



BROCHURE

Who we are

The Kishugu Group of Companies, in collaboration with the Working on Fire (WOF) – Kishugu Joint Venture, takes pride in implementing the award-winning South African government's Working on Fire programme. Specialising in Integrated Fire Management (IFM), our joint venture focuses on upskilling and employing previously unemployed youth as wildland firefighters. Through affiliates like Kishugu Aviation, Kishugu Training Academy, and Kishugu Fleet, we ensure access to cutting-edge aerial firefighting resources and international-standard training principles across South Africa.





Saving Lives Protecting the Environment Restoring Dignity

Working on Fire (WoF), an award-winning Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), initiated in 2003, has grown from 850 to 5,300 skilled wildland firefighters and 350 managers. Notably, 30% of WoF's firefighters are women, marking the highest female participation globally in comparable forces. Kishugu's role extends to an accredited Training Academy, a vehicle fleet management company overseeing 317 vehicles, and a dedicated fleet of aerial firefighting resources.



Impact and Recognition

WoF attends to approximately 2,000 fires annually across South Africa and is globally recognized, having been deployed internationally to Chile, Indonesia, and Canada. The increasing impact of climate change intensifies the dangers of unwanted wildland fires, emphasizing the critical role WoF plays.

Social Initiatives

WoF's Social Development programme provides essential life skills training, entrepreneurial development, and impactful social campaigns addressing food security, gender-based violence, and supporting WoF Kids. The **Forestry Support Programme (FSP)** employs communities to protect government plantations and infrastructure against fire and damage.



WORKING ON FIRE RESPONSE AT MAJOR DISASTER FIRES

IN SOUTH AFRICA

THAT OCCUR MORE FREQUENTLY
AS THE RATE OF CLIMATE CHANGE INCREASES



Harrismith
Fires
2014

Knysna
Fires
2017

George
Fires
2018

Overstrand
Fires
2019

Free State
Fires
2020

Northern
Cape
Fires
2021

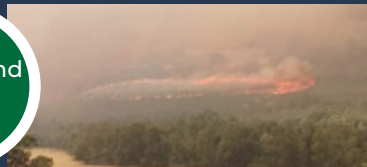


Table
Mountain
UCT Fires
2021

Kleinmond
Fires
2022

Morokweng
Fires
2022

Ganyesa
Fires
2022

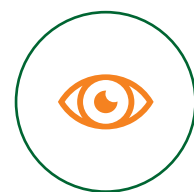
Gqeberha
Fires
2022





Youth Empowerment and Development

Over 20 years, 17,000 youth have passed through WoF's ranks, with many finding permanent employment in various sectors. WoF's track record as a successful youth employment initiative makes it an ideal platform for public-private participation in addressing youth unemployment.



Branding Opportunities

Working on Fire's bright yellow branding, evident in uniforms, vehicles, and aircraft, offers excellent collaboration opportunities with its established countrywide presence.



Communications Profile

As a leading wildland fire management resource in South Africa, WoF engages with researchers and experts to stay updated on wildfire activity. WoF maintains a strong presence on various social media platforms.

The WOF Scholarship Fund Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders

The Working on Fire (WOF) Programme, an Expanded Public Works Programme, recruits youth from disadvantaged communities and equips them with specialised wildland firefighting skills. WOF goes above and beyond the fireline and launched a scholarship fund, which aims to provide financial opportunities for selected wildland firefighters to pursue further education and unlock their full potential.

Working on Fire believes in the power of education to change lives and donor support enables deserving firefighters to pursue diplomas, degrees, or even pilot's licenses, opening doors to new career paths and opportunities for personal growth.

Contributing to the WOF Scholarship Fund empowers WOF young men and women to break the cycle of poverty and the investment not only



supports their journey as firefighters but also fosters their development as future leaders in their communities and beyond.

Contributions are managed with transparency and accountability with a dedicated committee, chaired by the Chairperson of the Board of Working on Fire, and comprising of former firefighters and programme managers, overseeing the fund's utilisation. Contributors receive annual statements detailing the impact of their selfless support.

To support the WOF Scholarship Fund and help shape tomorrow's leaders, details are below. Join us in igniting the flames of education, fueling dreams and creating a brighter future for our wildland firefighting heroes.

Contact Us to Learn More comms@wofire.co.za

Account Name: Working on Fire (Pty) Ltd

Account Number: 4069029619

Branch Code: 632005

Ref: WSF_yourname/businessname





From Firefighter to Pilot

Themba Maebela's Journey of Resilience and Determination

In a world where dreams are often deferred by circumstance, former firefighter, Themba Maebela's story stands as a testament to the transformative power of the Working on Fire Programme, perseverance, and determination. From battling blazes as a wildland firefighter to navigating the skies as an aspiring pilot, Maebela's journey is one of triumph over adversity, fueled by the support and opportunities provided by Working on Fire.

His journey with Working on Fire began in 2010 when he joined as a firefighter at one of our first ever bases in Graskop, Mpumalanga. Hailing from Matibidi, Mpumalanga, the young man rose through the ranks, serving as a crew leader Type 2 and helicopter personal assistant before being selected as a trainee pilot.

Despite facing financial constraints that threatened to derail his dreams, Maebela remained steadfast in his pursuit of a career in aviation, driven by a passion to defy expectations and carve out a brighter future for himself. Now, with a pilot's license in hand, he is setting his sights even higher, aiming to obtain his commercial pilot license and fly larger aircraft, with aspirations to explore the world.

