



FYNBOSFIRE

INTEGRATION OF FIRE AND ALIEN VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

**Report on 2 Workshops held in the Agulhas
Plain and the Southern Cape**

3 and 5 November 2015



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In early 2015, the GEF Fynbosfire Project commissioned a study of the current status of fire and alien vegetation management in two areas of the Fynbos biome, the Agulhas Plain and the Southern Cape. Stakeholder workshops were held in both study areas during November 2015 to explore the feasibility of integrating fire and alien vegetation management in those areas.

Presentations were made at both workshops, dealing with integration of fire and alien vegetation management (CapeNature) and putting the energy from biomass research into perspective (CSIR).

Participants undertook a visioning exercise to identify what integrated management of fire and alien vegetation would ideally look like. It was generally accepted that fire and alien vegetation management in both study areas were not effectively co-ordinated currently, and that as a result, considerable resources were being wasted. It was also accepted that co-ordinated planning at a strategic level would be needed to ensure effective integration. At both workshops, concern was expressed that this process should not undermine or retard successful work and achievements in the study areas.

The outcomes of the two workshops were slightly different, reflecting the differences in the two study areas. Both workshops concluded that some form of co-ordinating body in each area should drive the planning processes required for the integration of the fire and alien vegetation management in the medium to long term.

An interim process was agreed on for each area. In the Agulhas Plain, an interim group was established consisting of the FPA, ABI and the BGCMA. In the Southern Cape, it was agreed that the FPA should co-ordinate the interim process. Both groups were tasked with exploring options for the co-ordination of fire and alien vegetation management in their respective areas for the medium to

long term. Both groups were asked to draft proposals and to report back to a follow-up stakeholder workshop in each area in early February 2016.

More details on the specific workshop outcomes are set out below.

Agulhas Plain Workshop Outcomes:

It was agreed that a Fire and Alien Vegetation Management Working Group should be set up in the Agulhas Plain, and a suggested terms of reference for this group was outlined. As it was not possible to reach consensus on which organisation should co-ordinate the Agulhas Working Group, it was agreed that representatives of the FPA, ABI and BGCMA should form an “interim group”. This “interim group” should formulate proposals for the following:

1. Terms of reference for an *“Agulhas Plain Working Group on the Integration of Fire and Alien vegetation management”*
2. Agreement on which organisation should convene and co-ordinate the Agulhas Working Group
3. Membership of the Agulhas Working Group
4. An outline work plan for the Agulhas Working Group, including deliverables
5. An outline case for funding of the activities of the Agulhas Working Group (resources and capacity needed)
6. An outline job description for the “warm body” who would co-ordinate the Agulhas Working Group.

It was agreed that the Agulhas Interim Group would report back to the broader Agulhas group by the end of January or early February 2016.

Southern Cape Workshop Outcomes:

There was strong support amongst stakeholders present for an integrated approach to fire and alien vegetation management in the Southern Cape, although the details of what this entails have not yet been unpacked. Coordinated management of fire and alien vegetation management would result in the more effective use of resources and have a much greater impact on the problems. What is needed is joint planning at an overall landscape level that can lead to effective action on the ground. This process should not undermine the good work that may be happening in the area.

An interim coordinating role will be played by the Southern Cape FPA who will confer with key stakeholders, identify missing stakeholders and bring them on board. The SCFPA will develop a proposal for the way forward, basing their work on the terms of reference suggested by the groups.

The SCFPA will report back to a workshop of key stakeholders in late January or early February, before the closeout of the GEF Fynbosfire project. That workshop will seek collective buy-in to a proposal for a way forward for integrating fire and alien vegetation management, that can be taken forward both in the study area and possibly by the government.

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ACRONYMS

Acronym	Meaning
ABI	Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative
AVM	Alien vegetation management
BGCMA	Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency
CMA	Catchment Management Agency
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs (National)
DEADP	Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (Western Cape)
F & AVM	Fire and alien vegetation management
FMU	Fire Management Unit
FPA	Fire Protection Association
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographic information systems
IAP	Invasive alien plants
IAP2Energy	Project to use IAPs as an energy source
IFM	Integrated fire management
MTO	MTO Forestry (Pty) Ltd.
MUCP	Management unit clearing plan
NMMU	Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
NPC	Non-profit company
NRM	Natural Resource Management
ODM	Overberg District Municipality
S.M.A.R.T.	Specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-related
SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SANParks	South African National Parks
SCFPA	Southern Cape FPA
SMA	Special Management Area
VAI	Value-added Industries
WFW	Working for Water
WOF	Working on Fire

PART A: BACKGROUND

The GEF Fynbosfire Project aims to develop the adaptive capacity of Fire Protection Associations (FPAs), members of these FPAs and of communities at risk in the wildland-urban interface, in order “to more effectively manage the risks associated with an anticipated increase in impacts of climate-induced wildland fires in the Fynbos Biome”.

The mid-term review of the GEF Fynbosfire Project identified a gap in the project: the need to consider ways and means of integrating the management of wildland fire and alien invasive plant species in the Fynbos biome. In response, Kishugu NPC appointed Zane Erasmus to undertake a study of the current status of fire and alien vegetation management in two areas of the biome, the Agulhas Plain and the Southern Cape. (See Annex 2)

These status reports were circulated to relevant stakeholders, in preparation for workshops held in both study areas, to explore the feasibility of integrating fire and alien vegetation management in those areas.

This report summarises the proceedings of both workshops. Part B contains the inputs delivered at the workshops. Part C addresses the Agulhas Plain workshop, and Part D the Southern Cape Workshop.



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PART B:
INPUTS DELIVERED AT BOTH WORKSHOPS

PART B: INPUTS DELIVERED AT BOTH WORKSHOPS

Input 1: How does one integrate fire with alien vegetation management?

Tony Marshall/Mashudu Phalanndwa, CapeNature

Integration can be defined as:

- General: Process of attaining close and seamless coordination between several departments, groups, organizations, systems, etc.
- Contracts: Amalgamation of two or more agreements into one contract that serves as a full expression of the intent of the contracting parties
- How do we achieve “seamless coordination” and “amalgamation” of two processes that have generally, for a number of years, been carried out independently of one another?

