



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, forestry & fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

FORESTRY INDABA REPORT

“Forestry in the changing environment”

**21 to 23 September 2009
Fish River Sun, Eastern Cape
SOUTH AFRICA**

Summary

The sector has made strides in many respects, notably the signing of the Forest Sector Transformation Charter in 2008 which brings about opportunities for growth in the sector and a shift in resource distribution and provision of oversight for management of forests by government; the inclusion of forestry in the Industrial Policy Action Plan; and the development of the Forestry 2030 Roadmap that will serve as the blueprint for the sustainable development and management of all forestry resources in a manner that will benefit all South Africans while maintaining the integrity and viability of natural forests as important ecosystems deserving of protection for future generations.

Despite the above-mentioned developments, the forestry sector experiences a number of challenges, which hinder the sector from realising its potential contribution to job and wealth creation as well as conservation of biological diversity. The challenges include inadequate supply of raw materials; slow afforestation rate; biased equity distribution in the value chain; suboptimal contribution to poverty alleviation and economic development; disastrous veldfire occurrences; limited capacity building of communities; and skills shortages in the sector. These challenges threaten the long-term sustainability of the sector and need to be addressed with a sense of urgency.

The Forestry Indaba provided a platform for key role players in the forestry sector to discuss progress, challenges and proposed solutions and recommendations towards solving the challenges in the sector.

The main focus of this year's Indaba was forest enterprise development, which dealt with afforestation and the implementation of the Forest Sector Transformation Charter obligations; biofuels and its impacts and opportunities in the sector; forestry research and development; prevention of veld and forest fires and the development of an integrated approach for fire management at the local level; and skills development to ensure meaningful participation by previously disadvantaged individuals or groups within the sector throughout the whole forestry value chain.

The recommendations in terms of the focus areas will be factored into departmental planning processes to enable the department to present progress reports at future indabas. The Forestry Indaba outcomes enable the department to address issues that are pertinent to sector growth and transformation.

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I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries as the custodian of forestry resources in South Africa is responsible for the promotion of the sustainable management of the country's forest resources for the benefit of the nation. The National Forests Act, 1998 (Act No. 84 of 1998) promotes sustainable forest management based on the principles of sustainable development and therefore ensures the integration of ecological, social and economic values, in consultation with local communities and other stakeholders, while the purpose of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998 (Act No. 101 of 1998) (NVFFA) is to prevent and combat veld, forest and mountain fires throughout the Republic.

The forestry resource base, i.e. natural (indigenous) forests, commercial plantations and woodlands, is spread over some of the poorest areas in South Africa and therefore plays a significant role in terms of poverty eradication through job creation, economic growth, supply of basic needs and acting as a safety-net.

The conclusion and signing of the Forest Sector Transformation Charter and the recognition of forestry as one of the potential growth sectors in South Africa by the Department of Trade and Industry have created a need for strong partnerships between government and other stakeholders, including industry with a view to the sustainable growth and transformation of the forestry sector.

The Forestry Indaba is an initiative by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to create, on an annual basis, an opportunity to the stakeholders in the forestry sector to discuss pertinent issues in the sector and to make recommendations and propose ways and means to assist the sector to achieve its potential.

The objectives of the **Forestry Indaba** were:

- To propose practical interventions and strategies to address challenges and better exploit opportunities relating to forest enterprise development; skills development, biofuels, and fire prevention.
- To distil and share lessons learned from the experiences of sector stakeholders and other government departments, including from regional initiatives;
- To facilitate broader, shared understanding of key challenges, issues, lessons and workable approaches, especially as they relate to enterprise development, skills development, potential of the sector to contribute to biofuels, and integrated fire management;
- To strengthen cooperation and to enhance partnerships among government and key stakeholders in addressing common challenges; and
- To recommend approaches for strengthening policies, strategies and practices relating to enterprise development, skills development and integrated fire management and to reduce the gap between theory and practice.

