

# Southern African Institute of Forestry



Delivering a professional service to forestry

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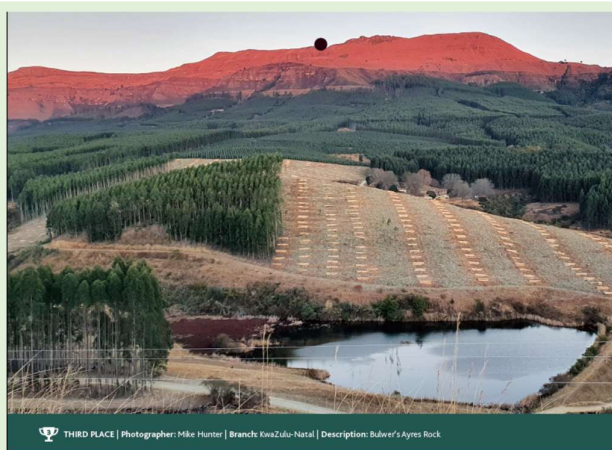
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## From the President's desk **"Why are you surprised?"**

What do the following have in common, the theory of radioactivity, mobile X-ray unit, identification and isolation of stem cells, invention of computer programming, DNA double helix, the life raft, semiconductor thermoelectricity, Kevlar, orbital mechanics, discovery of dark matter, GPS technology, the BRCA gene, mapping the HIV genes and CRISPR/Cas9, a ground-breaking technology for editing genomes?

These have all been discovered or invented by women in science making a significant impact on how the world has developed and how it functions today. These are a few amongst many contributions to science and technology that continue to benefit society. Names that come to mind are Marie Curie, Rosalind Franklin, Gladys West, Mary-Claire King, and more recently, Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier.

Focusing on one of the most recent inventions, CRISPR/Cas, and arguably the most exciting, experts predict that this gene editing technology will transform our planet, revolutionizing the societies we live in and the organisms we live alongside. It enables precise and targeted gene editing and has already touched on research fields such as human biology, agriculture, forestry and microbiology. Current scientific advancements show that CRISPR is not only an extremely versatile technology, it's proving to be precise and increasingly safe to use, with the potential for biotech ventures that may someday be worth



**SAIF Calendar March 2021 : Mike Hunter : KZN  
Branch : "Bulwer's Ayres Rock" (3<sup>rd</sup> place in SAIF  
Photo competition)**



billions of dollars. However, a lot of progress still needs to be made and we are only beginning to see the full potential of genome-editing tools like CRISPR/Cas9.

February marked the month to celebrate Women in Science and Engineering. Providing encouragement and opportunity for girls and women in science and engineering is one of the most powerful ways of harnessing this resource for the development of any country. According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) data, less than 30% of the world's researchers are women. UIS data also show the extent to which these women work in the public, private or academic sectors, as well as their fields of research. But to truly reduce the gender gap, we must go beyond the hard numbers and identify the qualitative factors that deter women from pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). While worldwide figures of women students and graduates in higher education have grown steadily in the last decade, women are still a minority in STEM fields, both in numbers of graduates (especially at PhD level), and in the research profession.

Gender equality in STEM therefore implies encouraging further participation of girls and women in all levels of education, providing equal opportunities for scientists and engineers throughout their careers. While there are many efforts to improve the gender balance in STEM careers, one promising possibility is mentorship. Traditionally, a mentoring relationship involves two people who are at different stages in their careers. The mentor has usually progressed further and gives advice to a less experienced mentee about professional and personal growth. Some organisations have formal programmes with clear guidelines about the roles and responsibilities of participants.

