

**Shaun Moir. Fire Risk Management Contingencies in the Cape Winelands Region: A Study of the 2009 Jonkershoek Wildfire. (Honours thesis in Disaster Risk Science, 2009)**

The Western Cape Province in South Africa is home to one of the most diverse plant communities in the world, and has one of the highest concentrations of plants species in any temperate ecosystem in the world. The dominant vegetation is both fire-prone and fire-dependant (Van Wilgen & Scott, 2001).The Western Cape in particular is emerging as a province that is increasingly prone to disaster events, and it faces a wide variety of threats, particularly in the form of environmental risks. The Western Cape is characterised by a mosaic of urban and natural areas with substantial urban infringement, often badly invaded by alien plant species. The consequences of large wildfire disaster events are often devastating and far reaching as was the case of the wildfire that occurred in the Jonkershoek Nature Reserve between February and March of 2009. This fire in particular demonstrates that wildland fires are an expected risk in the Western Cape, and that prevailing legislation and policy call for an increased effort to manage such threats. Recognising the disaster prone character of the Western Cape and the increasing probabilities of future wildfire events in the province, this study aims to strengthen the understanding of wild-land fire risk by investigating the Jonkershoek wildfire of 2009, its characteristics and consequences. The thesis reviews disaster risk in the context of the research area and discusses the methodologies used for data collection and analysis. The findings are then presented by analyzing the main risk drivers spatially and temporally and applying Pellings' Vulnerability Framework (Pelling, 2003). Finally, recommendations are given based on the findings.