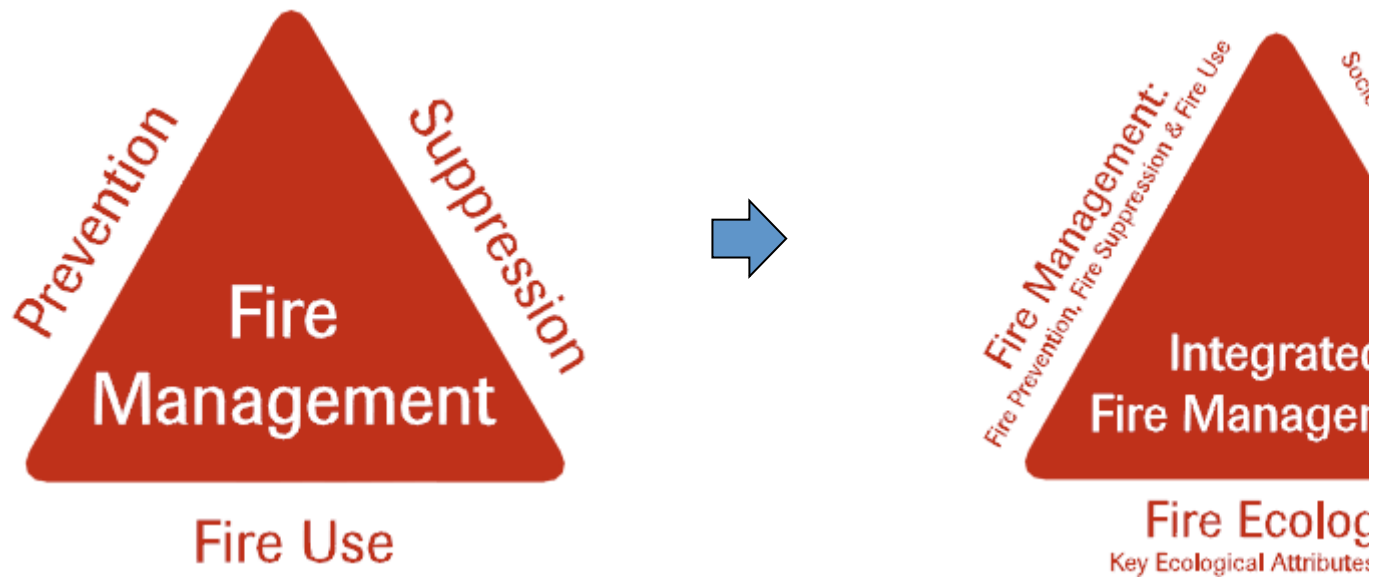
Alien Vegetation Management (AVM):

- Alien Vegetation consists of 2 kinds of troublesome plant species:
 - Aliens/Exotics – not indigenous to the local area
 - Opportunists – components of the local flora dominating due to changed environmental conditions
- **Invasions impact negatively on society and the environment**
 - Reduced available water
 - Reduced water available for society, limiting development
 - Local loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services
 - Loss of tourism appeal
 - Loss of potentially productive land
 - Loss of grazing potential and livestock production
 - Poisoning of humans and livestock e.g. *Sesbania* seeds
 - Increased costs of fire protection and damage in wild fires
 - Erosion following fires in heavily impacted areas
 - Siltation of dams and rivers
- **Why do we need AV Management?**
 - Invasion is usually the result of a disturbance or degradation of a natural system.
 - A healthy, well-managed system is resilient to invasions
 - Measures that concentrate solely on the control of problem species without restoring natural processes will merely treat the symptoms
 - Long-term control of problem species ultimately depends on restoring the natural processes
 - Restoration of a complex natural system requires management to plan, organise, lead and control the disparate components of the restoration process

Fire Management:

- Veld fires are a common occurrence in SA and increasing
- Fynbos is a fire dependant vegetation type
- The most prolific alien plants are also fire driven
- Given the spatial extent of the alien vegetation invasion, fire is an ideal mechanism for the management of the problem
- Fires can be bad for Fynbos and good for aliens if applied injudiciously

Integrated Fire Management (IFM):



Alien vegetation and fire:

- Alien vegetation and Fire are the two primary influences on natural processes in the Western Cape Province.
- Each has a significant impact on the occurrence and density/intensity of the other.
- Each has a significant impact on the current and potential ecosystem services that is provided to society by the natural environment.
- Management of both needs to be “seamlessly coordinated” to ensure optimised benefits to both society and the environment are achieved.

Integration Prerequisites:

A good understanding of:

- The biology of the receiving vegetation – T&Cs with regards to fire application
 - Season
 - Veld Age
 - Fire intensity
- The biology of the target species
 - Reproductive traits
 - Fire survival mechanisms
- The effect of different densities of aliens on fire
- Alien vegetation clearing mechanisms
- Fire behaviour and management

Planning: Where the integration happens:

- Determine objectives of the alien vegetation management program:
 - Restoration of natural ecosystems
 - Grazing/agricultural
 - Water security
 - Fuel load reduction

- Determine spatial extent of treatments which will facilitate:
 - Clearing
 - Burning
 - Follow-up
- Schedule the treatments:
 - Alien clearing
 - Fire protection – fire-breaks
 - Actual burn
 - Alien vegetation follow-up

Implementation:

- The process for each particular area could take 3-4 years from initial clearing to first follow-up
- Ensure that there is continuity and commitment to the schedule determined in the plan
- Ensure buy-in by relevant role-players to the plan – funding and resources
- Wildfires often pre-empt Plan A – have a Plan B
- Maintain the follow-up cycle.

Input 2: Putting the energy from biomass research into perspective

Dr William Stafford/Greg Forsyth, CSIR

How can we clear and contain IAP species? Using:

- chemicals (herbicides)
- biocontrol (predators, pests, herbivory,
- physical (VAI, fire and land management)
- an Integrated Fire Management approach with best practice (depends on ecotype and locality)

How can fire management be used to reduce unwanted fire risks, clear and control IAPs, and restore productive landscapes?

Are we making progress with clearing and controlling IAPs?

- Are areas cleared according to best practice?
- How can fire be used as a tool to clear IAPs?
- Are cleared areas maintained?
- How can fire be used as a tool to reduce the risks of IAP re-establishment?

NRM programme 'Working on Fire' aims to develop a national, integrated approach to veld and forest fire management in order to enhance the protection of life, livelihoods, assets, ecosystem services and natural processes.

'Working on Fire' S.M.A.R.T. goal:

“.....By 2040, there will be: FPAs established and functioning effectively in 80% of the fire prone areas, a 20% reduction in the occurrence of unintended [human-caused] fires and an 80% success rate in the early detection and suppression of wild fires”

‘Working on VAI’ S.M.A.R.T. goal:

“The Working for Value added Industries that aim to create work opportunities and deliver socio-economic benefits through the optimal use of cleared invasive alien plants. By 2040, the Value added Industries programmes would utilise 30% of the total Invasive Alien Plant biomass that is currently left to waste, to produce energy, furniture and other valuable products. This will create jobs and skills in value-added industries, attain carbon and water neutrality, offset the capital investment costs, and help Government to meet its objectives- particularly addressing the needs of the poor. “

Integrated fire management to.....

- Protect valuable assets and infrastructure (ecological and man-made)
- Generate VAI (materials and energy)?