The growth of digital communication has certainly expanded the possibilities for connections to be made. One notable example is the "Million Women Mentors" in the USA, which focuses on connecting women with in developing their STEM careers.

an interest in developing their STEM careers. Similarly, the Association of South African Women in Science and Engineering (SAWISE) is a dynamic association for all those who support the idea of increasing the involvement and strengthening the role of women in science and engineering in South Africa. According to SAWISE women have the greatest influence on the next generation, they set the standards for health and hygiene and they form the majority of the agricultural labour force. Educating women means educating South Africa's next generation. Also supporting the cause is the recently established Women in Forestry Africa (WiFA), which aims to bring together women Forestry Practitioners from across the African Continent to engage in their professional growth, expand their capabilities and ensure that they are contributors and change makers to the future of the forestry sector.

The forestry supply chain is constantly expanding its career offerings as it moves into the future, requiring a vast array of graduates with science, technology, engineering and mathematics as part of their training. Our industry has and will continue to be graced by an increasing number of Women scientists, technologists and engineers adding significant value to the industry. It is critical that we retain this level of expertise in the industry by offering long, challenging and exciting careers through development, support and mentorship.

“Women are the greatest resource any country has.”

<https://www.discovermagazine.com/the-sciences/meet-10-women-in-science-who-changed-the-world>

<https://www.parcast.com/blog/2018/1/4/17-female-scientists-who-made-remarkable-discoveries-and-advancements>

<http://uis.unesco.org/en/topic/women-science>

<http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/saga-sti-objectives-list-wp1-2016-en.pdf>

<https://www.womeninscience.africa/mentorship-and-good-support-structures-can-help-grow-a-pool-of-women-in-stem-fields/>

<http://www.humanbiology.uct.ac.za/hub/outreach-sawise>



## Celebrating International Day of Women in Science at Sappi

(Media release : Johannesburg, 15 February 2021)

On Thursday 11 February - a day that is commemorated internationally by the United Nations to celebrate women who hold office in the field of science - we paid tribute to the women at Sappi for the role they play in helping us build a thriving world for all by unlocking the power of trees, using the power of science. But truth be told, we have reason to pay tribute to them every day of the year.

Heading up a formidable team of female scientists at Sappi in its Research and Development department is Dr Tracy Wessels, newly-appointed General Manager: Group Sustainability and Research & Development Dissolving Pulp, a position she has held since 01 January 2021, after heading up the Centre of Excellence for Dissolving Pulp at the Sappi Saiccor Mill for several years.

When you talk about ‘unlocking the power of trees’, there are few people who understand the full potential of what trees have to offer better than Tracy, who has dedicated the better part of the last 20 years of her career at Sappi in progressively more senior roles in Research & Development (R&D). In her role providing technical customer services support, she understands the needs of the supplier who services the end user and has a vast understanding for the myriad applications which the dissolving pulp is used for, and the specifications which each customer has for extracting the most value from the woodfibre that we produce.

But of course, there is a whole team of specialist scientists employed by Sappi in its Technical Excellence Centre at its Saiccor Mill, its Technical Research & Development facility at its Technology Centre in Pretoria (Tshwane), and its Forestry Research & Development centre based at the Shaw Research Centre in the KZN Midlands, and all along the manufacturing chain in its array of engineers, environmentalists, papermakers and technicians.

With only around 30 per cent of all female students world-wide selecting STEM-related fields in higher education, with particularly low enrollment in natural science, mathematics and statistics (5 per cent) and in

engineering and manufacturing (8 per cent), it is with Sappi can report on its impressive female workforce who fill these roles, in what has often been classified as a male-dominated environment

Dr Bev Sukhdeo, General Manager at the Sappi Saiccor Mill, who, besides her qualification in Chemical Engineering also boasts a Ph.D in Business Administration, proves the adage that women can also lead from the front as she heads up Sappi’s biggest mill, which currently produces 780,000 tons of dissolving pulp per annum. Add to the mix Dr Nicky Jones, Programme Leader Tree Biotechnology, Dr Jolanda Roux, Programme Leader Pest and Diseases, Dr Sanet Minnaar, Biorefinery Manager at Sappi, Pretoria Technology Centre, Dr Sharmane Naidoo, Principal Research Officer at Shaw Research Centre – it is clear that there is no shortage of Women in Science at Sappi. The list goes on and on. See more [here](#) about some of the other women at Sappi who have made their love for science a career choice, or [here](#) to see what other women in the forestry industry are doing, in this special feature compiled by Forestry South Africa.

