

## Head Fire



A host of vegetation surveys, atmospheric conditions and fire behaviour measurements will be conducted and recorded during SavFIRE. Weather conditions will be monitored prior to SavFIRE and the Fire Danger Index, temperature, humidity, wind speeds and weather conditions in general will be monitored on a real time basis through out the SavFIRE experiment. Aerial photography, satellite monitoring and ground based photography will also be used to record fire behaviour and fire effects.



**This fire research project will make a highly significantly practical contribution to fire management in the Kruger National Park in particular, and other conservation areas in Africa in general and provide also a significant scientific contribution to the fire ecology of African savannas.**



## Back Fire



# ΣαωΦΙΡΕ



## Fires in the savanna ecosystem - What happens to the plants and animals?

Fire is one of a suite of "drivers" that influence ecosystem dynamics and heterogeneity. Savannas are fire prone ecosystems and what we see today has been shaped by fires, for thousands of years.

The type and intensity of fires in African savannas can have highly significant effects on the responses of trees and shrubs to fire. Higher intensity fires kill the aerial portions of trees, and they can only resprout from the base, whereas less intense fires allow aerial tissues to survive, and the growth and height of trees is not affected. Thus headfires, which burn with at high intensities have quite different effects on the ecosystem when compared to backfires in the same area under the same atmospheric and fuel conditions.