However, Maebela's ambitions extend beyond his own personal achievements. He envisions a future where he can give back to his community, particularly to

young people in rural areas who may share his aspirations but lack the resources and opportunities to pursue them.

“I want to share my skills with youngsters who aspire to be in aviation as there are not a lot of black people in the industry,” Maebela said.

The Working on Fire Scholarship Fund will aid many other like Maebela. By investing in the education and development of participants, the fund aims to unlock their full potential and pave the way for future success stories. We will witness more individuals like Themba Maebela defying the odds and achieving their dreams, inspiring others to reach for the stars and never give up hope.

As Themba sets his sights on obtaining his commercial pilot license and beyond, his story serves as a powerful reminder that with the right support, determination, resilience, and belief in oneself, anything is possible. Through initiatives like the Working on Fire Scholarship Fund, we can empower South Africa’s youth to soar to new heights and create a brighter future for generations to come.





Kishugu Aviation

- Aerial Firefighting Resources

The Kishugu Aviation Group provides a wide range of specialist aircraft and highly skilled pilots to clients that require the services of a professional aviation company. Kishugu Aviation, operates 16 Spotters, 4 Air Tractor 802 Bombers, 13 Huey Helicopters and 17 Aircraft Support Vehicles and provides the aerial firefighting resources to the South African Governments' Working on Fire Programme (WOF).

Kishugu Aviation services clients nationally, from seasonal aerial fire bases across all fire prone areas in South Africa. Its head office is located in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga, along with its Aviation Training Organisation (ATO) and dedicated Aircraft Maintenance Organisation (AMO). We have suitable aerial resources, infrastructure, licenses and approvals, passionate team of pilots, engineers, support staff, management experience and expertise in Aerial Firefighting as well as seamless integration with the ground operations and other elements of IFM which is unrivalled in South Africa.



Kishugu Fleet Solutions

- Fleet Management

Kishugu Fleet supplies and manages fleet solutions to the Working on Fire Programme and operates a total fleet of 317 vehicles, 205 for firefighting and fire management which include fire trucks, strike units, bakkies and transport buses. The Forestry Support Programme (FSP) operate a combined total of 112 vehicles. The fleet is managed through a tracking management system, including an onboard driver monitoring system and an overall vehicle maintenance system, to ensure optimal use of and serviceability of the fleet in WoF.



Fire
Truck



Strike
Unit



4x4
Bakkie



Bus



Kishugu Training Academy

- Training

Kishugu Training provides comprehensive accredited and non-accredited training to the Working on Fire Programme through the Kishugu Training Academy. The training courses are aligned with the requirements of the national governing authorities, as well as alignment to international standards for integrated fire management. A key differentiator is our ability to cut through literacy, culture, language, and industry barriers, ensuring a high course completion rate. We provide one stop shop facilities and services provided to our students and also offers on-site training, throughout South Africa and beyond its borders. We believe in empowering people globally to make a difference. We transform people's lives through training.



International Deployments to Canada

Since 2015, the Working on Fire Programme has successfully deployed approximately 1,750 firefighters and management to assist in Canada's wildland firefighting efforts. These deployments occurred in 2015, 2016, 2019, 2021, 2023, and again in 2024.

In 2023, the Working on Fire - Kishugu Joint Venture led four deployments to Canada, sending 860 firefighters and management personnel to assist with wildfire suppression operations. The partnership is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in 2019, highlighting the importance of international cooperation in combating wildfires.

The collaborative effort showcases the power of uniting nations to overcome challenges, particularly in the face of increasingly severe wildfire seasons globally.

The summer of 2023 witnessed an unprecedented wildfire season in Canada, with more than 6,500 fires that burnt over 18.5 million hectares of land. It left landscapes scarred, communities in distress, and wildlife habitats devastated. The urgent need for additional resources led to a plea for assistance from the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC), which activated the MOU signed with South Africa four years prior.

The Memorandum of Understanding between Canada and South Africa serves as a crucial framework for cooperation during times of wildfire emergencies. Under this agreement, the two nations can exchange wildland fire management resources, fostering a spirit of international solidarity in the face of nature's most destructive forces. The MOU outlines such exchanges' specific

terms and conditions, ensuring a smooth and efficient response to crises like the 2023 wildfire season in Canada.

Working on Fire, with 21 years of experience and expertise in wildfire management, answered Canada's call for help promptly and efficiently. In four deployments from June 2023, WOF dispatched highly trained personnel to the front lines of the Canadian wildfires. These brave firefighters and management personnel demonstrated remarkable dedication and courage as they worked tirelessly to contain the blazes, thus saving lives and protecting property and the environment.



The collaborative effort between South Africa and Canada showcases the significance of international cooperation in combating the increasingly severe wildfire seasons witnessed worldwide. Climate change has intensified the frequency and ferocity of wildfires, making nations need to pool their resources and expertise.

The 2023 wildfire season in Canada will be remembered as one of the most challenging and destructive in history. The Working on Fire - Kishugu JV partnered with the CFFC and demonstrated the power of collaboration and the importance of having structures like the MOU in place to respond effectively to such crises. As we face a future where wildfires may continue to threaten communities and ecosystems due to climate change and global warming, this partnership serves as a beacon of hope, showing that when nations unite, they can overcome any challenges.







For more information, contact:

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