With progress in science, technology and innovation (STI) recognised as being essential in achieving the UN’s Sustainable Development goals by 2030, coupled with the understanding that gender equality is vital to achieve this, Sappi supports the UN’s focus on overcoming gender bias and stereotypes about encouraging girls and women to pursue science-related careers. Sappi has long been at the forefront of promoting science and technology as careers for youths in their communities, through supporting programmes like PROTEC (Programme for Technological Careers) for the last 25 years, with thousands of boys and girls benefiting from the additional focus on STEM subjects and shaping their careers in science and technology.

As Sappi continues to develop new processes and explore technology which extracts more value from each tree to supports our business strategy t of a circular economy, we pay tribute to our Women in Science who help make this possible.

-----END-----



## Meet the Women in Forestry Research

Meet eighteen women, from across the Forestry Industry and its research partners, who represent a small fraction the growing body of female scientists and researchers working within the Forestry Sector. The focus of their research may vary dramatically, spanning the chemical, physical and biological sciences, but their shared passion for forestry-science and inspiring the next generation of female forestry researchers unites them.

“I hope one day I will be able to inspire a young woman and for her to end up enjoying science as I do.” – Sinazo Njamela, Sappi Senior Chemical Technologist.

The United Nations have dedicated **11 February** to the Women and Girls in Science, making it an International Day to address the imbalance in gender equality in science. According to UNESCO, less than 30 per cent of researchers worldwide are women, and addressing this is vital for the achievement of internationally-agreed development goals including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

“To rise to the challenges of the 21st century, we need to harness our full potential. That requires dismantling gender stereotypes. On this International Day of Women and Girls in Science, let’s pledge to end the gender imbalance in science.” – Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General.

To celebrate this International Day, Forestry South Africa (FSA) has provided a platform on its website, [www.forestrysouthafrica.co.za](http://www.forestrysouthafrica.co.za), to highlight just a few of the inspirational women working in forestry research.

“Science and forestry are too often mistakenly assumed to be career paths for men, but this simply is not true. At FSA, we are trying to dispel this myth by promoting the diverse array of women who through science, research and innovation are helping to shape the future, and face, of forestry and its value chain.” – Dr Ronald Heath, FSA Director of Research and Protection.

The hope is that these profiles of successful, passionate and driven female scientists and researchers, will inspire other women currently dreaming of a career in forestry research but worried

their gender may make them exempt to reconsider a future in forestry-science.

“It is not a man’s world, any women can become a successful forester and scientist.” – Professor Mary Scholes, University of Witwatersrand

“I would encourage ladies to take up a career in forest science because it is a diverse industry that allows you to get a diverse array of skill sets.” – Nonku Ntinga, Mondi Forest Operations Research Specialist.

“The only limitation are your aspirations, I believe we should respond to every call that excites our spirits and seize every opportunity as if the universe is rigged in our favour.” – Preesha Bridgall, University of KwaZulu-Natal / ICFR