Achieving optimal value and reducing the risks from IAP biomass, through an integrated and coordinated approach that assist with cost and risk reduction from IAPs

IAP biomass for VAI (materials and energy):

- Biomass burnt in field by planned and unplanned fires represents a missed opportunity for VAI: instead it could be used to manufacture fine chemicals, food/feed, fibre and materials, fuels and energy

Integrated products and partnerships:

- Species and suitability for various products- IAP inventory with value versus volume
- Energy can utilise ALL biomass!

Need to determine....

- accessibility (density and distribution relative to centralised AP2 Energy and infrastructure)
- availability (landowners!)

Fire is a risk that could destroy an IAP2Energy opportunity, but fire is a tool to reduce seed banks after clearing and ensure successful follow up and maintenance.



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PART C:
REPORT ON AGULHAS PLAIN
FIRE AND ALIEN VEGETATION
MANAGEMENT
INTEGRATION WORKSHOP

PART C: REPORT ON AGULHAS PLAIN F & AVM INTEGRATION WORKSHOP

Van Brakel Store Conference Facility

3 November 2015

Background

As part of the GEF Fynbosfire Project, a Status Report on Integrated Fire and Alien vegetation management in the Agulhas Plain was circulated to stakeholders in the area, in preparation for a workshop on the issue. This workshop was held on 3 November 2015 at Van Brakel Store near Napier.

Attendance

The workshop was attended by 39 participants (see table below).

	First name	Surname	Position	Organisation
1	Arnold	Swart	Operations Mgr.: WeC	Working on Fire
2	Dale	Nortje	Manager	District Municipality
3	Tony	Marshall	Programme Mgr. Fire	CapeNature
4	Greg	Forsyth	Research Scientist	CSIR
5	Peter	Viljoen	Catchment Manager	CapeNature
6	Bulelwa	Msengi	Cons. Mgr. Agulhas NP	SANParks
7	Dian	Dreyer	Area Mgr.	CapeNature
8	Lesley	Richardson	Director	Flower Valley Trust
9	Carly	Cowell	Regional Ecologist	SANParks
10	Sithembile	Shezi		SANParks
11	Dr William	Stafford	Research Scientist	CSIR
12	Justin	Buchman	Section Ranger, Table Mt. NP	SANParks
13	Louise	Wessels	Manager	Greater Overberg FPA
14	Alison	Green	Chairperson	Groenlandberg Conservancy
15	Wessel	Wentzel	Implementation Manager	Working for Water
16	Lily	Upton	Conservation Manager	Grootbos Nature Reserve
17	Hennie	Africa	Manager	CapeNature
18	Dr Odette	Curtis	Director	Overberg Lowlands Conservation Trust
19	Marlu	Rust	Div. commander	Overstrand Municipality
20	Neville	Green	Manager: Bio. Conservation	Overstrand Municipality
21	Benjamin	Kondokter	Env. Officer	Overstrand Municipality
22	Tierck	Hoekstra		ABI
23	Stephen	Smuts		
24	Keir	Lynch		ABI
25	Chris	Martens	Technical advisor	CapeNature
26	Mntambo	Nakwa	Conservation officer	Flower Valley Trust

	First name	Surname	Position	Organisation
27	Jason	De Smidt	High altitude Working on Fire	WoF
28	Esna	Swart		FPA
29	Mashudu	Phalanndwa		CapeNature
30	Ben	Van Staden		CapeNature
31	Eugene	Hahndiek		SMA
32	Dirk	Human		SMA
33	Chris	Pieterse		ODM
34	Mario	Arends		ODM
35	Zane	Erasmus	Convenor	Consultant
36	Amanda	Younge Hayes	Director	Amanda Younge cc
37	Val	Charlton	Managing Director	Kishugu NPC
38	Guy	Deacon	Gen. Mngr.	Kishugu NPC
39	Patricia	De Villiers	(Scribe)	Independent

Apologies were received from:

First name	Surname	Position	Organisation
Leanne	McKrill	Independent	
Rory	Allardice	Independent	
Mick	D'Alton		Nuwejaars Wetland SMA
June	D'Alton		Nuwejaars Wetland SMA
Liesl	Bezuidenhout	Env. Officer	Overstrand Municipality
Tracy	Sampson		Working for Water
Quinton	de Swartz		CapeNature
Lester	Smith	Chief Fire Officer	Overstrand Municipality
Thilivali	Murivhami	Alien Vegetation Manager	Grootbos Nature Reserve

Workshop Agenda

The workshop agenda is set out below:

Time	Item	Speaker/lead
10h00	Welcome, background and purpose of workshops	Zane Erasmus
10h10	Outline of agenda	Facilitator
10h15	Input: How does one integrate fire with alien vegetation management?	Tony Marshall
10h35	Input: Putting the energy from biomass research into perspective	Dr William Stafford
10h50	Questions of clarification	Facilitator
11h00	Plenary: Gaps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who else should be involved in this process? Are there any important gaps in the status report for this area? 	Facilitator
11h10	Validating the problem statement	Facilitator
11h15	Short break	
11h30	Expectations	Facilitator
11h45	Visioning exercise: What would effective integrated fire and alien vegetation management look like in the Agulhas Plain? Who would be doing what?	Group work
12h45	Lunch	
13h30	Plenary report back from groups	Rapporteurs
14h00	Group work: What needs to happen to make this a reality?	Group work
14h40	Plenary report back from groups and discussion	Rapporteurs, facilitator
15h00	Tea/coffee break	
15h15	Group work: Terms of Reference for the Working Group	Group work
15h30	Plenary report back from groups and discussion	Rapporteurs, facilitator
15h50	Way forward for F&AM in the Agulhas Plain	Facilitator
16h00	Closure and evaluation	Zane Erasmus

Welcome, background and purpose of workshop

Zane Erasmus opened the meeting and welcomed participants. He indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to workshop the feasibility of integrating fire and alien vegetation management activities in the Agulhas Plain. The workshop was preceded by two studies (one on the Agulhas Plain and one on the Southern Cape) that had been undertaken to determine the feasibility of integrating fire and alien vegetation management activities in the Western Cape.

He identified the following limitations (i.e. things that we can't change) to effective integrated fire and alien vegetation management:

- Ecology & system functioning
- Climate change
- Legislation

Challenges (i.e. things that we can change) include:

- The silo approach to management
- Funding
- Implementation and logistics
- Politics

He indicated that the objectives of the workshop were not to be defined by the organisers, but by the participants. In conclusion, he reminded the meeting that fire, alien vegetation and strategic planning know no boundaries.

Inputs

(See Part B of this report for the inputs)

Plenary discussion: Gaps

Participants were then asked the following questions:

- Who else should be involved in this process?
- Are there any important gaps in the status report for this area?

