
GOVERNMENT NOTICES GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

No. 727

10 July 2009

DECLARATION OF KATHU FOREST AS A PROTECTED WOODLAND UNDER SECTION 12(1)(C) OF THE NATIONAL FORESTS ACT, 1998 (ACT NO 84 OF 1998)

I, Tina Joemat-Pettersson, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries hereby declare the Kathu forest as a Protected Woodland in terms of section 12(1)(c) of the National Forests Act, 1998 (Act No 84 of 1998).

In terms of section 15(1) of the National Forests Act, 1998, no person may –

- (a) cut, disturb, damage or destroy any protected tree; or
- (b) possess, collect, remove, transport, export, purchase, sell, donate or in any other manner acquire or dispose of any protected tree, or any forest product derived from a protected tree, except –
 - (i) under a license granted by the Minister; or
 - (ii) in terms of an exemption from the provisions of this subsection published by the Minister in the *Gazette*.

DESCRIPTION

Background: Kathu forest is a unique woodland of exceptionally large Camel thorn trees (*Acacia erioloba*) north of the town of Kathu in the Northern Cape province. This woodland of about 4 000 ha is one of the only of its kind in the world. It was deproclaimed as State forest in 1956 to allow for the development of the town of Kathu. The woodland (Kathu forest) was registered as a National Heritage Site in 1995 under the former Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism's program.

Location: Northern Cape province, north of Kathu town.

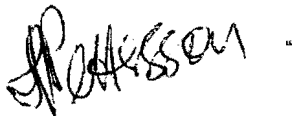
Properties: Portion 1 & 2 of the farm Hartnolls No 458, remainder of the farm Hartnolls No 458, Portion 1 & Remainder of the farm Uitkoms No. 463, the farm Kathu No 465, Khei Apple Nature Reserve, Remainder of the farm Sims No. 462, Remainder of the farm Bestwood No 459.

Landownership: Private

Magisterial District: Kgalagadi

The area is zoned as follows:

ZONE	ZONE DESCRIPTION	ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES APART FROM EXISTING AGRICULTURAL LAND USE RIGHTS
Zone 1	PRIMARY CONSERVATION ZONE	Hiking trails and limited vehicle tracks that do not require removal of trees
Zone 2	LOW IMPACT ECOTOURISM ZONE	Low-impact ecotourism development such as trails, tracks, picnic sites and bush camps
Zone 3	ECO-ESTATE BUFFER ZONE	Low density housing development that retains the natural character of the area, with no introduction of alien plant species and subject to an agreed off-set agreement for the conservation and management of the Kathu Protected Woodland and adjoining areas.



MS T JOEMAT-PETTERSSON
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