### March 2021 Feature



**Tatenda Mapeto**  
**Lecturer, Nelson Mandela University**  
**Qualifications**

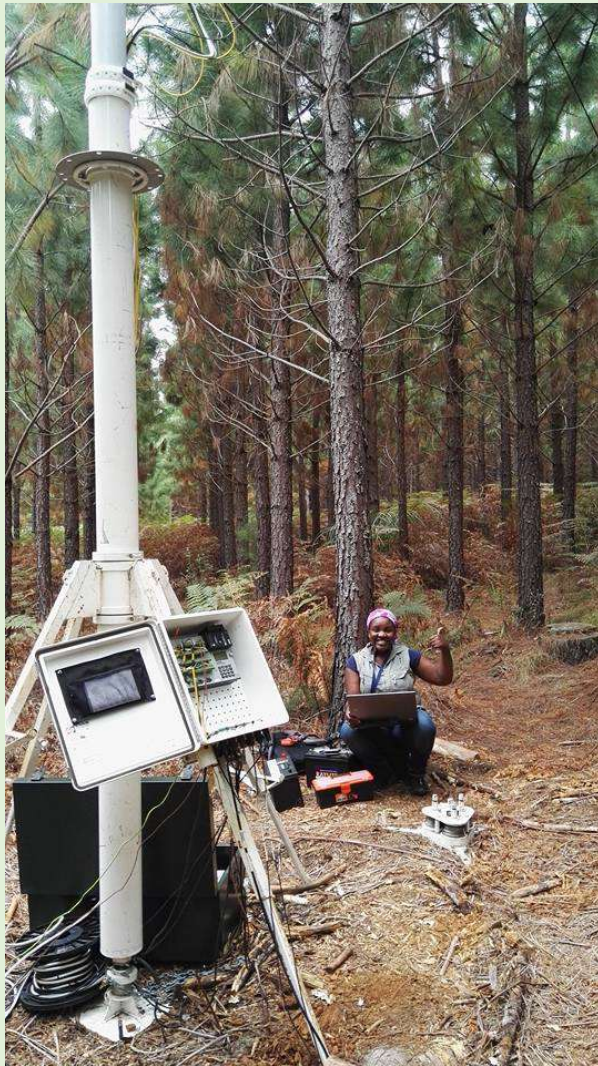
- PhD Forestry

### Research

My research focuses on how we can manage forests most sustainably for the economy, environment and people. I also conduct research and help students with their masters and PhD studies. For my PhD, I looked at the relationship between trees and water, how trees transpire for photosynthesis and other purposes. My research helps us better understand where it is suitable to plant trees and where it could have a negative impact on other land users.



*“Forestry is exciting, as a forest scientist or manager, you will get to be the catalyst for managing forests towards societal goals. You will be someone who understands biological processes because you will not just manage the plantations but the whole forestry landscape. You will be a great long-term planner because trees take time to grow, you will also work with people becoming a business executive because forestry is a profitable business.”*



**Tatenda at her happiest, busy with her Research Project for her PhD in the MTO Pine Plantation adjacent to the George Campus (Saasveld)**

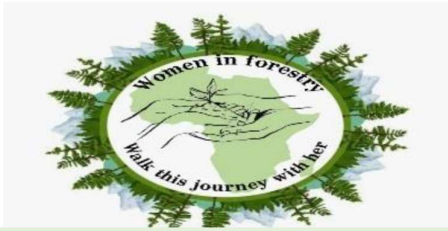
*Placed with kind permission from Forestry South Africa*



Apart from her academic achievements and -career Tatenda is one of the stalwarts of the Southern Cape Branch of the SAIF. We celebrate this recognition of her contribution to Forestry Research with her.

LINK: [Meet the women in forestry research | Forestry South Africa Official Site](#)





## WOMEN IN FORESTRY AFRICA

### Background

Women in Forestry Africa (WiFA) is a Professional Association established in August 2018. WiFA was founded to address the lack of professional recognition of qualified foresters in the sector associated to professional growth. Due to the lack of women Forestry Practitioners' prominence in the sector, WiFA was propelled to create a platform and a pool for female Forestry Professionals who could come together to network with a common objective.

Being mindful of the common sector challenges facing female practitioners, WIFA therefore aims to bring together women Forestry Practitioners from across the African Continent to engage in their professional growth, expand their capabilities and ensure that they are contributors and change makers to the future of the forestry sector.

### Our Vision

To advocate and contribute towards growing the Forestry Sector through a unified team of qualified and experienced Women within the African Continent.

### Our Goals

- ✓ **Empowerment** – presence of forestry professional in the Executive positions
- ✓ **Transformation** – integration of women contribution in the forestry sector
- ✓ **Growth** – women to remain and grow in their profession
- ✓ **Commitment** – working together to improve women's presence in the forestry sector.

