

(12 November 2010 - to date)

**NATIONAL FORESTS ACT 84 OF 1998**

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

**DECLARATION OF PHASE 2A OF THE OLIFANTS RIVER WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFSITE MITIGATION AREA AS A CONTROLLED FOREST AREA UNDER SECTION 17(2) OF THE NATIONAL FORESTS ACT, 1998 (ACT No. 84 of 1998), AS AMENDED**

*Published under Government Notice 1032 in Government Gazette 33734. Commencement date: 12 November 2010.*

By virtue of powers vested in me under Section 17(2) of the National Forests Act, 1998, (Act No. 84 of 1998 hereinafter referred to as "the Act") I, Tina Joemat-Pettersson, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries hereby declare the Olifants River Water Resources Development Project Offsite Mitigation Area described underneath as a Controlled Forest Area.

Description:

Background: The controlled forest area is 5370 ha and consists of largely mixed modified and unmodified (natural) Bushveld. Within the mixed Bushveld is an area distinguished by high concentration of endemic plant species, called Sekhukhuneland Centre of Plant Endemism (SCPE). The SCPE has approximately 2200 plant taxa, 5% of which are endemic or near endemic to the area. The Steelpoort Sub-centre of the Sekhukhune Centre of Plant Endemism is one of the areas in the country where most new plant species are being discovered and with limited population. It is an important area in terms of botanical conservation to prevent the loss of unknown genetic resources in the country.

Location: Limpopo Province, South of Steelpoort town.

Properties: Portion 1, 4, 5 and 6 of the farm Buffelspoort No. 141 - JS, Portion 1 to 6 and the Remainder of the farm Uitvlugt No.887 - KS, Portion 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8 of the farm De Hoop No. 886 - KS and Portion 3, 8 and 13 of the farm Steelpoortpark No. 366 - KT.

Landownership: State and Private

Magistrate District: Greater Groblersdal and Greater Tubatse

Fixed Period: 3 (three) years effective from the date of publication of the notice in the Government Gazette.

Prohibitions: Grazing, unauthorised removal of forest produce, cultivation, any activities which, may cause deforestation or prevent rehabilitation and transplanting.

All licensed activities in terms of licenses issued under this Act in respect of the areas mentioned above are suspended.

Steps to be taken: Rehabilitation, transplanting of vegetation, sustainable management plan for the area.