



GREATER CEDERBERG FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 2005 – JUNE 2006

1. AIM

The GCFPA aims to contribute to community development by eliminating loss of life, human injury, economic and environmental losses by veld fires and by progressively reducing impacts while promoting the useful role of veld fires. For all members to comply with legal requirements to ensure that no civil claims arise due to the fact that landowners do not act according to the law. The GCFPA aims to have its veld fire management strategy deployed throughout its area during this first three-year period.

To protect the community and our environment, the GCFPA will minimise the impact of fire by sourcing training of the highest standards, providing community education and continually improving prevention and operational capacity.

Each management unit will have a standard integrated veld fire management plan (for a five year period) which must be submitted to the Executive Committee and the FPO for approval within 1 year after the registration of the GCFPA, and to be progressively implemented thereafter.

2. OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
<p>To minimise all extreme fire risks to a moderate level within the first three years</p>	<p>The table on page seven (7) indicate that the size of fires within the GCFPA has dramatically decreased from years before.</p> <p>The GCFPA is situated in the fire prone Fynbos Biome, which will always be subjected to fire. The future challenges will be to minimize the loss to social, economic and environmental assets. This could only been done if we have sufficient data to guide scientific decision-making processes. The GCFPA are currently engaging in a veld age study and mapping of fire related infrastructure. These data will then be used to minimize extreme fire risk in the area, by the implementation of integrated fire management strategies.</p>
<p>To achieve full compliance with Chapters 4 and 5 of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act among all landowners in the area by 2007</p>	<p>The fire map of the GCFPA will indicate areas where pro-active measures should be implemented. This will determine where strategic firebreaks will be placed.</p> <p>Training will be provided before the next fire season. 100 fire fighters will be trained in basic firefighting skills.</p> <p>Fire beaters were obtained (100) for different management units within the GCFPA.</p> <p>The West Coast District Municipality for inaccessible areas made 4 x 1000 litre fire trailers available.</p> <p>Some of the different management units within the GCFPA compiled an action plans for firefighting. An Incident command structure was introduced into this Business Units (BU) as well.</p>

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
<p>To integrate the Cederberg veld fire management strategy into the disaster management plan of the West Coast and Boland DM' IDP's;</p>	<p>This was successfully done in the Cederberg Municipality's IDP while the GCFPA and the various associated projects are also included in the West Coast District Integrated Environmental Plan.</p> <p>We are however struggling to get the GCFPA into the IDP of the Witzenberg Municipality.</p> <p>The new IDP process starts in June and we will continuously engage in the process to ensure maximum benefit and resource allocation to the GCFPA.</p>
<p>To achieve agreed minimum standards of fire prevention and readiness among members by 2005;</p>	<p>This is partially done by the formulation and implementation of the action plans as well as all the approved policies. However as we expand the boundaries and increased membership of the GCFPA this needs to be updated frequently.</p>
<p>To achieve agreed minimum safety standards of firefighting operations among members by 2005 so as to comply with the National Occupational Health Safety Act (OSHA);</p>	<p>The GCFPA are in the process to secure funding for basic firefighting training for 10 people from each BU. These "fast response" units will undergo training before the onset of the new fire season.</p>
<p>To have standard integrated veld fire management plans for each management unit compiled and implemented by all members within a year after registration of the GCFPA;</p>	<p>This is in the planning and data collection stage. The GCFPA have secured R36 000 from the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor (a landscape conservation initiative) to employ students from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. They are currently doing data collection throughout the domain of the GCFPA. Compiling veld age maps and mapping all fire related infrastructure (fire breaks, water points, Ops centres, landing strips as well as potential high risks areas).</p> <p>These maps will be used to compile integrated management plans for each BU.</p>
<p>Educate private landowners in general, to adhere to the GCFPA standards and rules for their own and the rest of the community's benefit;</p>	<p>Various information-sharing meetings, visit to landowners did take place during the year. We also used the EC members to assist in the education of landowners.</p> <p>Special education days were introduced throughout the GCFPA to educate the farm worker communities regarding fire prevention and causes.</p>