Website address: <https://a4wifa.org.za>

## International Days celebrated during the month of March

**1<sup>st</sup> of March** : Zero Discrimination Day

**3<sup>rd</sup> of March** : World Wildlife Day

**8<sup>th</sup> of March** : **International Women's Day**

**20<sup>th</sup> of March** : International Day of Happiness  
French language day

**21<sup>st</sup> of March** : Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination; **International Day of Forests**; World Down Syndrome Day; World Poetry Day

**22<sup>nd</sup> of March** : **World Water Day**

**23<sup>rd</sup> of March** : **World Meteorological Day**

**24<sup>th</sup> of March** : World Tuberculosis Day; Right of Truth re. Human Rights violations & Dignity of Victims

**25<sup>th</sup> of March** : International Day of remembrance of Victims of Slavery ; Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members

All Days with direct relevance for the Forestry and Forest products Industry are marked in Bold above



A new camp commander was appointed and while inspecting the place, he saw 2 soldiers guarding a bench. He went over there and asked them why do they guard it.

"We don't know. The last commander told us to do so, and so we did. It is some sort of regimental tradition!"

He searched for last commander's phone number and called him to ask him why did he want guards in this particular bench.

"I don't know. The previous commander had guards, and I kept the tradition."

Going back another 3 commanders, he found a now 100-year old retired General.

"Excuse me sir. I'm now the CO of your camp you commanded 60 years ago. I've found 2 men assigned to guard a bench. Could you please tell me more about the bench?"

"What? Is the paint still wet?!?"



## Japan developing wooden satellites to cut space junk

There are nearly 6,000 satellites circling Earth, according to the World Economic Forum (WEF) and about 60% of them are space junk.

Space junk is becoming an increasing problem as more satellites are launched into the atmosphere Photo: Collected from BBC

Space junk is becoming an increasing problem as more satellites are launched into the atmosphere and to tackle this problem, a Japanese company and Kyoto University will be collaborating to develop be the world's first wooden satellites by 2023, reports BBC.

Sumitomo Forestry, a Japanese logging and processing company, said that it has started began research on tree growth and the use of wood materials in space.



The reason for choosing wood is that satellites made out of the fibrous structural tissue would not release harmful substances into the atmosphere nor will they cause a rain of debris into the atmosphere when hitting the Earth atmosphere. Instead, they would burn up.

"We are very concerned with the fact that all the satellites which re-enter the Earth's atmosphere burn and create tiny alumina particles which will float in the upper atmosphere for many years," said Takao Doi, a professor at Kyoto University and Japanese astronaut. He added that it would eventually affect the earth's environment.

"The next stage will be developing the engineering model of the satellite, then we will manufacture the flight model," Professor Doi further stated.

As an astronaut he visited the International Space Station in March 2008 and during this mission, he became the first person to throw a boomerang in space that had been specifically designed for use in microgravity.

Sumitomo Forestry, part of the Sumitomo Group, which was founded more than 400 years ago, said it would work on developing wooden materials highly resistant to temperature changes and sunlight. The wood it is using is an "R&D secret," according to BBC.

### Space junk

Experts have warned of the increasing threat of space junk falling to Earth, as more spacecraft and satellites are launched.

Satellites are increasingly being used for communication, television, navigation and weather forecasting. Space experts and researchers have been investigating different options to remove and reduce space junk.

There are nearly 6,000 satellites circling Earth, according to the World Economic Forum (WEF). About 60% of them are defunct (space junk).

Research firm Euroconsult estimates that 990 satellites will be launched every year this decade, which means that by 2028, there could be 15,000 satellites in orbit.

Elon Musk's SpaceX has already launched more than 900 Starlink satellites and has plans to deploy thousands more.

Space junk travels at an incredibly fast speed of more than 22,300 mph, so can have caused considerable damage to any objects it hits.

