

(24 August 2007 - to date)

## NATIONAL FORESTS ACT 84 OF 1998

*(Gazette No. 19408, Notice No. 1388 dated 30 October 1998)*

### NATIONAL LEVEL PRINCIPLES, CRITERIA, INDICATORS AND STANDARDS

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**PRINCIPLE:** Natural forests must not be destroyed save in exceptional circumstances, where in the opinion of the Minister, a proposed new land use is preferable in terms of its economic, social or environmental benefits [NFA 3(3) (a)].

CRITERION 1: Natural forests are protected.

Indicator 1.1: Implementation of forest protection plans.

**PRINCIPLE:** Forests must be developed and managed as to conserve biological diversity, ecosystems and habitats [NFA 3(3)c(i)].

CRITERION 2: Biodiversity of natural forests is conserved.

Indicator 2.1: The extent of natural forest by forest type.

Indicator 2.4: Status of forest dwelling species at risk of not maintaining viable breeding populations.

**PRINCIPLE:** Forests must be developed and managed so as to promote their health and vitality [NFA 3(3)c(iv)]

CRITERION 3: Forest ecosystem structures are conserved and processes maintained.

Indicator 3.4: Extent and connectivity of natural ecosystems.

Indicator 3.6: Nutrient cycling

**PRINCIPLE:** Forests must be developed and managed so as to sustain the potential yield of their economic, social and environmental benefits [NFA 3(3)c(ii)]. Forests must be developed and managed so as to promote their health and vitality [NFA 3(3)c(iv)].

CRITERION 4: Forests are protected from negative effects of fire, pests, and diseases and alien invader plants.

Indicator 4.1: Impacts of pests and diseases.

Indicator 4.2: Negative impacts of fire.

Indicator 4.3: Infestation by alien invader plants.

**PRINCIPLE: Forests must be developed and managed so as to sustain the potential yield of their economic, social and environmental benefits [NFA 3(3)c(ii)].**

CRITERION 5: Production potential is maintained or improved.

Indicator 5.1: Standing stock assessment.

Indicator 5.3: Level of multiple resource use from forest ecosystems.

Indicator 5.4: Identification and development of new alternative forest resources.

**PRINCIPLE: Forests must be developed and managed as to conserve natural resources especially soil and water [NFA 3(3)c(v)].**

CRITERION 6: Soil and water resources are conserved.

Indicator 6.1: Water quantity

Indicator 6.2: Water quality.

Indicator 6.4: Riparian zone and wetland management activities.

**PRINCIPLE: Forests must be developed and managed so as to sustain the potential yield of their economic, social and environmental benefits [NFA 3(3)c(ii)].**

CRITERION 7: Forests make a positive contribution to the economy.

Indicator 7.1: Value of forest goods and services.

Indicator 7.2: Value addition to forest products.

**PRINCIPLE: Forests must be developed so as to promote the fair distribution of their economic, social, health and environmental benefits [NFA 3(3)c(iii)]**

CRITERION 8: The forest economy is resilient.

Indicator 8.1: Diversification within the forest industry.

**PRINCIPLE: Forests must be developed and managed so as to conserve heritage resources and promote aesthetic, cultural and spiritual values [NFA 3(3)c(vi)]**

CRITERION 12: Cultural, ecological, recreational, historical, aesthetic and spiritual sites and services supplied by forests are maintained.

Indicator 12.1: identification and registration of significant sites.

Indicator 12.2: Level of satisfaction among users.

Indicator 12.3: Condition of sites of significance.

**PRINCIPLE: Forests must be developed and managed so as to promote the fair distribution of their economic, social, health and environmental benefits [NFA 3(3)c(iii)]. Forests must be developed and managed so as to advance persons or categories of persons disadvantaged by unfair discrimination [NFA 3(3)c(vii)].**

CRITERION 13: The distribution of employment benefits from forests is fair.

Indicator 13.2: Employer compliance with labour legislation.

Indicator 13.3: Remuneration of workers.

**PRINCIPLE: Forests must be developed and managed so as to promote the fair distribution of their economic, social, health and environmental benefits [NFA 3(3)c(iii)]**

CRITERION 14: The distribution of the costs from forestry is fair.

Indicator 14.1: Negative impacts of forestry activities on people.

Indicator 14.2: The spatial distribution of forests in relation to vulnerable communities.

Indicator 14.3: The costs of negative impacts.

**PRINCIPLE: Forests must be developed and managed so as to sustain the potential yield of their economic, social and environmental benefits [NFA 3(3)c(ii)].**

CRITERION 15: Crime in forestry areas is minimized.

Indicator 15.1: Incidence of crime.

Indicator 15.2: Costs of security.

**PRINCIPLE: Forests must be developed and managed so as to promote the fair distribution of their economic, social, health and environmental benefits [NFA 3(3)c(iii)]**

CRITERION 16: Forestry contributes to the reduction of HIV/AIDS and its resultant impacts.

Indicator 16.1: Absenteeism.

Indicator 16.2: HIV/AIDS management strategies.

**PRINCIPLE: The participation of all interested and affected parties in environmental governance must be promoted and all people must have the opportunity to develop the understanding, skills and capacity necessary for achieving equitable and effective participation by vulnerable and disadvantaged persons must be ensured [NEMA 2(f)].**

CRITERION 17: There is effective stakeholder participation in forestry management.

Indicator 17.1: Effectiveness of participation.

Indicators 17.2: Implementation of outcomes of participation.

Indicator 17.3: Capacity to participate.

Indicator 17.4: Conflict management.

**PRINCIPLE: Forests must be developed and managed so as to advance persons or categories of persons disadvantaged by unfair discrimination [NFA 3(3)c(vii)].**

CRITERION 18: Forests are developed and managed so that persons or categories of persons previously disadvantaged by unfair discrimination are advanced.

Indicator 18.1: Generation of forest management opportunities for previously disadvantaged persons.

Indicator 18.2: Awareness among previously disadvantaged persons of forest management opportunities.

Indicator 18.3: Realisation of forest management opportunities by disadvantaged persons

**PRINCIPLE:** The participation of all interested and affected parties in environmental governance must be promoted, and all people must have the opportunity to develop the understanding, skills and capacity necessary for achieving equitable and effective participation, and participation by vulnerable and disadvantaged persons must be ensured [NEMA 2(f)].

CRITERION 19: People participate in forestry policy development and review.

Indicator 19.1: Nature of opportunities created for participation in forest policy development and review.

Indicator 19.2: Stakeholder satisfaction with policy making processes.

Indicator 19.3: Stakeholder capacity to engage in policy making process.

**PRINCIPLE:** Everyone has the right to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that - (i) prevent pollution and ecological degradation; (ii) promote conservation; and (iii) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development (The South African Constitution, Act 108 of 1996).

CRITERION 20: Laws and regulations promote sustainable forest management

Indicator 20.1: The existence of forest management laws and regulations, including laws and regulations for natural, forest protection.

Indicator 20.2: Supportiveness of forest management laws and regulations.

Indicator 20.3: Interdepartmental cooperation in implementation of forest management laws and regulations.

**PRINCIPLE:** Public administration must be governed by the democratic values and principles enshrined in the Constitution, including the following principles (e) people's needs must be responded to, and the public must be encouraged to participate in policy-making (f) public administration must be accountable (g) transparency must be fostered by providing the public with timely, accurate and accessible information (the South African Constitution Act, 108 of 1996).

CRITERION 21: Forest management institutions comply with all relevant legislation and customary law.

- Indicator 21.1: Awareness and understanding of forest management legislation and customary law.
- Indicator 21.2: Capacity of regulatory and management institutions to comply with forest management legislation and customary law.
- Indicator 21.3: Capacity of research institutions to support sustainable forest management.
- Indicator 21.4: Capacity of education and training institutions to support sustainable forest management.
- Indicator 21.5: Compliance with forest management legislation and customary law.

**PRINCIPLE: All spheres of government and all organs of state within each sphere must provide effective, transparent, accountable and coherent government for the Republic as a whole (The South African Constitution, section 41(1)(c) Act 108 of 1996).**

CRITERION 22: Forest policy is subject to periodic review.

Indicator 22.1: Monitoring of forest policy implementation.

Indicator 22.2: Review of forest policy.

**PRINCIPLE: Environmental management must be integrated taking into account social, economic and environmental impacts of activities [NEMA 2(b) and 2(10)].**

CRITERION 23: Forest management planning promotes sustainable use and development of the forest resource.

Indicator 23.1: Forest management planning.

**PRINCIPLE: Forests must be developed and managed so as to promote their health and vitality (NFA 3(3)c(iv)).**

CRITERION 24: There is national and provincial strategic planning for forest management.

Indicator 24.1: DWAF's national strategic plan for the forest sector (i.e. NFP).

Indicator 24.2: National forest sector strategic plans.

Indicator 24.3: Provincial strategic management plans for forestry.