**ANNEXURE A - CONSOLIDATED REPORT ON THE EXTENDED PUBLIC HEARINGS MEETING ON THE NATIONAL FORESTS AMENDMENT BILL**

**[B11-2016]**

1. OCTOBER – 21 NOVEMBER 2017
2. **MTHATHA, EASTERN CAPE (OR TAMBO, ALFRED NZO & JOE GQABI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES – UGIE, MACLEAR, MOUNT FLETCHER, MTHATHA, TSOLO & OTHER FOREST COMMUNITIES), 03 OCTOBER 2017**

| **ISSUES RAISED** | **RESPONSIBILITY / LEAD INSTITUTION** | **PROGRESS REPORT / RESPONSE** | **PLANNED ACTION** |
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| * 1. Communities registered their concern about the long-term arrangements for Lease Agreements saying the current 70 years Agreement should be reviewed and shortened as it deprives them from deriving adequate or meaningful benefits and opportunities from the forests; | DAFF | Clause 68 of the lease agreement provides that in terms of Section 25(2) of the National Forest Act, the Minister may amend, suspend or terminate a licence issued in terms of the National Forest Act, “which includes the lease licence, if there is a material change in circumstances from those existing at the time lease is concluded.  However, clause 64 and 66 of the lease agreement reads as follows:  ‘’This agreement constitutes the entire agreement between parties and no amendment, deletion or substitution thereto shall be valid unless in writing and signed by the parties. | DAFF has started the engagement with the tenants to discuss the possible amendments of the leases  Communities will be consulted on the outcome of the engagements between DAFF and the tenants |
| * 1. DAFF should investigate the Gamtoos Irrigation Board/ Working for Water Project that is not benefitting the youth or communities that live in the area | DWS | A letter has been sent to the Minister of Water and Sanitation informing her of the matter. | Follow up to be made with DWS |
| * 1. Involvement of communities in the management of State Forests (ownership and control). | DAFF | In terms of the leased State Forests, provision has been made for communities to own 16 – 25%, these are currently held by SAFCOL. In addition to this, in some companies communities already have a share e.g. Singisi - 5.0 % and Siyaqhubeka- 10.8%  A letter has been sent to the Minister of Public Enterprises informing her of the matter and the need to fast-track the process of transfer. | The NEF has been identified to warehouse the shares on behalf of the communities. Work has commenced in the Siyaqhubeka package  DAFF to engage with DPE and DRDLR to fast-track the transfer of the shares. |
| Section (29) of the National Forest Act, 1998 allows communities that wish to engage in community forestry to enter into Community Partnership Agreements (CPAs) with the Minister.  DAFF has transferred 26 000ha of the Manzengwenya and Mbazwana (MMM) plantation to Mabaso, Tembe and Mbila communities in KwaZulu-Natal and Rossbach plantation to the Rossbach community in Limpopo.  In addition, a process is underway to transfer the Cengane and Etwa Plantations to the Ludidi community in the Eastern Cape. | DAFF continues to provide support through the implementation of the Community Forestry Agreement. A Senior official has been seconded to MMM for a period of three years. Gaps identified in the Agreement are being addressed in the Management Plan.  A bankable business plan for the plantations is being developed |
| To ensure effective and efficient management of DAFF plantations, Management Models have been developed and will be consulted with all affected stakeholders including the communities | After consultations, models will be approved for implementation |
| * 1. Assistance of youth that were trained in Ugie with job opportunities and Department to follow up on promises made by PG BISON (a multinational company involved in plantation forestry and timber processing operations) regarding youth development in Ugie. | PG Bison | The matter has been referred to PG Bison through a Ministerial letter. | DAFF to follow up |
| * 1. Delayed issuance of tittle deeds to land claimants by DRDLR which has in some cases delayed investments for communities. | DRDLR | DAFF engages on a continuous basis with DRDLR on this issue and other land reform related issues.  A letter has been sent to the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform informing him of the matter. | DAFF will continue to engage with DRDLR and follow up will be made based on the Ministerial letter. |
| * 1. Turnaround time for processing Water Use Licences for afforestation/ planting purposes. | DWS | DAFF has been engaging with DWS on the matter through the National Afforestation Task Team. Previously there was no standard set in terms of the time it takes to issue a licence. The turnaround time for issuing of licences is now 300 days. | The standard set (300 days) is currently being implemented. DAFF will liaise with the affected community to follow up on their specific applications before the end of this financial year. |