In 2006 a tiny piece of space junk collided with the International Space Station, taking a chip out of the heavily reinforced window.

<https://tbsnews.net/world/japan-developing-wooden-satellites-cut-space-junk-177877>





Stellenbosch University Forest Operation Research (SU-FOR) launched a comprehensive, online, Time-study and Productivity Development short course, funded by FSA administered Sector Innovation Fund (DST-FSIF) in 2019. FSA DST\_FSIF funding has also enabled the release of the SU-FOR Time-study smart-phone Application and the update of the 2010 version of the South African Machine and Systems Costing Model. All three initiative are, thanks to FSA DST-FSIF funding, available with no charge to potential user.

The overall objective of the grant is to advance South African Small-Scale Forestry operations and an augmented and directed technology transfer of skills and knowledge in the field of productivity development.

A first for the Industry is the online Moodle-based Time and Productivity Development Short Course initially developed by SU-FOR as a face-to-face training module and first presented in 2010 by Stellenbosch University's outreach programme in the form of 12 discrete training events in KZN and Mpumalanga. The short course takes in internationally aligned time-study standards, nomenclature and work methods, relevant time and time concepts, work measurement and time-study design. In addition, it comprehensively addresses the characterisation of the work area, work cycles, work elements and element breakpoints, sample size calculators, standardised data recording and their statistical analysis to produce robust productivity models and work standards.

The FORESTPRODUCTIVITY.CO.ZA time-study smartphone application (App) is one of few freely available time-study Apps for forest operations available worldwide. It uses predefined harvesting and silviculture machine elements in accordance with internationally accepted protocols and is available on the forestproductivity.co.za website.

Users can select specific machines, time machines operationally using predefined element, save and export data (in CSV format) for further processing.

Time is recorded in either minutes and decimal-minutes.

This app is available for Android devices on the google play store

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=for.time.study>).

Versions of this App have been used to train close to 200 foresters, students and researchers and is being widely used in the field locally and internationally. SU-FOR sees this as a cost-effective and efficient technology transfer platform to engender particular skills in productivity development in forest operations to the industry in general and in particular, small scale timber growers.

Contributors and long-standing collaborators with SU-FOR include Prof Ben Spong, Forest Operations Extension Specialist from the University of West Virginia in the USA and Brad Shuttleworth from Forestry Solutions.

For more information including links to download the time study app and to register for the time study E-learning course, please visit

<https://www.forestproductivity.co.za/time-study-e-learning-course-launched/> or contact us at [forestproductivityza@gmail.com](mailto:forestproductivityza@gmail.com)

### Reminder : First Thursday Meeting

The **Forestry Department at Stellenbosch University** will host another lunch-time on-line session on the first Thursday of next month (April 2021).

The presentation will be done on Microsoft Teams

Contact **Simon Ackerman** : Chief Technical Officer – Forest Operation Research: Department of Forest and Wood Science

**e-mail** : [ackerman@sun.ac.za](mailto:ackerman@sun.ac.za) OR

**mobile**:072 6948805 for more details





## WORLD FORESTRY DAY 2021

“Celebrating South Africa’s

Forestry, Pulp and Paper Sectors”

- Generating billions in economic growth
- Sustaining local Economies
- Conserving and protecting
- Recycling an economic lifeline

A unique opportunity to positively profile your sector within the value chain in

this excellent annual feature to be published nationally in Business Report,

which appears with: **The Star, Pretoria News, Cape Times and The Mercury on Friday, 19 March 2021**

**World Forestry Day** was established on the **21st day of March**, by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on November 28, 2012. Each year, various events celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations. It is Forestry SA’s proud boast that the sector contributes R28 billion to the economy annually and employs about 150,000 people.

