

Daams, Francisco. A study of the 2006 Overberg Fire: Application of the wildfire risk management framework to two wildflower farms and two wildflower businesses. (BSc Honours thesis in Disaster Risk Science, 2006)

The Overberg region of the Western Cape is characterised by fynbos vegetation which has a fire-dependent ecology. Such fires normally ignite under natural circumstances to maintain the ecological functioning of the fynbos. However, due to the expansion of invasive alien plants throughout the fynbos biome, the nature of these fires has increased in severity and extent. Often developing into large wildland fires this has potentially detrimental social and environmental impacts. This study aims to strengthen an understanding of wildland fire risk by investigating the extensive January 2006 Overberg wild fire. Documenting the fire event, its spatial and temporal characteristics, underlying risk factors and institutional responses, the thesis investigates the direct and indirect losses sustained by two wildflower export businesses and two wildflower farms. Applying the Veldfire Risk Management Framework to identify critical risk factors that increased the fire's impact, it demonstrates the efficacy of the framework in managing wildfire risk. The study also identifies its limitations for post-event analysis, failing to accommodate likelihood assessments and ratings for particular ecologies, and unable to identify critical risk factors within specific properties in order to illustrate how risk levels may differ between properties.