The following suggestions were made regarding stakeholders who should be included:

- Agriculture/Land Care
- Local Municipalities
- GIS (Working for Water)
- BG Catchment Management Agency
- ABI Clearing Programme
- Dept. of Public Works
- Funding Agencies (presence needed for follow-up implementation)
- DEA
- DEADP
- SANBI Early Detection and Rapid Response

No gaps were identified in the Status Report for the Agulhas Plain.

Validating the Problem Statement

A summary of the problem statement contained in the Status Report was set out, as follows:

- Silos, separate mandates, complexity of multiple agencies & ownership
- Missing opportunities to support each other
- Sometimes working at cross purposes, gaps
- Lack of good information
- Underlying ecological logic not consistent
- Result: Ineffective fire and alien vegetation management

Participants were asked: “Are there any major corrections/changes that need to be made to the problem statement as outlined today?” Comments received were:

- Policy and Law Enforcement: e.g. Law enforcement can impact negatively on farmers and be a disincentive to participation in programmes
- Lack of open communication between role-players in silos.

Participants' Expectations

Participants were asked to indicate their expectations for the workshop with the question: “*What would be the ideal result of today’s workshop be for you?*” Expectations are clustered and summarised below:

- Coordination mechanisms:
 - Find or build an organisation to put and keep it all together
 - Mandate a working group to address this
 - Strategic groups to help in planning processes
 - Central planning, monitoring and reporting agency
 - What platforms should be used to coordinate implementation?
 - Coordination of management plan
 - Better collective planning, better integration of all efforts
 - Integration between stakeholders, common agency integration
 - Work through full-time staff to plan and coordinate the regional integrated plans
 - Need a ‘warm body’ to carry this forward
- Integration planning:
 - Ecologically meaningful way of planning together towards a common goal
 - Ecological planning / ecosystem processes prioritised
 - Healthy balance between fire and environment
 - Integration planning across landscape
 - Platform established to integrate at all strategic levels

- Planning process defined (who, what etc.)
- Planning flexibility (use opportunities)
- Strategic deployment of resources
- Simplified systems: funder; reporting; planning

- Communication:
 - Draft a communications and information dissemination plan or protocol
 - Opportunities to network
 - Accelerated advocacy plan - to NEMBA

- Funding Issues
 - Identify potential funding sources
 - Effective funding on the ground
 - Centralised funding (one integrated project)

- Political will (external and internal)
 - Finding common ground and commitment to implementation by all agencies
 - Get the participation of private landowners
 - Cross-boundary cooperation and strategic sharing of resources

- Clear way forward – Programme of Action
 - At least one implementable action
 - A simple clear way forward to plan and implement integrated planning
 - Clear process on how all role-players are going to work together to achieve integration goal

- Technical aspects:
 - Documentation of success stories
 - List of current interventions that are already integrated
 - How can bio-mass be removed without severe damage to the environment
 - How to use fire and value-added industries to control invasive alien plants
 - A list of suggestions on ways to change what we are doing now
 - Innovative application of AVM methodologies to arrest spread
 - Application of advanced technology
 - Align DEA-NRM SMART goal of 1% Initial with Stafford Model
 - Identify potential pilot sites for IFM

- Law enforcement and legislative compliance

The facilitator pointed out that while some expectations could be met at the workshop, others could only be met in the longer term.

Visioning Exercise

Much of the rest of the workshop took place through group discussions and plenary report-back. Membership of groups was pre-assigned, to ensure that members of the same organisation did not sit together. This was done to encourage networking, sharing of views and knowledge, and to counter the 'silo' effect.

Participants were asked to undertake personal reflection and group discussion in answer to the question: *"If we had effective integrated fire and alien vegetation management in the Agulhas Plain, what would it look like? Who would be doing what?"*

Groups presented their visions in plenary. It was agreed that an effective partnership is essential with all parties working together in a coordinated and integrated way. Several groups presented ideas for some form of coordinating body, involving all relevant stakeholders. Options were the FPA, the BGCMA and ABI. All of these bodies already play a coordinating function for an aspect of environmental management in the area, and any one of them could take on this role. All of the existing coordination bodies have overlapping membership. The coordinating body should put together a "standing work group" consisting of all the key role-players in fire, aliens and water management (landowners, conservation agencies, members of the FPA and of the CMA), relevant national departments responsible for policy and law enforcement (DEA, DAFF, Public Works, Water Affairs etc.), private landowners organisations, local and district municipalities; Eskom, Transnet, SANRAL, EPWP programmes including Working on Fire, Working for Water etc.

Partners will need to take shared responsibility for a common goal. Each roleplayer will be in it for different reasons, and it will deliver a range of different benefits to them, including restoring land productivity; protecting assets and reducing risks; reducing overall costs and improving returns on investment; and securing a whole range of ecosystems services (water, bio-diversity etc.).

One group stressed that coordination bodies are about relationships, they are slow-growing things where people learn to know and trust each other and work together. We should build on our successes and not undermine them. To be effective, the process will need more or less 100% buy-in so from a grassroots level we need landowners on board. The ABI Alien Clearing Programme ABI for instance has built a bottom-up working model with 100 landowners over the past few years, with considerable co-funding from landowners in terms of the Land Use Incentives Programme. Landowners don't want yet another coordinating body.

There has to be money and a "warm body" to do the co-ordination effectively - nobody can do coordination as an unfunded add-on to their existing workload.

The standing work group would need to use databases from e.g. ABI, Cape Nature, SANParks, CSIR, SANBI (aliens), FPAs (fires) and Working for Water to bring science to this process and put together an integrated landscape plan for the whole area. Groups felt that we need priorities i.e. we need to know where we are going to work to get the best bang for the buck. We need a full spatial plan to identify where we are going to operate - not only at farm level, but at landscape level, in a

coordinated and integrated way. The plan must identify the priority catchment areas, priority wetlands, systems, corridors (source to sea) etc. The plan should establish (at the overall level) the standards that will inform work of the partners.

The plan will address issues related to public safety, economic infrastructure, ecological infrastructure, ecosystem services, biodiversity and management history. It should also identify the resources and research needed, M & E and implementation planning. Then draw up an annual plan of objectives (APO). Everyone must have their own plan that flows from there. All agencies will still have a mandate to implement their own organisation's work, but now within the framework provided by that integrated plan that all have agreed on. The key to success is effective partnerships working in a coordinated and integrated way.

Groups felt that the issue of funding needed to be looked at creatively. All the current agencies have their own funding, but the standing work group would need to look collectively at other funding, e.g. going to the Development Bank, the DTI, and perhaps setting up a completely new structure like an NPC for the area that can source other money.

Agreements on the Way Forward

The meeting was then asked to make proposals for the next steps. After much discussion in plenary, participants agreed on two issues:

- To establish a Fire and Alien vegetation management Integration Working Group
- To set up an Interim Group to draw up proposals for the above Integration Working Group.

