

# GRASSLANDS, TIMBER AND FIRE

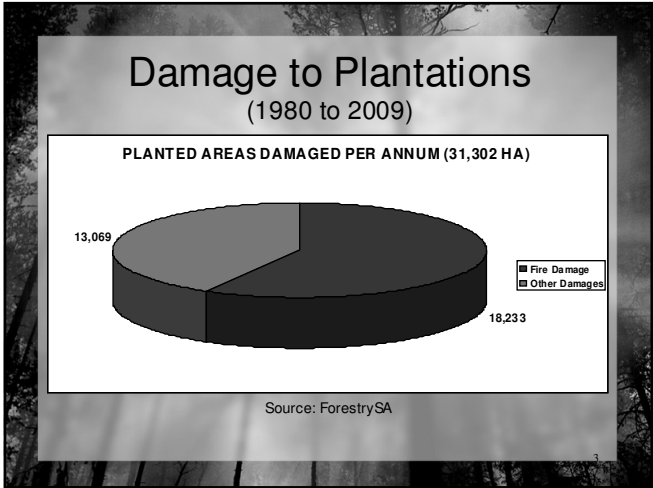
SANBI National Grasslands Programme

## Unplanned Plantation Fires

Pietermaritzburg  
14 October 2009

# HISTORY/LEGISLATION

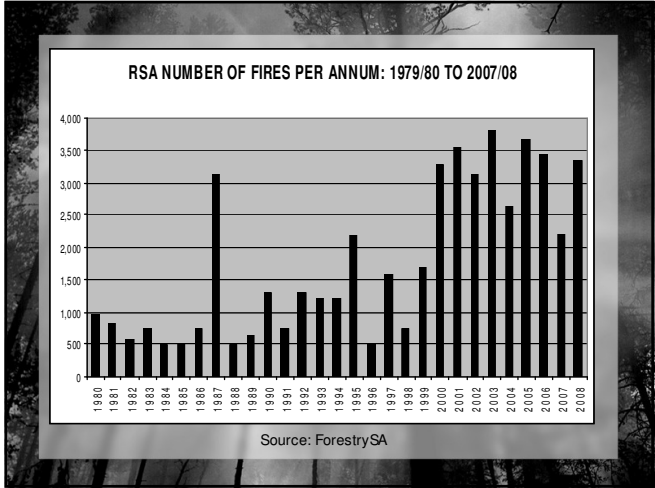
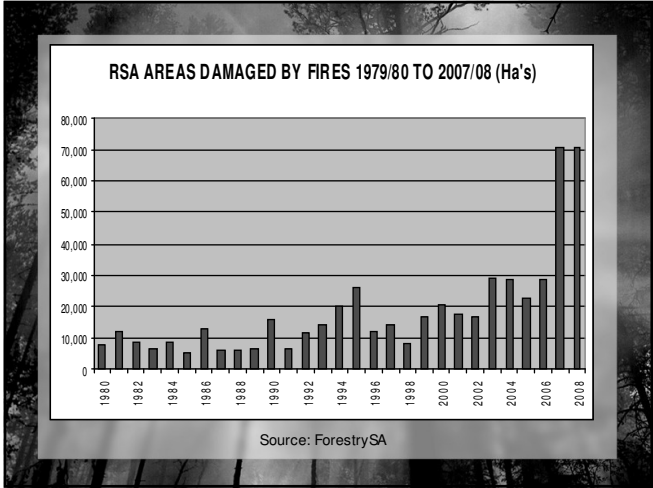
77<sup>th</sup> Article of "Placaat": 1740  
Lobengula  
Forest Acts  
Farmers Associations  
Big fire of 1859

