

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS

FIRE CONFERENCE SESSION (WOODFOR Africa 2002 conference)

and

1st REGIONAL SUBSAHARA WILDLAND FIRE NETWORK MEETING (AFRIFIRENET) (UN/ISDR Working Group on Wildland Fire)

**held in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa
on 3 July 2002**

1. Fire conference

As an introduction to the 1st Regional Sub Sahara Wildland Fire Network meeting the chairman of the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) and the Working group of Wildland Fire of the UN-ISDR Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, Johann G. Goldammer, presented a talk with the title “Recent and planned international support for fire management in Sub Sahara Africa: Towards a concerted fire management action programme”.

2. AFRIFIRENET meeting

2.1 Presentations

Johann Goldammer presented an introductory talk on the Global Wildland Fire Network and the planned set of Regional Wildland Fire Networks, as it will be coordinated under the umbrella of the UN-ISDR and the GFMC in Freiburg, Germany. Thereafter Neels de Ronde presented proposed Terms of Reference, and Objectives, of the Regional Sub Sahara Wildland Fire Network – or briefly AFRIFIRENET – as well as the preliminary country/membership list.

2.2 Discussions

The following is a summary of the discussions that followed:

1. A list of experts by disciplines should be drawn up and circulated.
2. The Network should particularly be used where other communication is not possible (B. Scholes).
3. Fire weather and fire danger should be communicated.
4. Goals and programmes for the next few years should be put up (B. van Wilgen).

5. The new South African Veld and Forest Fire Act should be put on/made available on the Network (L. Trollope).
6. A list of item-focused Subnets should be drawn up.
7. A mission statement and list of objectives should be drawn up before the next Liaison Committee meeting in Sydney, Australia of the 3rd International Wildland Fire Conference, which will be held from the 31st of July to the 2nd of August 2002 (B. van Wilgen). During this meeting there will be a report-back of progress with the Global Wildland Fire Networks.
8. A suitable website will be selected/developed under which the Subsahara Network can operate, which will also act as an information channel.

After the meeting, a barbeque (braai) was held at the operational room of the Kwazulu Natal Fire Protection Association, under the control of its director, Jake Oosthuizen. This was a worthwhile – and very pleasant conclusion – to the proceedings, for which we thank the organizers.

Neels de Ronde