



JASA Partnership Newsletter November Edition November 2010-January 2011

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PREFACE

Dear JASA members

This is the first JASA Newsletter from the Saasveld Forestry Association (SFA). The newsletter is a basic short informative document that provides information about the SFA and the many issues surrounding it. The newsletter seeks to inform all the JASA members in Japan about the South African Forestry Industry and the different student activities organised by our local committee (LC).

This newsletter will be issued every three months with new and fresh information on different issues as mentioned above. The main aim of this newsletter is to strengthen our relationship and bridge the gap of knowledge between South Africa and Japan. The newsletter provides a firm platform for students to share ideas and information on how they view the forestry industry with innovative ways on how they can make a difference in improving some of the grey areas, this is in order that we can ultimately build a globally sustainable forestry industry.

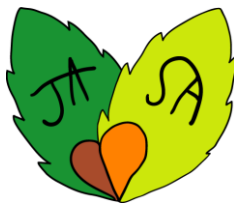
The newsletter consists of short articles compiled by JASA members who are active members by of the Saasveld Forestry Association. If you require any further information on a specific subject then inform us! In this edition we will give a brief background to our Students Association, a short background on the South African Forestry industry and a introduction to the general outlay of our silvicultural practices.

I hope you enjoy and learn lots from reading the newsletter. Now, lets gets into the newsletter without wasting anymore time.

Kind regards,

Muedanyi Ramantswana

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BRIEF INTRODUCTION ABOUT OUR LC:

By Muedanyi Ramantswana

Saasveld Forestry Association

The main aim of the SFA is to represent Forestry and Wood Technology students of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (George Campus) locally, nationally and internationally on an academic and social level. All Forestry and Wood Technology students registered at the George Campus of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University are automatically members of the Association by default when they register for the course. The SFA has been affiliated as an ordinary member of the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) since 2002. The SFA was formerly known as the Saasveld Timber Association (STA). It had a name change at the beginning of the year 2010 from the Saasveld Timber Association (STA) to the Saasveld Forestry Association (SFA). The committee comprises of the Chairperson and treasure, Vice-chairperson, Secretary, Honorary president (staff member) and One position for the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) Southern Africa Region Representative (Chairperson). The committee is responsible for drawing up an action plan aligned to the needs of the forestry students and is responsible for ensuring that the plan is executed completely. The SFA comprises of over 200 members.

Now that you know a bit about our Association we will give you a bit more about the fun activities we conducted during the year:

The year 2010 has been a wonderful year for the SFA as the students were able to participate in a number of activities.

Forester's and Wood Technology Day:

It was an awesome day that saw the arrival of students in their numbers to celebrate the Forestry and Wood Technology Day. Dressed in their foresters clothing, the auditorium was filled with a buzz of excitement. The function started off by a short talk called "The forester of today" which was presented by Bradely Joemat from a Forestry company called MTO (Mountain to Ocean). He showed a simple video of himself and the basic duties he has to do on a daily basis as a forester. From there he gave the students an update on the forestry industry and what to expect in the near future. The program was still getting warmed up when Muedanyi Ramantswana also gave a presentation on the IFSA symposium he has attended in August. The presentation gave information on the Korean Forests as well as the challenges faced during the whole trip. The most interesting part was launched, which was the photo competition which had the theme "Are you shy or proud of being a forester?". The students were asked to submit pictures of themselves in Forestry or Wood Technology clothing showing their passion with regards to their field of study. There was atmosphere of high expectancy which was optimally met

when the pictures were shown. The owners of the pictures were asked to give a brief talk about their picture and what it meant. The winners indicated in picture 1 were awarded with an exclusive prize!



Winning team: Proud foresters and Wood Technologist

Drivers License

The SFA has been involved in many other more localized student specific needs like assisting first year students to get their drivers license in preparation for when they do their practical field work with different forestry companies during their second year.

SFA Clothing

The SFA took a leading role in organising and arranging new clothing designs for the Forestry and Wood Technology students. The new clothing collection including heavy jackets, golf shirts, T shirts, caps and floppy hats. All the clothing has the SFA logo on it with the words Forestry and Wood Technology. Next year we expect the clothing to be better and more students to purchase the clothing.

General meetings

In 2010 the SFA had general meetings (AGMs). In these meetings the SFA committee had to give quarterly reports, back to students about their achievements and the immediate future plans for the students. The AGMs provided a good platform for students to raise their concerns and problems. All the meetings conducted were successful and well attended by the student masses.

Third year braai

Third year students braai (A braai is an informal function where people meet and celebrate something, then the celebration involves eating different kinds of food especially meat fried on the fire grill, sort of a barbeque kind of a thing). The forestry programme at our University operates in the following manner: students study for three years and get a National Diploma in Forestry, then if they want to further their studies they can do what is called a B-Tech Degree in forestry which lasts for one year. Most students go and work immediately after completing their National Diploma after three years. The SFA organised a braai for the third year students that were graduating this year, just as a small celebration of their hardwork and a farewell from the lecturers and fellow students.



Third year Forestry and Wood Technology students with their lecturer

A GLANCE AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN FORESTRY INDUSTRY by *Philani Mnikathi*

General

The South African forestry land composition consists of about 1.2 million hectares of commercial forestry out of 122.3 million hectares of the total land in South Africa. Refer to table 1 for the area distribution of forests in South Africa. About 82% of the South African commercial forests are certified by Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

The land claims

One of the biggest problems that the South African forestry is facing is the issue of land claims. Land claims is a legislative action that has been applied by the new democratic government since 1994. Land claims are an initiative adopted by the government to correct the imbalances of the past caused by

discriminatory laws that were implemented from 1913. Land claims consist of two main areas which are land restitution and land redistribution. The government together with forestry stakeholders are working on models that will assist in the smooth transition of land from corporate companies to communities. Some of the main challenges with these programs are post settlement support and the limited funds available to settle land claims. South Africa has a Forestry Charter which was developed in order to enhance transformation and equity in the forestry industry.

