information about the meeting you can contact Jeremy Allison (Canadian Forest Service, **jeremy.allison@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca**) or Brett Hurley (FABI, University of Pretoria, **brett.hurley@fabi.up.ac.za**)

G20 2nd Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) Meeting

G20 SOUTH AFRICA 2025

G20 2nd Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) Meeting

Date: 14 July 2025 – 18 July 2025

Venue: Skukuza Safari Lodge

Location: Skukuza Rest Camp, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga

https://www.dffe.gov.za/g20ecswg

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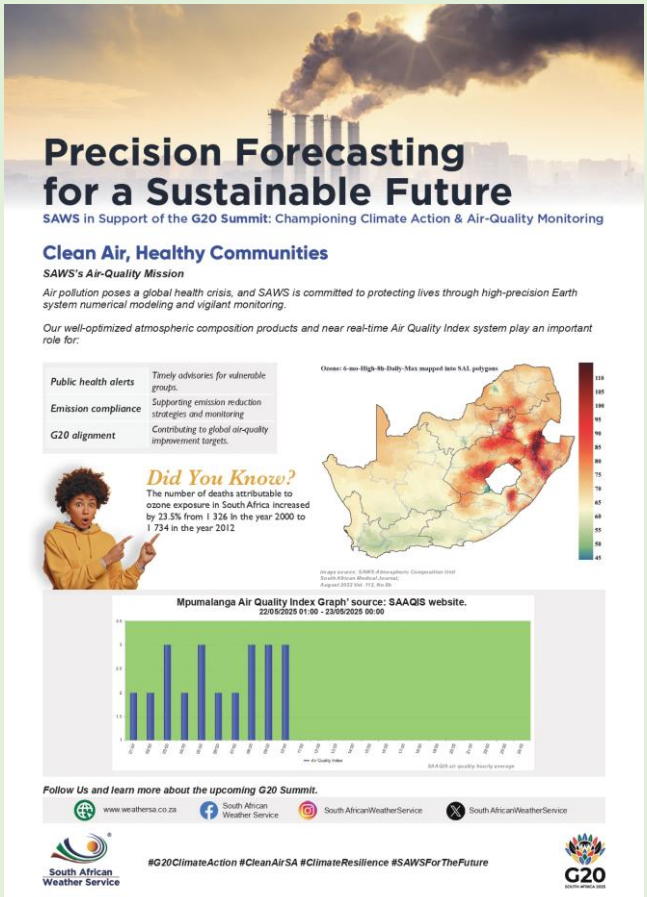

Provided to you by the South African Weather Service in support of the upcoming G20 summit.

weather - ready, climate - smart

Journal of the South African Forestry Association

Currently known as Southern Forests: a Journal of Forest Science Latest available articles

Spillover effects of tree-planting programmes on household tree planting for fuelwood and livelihoods in non-urban areas of Tanzania ›
Yusuph John Kulindwa
Article | Published online: 6 May 2025

An approach to timber monitoring in the Brazilian Amazon through transport elements ›
Vinicius Otavio Benoit Costa et al.
Article | Published online: 15 May 2025

Provenance variation, genetic parameters, and potential gains in *Eucalyptus viminalis* subsp. *nobilis* tested in two high altitude cool temperate sites in the summer rainfall region of South Africa ›
Christopher Komakech et al.
Review Article | Published online: 20 May 2025

Colorimetric changes in two radial positions caused by wood-decaying fungi in wood of seven eucalypt species ›
Pedro Nicó de Medeiros Neto et al.
Article | Published online: 20 Jun 2025

Integrating rainfall data into site-specific modelling to improve forest productivity estimation of eucalypt hybrid species in coastal Zululand, South Africa ›
Morries Chauke et al.
Article | Published online: 19 Jun 2025

Mixed-effect modelling of *Tectona grandis* L.f. yield at stand-level ›
Lucas Araujo Moura et al.
Article | Published online: 16 Jun 2025

https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/tsfs16

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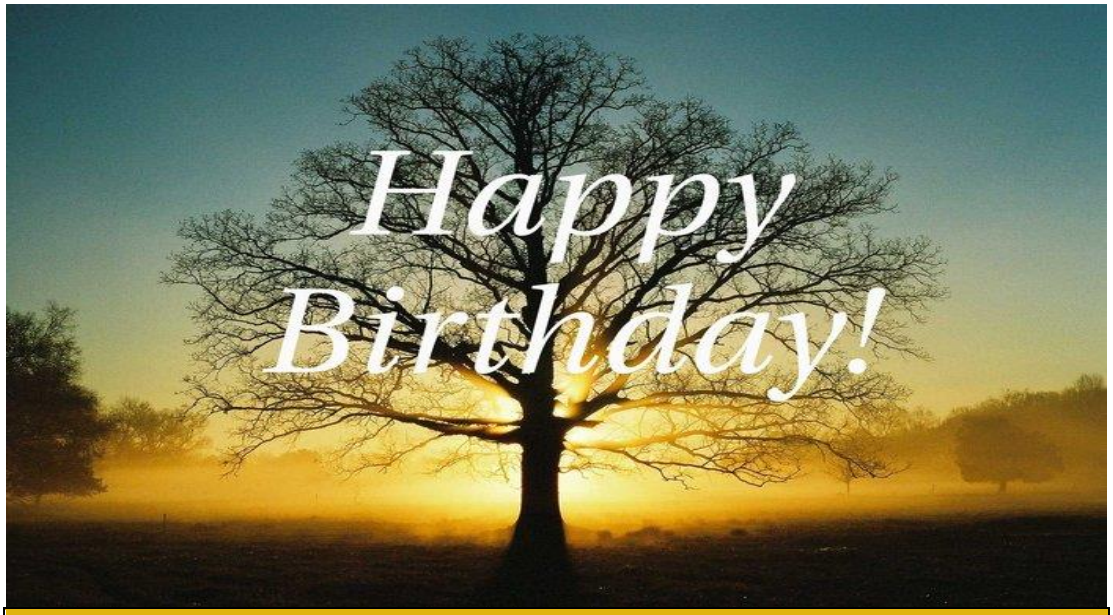
SAIF Contact Details

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

The following members celebrate their birthdays in July



JULY BIRTHDAYS			
03 Jul	STU VALINTINE	23 Jul	NIC DE WAAL
08 Jul	DIRK STAAL	23 Jul	ANTON KUNNEKE
08 Jul	ROBERT PALLETT	24 Jul	PHILLIP McINTYRE
16 Jul	TONY WINTER	24 Jul	GERALD GEVERS
19 Jul	KAREN EATWELL	25 Jul	DEAN DA COSTA
20 Jul	MIKE HOWARD	25 Jul	ROB GARDNER
21 Jul	LUVUYO TYHODA	31 Jul	RORY MACK

The following members will be celbrating their Birthdays in August

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

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

The Southern African Institute of Forestry

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