

The Southern African Fire Network (SAFNet): Regional Fire Network Activities 2011-2015

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Abstract

The use of fire in Southern Africa is inextricably linked with the livelihoods of the people, cultural and traditional use and the maintenance of biodiversity within conservation agencies. However, with this importance comes the responsibility associated with its application. As with many fire-prone landscapes, the frequency, extent and intensity of wildfires in the region have increased and therefore the impacts (both positive and negative) have also increased, yielding significant socio-economic and environmental consequences.

The Southern African Fire Network (SAFNet) is one of seven regional networks of GOFCC-GOLD's Landcover and Fire program that fosters collaborative efforts in fire monitoring and management in southern Africa. The goal of SAFNet is: To achieve more effective fire management policies and practices in southern Africa through the use of remote sensing and other geospatial technology, with a purpose of enhancing the use of information from field observations and remote sensing of fires for natural resource management in southern Africa.

This paper reports on various fire or fire-related activities that have taken place in the regions since the last International Wildland Fire conference in Sun City, South Africa, in 2011, specifically focusing on the use of various remote sensing fire products, training and capacity building, fire research, development of fire policies and community based fire programs.

Key words: *Savanna fire impacts, SADC Fire Program, GOFCC/GOLD Regional Fire Networks*