

Arbor Week 1 - 7 September



Most forests occur around the rural areas of South Africa. Many rural people rely on the forest resources for their daily survival. Forest resources provide ample business opportunities, such as:

Medicinal plants trade-

Medicinal plants are used by many people in South Africa. Medicinal plants are also processed to produce herbal medicines which could be bought at herbal shops. If medicinal plants are harvested sustainably they can provide a generous income to harvesters and traders.

Manufactured timber products-

Trees are used to make furniture, coffins etc. All these are needed by humans, as such many people buy these products and traders generate money from selling these products.

The timber pole market-

The poles are used to build houses, fencing, fixed telephone lines etc.

Traders can sell different poles for example Telkom for telephone lines, builders for building of mainly wooden houses etc

Charcoal production-

Charcoal is made from wood. Charcoal is used for barbeques and can be sold in South Africa or Overseas

Trade in wild fruits-

Wild fruits can also be harvested from the forests and sold to local markets or can be taken for processing to generate money

Employment -

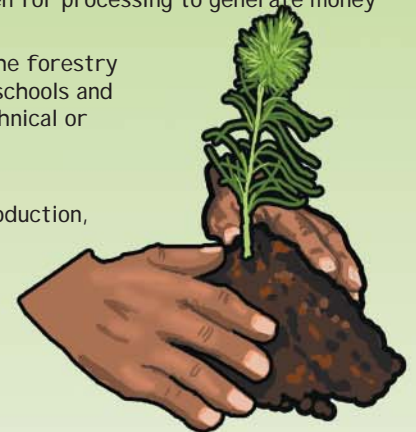
The formal forestry sectors employ more than 152 000 people, mostly in the rural areas. The forestry companies provide housing serviced with electricity, water and sanitation, pre-and primary schools and clinics. Other key benefits associated with formal employment are access to vocational, technical or academic training.

Others-

There are many more forest produce that could be sold for money generation e.g. honey production, sawmilling, trade of forest ferns and forest mushrooms

Environmental importance of forests

Forests reduce erosion, maintain soil fertility, maintain water quality and harbor biological diversity.



Plant a tree - Grow our future



water & forestry

Department:
Water Affairs and Forestry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

