



SARAH BAARTMAN EAST FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

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ASSOCIATION (SBEFPA) VELDFIRE
MANAGEMENT STRATEGY as per NVFFA
1998, Section 5 (1) (a)**

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1. Introduction

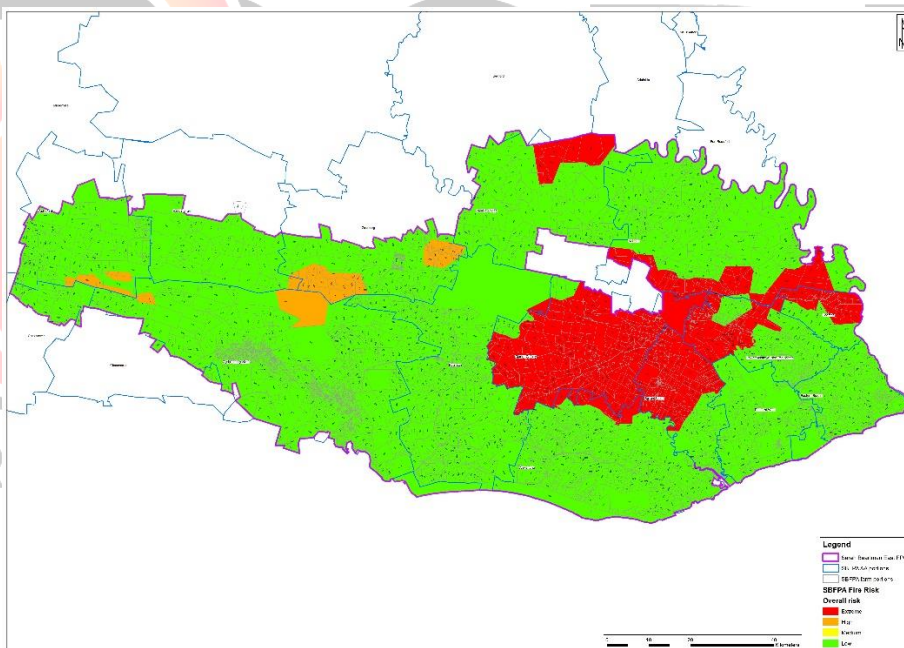
The Veldfire Management Strategy is listed in the NVFFA as one of the duties that an FPA must perform. The following is the extract from the NVFFA:

*“5. (1) A fire protection association must at least-
(a) develop and apply a veldfire management strategy for its area;”*

The purpose of this document is to give the SBEFPA a legal basis for how its veldfire management will be strategically executed.

2. Background

Sarah Baartman East Fire Protection Association (SBEFPA) was established and registered, in terms of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act (Act 101 of 1998) in 2016. The area of the SBEFPA falls in the Ndlambe LM, Sundays River Valley LM, Makana LM, Dr Beyers Naude and Blue Crane LM. The area is approximately 1 100 000 hectares.