| * 1. Clear appeal procedure as per clause 15 of the Bill. | DAFF | The current proposed amendments seek to make provision for affected parties to lodge appeal.  Procedure of the appeal will be detailed in the Regulations as follows:  Before whom an appeal arising from a difference or disagreement regarding a decision or action taken by a delegated officer under the National Forests Act, consideration of a conciliation through established committee must be done if considered appropriate or  (c) refer the matter to the Minister  The Minister Must—  (i) Appoint a conciliator to the appeal with time-limits, that he or she  may determine: or  (ii) If he or she considers conciliation inappropriate or if conciliation has failed, he or she must make a decision provided that there will be no conflict with provisions of other laws. | Portfolio Committee is requested to consider and approve the appeal procedure as proposed in Clause 15 of the Amendment Bill. |
| * 1. Department should intervene in the general management of Mt Fletcher State Forest which is in a bad state. | DAFF | To ensure effective and efficient management of DAFF plantations, Management Models have been developed and will be consulted with all affected stakeholders including the communities | After consultations, models will be approved for implementation |
| * 1. Disbursement of funds to land claims beneficiaries. The community questioned how long will funds be kept in the Kabelo Trust Fund with another community member suggesting disbursement of funds should be distributed directly to the beneficiaries without using a middleman. | DAFF | The Trust is established in terms of the National Forest Amendment Act of 1998 (Act No. 85 of 2005) to amongst other things, receive and pay the rental to the rightful beneficiaries.  The reason for DAFF to be the middleman is to ensure that the rightful beneficiaries are paid, funds are used to benefit the broader community and there is accountability for the use of funds. This is done through the Disbursement model which has two options i.e.  Option 1: If a community is receiving lease rental money for the first time, the funds would be for personal use.  Option 2: Funds will be used for community development projects  The trust will exist until such time that DRDLR confirms that all land claims have been settled and land claimants are paid, as the trust was created to protect the existing and future claimants.  A letter has been written to the Minister of RDLR requesting the settlement of land claims be fast-tracked. | Kabelo Trust will continue to disburse the rental based on the Disbursement Model and project proposals from the communities.  DAFF will capacitate the CPAs on financial management so as to reduce the community conflicts and mismanagement of funds.  DAFF to follow up on the fast-tracking of forestry land claims |
| * 1. Employment, training and capacity building interventions required. | DAFF | DAFF has several sector and training programmes that include bursaries and internships. A number of students have been assisted through these programmes. These are published annually in print and electronic media.  Furthermore, DAFF in supporting small and medium enterprises, has developed guidelines for timber growing, honey production, sawmilling and charcoal production. These have been translated into four other languages. These are used by forestry advisory services in providing extension services. | DAFF to increase awareness on these initiatives. |
| * 1. Livestock not allowed to graze in the State forests whereas historically they were allowed. | DAFF | Section 23(1)(i) makes provision for a license to graze in a State forest on a controlled basis to reduce possibilities of damage to smaller trees and availability of the resource.  The DAFF has encountered a challenge whereby the communities will neglect their livestock in the State forest which has negative impact on the State forest. | DAFF to further engage communities as part of the implementation of the involved Agroforestry Strategy which allows multiple land use . |
| * 1. Forest destruction in the Maclear area. | DAFF | To ensure effective and efficient management of DAFF plantations, Management Models have been developed and will be consulted with all affected stakeholders including the communities | After consultations, models will be approved for implementation |
| * 1. General poor management of State forests as compared to private forests. | DAFF | To ensure effective and efficient management of DAFF plantations, Management Models have been developed and will be consulted with all affected stakeholders including the communities | After consultations, models will be approved for implementation |
| * 1. Alleged ill treatment of employees at the hands of private forestry companies. | Forestry South Africa (FSA) /DoL | A letter to the Minister of Labour and FSA to assist with the resolution of this matter.  FSA has condemned the action and advised that DoL assists with the matter and if companies have been found to be contravening the laws, they must be dealt with accordingly. | DAFF to follow up with DoL |

