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## Editorial note from the publisher

### *Southern Hemisphere Forestry Journal* changes its name

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NISC (Pty) Ltd, in consultation with the Southern African Institute of Forestry (SAIF), has elected to change the name of the *Southern Hemisphere Forestry Journal (SHFJ)* with effect from the first issue of 2008. The name change stems from a situation that arose during the early part of 2008 when our attention was drawn by a New Zealand-based publishing house, Trade & Media Services Ltd (TMS), to a potential conflict with their relatively long-running periodical, a trade publication entitled the *Southern Hemisphere Forest Industry Journal*.

Despite differences in the target readership of *SHFJ* and TMS's forestry industry publication, we recognise that the titles of the two periodicals are similar enough to lead to potential confusion. Understandably, TMS want to guard the brand identity of their publication. Similarly, it would not be in the interests of NISC, SAIF or our authors if the *SHFJ* is mistaken for another publication and, moreover, one with different aims and scope. After lengthy discussions between NISC, SAIF and TMS, we have resolved to change the name of *SHFJ* to *Southern Forests: a Journal of Forest Science*. The name change will take effect with the first issue of 2008.

We acknowledge that the SAIF's journal only recently changed its name from the *Southern African Forestry Journal* to *SHFJ*. The reference to 'Southern Hemisphere' in the title was an effort to reflect the vision of the editorial board, as articulated in the guest editorial of this issue, that the journal should be expanded to include relevant quality research articles from South America, Australasia and subtropical/tropical Asia, in addition to papers from the African continent. The new (and unique) name, *Southern Forests: a Journal of Forest Science*, clearly reaffirms this original vision for the journal.

As of the first issue of 2008, the journal will appear with a new name and with new ISSN identifiers for the online and print versions. The first volume will be Volume 70, continuing from where *SHFJ* left off. However, with respect to other aspects of the publishing and dissemination processes under its new name, the journal will continue to receive the same excellent international visibility as its predecessor through online access of the full text of all articles on IngentaConnect, African Journals Online and EBSCOhost databases. Furthermore, the journal will continue to be abstracted and indexed by all the relevant compilers of bibliographic databases. We are confident that *Southern Forests* will extend the good reputation in the scientific community that its predecessor, *SHFJ*, has garnered in the preceding year.

A regrettable consequence of the deliberations around the new name for *SHFJ* has been a delay in the delivery of the first issue of the journal for 2008. We apologise to our authors and subscribers for this. However, while the matter of the name was being resolved, the editorial, review and production work on submitted manuscripts has continued. The remaining issues of *Southern Forests* for 2008 will therefore appear as originally scheduled. We can also assure subscribers that NISC has absorbed all costs related to the name change and the subscription fees for 2009 will be unaffected by these events.

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