

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY  
DEPARTEMENT VAN WATERWESE EN BOSBOU**

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**FOREST MANAGEMENT (FMU) LEVEL PRINCIPLES, CRITERIA,  
INDICATORS AND STANDARDS**

**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.

Indicator 1.2: State of forest protection.

**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 2.3: Presence of rare, threatened and endangered species.

**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 3.1: Condition of forest margins.

Indicator 3.2: Condition of natural forest canopy.

Indicator 3.3: Condition of understorey tree and shrub layer.

Indicator 3.4: Extent and connectivity of natural ecosystems.

Indicator 3.5: Rehabilitation of degraded forests.

**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, disease 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 5.2: Level/rate of resource use.

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

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

Indicator 5.5: Resource use efficiency.

**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 6.2: Water quality.

Indicator 6.3: Soil conservation.

Indicator 6.4: Riparian zone and wetland management activities.

Indicator 6.5: Pollution levels.

**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 7.3: Forestry's contribution to the local economy.

Indicator 7.4: Forestry's contribution to local development.

**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.

Indicator 8.2: Staff turnover in the forest based businesses.

Indicator 8.3: Taxes, levies and charges paid by forestry.

**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 9:** People have rights of access and use of forests.

Indicator 9.1: Opportunities for forest based activities.

Indicators 9.2: Rights are understood and respected.

**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 10:** Forests are used responsibly.

Indicator 10.1: Control and enforcement of access and use.

**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 advance persons or categories of persons disadvantaged by unfair discrimination [NFA 3 (3) c (vii)].

**CRITERION 11:** Land tenure of forest areas is clearly defined, recognized and secure.

Indicator 11.1: Security of land tenure.

**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 [NFA3 (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 13.1: Employment opportunities associated with forestry.

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 14.4: Discontinuation of forest activity.

Indicators 14.5: Conflict over distribution of costs.

**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 [NFA3 (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.

Indicator 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 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.

**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 21.5: Compliance with forest management legislation and customary law.

**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.