

## **Forestry Sector Summary**

Forestry is an important contributor into the economic growth of Mpumalanga gross geographic product. Mpumalanga Province hosts 40.2% of South Africa's planted forests and large forest processing plants are also situated in this province. Ngodawana pulp mill one of the largest pulp process plant in the southern hemisphere is operating from Mpumalanga, so is many sawmills , bark depots, essential oils plants are scattered all over Mpumalanga .

Forestry industry employees approximately 200 000 workers who are either employed in the primary forestry sector or in the further processing of timber related products. Potential of employing more workers exists in the non timber forest products sub-sector, such bee farming, muthi nurseries, forest-based ecotourism, paper recycling etc.

Forestry has experienced negative growth 6% on average during 1996 to 2003 period, but production continued unhindered at the rate of 5.4%. Though there is not enough water to plant more land in the province real opportunities exist for previously disadvantaged communities to play significant role through the restructuring process and land reform. This could be achieved through equity shares and other schemes available in the sector

## Mpumalanga Provincial Growth and Development Strategy

Strategic thrust			
Enhance Provincial economic development to improve the quality of life for all			
Programme	Performance indicator	Targets	Responsibility
1. maximize exploitation of forestry potential and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased efficiencies , investment production and beneficiation</li> <li>• Increase sustainable employment in the forestry sector</li> <li>• Increase number of Forest enterprise (SMME)</li> <li>• Encourage broad participation from previously disadvantaged group in the forestry sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased sector contribution to GGP by 2% by 2008/9 Financial Year</li> <li>• Increase sustainable job creation in the sector by at least 2% by the year 2014</li> <li>• 10% increase in beneficiation projects</li> <li>• Implementation of Forestry Charter or Forestry BEE in the sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Agriculture and Land Affairs</li> <li>• Department of Economic Development and Planning</li> <li>• Department of Water Affairs and Forestry</li> </ul>
2. Beneficiation within forestry sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased level of beneficiation and value addition projects in the sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forestry participate in the implementation of an integrated manufacturing strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Economic Development and Planning</li> <li>• Department of Water Affairs and Forestry</li> </ul>
3. Promotion of arts (woodcarving) industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improved market access for woodcarving products</li> <li>• improved institutional arrangement in crafts sub-sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth in the forest based crafts sub-sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation</li> <li>• Department of Water Affairs and Forestry</li> </ul>
4 Tourism Growth Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of forest based tourism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth of forest based tourism ventures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Water Affairs and Forestry</li> <li>• Department of Economic Development and Planning</li> <li>• Mpumalanga Tourism Authority</li> <li>• Department of</li> </ul>

			Agriculture and Land Administration
5. Export	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote export of finished products</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased export contribution to national and SADC Ports</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Department of Economic Development and Planning</li></ul>