Details are set out below.

Establish a Fire and Alien vegetation management Integration Working Group:

It was agreed that the current patterns and practices of fire and alien vegetation management in the Agulhas Plain were not being effectively co-ordinated and that as a result, considerable resources were being wasted. It was therefore agreed that a Fire and Alien vegetation management Integration Working Group (or standing work group) should be set up in the Agulhas Plain. Breakout groups offered the following suggestions for the Terms of Reference of this group:

- To identify priorities for co-ordinating the management of wildland fires, alien invasive plant species, water supply and disaster management.
- Develop a 20-year vision of integrated F&A management
- Develop a combined or common Integration Plan (strategic plan). Individual agency work plans would be aligned with the common plan for the area, which would include standards and best practice. The common plan would require that alien clearing plans and fire management plans show integration.
- Set objectives and ensure that coordination is aligned with mandates and funding
- Define the spatial domain
- Identify criteria to help prioritise and strategise

- Identify the role-players and roles in fire and alien etc. management: who should do what
- Identify resources (including data: social, ecological, economic, governance) and capacity, and gaps; identify suitable service providers to fill gaps
- Identify opportunities for cost recovery
- Ensure sustainability – raise the funds needed to support the work
- Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework
- Suggested deadlines:
 - Draft Communications Plan May 2016
 - Discussion document of the Integration Plan May 2016
 - Draft Integration plan in place by September 2016, aligned with budget realignments
 - budget year 2017 -18 Full Plan and implement

Set up an Interim Group (“the Three”):

It was not possible in the meeting to reach consensus on which organisation should co-ordinate the Integration Working Group.

It was therefore agreed that representatives of the FPA, ABI and BGCMA should form an interim group, comprising Louise Wessels and Esna Swart of the FPA, Tierck Hoekstra and Keir Lynch of ABI and Patrick van Coller and Odette Curtis of BGCMA. DEADP should be invited to participate.

This interim group should work together to formulate proposals for the following:

1. Terms of reference for an “Agulhas Plain Integration Working Group” (or standing work group)
2. Agreement on which organisation should convene and co-ordinate the Integration Working Group
3. Membership of the Integration Working Group
4. An outline work plan for the Integration Working Group, including deliverables
5. An outline case for funding of the activities of the Integration Working Group (resources and capacity needed)
6. An outline job description for the warm body who would co-ordinate the Integration Working Group.

The Interim Group should report back to the broader group by the end of January 2016. Val Charlton of Kishugu NPC undertook to see if there is funding available in the project budget to hold a follow-up workshop with the relevant stakeholders in early February 2016.

Closing session

Closing remarks:

Zane Erasmus thanked the participants for their attendance and contributions. The workshop report would be made available to participants before the end of November. This will enable the interim group to take things forward. In addition, a further report would take the ideas generated into a model for integrated fire and alien vegetation management.

Evaluation:

22 participants filled in evaluation slips. Participants were asked two questions:

- What did you like about the workshop?
- What could have been improved?

Positive aspects¹:

- 11 participants liked the participatory, interactive process and the opportunity to network and share knowledge
- 8 felt that the workshop was well-structured and well-facilitated, with clear outcomes
- 4 felt that there was good representation of key roleplayers
- 2 were pleased at the level of commitment to the process shown by the various agencies

Improvements suggested:

- 10 participants suggested that representation of stakeholders could have been improved
- 4 would have liked more clarity on outcomes and the agenda
- 1 would have liked more time
- 7 felt that no improvements were needed

The meeting closed at 16h00.

¹ Some participants mentioned more than one thing that they liked.



FYNBOSFIRE

PART D:
REPORT ON SOUTHERN CAPE
FIRE AND ALIEN VEGETATION MANAGEMENT
INTEGRATION WORKSHOP

PART D: REPORT ON SOUTHERN CAPE F & AVM INTEGRATION WORKSHOP

5 November 2015

Background

As part of the GEF Fynbosfire Project, a Status Report on Integrated Fire and Alien vegetation management in the Southern Cape was circulated to stakeholders in the area, in preparation for a workshop on the issue. This workshop was held on 5 November 2015 at the Saasveld campus of NMMU, George.

Attendance

The workshop was attended by 30 participants (see table below).

	First name	Surname	Position	Organisation
1	Greg	Forsyth	Research Scientist	CSIR
2	Arnold	Swart	Operations Mgr.: WeC	Working on Fire
3	Luami	Zondagh	NIS	NIS
4	Dirk	Smit	Regional Manager	Southern Cape Fire Protection Association
5	Paul	Gerber	Manager	Southern Cape Fire Protection Association
6	Tiaan	Pool	Lecturer	NMMU
7	Radie	Loubscher	Manager	George Municipality
8	Hannes	van Zyl	Lecturer	NMMU
9	Pam	Booth	Manager	Eden to Addo
10	Charl	Wade	Manager	Southern Cape Fire Protection Association
11	Philip	Wilken	Manager	Southern Cape Fire Protection Association
12	Dr Annelise	Schutte-Vlok	Ecologist	CapeNature
13	Maretha	Alant	Environmental Planner	SANParks
14	Johan	Baard	GIS Scientist	South Africa
15	Mashudu	Phalanndwa	Catchment Manager	CapeNature
16	Talita	van Zyl	GIS	SCFPA/PG Bison
17	Nceba	Ngcobo	Dir. Operations	Department of Environment Affairs
18	Gerhard	Otto	Manager: Disaster Management	Eden District Municipality
19	Wessel	Vermeulen	Senior Manager: Science Support	SANParks
20	Francois	Du Plessis	Silv Forester	MTO Forestry
21	Jan	Makampies	Nature Conservator	CapeNature
22	Danie	Grabe	Manager	SCFPA
23	Ray-yaan	Majiet	Manager	Working on Fire
24	Nicholas	Cole	Planner	SANParks
25	Louise	Wessels	Manager	Greater Overberg FPA
26	Zane	Erasmus	Convenor	Consultant
27	Amanda	Younge Hayes	Director	Amanda Younge cc
28	Val	Charlton	Managing Director	Kishugu NPC
29	Guy	Deacon	Gen. Mngr.	Kishugu NPC
30	Patricia	De Villiers	(Scribe)	Independent

Apologies were received from:

First name	Surname	Position	Organisation
Sandra	Taljaard	Area Manager	SANParks
Vernon	Gibbs-Halls	Environmental Specialist	Eden District Municipality
Joclyn	Fearon	Environmental Officer	Knysna Municipality
Braam	Du Preez	Forestry Risk Manager	MTO Cape
Reinard	Geldenhuys	Fire Chief	Overberg District Municipality

Workshop Agenda

The workshop agenda is set out below:

Time	Item	Speaker/lead
10h00	Welcome, background and purpose of workshops	Zane Erasmus
10h10	Outline of agenda	Facilitator
10h15	Input: How does one integrate fire with alien vegetation management?	Tony Marshall
10h35	Input: Putting the energy from biomass research into perspective	Dr William Stafford
10h50	Questions of clarification	Facilitator
11h00	Plenary: Gaps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who else should be involved in this process? Are there any important gaps in the status report for this area? 	Facilitator
11h10	Validating the problem statement	Facilitator
11h15	Short break	
11h30	Expectations	Facilitator
11h45	Visioning exercise: What would effective integrated fire and alien vegetation management look like in the Agulhas Plain? Who would be doing what?	Group work
12h45	Lunch	
13h30	Plenary report back from groups	Rapporteurs
14h00	Group work: What are the next steps towards achieving the vision?	Group work
14h40	Plenary report back from groups and discussion	Rapporteurs, facilitator
15h00	Tea/coffee break	
15h15	Group work: TOR for the "co-ordinating" agency or group	Group work
15h30	Plenary report back from groups and discussion	Rapporteurs, facilitator
15h50	Way forward for F&AM in the Agulhas Plain	Facilitator
16h00	Closure and evaluation	Zane Erasmus

Welcome, background and purpose of workshop

Zane Erasmus opened the meeting and welcomed participants. He indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to workshop the feasibility of integrating fire and alien vegetation management activities in the Southern Cape. The workshop was preceded by two studies (one on the Agulhas Plain and one on the Southern Cape) which had been undertaken to determine the feasibility of integrating fire and alien vegetation management activities in the Western Cape.

He identified the following limitations (i.e. things that we can't change) to effective integrated fire and alien vegetation management:

- Ecology & system functioning
- Climate change
- Legislation

Challenges (i.e. things that we can change) include:

- Silo approach
- Funding
- Implementation and logistics
- Politics

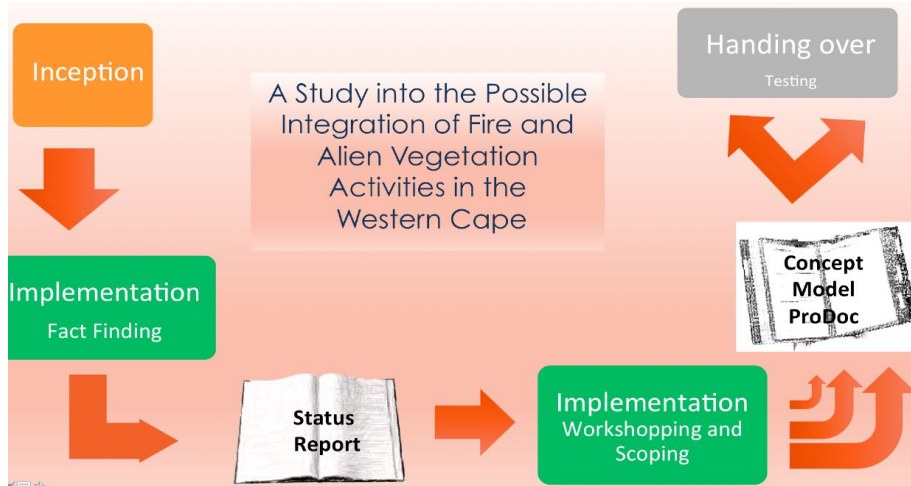
He indicated that that the objectives of the workshop were not to be defined by the organisers, but by participants. In conclusion, he reminded the meeting that fire, alien vegetation and strategic planning know no boundaries.

Inputs

(See Part B of this report for the inputs)

Questions of clarification

In response to a question, Zane Erasmus showed the following slide of the process of preparing the status reports. This workshop is reflected in the “Implementation: Workshopping and Scoping” stage of the process. The workshop report will be circulated to participants.



No further questions of clarification were posed.

Plenary discussion: Gaps

Participants were then asked the following questions:

- Who else should be involved in this process?
- Are there any important gaps in the status report for this area?

The following suggestions were made regarding stakeholders who should be included:

- Railways and transport authorities
- Organised agriculture is an important player
- Public Works own a lot of state land
- Private landowners
- Eskom – distribution and transmission
- Land user incentive programme
- Environment sections of the local unions
- Biomass Programme in George

Participants identified no gaps in the Status Report for the Southern Cape.

Validating the Problem Statement

A summary of the problem statement contained in the Southern Cape Status Report was set out, as follows:

- Silos, separate mandates, complexity of agencies & ownership
- Missing opportunities to support each other
- Sometimes working at cross purposes, gaps
- Lack of good information
- Underlying ecological logic not consistent
- Result: Ineffective fire and alien vegetation management

Participants were asked: “Are there any major corrections/changes that need to be made to the problem statement as outlined today?” Participants suggested that the following issues could be added to the summary:

- Can available money be better deployed?
- Duplication of efforts
- Separate, often conflicting mandates of different agencies
- There are risks for private landowners undertaking controlled burns. These are costly and more incentives and support are needed.
- Different funding streams.

Participants’ Expectations

Participants were asked to indicate their expectations for the workshop with the question: What would be the ideal result of today’s workshop for you? Expectations were clustered as follows:

- Coordination mechanisms:
 - A single collective platform to align and co-ordinate fire and alien vegetation management efforts and resolve conflicts
 - All relevant parties involved
 - Use the existing structures
- Integration planning:
 - A generic integration plan that can work for fynbos, but can be adapted locally.
 - Multiple level strategies and policies to inform implementation
 - A MUCP tool that clearly integrates: mechanical; chemical; biological; fire; animals
 - Keep the plan simple & attainable – too big = failure
- Communication:
 - Mechanisms for sharing information and plans
 - Channels of communication between FPAs and IAP clearing entities

- Ideas that can be implemented:
 - Integration that is practical and scientifically sound
 - Competency and efficiency
 - Follow up integration planning
 - Incentives for landowners to use fire / clearing aliens

- Maps and technical support:
 - Information veldfire & alien strategy/map
 - Informed risk maps
 - Technical advice on using fire as a management tool in an ultra-transformed landscape

The facilitator pointed out that while some expectations could be met at the workshop, others could only be met in the longer term.

Visioning Exercise

Much of the rest of the workshop took place through group discussions and plenary reporting back. Membership of groups was pre-assigned encourage networking, sharing of views and knowledge, and to counter the 'silo' effect.

Participants were asked firstly to undertake personal reflection and group discussion in answer to the question: *"If we had effective integrated fire and alien vegetation management in the Agulhas Plain, what would it look like? Who would be doing what?"*

Groups presented ideas for a strategic regional plan of operation that accommodates both alien and fire management, with a budget. This plan should clearly indicate where we are now (state of the region), where we are going and how we're going to get there. It should start from sparse to thick alien vegetation. It will need to be GIS-based, and contain a full mapping of all aliens (and be kept up to date). The plan should include a layer reflecting who works where, as it is difficult to get certain government departments (e.g. Public Works, Defence) to clear their own land. It will need simplified and unified M&E, using one language that people can understand. One group suggested that it would need to be backed up by enforcement.