A total of 220 participants from various subsectors in the forestry sector, representatives from fire protection associations and fire advisors, and government representatives attended the Forestry Indaba.

This final report captures the highlights of the deliberations undertaken during the Forestry Indaba and the main recommendations developed by the commissions.

II. OVERVIEW OF SESSIONS

DAY 1 – OVERVIEW

The Forestry Indaba was opened by Dr K. Mogajane, the acting Director-General of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the representative of the Head of the Department of Agriculture and Land Reform in the Eastern Cape welcomed the participants to the province.

During the plenary session the following presentations were presented:

(A) National Forestry 2030 Roadmap

Ms S. Chipeta, *Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries*

The presentation highlighted the challenges which hinder the sector from realising its full potential to contribute to economic growth, job creation, food security, skills development, poverty eradication and rural development. The challenges range from inadequate supply of timber products; biased equity distribution in the value chain; contribution to poverty alleviation and economic development; and slow afforestation uptake to cumbersome licensing processes within government. These challenges threaten the long-term sustainability of the sector and the roadmap provides the blueprint for effective and sustainable development of all forestry resources and will assist the forestry sector in addressing its constraints and challenges. The roadmap identifies the following eight (8) strategic objectives:

- SO1 Facilitate improved timber availability and secure supply of timber to ensure sustainability of the entire timber value chain
- SO2 Increase the contribution of all types of forests and related goods and services to the quality of life of South Africans with particular focus on rural and disadvantaged communities
- SO3 Promote conservation of forest biological diversity, ecosystems and habitats, while ensuring the fair and equitable distribution of their economic, social, health and environmental benefits
- SO4 Facilitate skills development, to support sustainable forest sector development
- SO5 Implement innovative ways to enhance and streamline the regulatory environment to assist the sector to be compliant while reaching its potential in terms of sustainable development
- SO6 Create enabling institutional and financial arrangements for sustainable forest management
- SO7 Maintain the forest sector as a knowledge-based enterprise, adept to addressing constraints to growth in the sector and managing the risks to growth
- SO8 Strengthen international and regional partnership in order to enhance sustainable forest management

(B) Report back on issues raised at the 2008 Forestry Development Workshop

Ms P. Dingile, *Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries*

The presentation provided feedback on the workshop on forestry development hosted by the former Department of Water Affairs and Forestry from 14 to 15 August 2008 in Durban. In terms of progress made since the workshop, the presenter highlighted the following:

- The afforestation licensing process:
 - Basic assessment studies to identify land with potential for afforestation have been conducted in Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga
 - Eastern Cape afforestation suitability mapping will be finalised once reserves are complete (DWA)
 - Guidelines on genus and area exchange have been developed
 - Application to transfer water from lawful irrigated sugarcane to timber plantations can be made in terms of NWA section 25, at regional offices
 - Transfer between dryland sugarcane and timber plantations is dependent on the declaration of dryland sugarcane as stream flow reduction activity
- Land rights and restitution and related issues:
 - Models for transfer of private and state forest land developed with inputs from the private sector and the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
 - Model seeks to ensure continuity with forest production while ensuring maximum benefit for communities
 - Regional committees and structures are in place to discuss and provide updates on land issues and transfers in some areas
 - Three packages are in the process of being transferred namely: Injaka, Mbazwana-Manzengwenya and Rossbach plantations
- Skills development, capacity building and funding of forestry projects:
 - The department collaborated with Forest Industries Education and Training Authority (FIETA) on a number of initiatives
 - Forestry Youth Advancement Awards Programme launched
 - Bursary scheme covering 42 students is in place
 - Internship programme with 19 participants is being implemented
 - Graduate trainee programme which covers 37 participants is being implemented
 - The department is in the process of concluding an MoU with the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC)

(C) National Transport Master Plan 2050: Anchoring national economy

Mr L. Situma, *Department of Transport*

The presenter highlighted problems relating to transport infrastructure in the country, which includes infrastructure overload (e.g. abnormal loads); infrastructure maintenance deterioration; control of use of "light" roads by heavy loads; and unclear and overlapping responsibilities by national and provincial departments of transport. The following solutions were proposed:

- Improve the rail network
- Move from narrow rail gauge to international standard rail gauge

- Reduce axle load for road transport
- Assess future demand for 2010 to 2050 on existing national and provincial networks
- Formulate and evaluate network plans to alleviate future capacity problems based on National Passenger and Freight Plans (Transnet NIP, PRASA and initiatives at provincial level)
- Evaluate additional strategies and plans to resolve any remaining problems
- Evaluate innovative strategies beyond 2030 in view of new technologies and international initiatives to address global warming and depletion of fossil fuel resources
- Plans will distinguish between those required for economic development and those for social and rural development
- Ensure adequate integration of transportation policies, planning, and operations
- Integrated transport development across all modes addressing economic and social needs of the country
- Overcome organisational and jurisdictional barriers to maximum utilisation of existing and new infrastructure
- Use transport development as catalyst for land and economic development
- Integrate land development, economic development and transport development—important role of National Planning Commission
- Seek optimal involvement of private sector in transport operations and infrastructure development

(D) Forestry and climate change

Dr G. Midgley, *South African National Biodiversity Institute*

The presenter discussed the following key issues (challenges/opportunities) for forestry relating to climate change:

- Impacts of climate change and variability
- Indirect cross-sectoral impacts
- Impacts of policy decisions
- Adaptation and mitigation

Concluding remarks made by the presenter included:

- Climate variability, compounded by recent climate change, is NOW a significant challenge for plantations and forests and has implications especially for afforestation planning
- Inadequate information available about climate risk and vulnerability especially for indigenous forests, related livelihoods and sustainable development issues
- Adaptation planning options exist for plantation forestry. In the short term these should focus on fire and water management, and in the long term on pests and diseases, and increasing drought and heat tolerance
- Some opportunities relating to mitigation and the carbon market exist. These could be considered in relation to adaptation strategies (note LULUCF; REDD+)
- Potential role of indigenous forests in adaptation to climate change (ecosystem-based adaptation) with benefits for sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity

(E) Global economic recession

Prof. H. Nel, *Rhodes University*

Prof. Nel presented an overview of the current international economic recession and its impact on the South African economy with specific focus on the forestry sector. The presenter highlighted the following in his conclusions:

- Internationally and in South Africa, the economy is coming out of recession, BUT the recovery is slow and from a low base
- In South Africa, the sound banking system and preparation for the World Cup has kept downturn mild
- Demand for Roundwood is expected to be below productive capacity up to the end of 2010

(F) Response by industry and government on the global economic recession

Mr M. Peter, *Forestry South Africa*

The presenter reflected on the impacts of the global economic recession on the forestry industry, emphasising the industry and government’s response to the recession, which includes the following:

INDUSTRY RESPONSES

<i>Domestically</i>	<i>Internationally</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost cuts • Sawing to inventory • Reduced harvesting (not all bad vs others) • Training lay-offs • Investigating tariffs and duties • Appealing for reason to prevail in respect of state administered pricing (DTI-EDD-DAFF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread subsidisation • Consolidation and closures (Japan, EU, Canada and US) • Tariff barriers • Dumping • Mercantilism (maximising exports and minimising imports)

GOVERNMENT RESPONSES

Government should respond by promoting the use of forest products through the Expanded Public Works Programme; accelerate housing delivery; International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC) interventions; implement commitments in terms of all planning documents, i.e. streamline licensing; intervene in rail, water pricing, property rates, sectoral determination, electricity cost; and provide support for protection; and promotion of forestry enterprise development. In short, reduce the cost of doing business in South Africa to restore the sector’s global competitiveness.

