

DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHERIES



PROVINCIAL FIRE SUMMITS' PRESENTATION

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Primary purpose of the provincial summits
2. Stakeholder representation
3. Key issues emanating from the summits
4. Recommendations & interventions



PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE PROVINCIAL SUMMITS...1/1



1. To identify veldfire management issues and challenges and to promote cooperative governance
2. To encourage stakeholders to provide accurate fire statistics on an ongoing basis
3. To propose practical interventions and strategies to prevent, minimize and mitigate the impact of veldfire disasters

STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION.....1/3



The following stakeholders attended the summits across all regions:

- Fire Protection Associations
- Municipalities
- Forest Sector
- Insurance industry
- Traditional Leaders
- Government departments & Agencies
- Working on Fire
- Non-governmental Organizations

KEYS ISSUES EMANATING FROM THE PROVINCIAL SUMMITS



VELDFIRE RISK MAP..1/2

1. Lack of reliable veld fire risk maps
2. Need for more consultative workshops amongst key stakeholders for exchange of information and resources



FIRES STATISTICS...3/2

1. Lack of accurate and reliable statistics
2. Need for the alignment of Departmental statistics with other stakeholders' e.g. Working on Fire, municipalities, forestry sector, etc



FIRE AWARENESS & READINESS...4/2



1. Lack of funding for fire fighting equipment, transportation and training

FPA CAPACITY....2/2

1. Need to harmonize the existing fire legislations in the country i.e. National Veld & Forest Fire Act and the Fire Brigades Services Act
2. Lack of funding for operations i.e training, equipment etc
3. Lack of clarity in the roles and responsibilities of land owners and other government departments
4. Poorly resourced Fire Brigades Services are unable to support Fire Protection Associations



COOPERATION WITH WORKING ON FIRE....5/2



1. Lack of clarity regarding the deployment of Working on Fire ground teams
2. Fees charged by Working on Fire to Fire Protection Association for aerial support unaffordable
3. Need for more Working on Fire base stations in fire risk areas

NVFFA AND ITS IMPLICATIONS.....6/2



1. Department's enforcement capabilities inadequate
2. Lack of awareness about the Act amongst land owners especially the rural poor
3. Lack of compliance by other government departments
3. Need for the amendment of certain sections of the Act in respect of:
 - Veldfire definition
 - The compelling of municipalities to join Fire Protection Associations

RECOMMENDATIONS & INTERVENTIONS

.....1/4

1. Fast track implementation of National Fire Danger Rating System
2. Update veldfire risk map for the country
3. Request by land owners and Fire Protection Association members from rural area to be exempted from paying property rates (due to unavailability of services)
4. Translate the National Veld and Forest Fires Act into other official languages



.....RECOMMENDATIONS.....2/4

5. Intergrate fire awareness in the school curriculum
6. Strengthen the working relationship between the department and the judiciary for effective law enforcement and compliance
7. Consider funding of Fire Protection Associations and include salaries of Fire Protection Officers
8. Ensure incorporation of veldfire management strategies into Integrated Development Plans of municipalities



.....RECOMMENDATION

.....3/4

9. Strengthen the working relationship between Fire Protection Associations and traditional authorities



THANK YOU



agriculture, forestry & fisheries