1. **HARDING, EASTERN CAPE (HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY – UMZIMKHULU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY; UBUHLEBEZWE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY; UMZIWABANTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND DR NKOSAZANA DLAMINI-ZUMA: IXOPO, BIZANA, INGELI FOREST & OTHER FOREST COMMUNITIES), 05 OCTOBER 2017**

| **ISSUES RAISED** | **RESPONSIBILITY / LEAD INSTITUTION** | **PROGRESS REPORT** | **PLANNED ACTION** |
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| * 1. Involvement of communities in the ownership and management in both the public and private sectors. Community members raised issues that only white people were getting meaningful benefits from the forests. | DAFF | In terms of the leased State Forests, provision has been made for communities to own 16 – 25%, these are currently held by SAFCOL. In addition to this, in some companies communities already have a share e.g. Singisi - 5.0 % and Siyaqhubeka- 10.8%  A letter has been sent to the Minister of Public Enterprises informing her of the matter and the need to fast-track the process of transfer. | The NEF has been identified to warehouse the shares on behalf of the communities.  DAFF to engage with DPE to fast-track the transfer of the shares |
| * 1. National tenders – the DAFF should prioritise communities that live near the State forests when issuing tenders (e.g. harvesting). | DAFF | Forestry is a national competency, DAFF complies with the National Treasury Regulations and legislation on procurement of goods and services and all tenders are advertised in the appropriate media and where possible in Local newspapers.  DAFF when issuing tenders in State forests insists on labour to be sourced locally. Companies are also encouraged to source labour within their areas of operation.  DAFF also works closely with the Working on Fire programme in ensuring that fire fighters within the programme are sourced locally. | DAFF to consider the possibility of inclusion of local employment as part of the specifications in the tender process within the Treasury Regulations. |
| * 1. Job opportunities within the DAFF- the Department should advertise the post when there is a vacancy due to retirement or when employees are deceased. | DAFF | DAFF advertises vacant posts in the print and electronic media including notice boards in the DAFF offices  Currently there is a moratorium in the filling of vacant posts due to financial constraints. | Once the moratorium is lifted, posts will be advertised. |
| * 1. Lack of skills (technical and management). DAFF should provide skills development to communities that live near the forests in terms of management of forests. | DAFF | DAFF has developed guidelines for timber growing, honey production, sawmilling and charcoal production. These have been translated into four other languages | DAFF will collaborate with the Fibre, Processing and Manufacturing SETA on using these guidelines for skills development |
| * 1. DAFF should lease State forests to communities that live near the State forests instead of giving leases to private companies. | DAFF | To ensure effective and efficient management of DAFF plantations, Management Models have been developed and will be consulted with all affected stakeholders including the communities | After consultations, models will be approved for implementation |
| * 1. Long time frame of afforestation licenses need to addressed; | DWS | DAFF has been engaging with DWS on the matter through the National Afforestation Task Team. Previously there was no standard set in terms of the time it takes to issue a licence. The turnaround time for issuing of licences is now 300 days. | The standard set (300 days) is currently being implemented. DAFF will liaise with the affected community to follow up on their specific applications before the end of this financial year. |
| * 1. Department should treat small growers equally as large growers in terms of access to markets as their timber is not certified. | DAFF | DAFF in collaboration with the industry has developed a National Standard for certification of small growers. The Standard will improve the competitiveness of the small growers in the market. | The Standard will be implemented once approved by the Minister. |