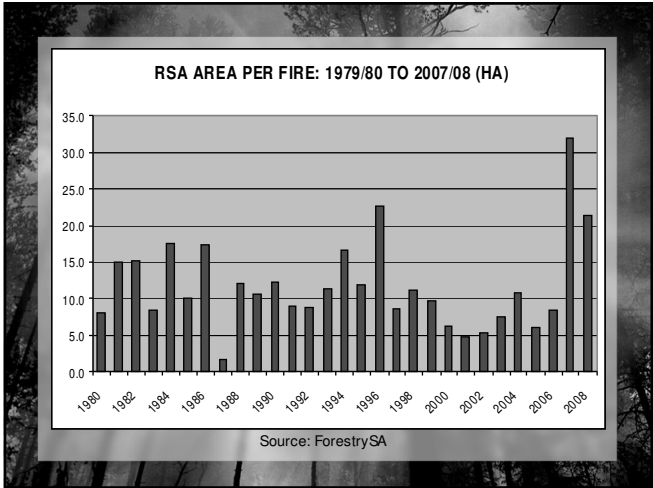


# FIRE PROTECTION

Fire Protection R250 million pa  
Fire Fighting R30 million pa  
Equal 8% of plantation expenses

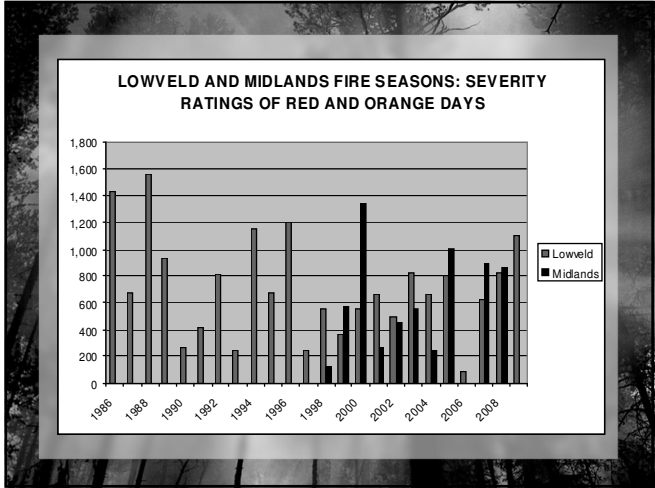
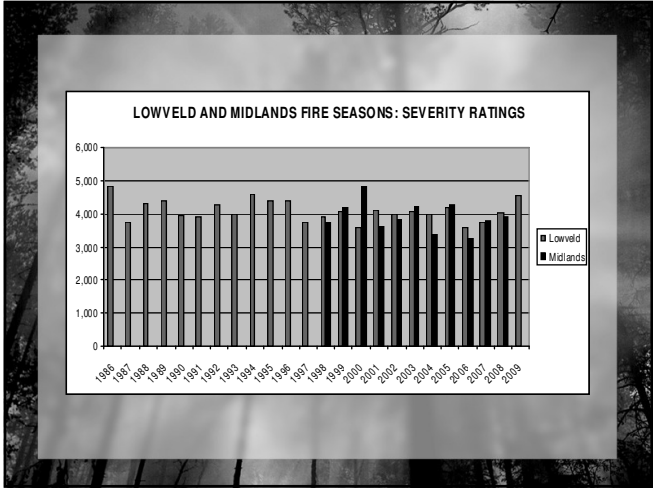
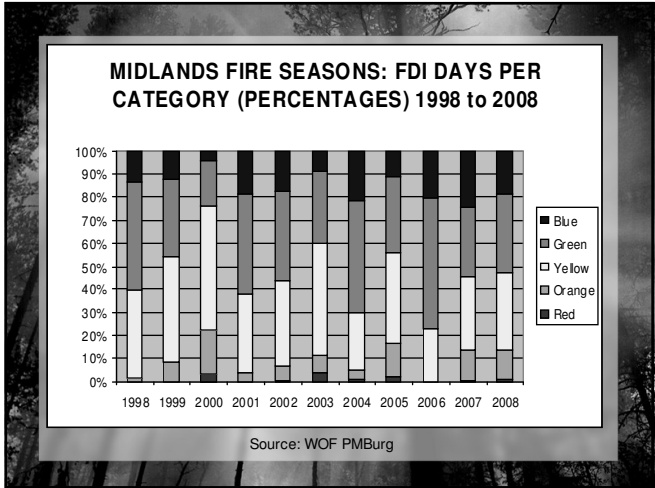
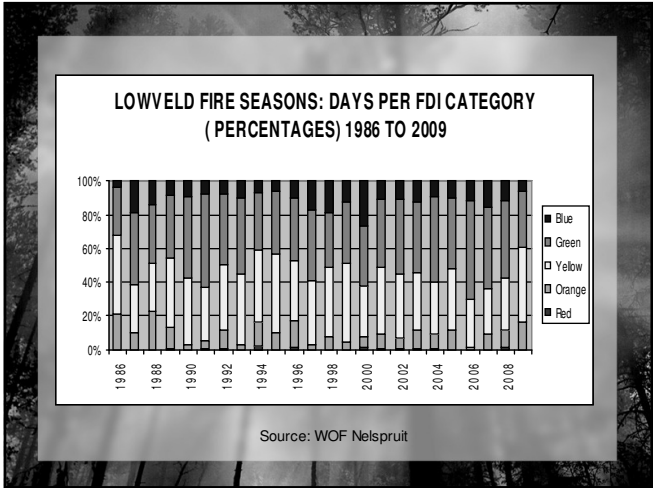
Burning of grassveld:  
Most important protection tool  
- Timing of burning