(G) Biofuels – Forestry impact

Mr G. Maltitz, *Council for Scientific and Industrial Research*

Mr Maltitz presented a broad perspective on biofuels and its associated land use, social, and environmental issues. He briefly discussed the potential forestry opportunities and threats:

OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Use of forestry waste (electricity or biomass to liquid)**
 - Thinning and toppings on plantations
 - Chips, sawdust and bark at mills
 - Black liquor at pulp mills
 - Total ~ 1 million t/year
 - Potential uses – electricity, bio-mass to liquid or lignocelluloses
- **Growing of dedicated energy plantations**
 - Municipal
 - On available land
- **Use of invasives (alien and indigenous) e.g. Working for Energy Programme**
- **Market diversification**
 - Very rapidly growing European markets for chips to use in combined electricity and heat plants (CEH)

THREATS:

- **Deforestation**
 - Low threat, but a few concerns, e.g. uncontrolled expansion in areas with weak controls
- **Competition for land**
- **Competition for water**
 - Forestry vs sugar
- **Competition for resources**
 - Fertilisers – biofuel partly responsible for driving up global prices
 - Competition for wood chips

DAY 2 – OVERVIEW

Ms N. Kiviet, the Eastern Cape Premier made some introductory remarks and introduced Ms Joemat-Pettersson, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. The Minister presented the keynote address and highlighted government priorities in relation to the forestry sector.

During the plenary session the following presentations were presented:

(A) Report back on provincial fire workshop

Mr C. Mtoba, *Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries*

Mr Mtoba reported on the provincial fire workshops held earlier this year. The primary purpose of the provincial workshops was to identify veldfire management issues and challenges and to promote cooperative governance. Furthermore, the workshops encouraged stakeholders to provide accurate fire statistics on an ongoing basis; and to propose practical interventions and strategies to prevent, minimise and mitigate the impact of veldfire disasters.

The recommendations emanating from the workshops encompassed the following:

- Fast tracking the implementation of National Fire Danger Rating System
- Updating the veldfire risk map for the country
- Exemption of land owners and fire protection association members in rural areas from paying property rates (due to unavailability of services)
- Translation of the National Veld and Forest Fires Act into other official languages
- Integration of fire awareness in the school curriculum
- Strengthening the working relationship between the department and the judiciary for effective law enforcement and compliance
- Funding of fire protection associations and salaries for Fire Protection Officers
- Ensuring incorporation of veldfire management strategies into Integrated Development Plans of municipalities
- Strengthening the working relationship between fire protection associations and traditional authorities

(B) Integrated fire management

Mr T. Pool, *Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University*

Mr Pool gave a broad overview of integrated fire management (IFM), its components and planning phases. He emphasised that IFM is “a way of life”. Fire is natural and, currently, 70 % of the country is subject to fire risk with 57 % subjected to high and extreme fire risk. It is therefore important to understand how ecosystems function and how fire influences them in order to implement IFM.

He concluded by stating the following regarding IFM:

- It works, and where it is applied, wildfire damage is significantly reduced
- It addresses internal as well as external wildfire threat
- It is conservation friendly and cost effective
- Catastrophic fires cannot be prevented with good fire fighting—fire prone areas need to be managed scientifically
- It considers the needs of all role players in an area
- It assists role players to work together and pool resources
- It will save the community money and prevent losses

(C) International experience in fire management

Mr M. Chihambakwe, *Food and Agriculture Organization*

Mr Chihambakwe presented the FAO strategy to enhance international cooperation in fire management, which includes the global assessment, 2006; review of international cooperation, 2006; the voluntary guidelines: principles and strategic actions; and implementation: actions alliance. He further mentioned various fire-related projects currently being funded by the FAO in SADC countries, i.e. Zimbabwe and Namibia.

In terms of fire management, he explained that FAO provides a forum for discussion of fire related issues through the Committee on Forestry, as well as technical assistance and policy advice.

