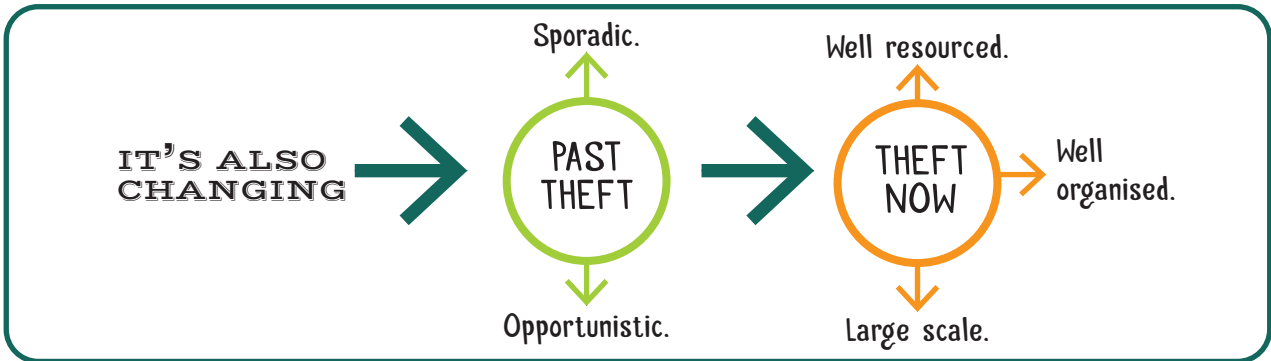


# THEFT, FIRE AND DAMAGE-CAUSING ANIMALS

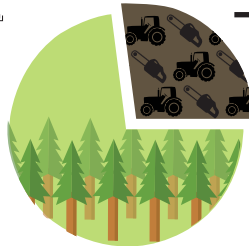
Cost the forest industry **MILLIONS** of rands every year.

**THEFT:** While it is impossible to calculate the extent of the levels of theft occurring in South African plantations, with single cases running into millions of Rands, theft is a **MULTI MILLION** rand problem.



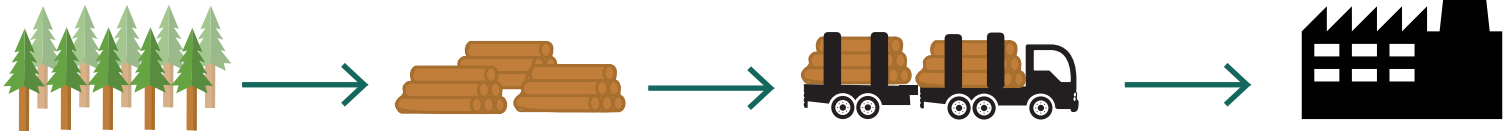
## WHAT'S TAKEN

**73% TREES**  
In 6 months, 1 company, lost 18,000 trees.



**27% EQUIPMENT**  
Since 2011, 1,080 chainsaws costing **R5.6 MILLION** rand have been stolen in Mpumalanga alone.

Theft also happens: At the depot, during transport and at the mill.



## PREVENTION

Keep detailed records

Additional security

Tree notching

Paint marking loads

Reporting suspect loads

Documents and photos

## PREVENTION ADDS ADDITIONAL COSTS

Theft in plantations might be **HIGH** but convictions are currently **LOW**, because in court you need to be able to link the stolen item with both your property and the thief and this is hard to prove.

## NEW LAWS ARE TURNING THE TABLES ON THE THIEVES

Prevention of Organised Crime Act.



Allows police to seize assets of anyone suspected of theft.