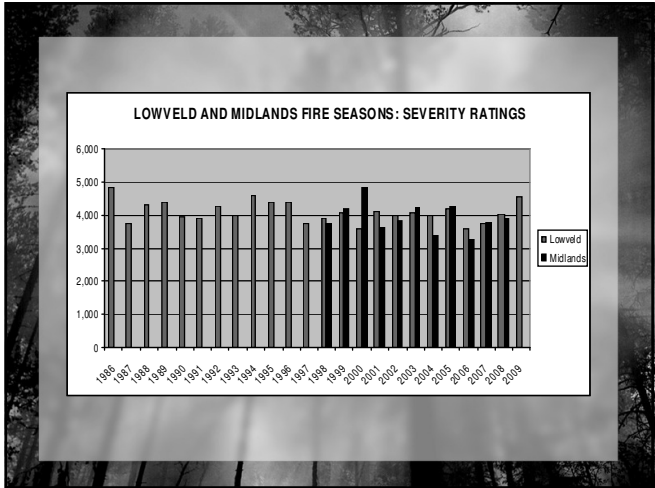
### Fire Danger Ratings

FIRE ALERT STAGES	BLUE	GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	RED
FIRE DANGER INDEX	0-19	20-44	45-59	60-74	75-100
FIRE BEHAVIOUR	SAFE	MODERATE	DANGEROUS	VERY DANGEROUS	EXTREMELY DANGEROUS
FLAME LENGTHS (m)	0-1	1-1.2	1.2-1.8	1.8-2.4	2.4 +



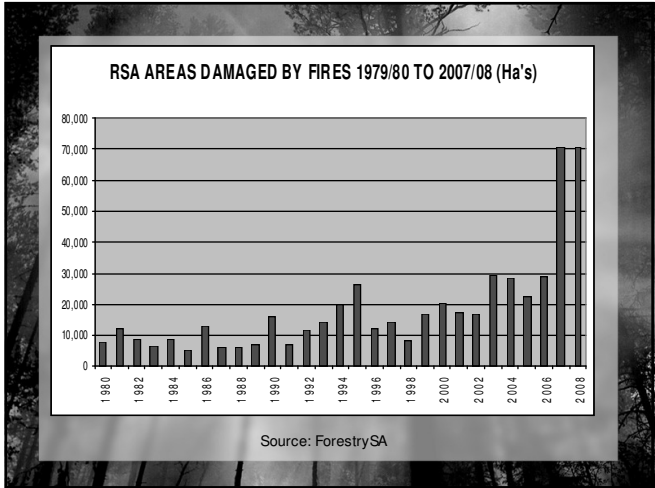
**WHY DID FIRE DAMAGE INCREASE?**

Planted areas decreased  
 Changed weather patterns?



**WHY DID FIRE DAMAGE INCREASE?**

Technology to spot and combat fires improved  
 Outsourcing fire fighting  
 Larger management units



**LESSONS FROM THE PAST?**

Changed thinking:  
 Plantations and Grassveld  
 - External pressure  
 - Internal change agent

*"We learn from experience that man never learn anything from experience"*  
 George Bernard Shaw