Nature's recyclers

Trees – in both indigenous forests and commercial plantations – act as nature’s greatest recyclers. Through photosynthesis, they take in carbon dioxide, keep the carbon for their growth and release oxygen. The carbon stays locked up in the wood, even when it is converted into other products. This is why forestry can help to mitigate climate change.

Wild spaces

The forestry landscape is far more complex and diverse than simply rows of planted trees. Only 70% of forestry-owned land is planted to trees with a significant proportion of the unplanted area reserved for biodiversity conservation, natural corridors, grasslands, riverine habitats, indigenous forests and wetlands.

Fitness and fun

The patchwork nature of forestry land is the perfect playground for the outdoor enthusiast. Forestry is a treasure trove of fun with hundreds of kilometres of mountain bike routes, hiking and trail running loops and some of South Africa’s most iconic natural features, birding spots and beautiful picnic sites.

Renewable and sustainable

Farmed as a crop, trees are planted, harvested and replanted in rotation. This makes wood a ‘greener’ option for building material, packaging and a host of innovative applications. From roof trusses to furniture, from writing paper to packaging, wood and paper products are essential to everyday life.

Green economies and communities

The forestry and forest products sector contributes around R69 billion to the South African economy and employs more than 156,000 people. The majority of forestry’s workforce live in rural communities, where unemployment levels are high and a single wage supports multiple dependants. The forestry sector invests millions of rands every year in education, health and welfare, community infrastructure and enterprise development programmes.

Sustainable FORESTRY. Sustainable CITIES. Sustainable ECONOMIES.

South Africa has a responsible and sustainably managed forestry sector that balances productive plantations with sound environmental management and social responsibility. With some 1.2 million hectares of commercially farmed trees and thousands of products made from them, timber plantations not only play an important role in South Africa’s economy, but also in society and our natural environment.

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