All groups felt that there was a need to co-ordinate the work of the different agencies, get them working together. One group suggested that all representatives could be asked to "talk amongst themselves, get their plans together, produce a cohesive plan for each (e.g. agriculture, alien vegetation etc.) and then get them to meet up at a central point". "We need an entity which is not government, but is audited externally - an NPC under the companies act seen as benefitting the public, it's seen as public funding as well, governed by a Board of Directors". Two groups suggested that the FPA could play this role, because many of the relevant parties including the landowners, industries and all conservation agencies are already members of the FPA. That could be the structure for stakeholders to do their talking and their long-term planning. Funding must flow from government and authorities, to manage this, but from public/private partnerships as well. The FPA

would give landowners incentives to assist with alien clearance, and they will cover some costs themselves. It was suggested that the FPA Board of Directors would look at policy, priorities, coordination and strategy. A forum convened by the FPA, consisting of all the different role-players including staff, agencies, private sector, training (universities etc.) would govern the integration project. When you come to the operational side, there would be a coordinating body to ensure that the physical work is done.

Another group felt that what was needed was “a single controlling agency like the US Environmental Protection Agency or the FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Their responsibilities would include ensuring availability of resources and budgets; advocacy and awareness, calling every single person to action.” However, the FEMA is reactive, but this agency would need to be proactive.

What needs to happen to make this a reality?

Groups were then asked to make proposals for the next steps, to bring these visions to life.

It was felt that the overall integration of fire and alien vegetation management couldn't sit with any existing organisation on its own, as none of them are mandated to do this. What is needed is an integrated independent executive committee, based on FPA model or the BGCMA, with a Board, income, members and an operational unit. It was felt that it makes more practical sense to go with a body that has an existing structure. It needs to be an executive committee because decisions need to be made and things need to be done. If we have to set up and capacitate a new organisation, it will set the process back another few years.

Groups were in general agreement that a single co-ordinating agency, for example the FPA, is needed to coordinate F & AM integration. The FPA has most of the relevant roleplayers involved already; most of the relevant government agencies sit on the Board of the FPA. Political buy-in is very important and only likely if we work with a recognised organisation. We also need a big political figure to support this.

It was felt that the FPA should create a special division to deal integrating F & AM. It should secure funding for a full-time project coordinator to drive the process. Stakeholders who need to be involved would include local authorities: Bitou, Knysna, Mossel Bay, George, Oudtshoorn (they would decide together who represents them); forestry industry including private forestry (Steinhoff, PG Bison, Cape Pine etc.), Disaster Management, Departments of Forestry, Agriculture etc.

It was suggested that catchment boundaries (e.g. CMA boundaries) should be used, because ultimately what is needed across the landscape is wall-to-wall boundaries that can interact with the main authorities that are dealing with funding and doing the over-arching planning, e.g. DEA NRM system. Not everyone agreed with this suggestion. It was also argued that it doesn't really matter what your boundary is so long as the people on the Executive Committee have some clout in the spatial area.

People felt that although planning must take place at the strategic or overall level, fire and alien vegetation management couldn't be implemented on a huge scale operationally. The Department of Water Affairs has primary catchment boundaries mapped; these can be used as a basis for integration planning, and then the plan can be split into smaller Fire Management Unit areas for practical implementation. The planning undertaken by the Board of the FPA would direct what needs to happen in an FMU plan. Each FMU encompasses a common fire problem; each FMU represents a group of landowners who are used to working with each other.

There was considerable concern expressed that, in the interim, this process should not stall or delay projects on the ground that are effective and making a difference. Another concern was that the integrated plan needs to be aligned with existing plans. However, these existing plans would need to be reviewed to ensure that resources are going to the right places. There are places where it is working, and we need to learn what makes them successful, so we can spread these successes to other areas.

There is a need to use existing funding much more effectively, but also to increase alien NRM funding. The critical thing for NRM and the land user is sustainability. If we can demonstrate that our approach is sustainable, this will counter the risk of funds drying up.

Terms of Reference for Interim Group

It was agreed that the current patterns and practices of fire and alien vegetation management in the Southern Cape were not being effectively co-ordinated and that as a result, considerable resources were being wasted. It was therefore agreed that a Fire and Alien vegetation management Integration Working Group should be set up in the Southern Cape. Groups offered the following suggestions for the Terms of Reference of this group:

It was suggested that an interim body was needed to coordinate all relevant role-players, and that the FPA could play this interim role, as it is the most representative body at this stage in this area. It should report back to a stakeholder workshop at the end of January or early February. In the interim, it was suggested by the different groups that the FPA should undertake the following tasks:

- Do a stakeholder analysis identify and involve additional key role-players who are not currently here, such as the CMA; WFW; SANBI; Environmental Management Unit; Climate Change Adaptation etc.*
- Draft objectives, mission and vision, responsibilities and make proposals for a way forward for medium to long term co-ordination of
- Compare the mandates and policies that drive the stakeholders, to identify gaps, alignments and overlaps*
- Collect information on successes and failures known to us, as a basis for how we will improve*
- Coordinate the management strategic plans already on the table of all the different organisations
- Identify high-risk areas (in each of the above marked with an *).

There was a concern that as it is now fire season, it will be a challenge if the FPA has to undertake a lot of work. They will have to be creative in getting stakeholders to participate. The FPA would consider the findings of the workshop and meet with key stakeholders to draw up a way forward.

After some discussion it was agreed that this work should focus on the Southern Cape FPA area, because the aim is to develop a model or models that could be rolled out to other areas in the country. Val Charlton said that two study areas were chosen for different reasons: the Agulhas Plain because of strong landowner involvement there, and the Southern Cape because of its very strong fire focus. We cannot use an Agulhas Plain model in the Southern Cape. It will thus be more fruitful to work separately from the Agulhas process.

Both study areas need to sit down with the stakeholders from that area and draw up an appropriate process for the area. We should confine ourselves to the FPA boundaries, because they already have the Board of Directors and role-players in place for that area. That makes it easier to get the process moving.

Way forward

There was strong support amongst stakeholders present for an integrated approach to fire and alien vegetation management in the Southern Cape, although the details of what this entails have not yet been unpacked. Coordinated management of fire and alien vegetation management would result in much more effective use of resources and have a much greater impact on the problems. What is needed is joint planning at the overall level, to create a framework for effective action on the ground. However, this process must build on and not undermine the good work that is happening in the area.

