

FOREST ACT, 2001

Government Gazette 21 December 2001

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Community Forests

15. (1) The Minister may, with the consent of the chief or traditional authority for an area which is part of communal land or such other authority which is authorised to grant rights over that communal land enter into a written agreement with any body which the Minister reasonably believes represents the interests of the persons who have rights over that communal land and is willing and able to manage that communal land as a community forest.
- (2) The agreement referred to in subsection (1) shall –
- (a) provide for the creation of a community forest;
 - (b) identify the geographical boundaries of the proposed community forest;
 - (c) include a management plan for the proposed community forest;
 - (d) confer the rights, subject to the management plan, to manage and use forest produce and other natural resources of the forest, to graze animals and to authorise others to exercise those rights and to collect and retain fees and impose conditions for the use of the forest produce or natural resources;
 - (e) appoint the body which is party to an agreement made in terms of subsection (1) to be the management authority for the community forest and require that management authority to manage the community forest in accordance with the management plan;
 - (f) provide for equal use of the forest and equal access to the forest produce by the member of the communal land where the community forest is situated;
and
 - (g) provide for adequate reinvestment of the revenues of the forest and for the equitable use or distribution of the surplus.
- (3) Where an agreement referred to in subsection (1) has been entered into the Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, declare the area which is the subject matter of the agreement to be a community forest and that the community forest shall be managed in accordance with the agreement.