

## **TOWARDS NEW STRATEGIES FOR BUSH-FIRE MANAGEMENT IN SENEGAL AND WESTERN AFRICA**

Racine Kane

Centre de Suivi Ecologique Dakar, Senegal, BP 15 532, Dakar – FANN, SENEGAL

E-mail: [kane@cse.sn](mailto:kane@cse.sn)

### **ABSTRACT**

Over the last ten years, the Centre de Suivi Ecologique, a parastatal organization specialized in natural resource management and located in Dakar-Senegal, has implemented a bush-fire monitoring program based on NOAA-AVHRR image processing and field observations in Senegal and few other countries in Western Africa.

Fire detection is made on daily basis during the dry season from November to May resulting into maps and statistics of burned areas and fire occurrences for decision makers at the Forestry Department level. The bush-fire monitoring program has also improved awareness of government officials on the issue of wild fires and has helped in shaping policies at national level.

However to better manage bush-fires in Senegal and Western Africa, new strategies involving populations and local partners (NGO's, associations, radio stations, etc.) through access to accurate and timely information are proposed.