An interim coordinating role will be played by Southern Cape FPA who will confer with key stakeholders, identify missing stakeholders and bring them on board. The SCFPA will develop proposal for the way forward, basing their work on the terms of reference suggested by the groups.

The SCFPA will report back to a workshop of key stakeholders in late January or early February, before the close-out of the GEF Fynbosfire project. That workshop will seek collective buy-in to a proposal for a way forward for integrating fire and alien vegetation management, that can be taken forward both in the area and by government.

Closing session

Closing remarks:

Zane Erasmus thanked the participants for their attendance and the lively discussion. Val Charlton indicated that the results of this process would be included in the final GEF report, and hopefully form the basis for future support by government.

The Status Reports, slide presentations and workshop reports would be placed on the GEF Fynbosfire website for downloading. The workshop report would be made available to participants before the end of November. This will enable the interim group to take things forward. In addition, a further report would be prepared by Zane, taking the ideas generated further into a model for integrated fire and alien vegetation management.

Evaluation:

18 participants filled in evaluation slips. Participants were asked two questions:

- What did you like about the workshop?
- What could have been improved?

Positive aspects²:

- 9 participants liked the participatory, interactive process and the opportunity to network and share knowledge
- 5 felt that the workshop was well-structured and well-facilitated, and that participation was effectively managed
- 3 were pleased at the positive outlook of various stakeholders, the open discussions and to learn that there was common ground between stakeholders
- 1 felt that there was good representation of key roleplayers
- 1 made no comment.

Improvements suggested:

- 7 would have liked more clarity on the agenda and outcomes (some would have like this in advance)
- 2 participants felt that representation could have been improved, e.g. through attendance by 'relevant roleplayers' and 'higher level people'
- 2 would have liked more time
- 2 would have liked more breaks
- 1 felt that the facilitator was "too aggressive"
- 3 felt that no improvements were needed.

The meeting closed at 16h00.

² Some participants mentioned more than one thing that they liked.

ANNEXURES

Workshop Invitations

At least three separate e-mails were sent out to stakeholders for each of the workshops. The first of these went out in September 2015. In addition, invitations were forwarded to the Western Cape Umbrella FPA for distribution throughout the Province. Only the key invitation emails are included below.

Agulhas Plain Workshop Invitation (sent 8 October 2015):

Good Day,

Attached please find a copy of the Study Report on the Agulhas Plain Study Area. The report concludes the first phase of a study into the feasibility of integrating fire and alien vegetation management activities in the Western Cape. It provides a brief overview of four of the organisations involved with fire and alien vegetation management activities in the Agulhas Plain [Southern Cape].

The next phase in the process is to use the basic information as a backdrop to workshop possibilities that may exist for integrating fire and alien vegetation management activities. This has long challenged all levels of managers throughout the Western Cape. The proposed meeting presents the ideal opportunity to discuss practical solutions to address this issue.

A workshop has thus been organised for all stakeholders in the Agulhas Plain [Southern Cape] and other interested and effected parties, to identify a wide range of options that may be considered and discuss these in some detail.

The workshop will take place on the **3rd November at Van Brakels Store on the intersection of the R 316 and the R326, which lies between Caledon and Napier. Proceedings will start at 09:30 for 10:00, and will conclude at 17:00.**

The meeting will be professionally facilitated and experts in the field of vegetation management, biodiversity and wildfire will be part of the discussions.

You are requested to diarise the date and to RSVP to Zane Erasmus at zane.erasmus@mweb.co.za before the 23rd October. This will allow us to cater for all present. Latecomers not registered will have to purchase their own teas and lunches!

There are a number of novel initiatives originating from the Agulhas Plain that have potential for other areas. Someone at an earlier meeting in May 2015 said, "the time is right ". I believe this is true. The time is right to make some changes.

A detailed agenda will be forwarded to all respondents. In the interim, attendants should note the following broad objectives we have set for the workshop:

1. What integration measures can be considered?
2. How can integration be phased in?
3. What is the best regional scale for managing integration?
4. Who will co-ordinate integration initiatives?
5. What structures exist, or can be setup to co-ordinate operations?
6. What types of plans are required to ensure absolute integration?
7. How can operations be funded?

Many thanks for your contributions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Zane Erasmus

Agulhas Plain: Follow up email to invitees (sent 20 October 2015):

Good day,

This communication is to confirm that arrangements for the Workshop on Integrated Fire and alien Vegetation Management are in place and ready for the **3rd November at Van Brakel Store** .

There is still place for additional participants but please note that notifications close on the 23rd October.

Attached is a copy of the provisional workshop agenda. We do not have a lot of time so considerable thought and planning has gone into the workshop procedure and structure to ensure that we achieve satisfactory outcomes. Please note therefore that we will be starting promptly at 10:00 which should allow everyone adequate time to travel and register at the venue.

Copies of the Agulhas Study Area [Southern Cape Study Area] report are still available for download at the following site:

[link deleted]

High resolution of the copies of the maps can also be downloaded at the following site:

[link deleted]

Your participation at this workshop is highly valued and we are looking forward to meet with everyone.

Safe travels,

Zane Erasmus

Southern Cape Workshop Invitation (sent 8 October 2015)

Good Day,

The study to find ways of integrating fire and alien vegetation activities in the Western Cape has reached the phase where a Workshop is to be held on the 5th November at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University George Campus. Proceedings will start at 09:30 for 10:00, and will conclude at 17:00.

You are cordially invited to attend the workshop as a participant in the study or as an interested stakeholder in the Southern Cape. The workshop presents an ideal opportunity to discuss practical solutions to address the issue that has challenged managers throughout the Western Cape for some time.

The workshop will be professionally facilitated and experts in the field of vegetation management, biodiversity and wildfire will be part of the discussions. A report on the study area is available for download at the following Dropbox site:

(link deleted)

You are requested to diarise the date and to RSVP to Zane Erasmus at zane.erasmus@mweb.co.za before the 23rd October. This will allow us to cater for all present. Latecomers not registered will have to purchase their own teas and lunches!

A detailed agenda, with a map and directions to the venue, will be forwarded to all respondents at a later date. In the interim, attendants should note the following broad objectives we have set for the workshop:

1. What integration measures can be considered?
2. How can integration be phased in?
3. What is the best regional scale for managing integration?
4. Who will co-ordinate integration initiatives?
5. What structures exist, or can be setup to co-ordinate operations?
6. What types of plans are required to ensure absolute integration?
7. How can operations be funded?

Many thanks for your contributions. Please forward this mail as widely as you wish to anyone that may be interested. I look forward to hearing from you.

Zane Erasmus

Note: A copy of the workshop agenda was sent to Southern Cape invitees on 20 October 2015.

Links to Status Reports and Slide Presentations

The Agulhas Plain and Southern Cape Status Reports and the slide presentations from the workshop will be made available on the Fynbosfire website: www.fynbosfire.org.za