

Natural Forests and Woodlands Symposium

Prepared by Dr Brett Hurley



Five members of the CTHB programme, Prof Emma Steenkamp, Dr Jeff Garnas (picture left), Dr Brett Hurley, Michael Mbenoun (picture middle) and Johan van der Linde (picture right), attended the Fifth Natural Forests and Woodlands Symposium, held in Richards Bay from 10-14 April 2011.

This symposium was organized by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and included sections on ecology and management, sustainable resource utilisation and economics, monitoring and inventory, and policy and socio-economics.

For the first time the symposium also included a section on natural forests and woodlands protection. Staff and students of the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence in Tree Health Biotechnology (CTHB) at FABI, University of Pretoria, gave four of the five presentations. These presentations focused on the work of the CTHB on native tree health and included a general overview of the CTHB. The four presentations also covered research on the wood-boring insect community on *Acacia*, *Ceratocystis* species on native hosts and their insect associates, as well as biotic and abiotic causes of *Euphorbia ingens* decline.



Symposium delegates visit a restoration site at Richards Bay Minerals