Table 1: **Distribution of Forests**

Forest type	Area	% of Land cover
Indigenous forests	500 000 ha	0.5%
Woodlands	39 million ha	40%
Plantation forests	1.3 million ha	1.1%

Economic contribution of Forestry in South Africa

South African forestry is a labour intensive sector thus provides direct and indirect jobs are generated (see table 2). It also contributes about 1.27% to the Gross domestic product (GDP). Which is relatively good compared to the little land under commercial forests. The export of forest product increased from R9. 5 billion to R14.8 billion in 2008 and import was

at R11.3 billion in 2008(Source Forestry South Africa)

Table 2: Sourced from Genesis report GDP

	GDP Contribution(M illion rand)	Employment
Commercial Forestry	3 700	107 000
Pulp and Paper manufactures	6 500	24 000
Saw millers	1 660	20 000 – 30 000

contribution and employment figures in 2006

THE ART OF SILVICULTURE

By Kutelani Tshivhase

An overview

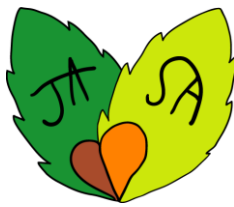
South Africa has a very well developed forestry industry, with one of the largest man-made forestry resources in the world. It's important to take cognisance of that the topic has indepth and detailed information but this article will mention only the basics of South African silviculture and its characteristics. Silviculture in South Africa referrers to the practice of controlling the growth, establishment, composition, health, and quality of plantation forestry to meet diverse needs and values of the landowners, societies and environmental considerations

Site characteristics

The general soil distribution of Forestry soils in South Africa is poor in structure and also depth. Generally moderately deep soils (600 - 800 mm) are at most the deepest in South Africa and often ideal for Forestry and Agriculture. There are also soils that are generally moderately shallow soils (400 - 600 mm) and mostly found inland. Most of the soil nutrients are enhanced by a higher clay content and a good supply of good organic matter which improves the nutrient status of most of our forestry soils. Just like any other regions in Africa, rainfall is a worrying factor for forestry and agriculture activities. The minimum rainfall for commercial plantations varies from place to place, and also species have different needs of precipitation. On an average, mean annual precipitation (MAP) is 500 to 750mm way below the average demand of trees which is 850 to 900mm. Most of the country has warm, sunny days and cool nights. Rainfall generally occurs during summer (November through March), although in the southwest, around Cape Town, rainfall occurs in winter (June to August). Temperatures are influenced by variations in elevation, terrain, and ocean currents more than latitude.

Our commercial exotic species

In South Africa exotic species are planted commercially because they are fast growers, have good stem form, desirable timber characteristics, easily adaptable and resistant against local pests and diseases. Pine species like *Pinus patula*, *Pinus radiata*, *Pinus elliottii*, *Pinus taeda* and *Pinus pinaster* are grown



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commercially. Eucalyptus species such as *Eucalyptus grandis*, *Eucalyptus saligna*, *Eucalyptus niten* and *Eucalyptus smithii* are also well adapted species grown in South Africa especially for pulpwood. Acacia species like *Acacia mearnsii* (*black wattle*) and *Acacia melanoxylon* (*blackwood*) are also grown in South Africa. They are drought resistant species and can grow well in shallow soils.

SILVICULTURAL OPERATIONAL PRACTICES

by Kutelani Tshivhase

Establishment

The establishment of a compartment involves practices such as marking, pitting, site preparation, slash management, ripping, planting operation and stocking density.

Marking and pitting is carried out as a single operation, fifteen workers including the supervisor are responsible for this crucial field work. The required equipments for this operation are mattocks and a single chain or cable. The marking is normally done at 3.5m apart for pines and 2.4m apart for *Eucalyptus* species. Debris must be removed from the marked spot before pitting. The width of the pit should be at least 50cm and 20cm in depth.

The preparation of the site where the plants are going to be planted is probably one of the most important silviculture operations to be done. All factors such as species to be planted must be matched to the site preparation. Many South African companies have policies that will

determine the amount of money spent on site preparation. Therefore silvicultural decision will be taken based on such company policies.

Slash management is the way in which the debris and waste material from the harvesting operation are treated before the establishment of the compartment. There are different slash methods that can be applied such as leaving the slash as it is, burning, windrowing, chipping, mulching, chopper rolling or selling the material for firewood to the local communities.

Stocking densities dependent on management objectives, this would include the type of end product, and everything will interlink because it will determine the type of species to be planted and the length of the rotation. In South Africa the rotations for saw-timber are between 25-30 years depending on the MAI. Pulpwood rotations are much short varying from 10 – 15 years.

The planting operation comprises of two basic divisions which are summer planting and winter planting. Summer planting is practiced during rainy season when the soil is moist enough. It is an ideal practice in the dry areas. Winter planting is a method of using stock absorber/ terra sorb or water while planting at the same time. Two to three litres of stock absorber or terra sorb is used per tree also depending on the weather conditions and soil moisture. The water is added into the pit when planting to enhance survival rates.



Picture: Young planted seedling and winter planting in practice.

SFA CALENDAR UPDATE

- Our University closes for summer holidays 26 November 2010 to 26 January 2011
- First years orientation and adventure walk with SFA braai week starting 6 February 2011
- First general meeting and election of new committee February 2011
- Classes start week of 14 February 2011

From the Saasveld Forestry Association and JASA members we say have a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Cheers and enjoy!