

**<Village Name> VILLAGE COUNCIL**

**FIRE CONTROL PLAN**

**<Forest Name>**

**<From Date> – <To Date>**

## 1: INTRODUCTION

This document should be used in conjunction with the management plan and its associated village byelaws prepared by <Village Name> VNRC with the facilitation of Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative. The village byelaws were approved by Kilwa District Council on the <Approval Date>. This document sets out guidelines for the control of wild fires in <Forest Name>.

The principle means of fire control in the forest will be early burning. Early burning will be used both to prevent fire entering the forest, and to reduce the risk of serious fires within the forest. Controlled burning operations will be conducted in four different situations:

1. Preventative burning along the forest boundary.
2. Preventative burning either side of roads and paths that pass through the forest.
3. Risk reduction burning around common fire entry points.
4. Risk reduction burning inside the forest to prevent build up of excess dry matter that could lead to a catastrophic fire (Patch Burning).

The early burning programme is constrained by the forest landscape which determines what areas are suitable for burning and when. All early burning should be done in a carefully controlled manner and no later than two months after the last significant rainfall of the wet season.

## 2. FIRE VULNERABILITIES

Annex 1 to this plan shows a rough map of the forest together with the main fire vulnerabilities. These are as follows:-

- The forest has a border that is approximately XXkm long.
- Approximately XXkm of roads and tracks cross the forest. The main ones are:
  - Track going from A to B (XXkm)
  - Path going from C to D (XXkm)
  - ...
- The prevailing wind direction during the dry season is from the East, so most fires penetrate from that direction. Particularly notable entry points are:
  - Along the hill that comes from where?
  - Up the valley that is called what?
  - ...
- The areas in the forest most prone to burning are ... because ...
- Natural fire lines occur in the forest at ...

In order to combat these vulnerabilities additional burning, beyond the regular boundary burning, will be carried out where? How?

## 2: SPEED OF DRYING

There is only a short window of time each year during which early burning can be effectively carried out. Before that time the forest will be too wet to burn, after that time it will be too dry to safely control fires. However, the forest does not all dry out at the same speed after the end of the rains, so this window of time varies from one part of the forest to another. The parts of the forest that dry out quickest are:

- Describe quick drying parts

**Comment [SB1]:** Length can be estimated from the map

**Comment [SB2]:** We do not add those running along the boundary, since we are already planning to burn those boundaries. We want to know what area will be additional.

- ...

The parts of the forest that dry out slowest are:

- Describe slow drying parts
- ...

Some parts of the forest are evergreen and never truly dry out, so should not be burned at all. They are:

- Describe evergreen parts
- ...

### 3: EARLY BURNING PROTOCOL

The following protocols will be adopted during each early burning operation.

#### Preparations before Burning

- Before any burning takes place people in this and the neighbouring villages of XXX and XXX will be informed of the intention to burn.
- A burning crew will be assembled comprising two technical supervisors and 6–15 village community members but it will depend with the size of the forest; people who suffer from respiratory difficulties or other relevant health problems will not participate.
- Prior to lighting each fire the burning crew will agree clear responsibilities between themselves so as to prevent the fire escaping and injury to members of the fire crew.
- Fires will be lit and managed using manual tools only.
- Proper equipment (beaters, pangas and shovels/spades) for extinguishing fires will be on hand before burning begins.

#### Type of Burning

- The forest boundaries and borders either side of roads and paths will all be burned to at least 100m wide to prevent fire easily leaping across in windy conditions.
- Away from the boundaries, roads and paths the forest will be burned in a patchwork fashion according to the local landscape topography, as set out in the schedule and forest map below.
- To ensure that all patches are burned regularly, all burnable patches will be burnt at intervals of no less than two years.

#### Burning Operations

- Burning will only be conducted during the morning once the fog has lifted; no new fires will be lit after 11am.
- No burning will take place when it is too windy to reliably control the fire.
- Only small, well-distributed fires that are easier to control will be lit.
- Burning will be conducted using back fires, lit against the wind.
- Where no suitable natural fire lines or pre-burned areas exist to control each fire, small artificial fire lines will be created so as to avoid spread of fire. No trees with DBH larger than 5cm will be felled in creating these temporary fire lines.

**Comment [SB3]:** We cannot say here: “depending on the VLFR” for each such plan will be specific to a single VLFR. Such specificity should instead be indicated on the map and schedule.

**Comment [SB4]:** 3 or 4?

## Post Burning

A record should be made of each day's burning, noting the following:

- Where was burned using GPS
- The climatic conditions
- Who participated
- Any problems arising

## 4: EARLY BURNING SCHEDULE

The following schedule shows when each part of the forest will be subject to controlled early burns. Timings are provisional estimates. In order to identify the correct time to start burning, the fastest drying section of the forest (**describe here**) will be monitored on a weekly basis from the end of the rainy season. As soon as that is dry enough to burn, the schedule shall begin, proceeding in roughly weekly segments thereafter as set out below.

Time after end of rains	Early burning operations
5 weeks	Along which boundaries and tracks? Patchwork burning where? Additional risk-reduction burning where?
6 weeks	Along which boundaries and tracks? Patchwork burning where? Additional risk-reduction burning where?
7 weeks	Along which boundaries and tracks? Patchwork burning where? Additional risk-reduction burning where?
8 weeks	Along which boundaries and tracks? Patchwork burning where? Additional risk-reduction burning where?
9 weeks	Along which boundaries and tracks? Patchwork burning where? Additional risk-reduction burning where?

**ANNEX I : PARTICIPATORY FIRE MAP OF FOREST**