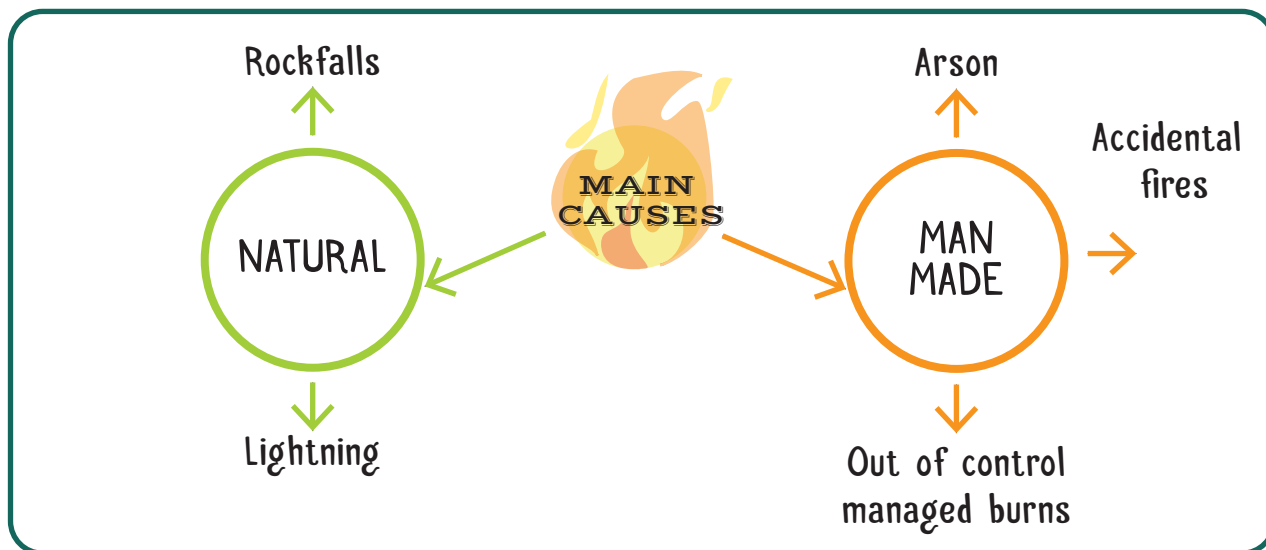


This is a big deterrent.



# FIRE:

Has an important ecological role in natural ecosystems. But, along with pests and diseases, plantation fires pose the greatest risk to the sustainability and economic feasibility of plantations in South Africa.



# FACT:

Since 1980, almost 600,000 hectares of timber from plantations have been lost.



When is the **GREATEST** risk?

'Fire Season' is **RAIN DEPENDENT** → It must be **DRY**

In the Cape, fire season occurs during the summer months, while the rest of the country is most at risk during the winter months.



# REDUCING THE RISK



## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

The **1998 NATIONAL VELD AND FOREST FIRE ACT** places the legal obligation on the landowner.

### **FIRE BREAKS:**

Prepared and maintained.

Wide enough and long enough to ensure a reasonable chance of preventing the fire from spreading.

### **FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN:**

Membership of a **LOCAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.**

An equipment check list.

Only burn on **APPROVED/ARRANGED** dates.



# DAMAGE-CAUSING ANIMALS

Have a huge impact on plantation productivity, although getting an exact figure is near to impossible due to the many variables involved.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF COMMON DAMAGE-CAUSING SPECIES

Rodents



Antelope



Baboons



One in particular, **BABOONS**, is becoming a **NATIONAL PROBLEM**, which is not only limited to the forestry sector.



They strip bark, damaging the tree, stunting its growth and reducing wood quality, often killing the tree by ring barking. It seems no tree is off-limits, although most damage occurs near rivers, indigenous forests and unplanted areas. What is worrying for foresters is that baboons appear to be thriving in the plantations. With recent studies showing densities almost **THREE TIMES** that of their natural habitat.

SO HOW DO YOU REDUCE THE IMPACT?

Natural Enemies

Trapping

Relocation

Culling

Ultimately, the only way to reduce the impact of the damage-causing animals is to reduce their numbers to a level where damage is acceptable.