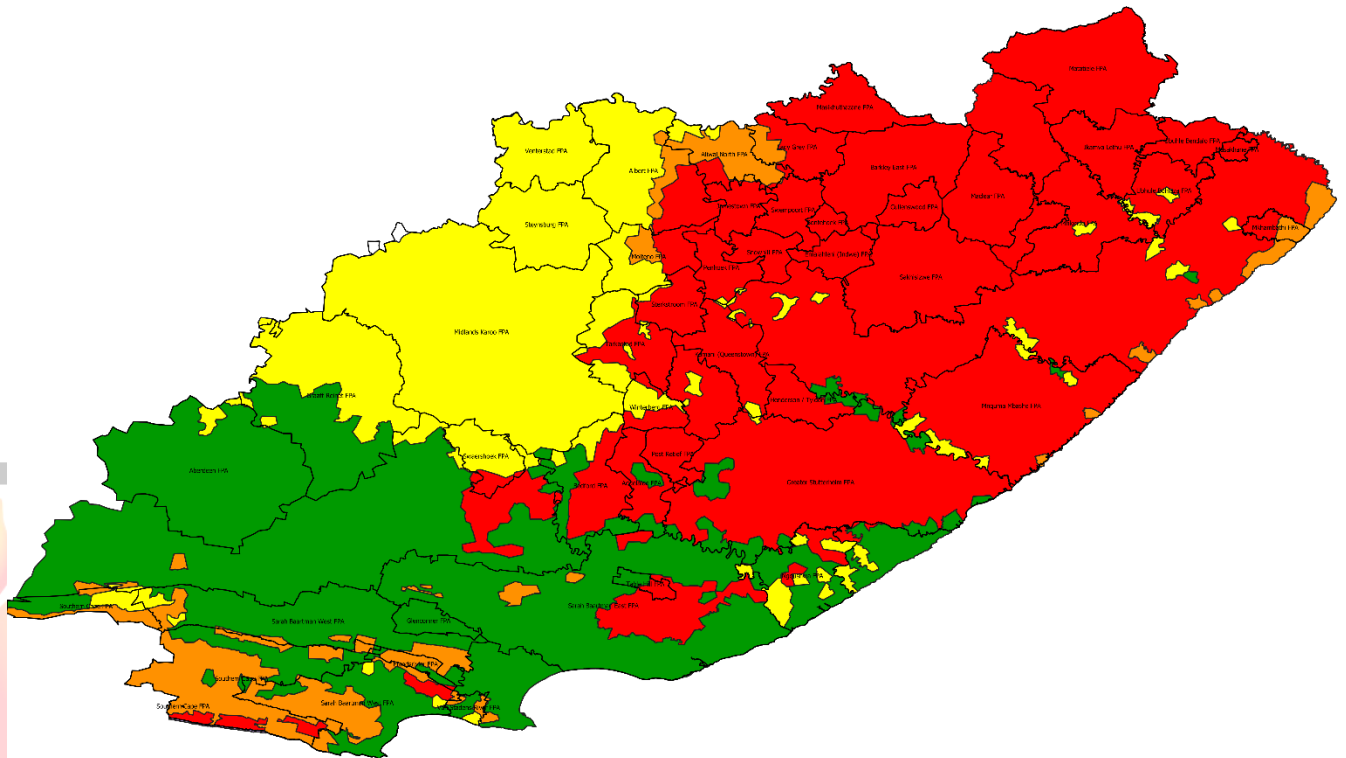
The organization was formed by landowners to predict, prevent, manage, and help fight wildfires in an area to protect lives, livelihoods, property, and the environment.

3. Objectives

- Minimize the losses to: life, livestock, property (buildings), infrastructure (fencing and pipelines) and grazing (veld).
- Ensure readiness of all role-players in combating fires. (rapid response)
- Improve public awareness for fire management practices.
- Proper fire management practices and regimes in ecologically sensitive areas.

4. Fire risk assessment

- Fires in the FPA area are mostly caused by human error and lighting strikes.



Eastern Cape Veldfire Risk Classification Map

- Red area - high fire risk zone
- Orange – high to medium fire risk zone
- Yellow – medium fire risk zone
- Green – low fire risk zone

5. Role players in the veldfire environment

Landowners/ Commercial farmers

State owned land:

- Addo Elephant National Park (Sanparks)
 - Transnet
 - Sanral
 - Eskom
 - Local and district municipalities
 - Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)
- } Parastatals

- ✚ Eastern Cape Parks & Tourism Agency (ECPTA)
- ✚ Provincial department of Transport

Municipal fire services:

- ✚ Ndlambe Fire Services
- ✚ Makana Fire Services
- ✚ Sunday River Valley Fire Services
- ✚ Blue Crane Fire Services
- ✚ Sarah Baartman District Municipality Fire Services
- ✚ Transnet Fire Department

6. FPA veldfire management strategy

A) Compartmentalized management of the FPA area through fire management units (FMU)

- a) Members of the FMU's are encouraged to work towards a co-ordinated response
- b) All areas will be managed through FMU's
- c) Encourage FMU's to appoint a leader with whom SBEFPA team can liaise.

