



UMZIMVUBU

— LOCAL MUNICIPALITY —

Policy Name	Forestry Development Policy
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Umzimvubu Municipality
813 Main Street
Mount Frere
5090

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1. Preamble

1.1 The Forest Development Policy of the Umzimvubu Municipality is founded on the shared economic vision for the area – *“a diverse and resilient economy, able to exploit the competitive advantages of the municipality while building appropriate skills”*.

1.1.1 This policy recognizes the untapped potential of the forestry sector in Umzimvubu Municipality and the possible high value contribution forestry can make in growing the local economy, creating sustainable jobs and alleviating poverty in Umzimvubu Municipality.

1.1.2 The policy is informed by and aligned to the national, provincial and district policy frameworks on forestry and timber industry development, as well as specific needs and opportunities presented by the local environment of Umzimvubu.

2. Purpose

2.1 The purpose of this document is to present a fundamental forestry development policy which can serve as a guideline to promote, support and foster a vibrant and sustainable forestry sector that contributes meaningfully to the attainment of our local economic development objectives.

2.2 The policy specifically seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- a) To ensure a prosperous forest sector which benefits local communities and businesses;
- b) To improve community participation in a sustainable and productive forest sector;
- c) To improve access to forestry support for sector-based businesses;
- d) To encourage private and public investment into local forest sector;
- e) To support rural development through the optimisation of forestry opportunities.
- f) To protect the environment and promote sustainable use of forestry resources.

3. Scope

- 3.1 The proposals contained in this policy document are aimed at ensuring that the Umzimvubu Municipality plays a strategic role in promoting a sustainable forest and forestry sector through the dissemination of information on forestry and forests, assessment of state resources and management and use of certain mechanisms such as consultative forums, incentives and persuasion to influence development to meet agreed-upon goals.

4. Policy Content and Guidelines

- 4.1 The Umzimvubu Municipality shall:

- 4.1.1 Strengthen the coordination of forestry development and support activities through the establishment of a well-representative Forestry Development Forum (“**FD**”) comprised of local forestry businesses, players and support organizations;
- 4.1.2 Facilitate the establishment of area-based Community Forestry Organizations (“**CF**”) to promote the participation of local communities in forestry activities;
- 4.1.3 Enter into strategic partnerships with relevant the Small Enterprise Development Agency (“**SEDA**”), the Eastern Cape Development Corporation “**ECDC**”, Alfred Nzo Development Agency (“**AN**”) and the **Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (“D**WAF”) to strengthen access to financial and non-financial sector-specific support for local forestry enterprises;
- 4.1.4 Facilitate the implementation of regular research work in forestry development and opportunities for growth e.g. value chain research, forestry development plan etc;
- 4.1.5 Support and promote the marketing of local forestry products and businesses at appropriate tradeshows, trade events and exhibitions;
- 4.1.6 Facilitate private and public sector investment into commercial forestry infrastructure;
- 4.1.7 Support and collaborate with DWAF to implement local Working-For-Water projects to eliminate invasive alien plants;
- 4.1.8 Promote the local manufacturing and processing of wood, timber and forest-based products to supply local needs and for export purposes;

4.1.9 Broaden awareness about forestry commercial and social development opportunities through the dissemination of relevant information;

4.1.10 Facilitate and support transformation in the forestry sector and value chains in line with the targets and principles set out in the Forestry BEE Charter of South Africa;

5. Designated Structure to Approve, Adjust and Improve the Policy

5.1 The Local Economic Development Committee shall have the authority to recommend to the Council the approval, adjustments and improvements necessary to this policy. It is the Council that will provide the final approval of all adjustments and improvements to the policy.

5.2 DEFINITIONS

5.2.2 LED means Local Economic Development

5.2.3 CFO means Community Forest Organisation

5.2.4 SEDA means Small Enterprise Development Agent

5.2.5 DWAF means Department of Water Affairs and Forestry

5.2.6 ANDA means Alfred Nzo Development Agency

5.2.7 ECDC means Eastern Cape Development Corporation

5.2.8 FDF means Forestry Development Forum

6. Administration of this Policy

6.1 The administration of this policy shall be the primary responsibility of the Local Economic Development Unit of the Umzimvubu Municipality. The Municipal Manager with the assistance of the LED Manager shall ensure that the policy is implemented, managed and monitored appropriately.

7. COMMENCEMENT OF THE POLICY

Unless otherwise stated this Policy shall commence on the date of the adoption of this policy by a sitting of a full Council.

8. PERMANENT / TEMPORARY WAIVER OF THIS POLICY

8.1 This policy may be wholly waived by the Municipal Council on temporary or permanent basis.

8.2 Notwithstanding clause 7.1 the Accounting Officer may under the circumstances of emergency temporarily waive this policy subject to reporting of such waiver to Council

9. SUSPENSION OF THIS POLICY

9.1 This policy may be repealed by the Council

9.2 This policy may be suspended by the Council