The ICFR extends an invitation to participate in a Research Symposium on

*Causes, consequences and solutions to baboon-induced damage within commercial plantations in southern Africa*

The Institute for Commercial Forestry Research will host a Research Symposium entitled *Causes, consequences and solutions to baboon-induced damage within commercial plantations in southern Africa* on 23 April 2012 at the Protea Hotel, Kruger Gate.

The Symposium has a research-based function, where researchers and plantation managers will be able to share both their research findings and practical experience around the control of baboons in commercial plantations.

On 24 April 2012 a small group of specially invited participants will be involved in reviewing the findings from the Symposium at a workshop which will focus on *The search for sustainable solutions to human-wildlife conflict within commercial plantations in South Africa.*

The meeting will be co-hosted with the University of Cape Town’s Baboon Research Group, under the guidance of Professor Justin O’Riain. Professor O’Riain and his post-graduate students have undertaken extensive research on baboons in the Western Cape, where conflict with humans is at a peak. He and other international expert/s will bring fresh ideas towards solving the problems of baboon damage in commercial forestry plantations, and identifying appropriate research needs for the next three to five years.

You are invited to attend, or nominate appropriate staff, for the Research Symposium to be held on 23 April 2012 at the Kruger Gate Protea Hotel.

- All travel and accommodation arrangements should be made individually.

  Kruger Gate Protea Hotel
  Portia Shabangu Road, Skukuza 1350
  Tel: 013 735 5671
  E-mail: sales@phkrugergate.co.za
  www.proteahotels.com/protea-hotel-kruger-gate.html

The symposium will commence at 09h00. A detailed agenda will be provided shortly.

**REPLIES**

Please respond to Dr John Scotcher ([jscotcher@forestlore.co.za](mailto:jscotcher@forestlore.co.za)) (Chairman of the Baboon Damage Working Group, a sub-committee of the FSA Environmental Committee) before 19 April 2012 to confirm your attendance.

*Please note that refreshments are for the costs of the individual delegates.*
**Monday 23 April 2012**

*Symposium title: Causes, consequences and solutions to baboon induced damage within commercial plantations in southern Africa.*

**Objectives:**

1. To provide a scientific review of our current knowledge on:
   - Why baboons are so successful despite their long history of persecution in southern Africa and how they have adapted to living within human-modified environments in general and commercial plantations in particular;
   - The consequences to humans and baboons of spatial overlap and competition for resources;
   - The type and severity of conflict and conflict mitigation tools for monkeys in general and baboons in particular across a diversity of landscapes;
   - The legal, welfare and conservation status of baboons in South Africa and Mpumalanga;
   - Previous and current conflict mitigation methods attempted in southern Africa in general and within plantations specifically.

2. To engage commercial plantation employees and other interested and affected parties in an open forum at which current perceptions of why baboons damage plantations, the extent and severity of such damage and possible solutions are discussed. These perspectives will be captured and taken forward into a workshop attended by a small subset (10-15 people) of select local and international experts on baboon behavioural ecology, human wildlife conflict practitioners, plantation managers and owners.

**Tuesday 24 April 2012**

*Workshop title: The search for sustainable solutions to human-wildlife conflict within commercial plantations in Southern Africa.*

**Objectives:**

- To summarise strengths and inadequacies in our current understanding of when and why baboons damage trees in commercial plantations.
- To prioritise research (over the next three to five years) by generating a list of testable hypotheses and the research required to support or refute each hypothesis.
- To identify where to perform what research when and to establish collaborative links and logistical support from the respective plantation managers and land owners.
- To identify potential collaborators including economists, social anthropologists and landscape ecologists for addressing broader issues (economic, social and conservation value of plantations versus other forms of agronomy) relevant to human wildlife conflict within plantations.
- To have an independent assessment of the current Baboon Damage Working Groups Protocols.
- To summarise and respond to the criticisms levelled at Forestry South Africa and the challenges to achieving the Sustainable Forestry Certification within southern Africa for plantation owners.