| * 1. Issues regarding the obtaining of tittle deeds by land claimants. In certain instances land has been settled but no title deeds issued. | DRDLR | DAFF engages on a continuous basis with DRDLR on this issue and other land reform related issues.  A letter has been sent to the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform informing him of the matter. | DAFF will continue to engage with DRDLR and follow up will be made based on the Ministerial letter. |
| * 1. Department should assist with sand mining problem in Bizana area. | DAFF | Section 24(9) of the Principal Act makes provision for mining in a State forest provided that there is a granted right under relevant legislation.  The Department has experienced a challenge in that mining is often unsustainable thereby causing negative impact on a State forest. | The current Bill seeks to resolve the challenge by prohibiting mining activities in a State forest.  Portfolio Committee is requested to consider and approve the relevant amendment as proposed in the Bill. |
| * 1. Communities would like to see a Higher Education Institution for forestry established in the area, instead of them having to take their children to far places | Department of Higher Education | A letter has been sent to the Minister of Higher Education informing her of the matter. | Follow up to be made with DHE |
| * 1. Women representation and participation in forestry. | DAFF, FSCC and Forestry Industry | The National Forests Advisory Council is currently working with the Department of Economic Development in investigating women and youth participation in the forestry sector.  Although the Principal Act does not provide for youth and women category in the NFAC, DAFF proactively invited the Presidency to nominate representatives from the National Youth Development Agency and the Department of Women | The investigation will assist in advising the Minister on policy interventions to increase the participation of women and youth  Furthermore, the Amendment Bill is introducing the category of youth and women in the National Forests Advisory Council. The Portfolio Committee is requested to consider and approve the relevant amendment as proposed in the Bill. |
| * 1. Poor working conditions in plantations (injured workers and their children having to use own transport to access health facilities). | Forestry South Africa (FSA) /DoL | A letter to the Minister of Labour and FSA to assist with the resolution of this matter. | DAFF to follow up with DoL |
| * 1. Forest charter signed more than ten years ago but no tangible benefits or improvement to communities. | FSCC | The matter has been referred to the Chairperson of the Forest Sector Charter Council | The Council with the support of DAFF will be engaging with the communities to respond to the issues. The community outreach programme will be discussed further at the Charter Council meeting to be held on 22 February 2018 |
| * 1. Lack of access to opportunities throughout the forestry value chain. | DAFF, FSCC and Forestry Industry | There are numerous opportunities through the value chain | The Department in collaboration with other role-players will undertake road shows for the youth and public in general |
| * 1. Lack of access to markets; Criminality in Bizana (arson and removal of seedlings) - they need government intervention. | DAFF / SAPS | DAFF conducts training sessions on the Act to the Justice Cluster (SAPS, Judiciary and Prosecutors) to raise awareness and to ensure effective enforcement of the Act. | As part of the ongoing awareness campaigns, DAFF will arrange a training session for the Bizana area in the 2018/19 financial year. |
| * 1. Conflict between Amakhosi (traditional leadership) and Community Property Associations. | DRDLR | DAFF engages on a continuous basis with DRDLR on this issue and other land reform related issues.  A letter has been sent to the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform informing him of the matter. | DAFF will continue to engage with DRDLR and follow up will be made based on the Ministerial letter. |