(D) Profiling veldfire risk in South Africa

Mr G. Forsyth, *Council for Scientific and Industrial Research*

Mr Forsyth explained in his presentation that the purpose of the national veldfire risk assessment (profile) is to develop a broad categorisation of risk so that risk reduction efforts can be directed to the worst problems first. He defined veldfire risk as “*the chance of a veldfire igniting, spreading and causing damage to assets, measured in terms of likelihood and consequence to the assets*”. The presentation also covered the methodology to determine veldfire risk levels and the process to be followed to revise the national veldfire risk assessment, i.e.:

- Improved information (e.g. land cover and vegetation);
- Revisit and analysis and mapping units;
- Review critical fire scenarios;
- Improved consequence models (proxy measures); and
- Stakeholder consultation.

(E) Fire services

Mr J. Dyssel, *Department of Cooperate Governance and Traditional Affairs*

Mr Dyssel gave an overview of the fire services legislative mandate; the review of the Fire Brigade Services Act, 1987 (Act No. 99 of 1987) (FBSA); fire services status quo and challenges; and the role of fire services in integrated fire management. He indicated that the review of the FBSA presents an opportunity to develop and implement integrated fire management.

(F) Fire protection associations

Mr M. Khangale, *Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries*

Mr Khangale presented the legislative provisions relating to the establishment of fire protection associations (FPAs); the advantages of establishing FPAs; and challenges experienced by existing FPAs. He proposed the following interventions to remedy the situation:

- Amendments to legislative framework (both the FBSA and the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998 (Act No 101 of 1998))
- Finalisation and implementation of FPA Funding Policy
- Implementation of the National Fire Danger Rating System
- Develop a Veldfire Disaster Management Plan
- Update the veldfire risk profile
- FPA training in partnership with FIETA
- Education and awareness—FireWise
- Issuing of prohibition notices
- Alignment of FPA—municipality boundaries
- Training of judicial officers

(G) Role of Working on Fire in fire management

Dr G. Preston, *Working on Fire*

Dr Preston presented information on the Working on Fire Programme; the importance of cooperative governance in fire management; the role of invasive alien species in increasing the risk of fire; the failure of economic models to address *cost* versus *value*; and the importance of partnerships in integrated fire management.

III. COMMISSIONS

The commission sessions at the Forestry Indaba focused on the following main themes:

- I Forestry enterprise development and support mechanisms;
- II Skills development;
- III Biofuels;
- IV Fire interventions and planning; and
- V Forestry research

The five themes served as a way of loosely clustering and organising presentations and discussions and were meant to be porous, allowing for recurrent issues and ideas to surface and flow across thematic boundaries. The commissions reported to plenary on the last day of the Forestry Indaba.

IV. THEMATIC PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS IN COMMISSIONS

THEME 1: FORESTRY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT MECHANISMS

Keynote presentations:

- Update on the Forest Sector Charter;
- The role of freight rail in forestry;
- Post-settlement support; and
- Forestry—driver of rural development and job creation.

Current status and challenges

Charter:

- Sector highly regulated
- Cost of doing business is prohibitive
- Decreasing raw material resource base
- Low profile of forestry
- Lack of skills and suitably trained personnel across the value chain
- Lack of funding to support forestry development programmes

Transport rail:

- Missing rail links between rural towns and forestry based areas

Post-settlement support:

- Fragmented support
- Products and services not accessible to communities

Small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMME):

- SMMEs represent less than 5 % of the sector, but contribute to job creation
- Contribution to sector not realised
- Support to SMMEs inadequate

Recommendations:

<u>Short term (0 – 2 yrs)</u>	<u>Medium term (2 – 5 yrs)</u>	<u>Long term (> 5 yrs)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise the establishment of the Forestry Development Fund • Finalise and implement strategy to support SMMEs in the forestry sector • Complete the study on the assessment of transport infrastructure requirements • Finalise Timber Supply Strategy • Address, in consultation with the private sector, the sustainable supply of timber to small sawmillers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamline and speed-up the afforestation licensing process • Complete comprehensive reserve determinations for relevant catchment areas • Implementation of a sustainable woodlands utilisation programme to sustain livelihoods • Post-settlement support and establishment of extension services for forestry • Increase cooperation with neighbouring countries (SADC) on timber supply • Establish the missing rail links between rural towns and forestry based areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbishment and transfer of Category B plantations • Implementation of the Forest Sector Charter (10-year framework) • Achieving equity in the value chain

