

From **FIRE**WISE to **LAND**WORKS

Transitioning from a Wildland Urban Interface focus to a Fire Adapted Community Works Programme

Val Charlton

Divisional Director

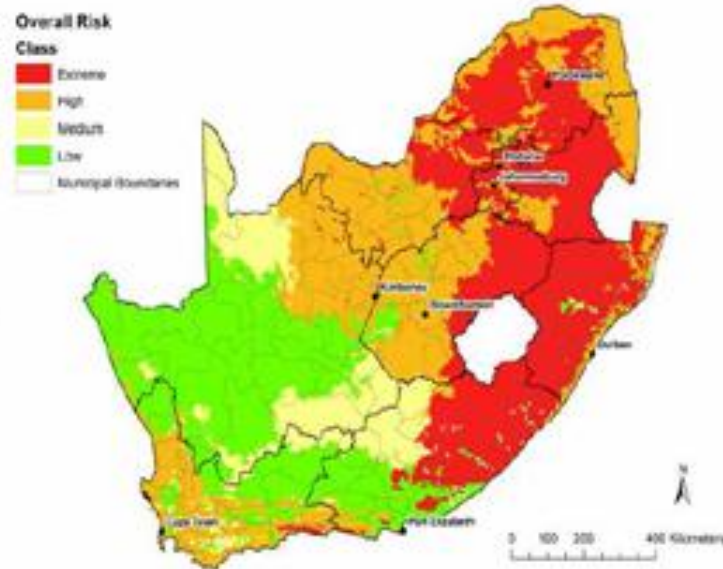
KISHUGU Public Benefit Organisation

A Division of the KISHUGU Group of Companies

The Lesson Learned – Up Front!

The issue and problem of wildland fire can create an incredible opportunity for community development and employment, poverty alleviation, a climate change adaptation solution as well as improved land management

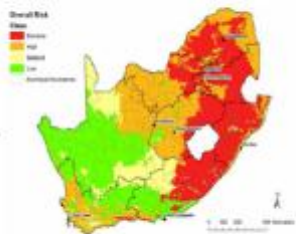




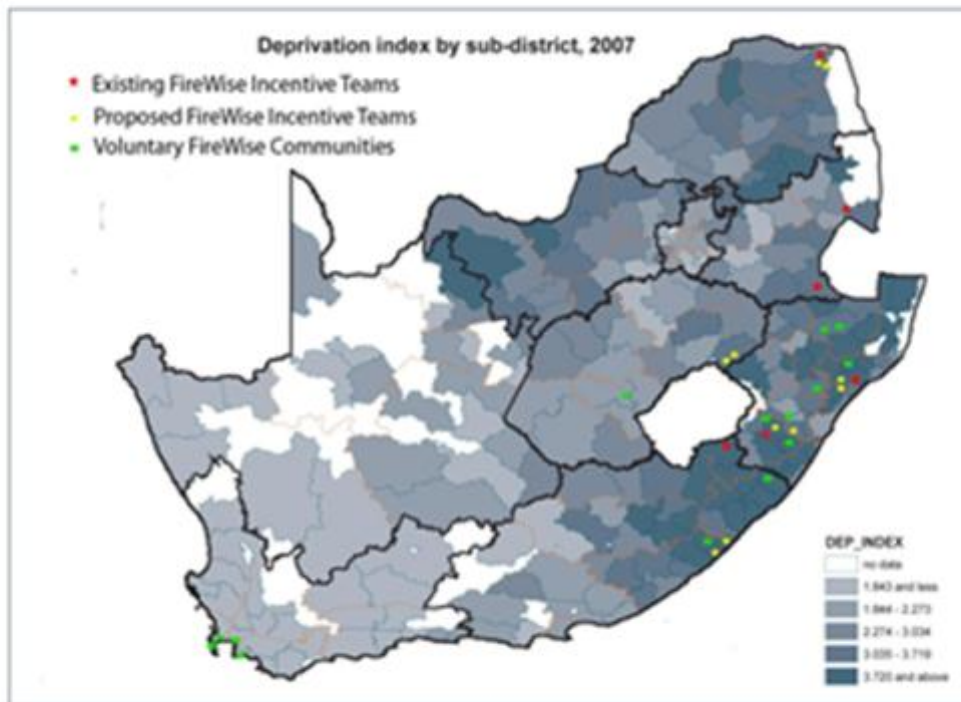
Fire hazard map of South Africa

Orange area in south is Mediterranean climate – very like California

Red area mostly summer rainfall, winter fire season



Map 1: Deprivation index by sub-district in South Africa, 2007



Thrust that has driven FireWise Community Works growth in South Africa has been the overlay of the Poverty Index with high fire risk.

2012 – 2017 and onwards we hope

FireWise Community Works – employing people into landscape – level interventions in poor vulnerable communities addressing environmental problems in a public employment programme.

2005/6

FireWise Communities awareness and voluntary civil society work

2000

We have a problem in the WUI

“Green” job opportunity created using government poverty alleviation and skills development funding



We still do....



Voluntary work is ok in affluent areas but difficult to sustain when there is no bread on the table

JANUARY 2000, CAPE TOWN



We have a problem in the WUI.....in affluent areas...and



.....in dense informal settlements in fire prone areas close to work opportunities, towns, cities.



Adapted FireWise
Community concepts
introduced in 2005/6

Still ongoing.....

Makes a difference – but
not enough.

Big country – keep at it!!



2010 - Looking wider into the landscape. Fire Adapted Communities

People have to live with fire – it is friend and enemy.
People depend upon the land for their livelihoods

The land needs fire!

Many issues, very few resources,
Invasive alien plants,
Bush encroachment,
Water shortage,
Food security,
Unemployment.

Limited institutional support
in rural areas.



COMMUNITY
WORKERS ARE
NOT
FIREFIGHTERS!

2010 Test out part
time employment to
carry out community
wide fire awareness
and mitigation work.

FIREWISE



2012 Include
any manual
work that will
benefit the
community and
the
environment –
fuel reduction,
land
rehabilitation.

FIRE ADAPTED
COMMUNITIES



2014 Expand to eco-villages,
creating opportunities for
local economic development
using community works
projects – beekeeping,
green energy, mounted IAP
control, early childhood
development, fuel reduction

LANDWORKS





Fire fuel
reduction

Invasive plant
control

Bush
encroachment





Tapping into the traditional use of horses adds value and accessibility - and pride!

Some statistics 2014

Over 1000 FireWise Community Works Employees

61% are women

69% are youth

3% are people with disabilities





FireWise Community Works Projects are funded by the Natural Resource Management Directorate of the Department of Environmental Affairs, Republic of South Africa



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA