



# FORESTRY IN SOUTH AFRICA

*Forest Governance and Decentralisation Workshop,  
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**Department of Water Affairs & Forestry**



## PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Introduction and Background
- Forestry Vision
- Legislative context
- Forestry pre 1994
- Forestry post 1994
- SA Forest Resources
- Economic benefits form Forest Resources
- Challenges
- Opportunities
- Field Trips





## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- Since 1994, SA forestry has seen significant changes :
  - 1996 – The White Paper on Sustainable Forest Development in SA was published
  - 1998 – The National Forests Act changed the role of government from active management of forests to promoting the needs, interests and participation of communities in forest management
- DWAF responded to the new policy context with a range of initiatives, including a Vision Statement to guide its forestry activities



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## FORESTRY VISION

- *“Forests are managed for people and we need to create an enabling environment for economic and social development through sustainable forestry, especially at the local level”*
- The vision supports the constitutional right of every South African, for access to clean water, electricity, health facilities and reasonable opportunities to gain employment
- The vision also reflects international sentiment articulated in the Millennium Development Goals



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## LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

- South African forestry governed by two acts, The National Forests Act (1998) and the National Veld and Forest Fires Act (1998)
- The cornerstone of the National Forests Act is sustainable forest management – All the provisions are interpreted and applied within the framework of SFM
- The NFA defines principles to guide decisions affecting forests and also provides for the Minister to promote and enforce SFM through regulation and/or certification
- The Minister is obliged to monitor and report on the state of the forest resources at least once in three years
- The National Veld and Forest Fires Act 1998 was put in place to prevent and combat veld, forest and mountain fires throughout South Africa. A variety of institutions, methods and practices are provided for under the Act for achieving the purposes of the Act



## FORESTRY PRE-1994

- Inward looking focus intent on self-sufficiency
- Exclusion from global economy
- Impacts of afforestation of little concern
- Environmental and social concerns not an issue
- Land readily available for planting trees
- Politics favoured the privileged
- Unlimited government support (education, research, infrastructure)
- Conservation focus, exclusion of people from the forest



## FORESTRY POST 1994

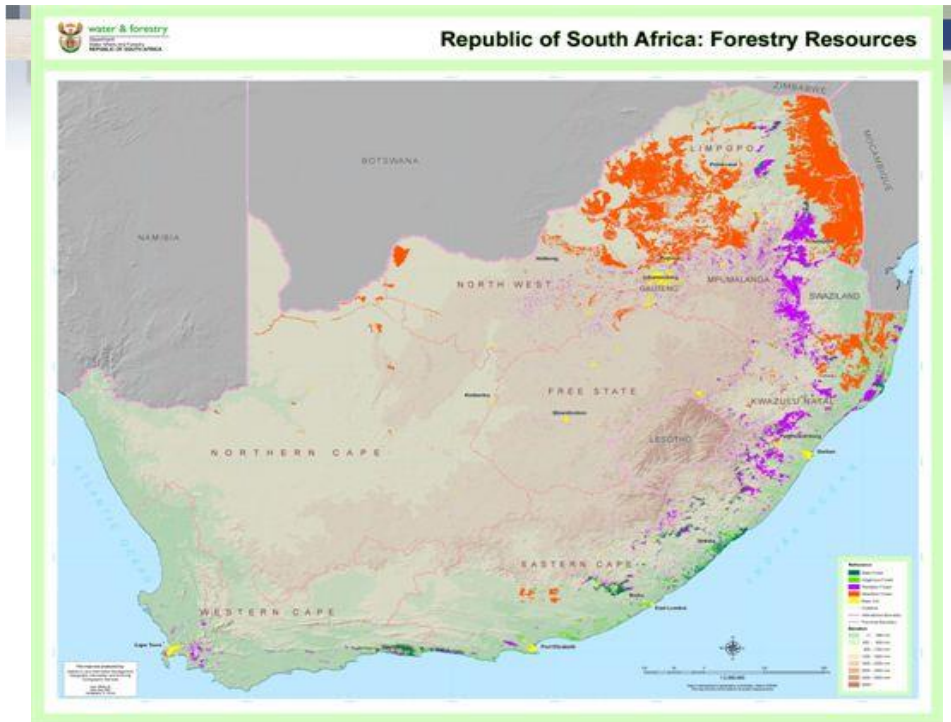
- Outward looking focus intent on globalization
- Highly regulated operating environment
- Limited government support
- Politics ensures that South Africa part of global dictates
- Global competition driver of business
- Impacts of afforestation a major concern
- Limited land available for forestry
- Focus on sustainable development and participatory forestry



## SOUTH AFRICA'S FOREST RESOURCES

- Forest resources of SA consist of three **main components**:
  - Savannas (Woodlands)
  - Indigenous (Natural) Forests
  - Commercial Plantations





## SOUTH AFRICA'S FOREST RESOURCES Woodlands

**Woodlands** contribute the bulk of wooded land area of South Africa

- The potential area is in the region of 42 million hectares
- Approximately 9,2 million people live around these areas and depend on them for goods and services



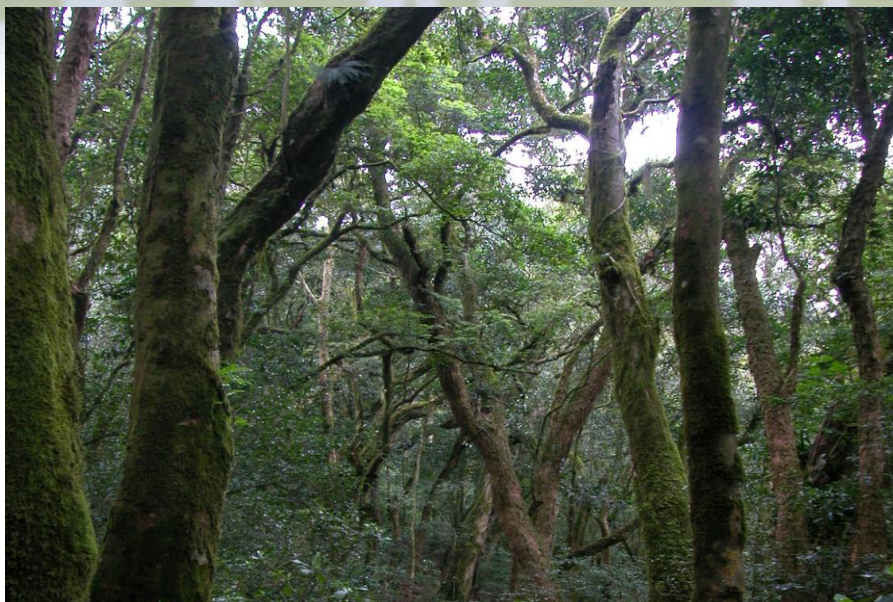
## **SOUTH AFRICA'S FOREST RESOURCES Indigenous Forests**

- **Indigenous Forests** cover about 533 000 hectares.
- Almost three-quarters of this forest type is conserved either as declared State forests or within formal protected areas
- Access and harvesting of products was typically restricted for decades, until significant policy shifts post 1994 when more participatory policies and programmes came into being



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## SOUTH AFRICA'S FOREST RESOURCES Plantations

**Plantations** cover approximately 1,4 million ha of SA land area.

- Over 80% of them are found in 3 provinces: Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal & Eastern Cape
- Plantations provide direct employment for about 66,000 with over 300,000 dependents
- These forests produce approximately 22 million m<sup>3</sup> of commercial roundwood worth R5 billion annually
- Some environmental costs associated with plantations are recognised – However, 80% of the plantation area is certified by independent third party schemes



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## ECONOMIC BENEFITS FROM FOREST RESOURCES

- Commercial forests contribute R14 billion annually to the GDP (9% of agricultural output)
- Employs about 170 000 people in the formal sector, including the pulp & paper industries
- Over 80% of rural households depend on firewood as their energy source
- A large part of the population depend on medicinal plants for health care
- Estimated that the value of forest goods and services derived from the natural forests and woodlands is about R17 billion annually



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## FOREST SECTOR CHALLENGES

1. Greater equity in the entire value chain
2. Increase in the local supply of roundwood to underpin growth throughout the value chain
3. Sustainable supply and better utilisation of limited saw-timber resources
4. Increased local beneficiation
5. Greater empowerment and profitability of existing small scale forest enterprises
6. Linking forestry as a rural based industry with poverty eradication and local economic development



## OPPORTUNITIES

- Forestry Transformation Charter
- Sector agreement on Charter as medium term strategy for forestry
  - ✓ Growth and transformation charter
  - ✓ Addresses sector challenges
    - Growth of sector
    - Roundwood shortage
    - Land reform
    - Skills shortage
    - Access to finance for emerging entrepreneurs
    - Forest protection
    - Research and innovation
    - Local beneficiation
    - Empowerment of emerging black entrepreneurs



## FIELD TRIPS

- **Group 1: Ndelu Trust (Primary Focus Theme I)**
  - Focus on the history of forest tenure reforms in South Africa & its effect on rural livelihoods
- **Group 2: Seven Oaks (Primary Focus Theme II)**
  - Focus on the governance of water use by forestry and other sectors
- **Group 3: Greenhill Estate (Primary Focus Theme III)**
  - Focus on international trade, impacts of international governance instruments (certification) and land use practice, and the social and ecological effects of these practices