



CAPE FLORISTIC REGION PARTNERSHIP

Integrated Fire and Invasive Alien Plant Working Group

Integrating Fire and Invasive Alien Plant Management

Terms of Reference

July 2024

Preamble

This group through its work supports the mission and objectives of the CFRP, focusing on conservation and other outcomes which are related to the two most significant threats to biodiversity, water security and livelihoods, namely wildfires and invasive alien plants (IAPs). The work and outcomes of this group will be aligned to relevant provincial and regional strategies and frameworks including but not restricted to the Western Cape Provincial Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the Western Cape Protected Areas Expansion Strategy, the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan and the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan.

- **Name**

CFRP Integrated Fire and Invasive Alien Plant Working Group.

- **Mission and Objective statement**

Promote, enable, and support integrated fire and invasive alien plant management at the landscape to biome scale. This philosophy embodies the sensible use of fire for risk reduction and ecological function. The Working Group's objectives are primarily strategic and catalytic but will focus on facilitating management action that achieves the CFRP's aims.

- **Goals**

- To share information and data on fire & IAPs and provide a common platform to drive integrated fire & IAP management.
- To highlight the role of fire as a useful management tool and an ecological necessity.
- To promote advocacy on integrated fire & IAP, including to higher levels of government.
- To communicate high-priority opportunities for active management (e.g., new low-density invasions of priority IAP species).
- To cultivate opportunities with the private sector (e.g., biomass utilisation).
- To scale up integrated fire & IAP action across the GCFR.
- To provide a structure that can communicate needs and project plans to agencies and management structures.
- To provide a platform for priority problem areas to be logged.
- To identify priority projects for up-take. The implementation philosophy is to start small and scale up over time, allowing organic growth as capacity and funding improve.
- To leverage the collective weight of the WG as a catalytic platform.

- To identify funding opportunities.
 - To develop joint funding proposals.
 - To assist with facilitating access to land and the Memoranda of Understanding, etc., required to effect access.
 - To communicate best practices and methods for integrated fire & IAP management and assist with making training and guidelines readily available.
 - To communicate economic models that work under various scenarios and promote sustainable and dignified work models. Consideration of value-added opportunities such as biomass utilisation.
 - To communicate the incentives to drive work under various scenarios.
 - To promote improved capacity to carry out the work (training, development, and scaling up numbers across the GCTWF).
 - To promote Research and monitoring on the impacts of fire, IAPs, and IAP management, including the impact on Indigenous species.
 - To establish an Integrated Fire and Invasive Alien Plant Working Group to affect these goals.
- **Membership**

Relevant, competent, and experienced representatives from interested and affected agencies, the municipality, and NGOs who could make a meaningful contribution to this group to advance the objectives of CFRP and, in particular, the outcomes articulated for this group.

A membership list is provided in Appendix A.

Responsibilities and roles

- All members commit to using this working group as a safe space for constructive, probing, and focused outcomes-based debate.
 - Each member commits to providing advice based on their area of expertise or interest.
 - Members may bring any representatives to meetings by prior arrangement.
 - Each member commits spatial data, where applicable, for activities/projects implemented.
 - Each member must be prepared to give feedback and share information during meetings, where applicable.
 - Each member shall endeavour to provide strategic and practical advice and or action toward the achievement of this group's objectives.
- **Meetings**

Meetings will be held as needed, initially quarterly (alternating in-person and online). A standard agenda will facilitate the meetings.

The following matters shall be dealt with at each meeting:

- Identify barriers and threats to the pursuance of objectives
 - Report on activities, including successes and challenges as per the agreed workplan (detailing activities and expected outcomes)
 - Strategic planning and collaborative action
 - Set a date for the next meeting
- **Minutes**

Minutes will be taken at each meeting and emailed to the list of interested parties.

- **Confidentiality**

A member that receives confidential information during the exchange of information as a consequence of participating in any meeting established under this Terms of Reference shall respect the confidentiality of the information received and the conditions under which it was furnished.

- **Participants**

Institution\Individual

Signature

Date

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