



AfriFireNet

www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/Africa/Afrifirenet.html



Working on Fire

www.workingonfire.org

AfriFireNet News, August 2007

Dear Network Members,

The past months have been very hectic and most of us have not yet recovered from the bad fires we had in South Africa recently.

Despite that, I hope all of you are doing well!

Let me try to give you an overview what has happened within the network in the first half of this year.

Spain

Spain hosted the 4th International Wildland Fire Conference in May this year at the city of Seville.

- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/sevilla-2007.html>

Africa was well represented by delegates from AfriFireNet, Botswana, Namibia, Sudan, Ghana, Tanzania and Ethiopia if I remember correctly. South Africa was represented by a strong WoF delegation, DWAF and Cape Nature.

As a result of excellent teamwork, good presentations and the demonstration of our capabilities, AfriFireNet /WoF was awarded with the organisation of the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference in 2011!

I believe this can be seen as international appreciation of what has been achieved up-to-date by AfriFireNet and Working on Fire. Lets keep the spirit alive and get prepared to host the (Fire-) World in Africa!

- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/WoF/pressroom.html>





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South Africa

ICS

WoF did held its annual international ICS training course in March 2007 near Lesotho. The lectures were prepared and presented by our old friends from Montana, USA. Parallel to the ICS training, logistic and leadership courses took place.

- http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/Africa/WFTCA/ICS_2006/WFTCA_ICS_2006.html

Worth mentioning to you is that a healthy baby girl was born during the Fire Logistics course. Quite obvious, it was named “Baby Logistics”. I see a future career coming up...All the Best to Mother and Baby!

SavFIRE 2007

During June 2007 the second phase of the Fire Research project “SavFIRE” was conducted in the Pretoriuskop area of the Kruger National Park. Close to 15 00 ha were burned for the project, including a block which was burned for the SAFARI 92 research project.

- http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/Africa/Afrifirenet_6f.html





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Fire Situation

July has seen the worst fires in living history in South Africa, 22 people lost their lives and thousands of hectares of plantation, farmland and veld were burned down. A good summary of the situation can be found at the following links:

- http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GFMCnew/2007/08/0803/20070803_za.htm
- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/media/news.htm>



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Ghana

First Crew Leader Exchange with Ghana.

Mr Amankwah, Joseph from the Accra Fire Service did spend the full month of June with the Nelspruit hotshot crew for a Shadow Crew Leaders training. Joseph was involved in all kind of fire management operations, including the SavFIRE project in the Kruger Park. He was very impressed with the Working on Fire programme and is looking for a permanent job in South Africa....

Within AfriFireNet we realise increasing activities in fire management projects in Ghana; therefore AfriFireNet is planning to establish a West-Africa coordination centre in the region.

Mozambique

Gorongosa National Park in Sofala Province invited WoF International for a week-long fire management training.

Despite the lack of enough fire equipment the rangers participated with great enthusiasm. Thanks to the Carr-Foundation, which made this training possible. From what I hear, this could be the beginning of a fruitful AfriFireNet-partnership in the Region between Gorongosa National Park, Kruger National Park and Working on Fire.

The wildlife sanctuary has magnificent patch mosaic burns to offer, a worthwhile study tour for any fire-ecologist.





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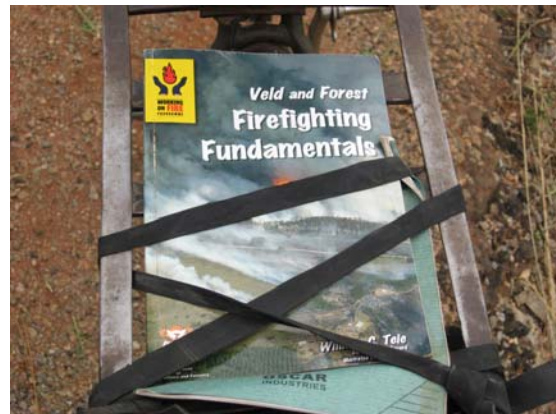


Uganda

Global Woods Ltd. of Kikonda Forest Reserve in Uganda conducted a fire training and purchased fire equipment and Personal Protective Equipment for the fire-fighters.

Through the network contacts WoF Int. was contracted to provide the equipment and training.

At the same time the WoF team came up with a situation analysis. Kikonda is planting *Pinus Caribea* and will do trials with under-storey burning in the coming fire seasons. These results for Uganda will be of high interest for other growers in East Africa.





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That's All for the moment. Please feel free to circulate this information.
If you feel there is more activities going on out there, which is interesting for the Network, please let us know.

Kind regards from Nelspruit

Yours

Alexander Held

(Chair AfriFireNet)