B) Ensuring that reasonable efforts are made to put agreements in place with neighbouring FPA's in the event of fire crossing boundaries –

- a) Include the agreed mechanisms for coordination in the agreement between the FPA and neighbouring FPA's
- b) Include a basic plan of communication in the event of a fire crossing FPA boundaries.

C) FPA will utilize strategic fire breaks as the primary protection measures against fires

- a) Develop fire management plans in high-risk areas with a high membership as a priority which includes the use of strategic fire breaks.
- b) Strategic fire breaks will be used as a point of attack and to pinch fires that have jumped across multiple fire breaks.
- c) Localized fire break plans may be used in areas with limited membership
- d) Make available to all landowners in the FPA area, guidelines for the implementation of strategic breaks.
- e) Arrange pre-fire season meetings to review the strategic fire breaks in each area and add addendums to the fire management plans
- f) Promote fuel load reduction and risk by promoting controlled burns where applicable (i.e. burn or get burnt!)

D) The conditions of Section 12 (4) of the NVFFA will apply to all burning operations within the FPA management area

- a) This implies that all vegetation- related burns, e.g: camp burns, conservation burns, and high intensity burns will be managed under Section 12 (4).
- b) The FPA Rules, Policies, and Recommendations will apply for burning operations undertaken within the FPA management area.

E) FPA will enforce and maintain a Burning Permit System

- a) FPA will issue permits according to the FPA Rules, Policies, and Recommendations.
- b) The FPA acknowledges that its jurisdiction is within various district, local and metropolitan municipalities, each having its own policies and by-laws.
- c) In each of these areas, the FPA will work closely with; and notify the relevant officials.
- d) The FPA permitting system will be cognisant of existing municipal permitting systems that may be in place within the boundaries of the FPA and the FPA will negotiate with the relevant authority.
- e) Investigate and review available technologies for the implementation of a permitting system for the FPA.

F) Develop and implement tools for effective veldfire management and compliance within the FPA Area.

- a) Ensure access to FPA Policies, Rules, and Recommendations for landowners within the registered area of the FPA.
- b) Work towards compliance with the FPA Policies, Rules, and Recommendations for landowners within the registered area of the FPA.

G) Ensuring the ongoing compliance of the FPA with the NVFFA

- a) SBEFPA will measure itself against the Act and the regulations thereof, SBEFPA constitution and the KPA's
- b) SBEFPA endeavours to distribute the weather forecast and predicted FDR to landowners during fire season
- c) The FPA will send out FDI warnings to members on days with a very high forecasted FDI.
- d) Ensure that the FPA will have a legally appointed FPO.

H) The FPA Rules, Policies and Recommendations will be binding on all landowners in the FPA management area

- a) The FPA Rules, Policies and Recommendations will be made available to all landowners within the FPA.
- b)** The FPA Rules, Policies and Recommendations will be binding on all landowners in the FPA management area as the *de facto* standard.
- c) Enforce the FPA Rules, Policies, and Recommendations in the FPA management area while remaining cognisant of any applicable by-laws in the area.

- d) Promote conservation principles and policies for controlled burns in terms of seasonal and burning rotation

I) Promote awareness and enforcement of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998

- a) Attend community meetings where relevant.
- b) Engage landowners and advise them on the compliance with the NVFFA, 1998.
- c) The FPA will explore and where possible, implement mutually beneficial partnerships focused on community areas.

J) The FPA will implement a Fire Prohibition Period as and when required.

- a) Provide and communicate dates for the fire prohibition period to all landowners ahead of the Fire Prohibition Period.
- b) FPA will make use of, and encourage, Smoke Reporting during the fire season and fire prohibition period as a way of gaining information about uncontrolled fires in its management area.
- c) FPA may grant special permission for burning to be undertaken during the fire prohibition period as per the FPA Rules, Policies, and Recommendations.
- d) The FPA will implement a fire prohibition period as and when required.