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
<p>To implement a system of record keeping and reporting that will provide adequate information about veld fires that meet minimum requirements;</p>	<p>The GIS database, that the NMMU is currently busy designing will be used for future record keeping.</p> <p>The FPO will provide data from fires; Cape Nature will digitise this into GIS and will be used by all role-players within the GCFPA.</p>
<p>To increase the number of FPA members;</p>	<p>This is a continuous process and the GCFPA have expanded to include three new business units (Groot-Winterhoek, Kromantonie Conservancy and the Sandveld region). The GCFPA now consist of 11 management Units. The change of boundaries will reach your office soon. We currently have 85 paid up members.</p>
<p>To improve fire awareness amongst the public by implementing awareness campaigns;</p>	<p>Awareness was one of the most important aspects to implement during the first year after registration. We focussed on the GCFPA, the importance of integrated fire management and general fire hazards.</p> <p>The following products were produced and are currently available in the FPA;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated fire management and the GCFPA (10 000 pamphlets) (International Funding secured via the Cederberg Rare Environmental Awareness campaign). Cost R15 000. • Design a Logo and approved by members (R2500 funded by GCFPA) • 10 X Notice boards at various entrance points to the GCFPA. With the Bokkie and an emergency number to report fires. Cost R20 000. • Host a Provincial FPA management workshop, to identify challenges facing effective FPA management and to draft action plans to overcome these challenges. This report will soon be distributed to relevant role players. • Various talks on local and National Radio (Radio Namaqualand and RSG) • Various information sharing meetings with authorities, landowners, communities did take place.

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
Continuously promote sound leadership and management practices;	<p>This is done on continuous bases by addressing <i>ad hoc</i> management challenges. From the start an accountant was appointed to handle the financial management of the FPA.</p> <p>A new Executive Committee was elected on the 6th June. A woman is now the Chairperson of the GCFPA while Previous Disadvantaged communities also have representation on the EC.</p> <p>We are currently in the process to appoint / secure a company that can deal with all the administration of the GCFPA. This is however depending on funding availability.</p>
Organize professional, coordinated incident response to fires;	<p>Action plans for 5 of the BU where drafted and approved by members and the Executive Committee. The rest is still in a draft format.</p> <p>These action plans stipulates how members can approach firefighting in a professional and coordinated way. It provides contact details, determines responsibilities and prescribed incident command systems.</p> <p>These plans also incorporate policies e.g. protocol on red days, how to apply for burning permits, fire breaks, fire readiness, FDI, classification of fires, aerial support, fire re-evaluation and statistics.</p>
To achieve a balanced use of fire on natural, commercial and private land to achieve specific management objectives;	<p>One of members has recently paid R69 000 for Arial support to extinguish a fire to prevent losses to young buchu stands (a high commercial valued fynbos plant).</p> <p>Above mention incident and the further implementation of integrated fire management strategies will showcase landowners and communities that fire can be used in a balanced way to achieve specific management objectives.</p>

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
<p>Educate the public to an increased level of understanding, involvement and support for the GCFPA, its members and service providers;</p>	<p>From the start we used local people for service providers e.g. financial administration and labour consultants (secure funding for basic firefighting training).</p> <p>The design of the logo will assist the GCFPA to establish a corporate image and will approve the ability for people to associate them with the GCFPA.</p> <p>We will continue strive to improve our efforts to realize this objective.</p>
<p>Continually implement and update cost effective risk management principles, policies and procedures; and</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Reduce the incidence and spread of fires.</p>	<p>The last fire season from November 2005 – April 2006 only 15 fires have been reported in the area. Average size was not more than 30 – 40 hectares within the domain of the GCFPA. In the past fires sizes were extremely high e.g. in excess of 25 000 hectares</p> <p>The Aurora fire (500 ha) and the Piketberg fire (10 000ha) burned outside the GCFPA, but these landowners are now starting to join as well.</p>

3. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF WILDFIRES IN THE AREA

Reporting period: June 2005 – June 2006

Date	Location	Cause	Extent (ha)	Cost & Consequences (R) CapeNature	Cost & Consequences (R) West Coast DM	Financial lost
Jul-05	Citrusdal	unkown (human)	0.5	0	1000	
Oct-05	CapeNature	unkown (human)	10	3130	3200	
Oct-05	Citrusdal	Unknown	10	3200	0	
Oct-05	Kardouw tot by Misgund	Human	4	4000	0	
Nov-05	CapeNature	Unknown	11	15800	5000	
Nov-05	CapeNature	Unknown	137	27700	27000	
Dec-06	CapeNature	Lightning	31	9200	0	
Feb-06	CapeNature	Lightning	40	14500	2000	
Feb-06	La Rhyn (Olifantsrivier)	Welding sparks	2	0	1000	1500
Mar-06	Pakhuis Pass	Lorry burned out	43	11700	2000	2000000
Mar-06	CapeNature	Rock fall	14	10500	2000	
May-06	Die Poort (Olifantsrivier)	Unknown	3	0	3000	
FIRE STATISTICS WITHIN THE GCFPA			305.5	99730	46200	2001500

Date	Location	Cause	Extent (ha)	Cost & Consequences (R) CapeNature	Cost & Consequences (R) West Coast DM	Financial lost
Dec-06	Aurora	Unknown	500	31828	900235	0
Feb-06	Piketberg	Unknown	10000	0	450000	6000000
Mar-06	Tierhoek (Marcuskraal)	Unknown	13	1500	0	0
FIRE STATISTICS OUTSIDE THE GCFPA			10513	33328	1350235	6000000

These fires occurred in areas that were not part of the GCFPA when the fires occurred. These landowners are currently in the process to become members. The high losses were for replacing damaged infrastructure, loss to fire fighting equipment and the lorry that burned at Pakhuis Pass.

4. A SUMMARY OF OFFENCES ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED

Enforcement will only start this financial year, because the EC decided to give landowners a fair chance to comply with the Act and to join the GCFPA.

5. REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE ACT SECTION 6(1)(e)

See above information.

6. GENERAL REPORT ON SUCCESSES AND PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED

a) Successes

Although the GCFPA is only registered during February 2005, many successes had been achieved in relation to the set objectives of the business plan (see above table).

Other success includes the following:

- Relative good buy in and participation of members where we used existing structures such as conservancies.
- A very supportive Executive Committee that assist in the planning and implementation phase of the GCFPA.
- Very good working partnership between DWAF and CapeNature for the entire duration of the process.
- Host a very strategic important workshop regarding Challenges and Problems facing FPA management. It will be of great benefit to the GCFPA and other FPA's if the resolutions of the workshop are implemented as suggested by the participants. This will enable FPA's to function more effectively and efficiently.

b) Problems

Although the GCFPA has successfully secured co-funding from other initiates and departments the main concern / problem facing the GCFPA is financial sustainability. If we do not secure more funding and or gain financial support from government it could be detrimental to the implementation of integrated fire management strategies.

Although the GCFPA is registered for just over a year, we have now appointed our third FPO. This cause confusion amongst members and it is very time consuming (introduction to members, start knowing the area, understand roles and responsibilities). However the West Coast District Municipality is currently in the process to establish four fire stations in the region. The FPO will delegates some of his duties to these personal. This will improve effective extension, communication and management of the GCFPA. The GCFPA members will then have dedicated permanent personal employed within the domain of the GCFPA.

It took time and effort from the local DWAF fire advisor and CapeNature personal to convince landowners to join the GCFPA especially when they have to pay memberships fees.

As new members start joining, the properties that belong to the GCFPA become more and more fragmented on the landscape. This will create problems regarding fire management in general.

8. HOW ORGANS OF STATE AND MUNICIPALITIES HAVE COMPLIED WITH THE ACT

All state and municipal landowners are members of the GCFPA but membership fees are outstanding for the Road Agency, TELKOM and ESCOM.

9. CHANGES OF MEMBERSHIPS

See attached list of membership within various BU. Nobody has terminated his or her membership.

10. CHANGES TO THE BUSINESSPLAN

No changes were made to the business plan.