

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this document is to provide clear management guidelines for fire management on the property Waterval. This management plan must be seen as a dynamic document that will be scheduled for revision in 2013.

In addressing fire management the strategies and management guidelines focus on, the legal requirements; the current situation on Waterval and recommend actions to minimize damage caused by fire to social, economic and ecological assets present on the property.

Veld and forest fire management in South Africa is guided by the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, No 101 of 1998. It is critical that landowners show intent to implement strategies to fulfil the requirements of this legislation. The completion of a management plan and its implementation will serve to demonstrate to the authorities that the landowner not only has the best intentions for fire management on the property but is following a schedule of actions to achieve the objective of effective fire management on Waterval.

The Skimmelberg Contract Nature Reserve, Waterval infrastructure, Buchu & Rooibos Tea lands as well as the citrus orchards are at present threatened by a significant fire risk. The location of this property and the current road infrastructure make fire fighting operations extremely dangerous and difficult on Waterval.

This document aims to supply the landowner with an integrated fire management plan which, when implemented, will ensure legal compliance with the relevant legislation and significantly contribute to reducing the fire risk and potential damage that an unplanned fire could cause to the assets on the property.