THEME 2: SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Keynote presentations:

- Report back on the Skills Conference 2009
- Subsector presentation—status quo and skills needed for each sector

Current status and challenges:

- Lack of training standardisation
- Shortage of skills in certain crucial disciplines of forestry accompanied by dwindling numbers of enrolment at tertiary institutions
- Limited training support and empowerment of forestry SMMEs
- Non-alignment between the tertiary institutions' forestry curriculum and the needs of the forestry sector
- Profile of forestry sector—negative perceptions about the industry

Recommendations:

<u>Short term (0 – 2 yrs)</u>	<u>Medium term (2 – 5 yrs)</u>	<u>Long term (> 5 yrs)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revive Skills Development Forum Committee to coordinate the implementation of the Indaba resolutions relating to skills development • Standardise training for contractors and sub-contractors • FIETA to train 1 500 fire protection association members across the country, starting in Northern Cape • Target career exhibitions in rural areas to raise the profile of forestry as a career option • FIETA to initiate a grass-roots campaign aimed at raising the profile of forestry as a career • Align all training with FIETA training programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out of integration of forestry into the school curriculum, starting with the primary phase (20/20 vision). (Material developed) • Review and align tertiary institutions' forestry curriculum to address the needs of the forestry sector • FIETA to improve its quality assurance mechanisms to ensure quality of training provided (accredited service providers) • Develop a skills retention strategy for the forestry sector 	<p>Develop and implement joint programmes to address skills development issues</p>

THEME 3: BIOFUELS

Keynote presentations:

- Government's perspective on biofuels
- Potential for bioenergy generation from tree-based systems

Current status and challenges:

- A National Strategy for Biofuels has been developed by the Department of Energy
- Feasibility study for Mpumalanga has been conducted
- Mpumalanga Biofuels Steering Committee has been established
- No legislative framework in place
- Inadequate institutional arrangements

Recommendations:

<u>Short term (0 – 2 yrs)</u>	<u>Medium term (2 – 5 yrs)</u>	<u>Long term (> 5 yrs)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a National Forum and Provincial Steering Committees to coordinate activities relating to biofuels and sustainable energy generation • Organise a planning workshop involving all affected stakeholders, including Department of Energy, DAFF and Rural Development and Land Reform. <i>Note:</i> Involve and engage stakeholders and especially communities in rural areas—plan <u>with</u> communities, not <u>for</u> them • Clarify current institutional arrangements—roles and responsibilities of various government departments • Consolidate information on existing projects and assess these projects in terms of sustainability and economic viability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate feasibility studies to determine opportunities in terms of biofuels and sustainable energy generation • Planning—especially land use planning to identify areas that may be suitable for bio-fuel production/biomass production/biowaste for sustainable energy production • Explore opportunities in terms of clean development mechanism (carbon sequestration) and clarify the means of accessing opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop policy/legislative framework that will establish an enabling environment to facilitate the development of the sector; promote benefits; regulate impacts; and maximise economic benefits • Develop/increase knowledge base across the entire value chain (initiate and sustain)

THEME 4: FIRE INTERVENTIONS and PLANNING

Keynote presentations:

Planning for the fire season—structures, systems, plans and resources

Long-term interventions to be adopted by the country to achieve integrated fire management

Current status and challenges:

- Funding currently from FPA members, additional funding from municipalities (through Integrated Development Plans (IDPs))
- Inadequate equipment
- Working on Fire resources inaccessible by FPAs due to financial constraints
- Legislative framework not integrated/aligned
- Limited coordination in terms of institutional arrangements
- Lack of law enforcement—special reference to firebreaks

- Post-settlement support—empowerment of landowners who have acquired land through the land reform projects
- Non-alignment of FPAs and municipal boundaries
- Insufficient awareness among stakeholders on FPAs
- Delays in registration of FPAs

