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## GOVERNMENT NOTICE

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### DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

No. 619

11 July 2007

#### **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**

By virtue of the powers vested in me under Section 17(2) of the National Forests Act, 1998, I, Lindiwe Benedicta Hendricks, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, MP, 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 5 370 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 the Sekhukhuneland Centre of Plant Endemism (SCPE). The SCPE has approximately 2 200 plant taxa, 5% of which are endemic or near endemic to the area. The Steelpoort Sub-centre of the SCPE is one of the areas in the country where the most new plant species are being discovered and with limited populations 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:** Portions 1, 4, 5 and 6 of the farm Buffelspoort No. 141 - JS, Portions 1 to 6 and the Remainder of the farm Uitvlugt No. 887 - KS, Portions 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8 of the farm De Hoop No. 886 - KS, and Portions 3, 8 and 13 of the farm Steelpoortpark No. 366 - KT.

**Landownership:** State and Private.

**Magisterial 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, conducting an activity that requires a licence without a license.

**Steps to be Taken:** Rehabilitation, transplanting of vegetation, compiling of a sustainable management plan for the area.