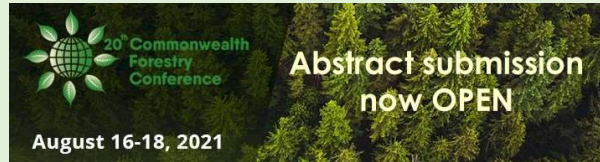
Our forestry, pulp and paper sector is built on the country’s 1.2 million hectares of commercial plantations which have been awarded the highest level of international certification in the world. Of these 1.2 million hectares, 840 million trees are planted over 693,000 hectares for use in pulp and papermaking. Not least, roads, schools, hospitals and clinics are all developed in remote rural areas when trees are planted and pulp and paper produced.

As importantly, the Paper Manufacturers Association of South Africa says, “Paper is not just about printers and pencils; it is also about packaging and tissue which are certainly the grades to watch, along with dissolving wood pulp and innovative cellulose-based composites that are set to replace if not rival non-renewable materials.”

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### Welcome to the [20<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Forestry Conference: VIRTUAL](#)

This Conference was first held in [London in 1920](#). At the second conference, held in Canada in 1923, delegates undertook a 2-month train journey across Canada, with stops to view the forests along the way.

Now, almost a century later, we hope to revive this unique experience with a modern twist. We invite you to board the “*Commonwealth Forestry Express*”, a 3-day virtual journey from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada through the forests of Commonwealth countries, transcending world time zones and national boundaries.

We invite members of the Commonwealth and the world forestry community at-large, regardless of their professional affiliation, to join the conversation.

#### Vision

We strive for a global forest sector that champions sustainability, diversification, equity and innovation. We promote collaborations across Commonwealth countries at various levels from policy to on-the-ground actions. We encourage the showcasing of existing projects while focusing on cross-country collaboration that makes a difference. We demonstrate how and when having good national policies makes a difference, yet positive changes can occur even when national policies leave much to be desired.

We are pleased to announce that the [Call for Abstract Submission](#) for the 20<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Forestry Conference is now open. **Deadline to submit abstracts is April 30, 2021.**

Please visit the Conference website for further information: <http://cfc2021.ubc.ca>

**Please Note that Our Stalwart (Anchor) monthly contributor Rob Thompson takes a well deserved break this month but he will be back next month.  
Enjoy the break Rob !**

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<b>Southern Cape</b>	Braam du Preez	southern-cape@saif.org.za	082 887 2592
<b>Western Cape</b>	Dr Philip Crafford	western-cape@saif.org.za	021 808 3303



BIRTHDAYS: MARCH 2021			
KIRKMAN K.E.	Mar 02	DE KOCK L.S.	Mar 20
BREEDT V.B.	Mar 04	CHRISTIE S.I.	Mar 21
LITTLE K.M.	Mar 12	NAIDOO N.	Mar 22
MULLER B.G.	Mar 12	POOLE R.J.	Mar 23
VILANE T.C.	Mar 13	KANZLER A.	Mar 24
CHIVINGE T.	Mar 13	BEPETE F.	Mar 25
MUIR I.	Mar 17	DE BEER A.F.	Mar 26
GELDENHUYS C.J.	Mar 18	STANGER T.	Mar 29
KEYSER V.G.	Mar 19	CELE M.J.	Mar 30
NEL A.	Mar 20	JACOBS W.S.	Mar 31
GREYLING I.	Mar-20		



# The Southern African Institute of Forestry

## Handbook order form

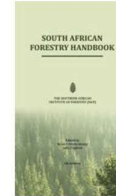
The Southern African Institute of Forestry publishes three industry specific handbooks.

I would like to order:

### South African Forestry Handbook

Price: SAIF members: R400

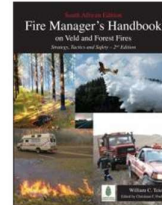
Non members: R500



### Fire Manager's Handbook on Veld and Forest Fires

Price: SAIF members: R300

Non members: R400



### There's Honey in the Forest

Price: SAIF members: R100

Non members: R150



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

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

Price includes VAT and postage **(within SA)**

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<b>Email address</b>	

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**Fax order and proof of payment to: SAIF Secretariat fax 086 689 6430 or email saif@mweb.co.za.**