Recommendations: Fire interventions

<u>Short term (0 – 2 yrs)</u>	<u>Medium term (2 – 5 yrs)</u>	<u>Long term (> 5 yrs)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of fire management • Registration of FPA fast-tracked • Audit of FPA registration back log • Training of FPA members • Fire prohibitions on provincial boundaries • Standardise issuing of burning permits • Provision of equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider the equipment owned by Defence that could be bought cheaper for FPAs ○ Servicing of equipment • NFDRS be implemented • Implementation of awareness raising campaigns • Review and analysis of current legislative framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of fire management in the IDPs • Financial interventions • Amendment of National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998 • All local municipalities to appoint Chief Fire Officers • Alignment of FPA and municipal boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply of water in rural areas to assist in fire fighting • Establish framework for fire insurance for FPAs • Legal review to merge Fire Brigade Services Act, 1987 and National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998

THEME 5: FORESTRY RESEARCH

Keynote presentations:

- Government’s role in forest research
- Research challenges facing the forestry sector
- FAO supporting the country’s research needs

Current status and challenges:

- Strong institutional capacity exists in SA
- New developments within the department to harness this capacity is creating optimism
- There is a need to realise our predisposition due to historical shortcomings
- Limited and further decreasing skills base
- Lack of regional collaboration
- Shortage in identifying key strategic research focus areas and requirements with special reference to future changes and requirements
- Insufficient knowledge dissemination to end users
- Limited public/private partnerships
- Insufficient government funding towards forest research

Recommendations:

<u>Short term (0 – 2 yrs)</u>	<u>Medium term (2 – 5 yrs)</u>	<u>Long term (> 5 yrs)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the National Forest Sector R&D Strategy • Establish the National Forest Research Forum • Determine areas and levels of insufficient skills base • Improved collaboration with other government departments, e.g. Department of Science and Technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase profile of forest research sector in order to attract and retain skills base • Need to build on and expand current regional collaboration and networking • Establish and implement knowledge dissemination network with strong focus on end users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure key strategic research areas stay in line with changing forest management landscape • Research needs to pre-empt future requirements and not change or adapt because of changes in the sector • Increase national and international exchange programmes to expand skills base

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries regards the Indaba as a platform for stakeholders in the sector to debate and discuss issues of common interest. The honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries when she addressed the Forestry Indaba also invited the sector to share ideas and concrete plans to strengthen the forestry sector.

The department endeavours to host the Forestry Indaba as an annual event during the last week of September. The participation of stakeholders is central to the success of the Indaba and the Department will ensure that key stakeholders continue to contribute their valuable inputs and engage on challenges facing the sector.

Key recommendations that emerged from the commissions at the Forestry Indaba include establishing mechanisms and institutional arrangements to support implementation of the Forest Sector Transformation Charter and enterprise development; streamline and speed-up the implementation of afforestation in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape; explore opportunities presented through recycling,

charcoal, carbon credits and utilisation of natural resources for livelihoods; improve skills development and training; increase investment in research and development; align fire related legislation; and strengthen fire protection associations.

The recommendations made by various commissions will be factored into departmental planning processes to ensure that they are presented at future Indabas's reports on progress. It is opportune that the Indaba outcomes will indeed enable the department to address issues that are pertinent to sector growth and transformation.

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries would like to thank all the stakeholders who participated in Forestry Indaba, 2009. The department extends its thanks to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Premier of the Eastern Cape, MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, the Councillor of Nqushwa Municipality representing the Mayor, representatives of the industry, associations representing forestry entrepreneurs, academic institutions, members of fire protection associations, members of the Forests Advisory Council, members of the Forestry Charter Council, community based organisations, nongovernmental organisations, municipalities, traditional leaders, provincial government departments and members of the media.

The department would also like to thank sponsors of the Forestry Indaba, namely SAPPI and PG Bison.