

**2008**

**ALIEN INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES  
AND  
FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
FOR  
CASA MARIS**

FOOTPRINT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

FOR

**SSOAFRICA**



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this document is to provide clear management guidelines for the control of alien invasive plant species and fire management at Casa Maris, Somerset West. This management plan must be seen as a dynamic document that will be revised in 2013. The revision will need to be moved forward in the event of an uncontrolled fire.

In addressing the control of alien invasive plants the strategies and management guidelines focus on, the legal requirements; the current situation on Casa Maris relating to invasive plant species; species distribution; species densities; species age classes, planning for clearing, scheduling; prioritization; budgeting and the final implementation of clearing operations.

CARA, (Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act No. 43 of 1983) is the relevant piece of legislation that compels landowners to control declared alien invasive plants on the property. It is critical that landowners show intent to do so in fulfilling the requirements of this legislation. The creation of a control programme and its implementation will serve to demonstrate to the authorities that landowners not only have the best intentions of controlling aliens on their property, but are following a structured course of action to achieve this objective.

The same rationale is applicable to fire management in terms of the duties imposed upon landowners by the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, No 101 of 1998. The high density of alien invasive species, high fuel loads left behind after clearing operations and the location of the property pose a significant fire risk for Casa Maris as well as for neighbouring properties. An integrated fire management plan should be implemented to ensure legal compliance and to reduce the fire risk on the property.