GETTING TO KNOW SOUTH AFRICA’S TIMBER PLANTATIONS

Forestry Explained: Our Conservation Legacy
Introducing South Africa’s plantations

In South Africa, timber plantations cover 1.2 million hectares = 1% of South Africa’s land cover, stretching over five provinces: Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and Western Cape.

Three tree types (genera) dominate these plantations:

- **pine (51%)**
- **eucalypt (42%)**
- **wattle (7%)**

From these three genera – which include 40 species, hybrids and clones – literally hundreds of products are produced. This in turn results in over 158,000 jobs and billions of rands being added to our country’s economy.
LIMPOPO

Scale:
Coverage - 48,353 hectares = 0.40% of the provincial area
Home to 3.95% of South Africa’s plantations

Species breakdown:

- 26,919 hectares pine
- 21,300 hectares eucalypt
- 72 hectares wattle
- 62 hectares other species

Employment
Total employment - 8,030 = 0.8% of the provincial workforce
  Number directly employed - 2,210
  Number indirectly employed - 5,860
Number of people dependent on the industry - 26,300
Proportion of the provincial population employed or dependent on forestry - 0.6%

Economic value:
Proportion of the country’s total investment in forestry - 4.28% (R1.827 billion)
Gross value of total annual output - R1,509 million
  - R308 million forestry
  - R1,201 million forestry products
**MPUMALANGA**

**Scale:**
Coverage - 496,473 hectares = 6.1% of the provincial area
Home to 41% of South Africa’s plantations

**Species breakdown:**
- 305,835 hectares pine
- 175,032 hectares eucalypt
- 12,965 hectares wattle
- 2,641 hectares other species

**Employment**
Total employment - 53,610 = 4.58% of the provincial workforce
  - Number directly employed - 22,290
  - Number indirectly employed - 31,320
Number of people dependent on the industry - 183,100
Proportion of the provincial population employed or dependent on forestry - 5.62%

**Economic value:**
Proportion of the country’s total investment in forestry - 41.8% (R17.83 billion)
Gross value of total annual output - R7,213 million
  - R2,863 million forestry
  - R4,350 million forestry products
KwaZulu-Natal

Scale:
Coverage - 488,591 hectares = 5.34% of the provincial area
Home to 40% of South Africa’s plantations

Species breakdown:
- 120,920 hectares pine
- 293,404 hectares eucalypt
- 73,118 hectares wattle
- 1,149 hectares other species

Employment
Total employment - 74,690 = 2.94% of the provincial workforce
- Number directly employed - 28,440
- Number indirectly employed - 46,250
Number of people dependent on the industry - 252,500
Proportion of the provincial population employed or dependent on forestry - 3.01%

Economic value:
Proportion of the country’s total investment in forestry - 35.81% (R15,286 billion)
- Gross value of total annual output - R19,293 million
  - R5,256 million forestry
  - R14,037 million forestry products
EASTERN CAPE

Scale:
Coverage - 141,748 hectares = 0.83% of the provincial area
Home to 11% of South Africa’s plantations

Species breakdown:

- 118,326 hectares pine
- 20,868 hectares eucalypt
- 2,144 hectares wattle
- 410 hectares other species

Employment
Total employment - 16,390 = 1.2% of the provincial workforce
  - Number directly employed - 5,520
  - Number indirectly employed - 10,870
Number of people dependent on the industry - 54,700
Proportion of the provincial population employed or dependent on forestry - 1.21%

Economic value:
Proportion of the country’s total investment in forestry - 13.2% (R5,646 billion)
Gross value of total annual output - R2,428 million
  - R1,010 million forestry
  - R1,418 million forestry products
WESTERN CAPE

Scale:
Coverage - 49,292 hectares = 0.38% of the provincial area
Home to 4% of South Africa’s plantations

Species breakdown:
- 47,312 hectares pine
- 1,622 hectares eucalypt
- 21 hectares wattle
- 337 hectares other species

Employment
Total employment - 5,650 = 0.25% of the provincial workforce
  Number directly employed - 1,740
  Number indirectly employed - 3,910
Number of people dependent on the industry - 17,000
Proportion of the provincial population employed or dependent on forestry - 0.37%

Economic value:
Proportion of the country’s total investment in forestry - 4.9% (R2.096 billion)
Gross value of total annual output - R661 million
  - R62.2 million forestry
  - R598.6 million forestry products