

Pricing the Fuel Break — A Farm-Level Cost-Benefit Case for Prescribed Burning in the Western Cape's Langeberg Mountains

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · South Africa

Quality score: 20/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

A 2025 Stellenbosch University cost-benefit study of Langeberg Mountain fynbos found prescribed-burning benefits exceed costs, yet 69% of surveyed farmers avoid burning since South African law makes them liable if a fire escapes.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	0/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	0/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	2/3
Governance, certification & transferability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-25

[Stellenbosch University \(Dept. of Agricultural Economics\) with CapeNature](#) — accessed 2026-09-25

[AGRIS/FAO record: Determining the direct benefits and costs of prescribed burning, Langeberg Mountain \(2025\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-25

[CapeNature: Fire management programme page](#) — accessed 2026-09-25

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