1. **KRANSKOP, KWAZULU-NATAL (UMZINYATHI AND AMAJUBA LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES: UMVOTI, KRANSKOP, IDLIZA, STANGER KWADUKUZA AND OTHER FOREST COMMUNITIES), 06 OCTOBER 2017**

| **ISSUES RAISED** | **RESPONSIBILITY / LEAD INSTITUTION** | **PROGRESS REPORT/RESPONSES** | **PLANNED ACTION** |
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| * 1. DAFF to provide mechanisms for management (controlling and eradication) of alien invasive plants such as *Lantana camara*, Gum trees, Poplar trees and others. | DEA | Government already have mechanisms in place for addressing this concern in the form of EPWP for example Working on Water, Working on Wetlands. | DAFF will engage with Working for Water to implement alien vegetation clearing programmes in the area and create EPWP jobs for locals |
| * 1. DAFF to provide buffer zones for planting of gum next to wetland areas (environmental management prescripts) | DAFF/FSA | Planting next to riverine areas is already covered in the National Water Act, 1998 and the conditions of afforestation licences cover these issues extensively. | DAFF to engage with the small growers to increase awareness on the regulatory framework requirements. |
| * 1. Clause 16 of the Amendment Bill regarding the penalties of R10 million, for example, where will this clause be applicable as it seemed too high for communities to afford. | DAFF | Clause 16 of the Bill is aimed at offenders who deforest at a large scale or carry out an activity in a declared protected area for example residential development and mining.  The R10 million is the maximum penalty which will be based on the offence committed. | The Portfolio Committee is requested to consider and approve the relevant amendment as proposed in the Bill. |
| * 1. A need for skills development (technical, business and management), in addition to awareness raising or information sharing. | DAFF | DAFF has developed guidelines for timber growing, honey production, sawmilling and charcoal production. These have been translated into four other languages | DAFF will collaborate with the Fibre, Processing and Manufacturing SETA on using these guidelines for skills development |
| * 1. Awareness in terms of the National Forests Act 84 of 1998; since it was the first encounter for some community members through this extended public hearings in Kranskop | DAFF | DAFF has programmes and plans in place to raise awareness such as Arbor week, NFA foundation course, media advertisement of protected trees at an estimated cost of R4 million annually. | DAFF will continue with the awareness campaigns |
| * 1. Funding for land development required by communities. | DRDLR | In terms of forestry development, DAFF has allocated some funding for forestry in the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) grant funding. | Implementation of CASP in the 2018/19 financial year. |
| * 1. Communities expressed a desire to benefit from state owned entities. | DPE | A letter has been sent to the Minister of Public Enterprises informing her of the matter. | DAFF will continue to engage with DPE and follow up will be made based on the Ministerial letter. |
| * 1. Training on burning of pastures required. | DAFF | DAFF provides awareness campaigns on management of fires and further collaborates with the Working on Fire Programme to assist with the awareness | DAFF to continue with the awareness campaigns |
| * 1. Communities are not benefiting from the forests, instead they are only selling their labour since there is not even one person they know that became rich as a result of his/ her involvement in the forest sector (instead only white owned companies are benefiting). | FSA/FSCC | Through the Forest Sector Charter Codes of good practice were developed to ensure fairness and a balance of relations between the large established corporates and small growers and producers. The matter has been referred to both FSA and the FSCC through a Ministerial letter.  In addition to this, detailed Afforestation Guidelines are currently under development. When finalised there will ensure honest brokering between large established corporates and small growers and producer | Enforcement of these guidelines need to be strengthened by the industry and the FSCC. |
| * 1. Youth involvement in forestry | DAFF | The National Forests Advisory Council is currently working with the Department of Economic Development in investigating women and youth participation in the forestry sector.  Although the Principal Act does not provide for youth and women category in the NFAC, DAFF proactively invited the Presidency to nominate representatives from the National Youth Development Agency and the Department of Women | The investigation will assist in advising the Minister on policy interventions to increase the participation of women and youth  Furthermore, the Amendment Bill is introducing the category of youth and women in the National Forests Advisory Council. The Portfolio Committee is requested to consider and approve the relevant amendment as proposed in the Bill. |

1. **KHAYALETHU COMMUITY HALL IN THEMBALATHU SETTLEMENT, KNYSNA, WESTERN CAPE, 20 OCTOBER 2017**

| **ISSUES RAISED** | **RESPONSIBILITY / LEAD INSTITUTION** | **PROGRESS REPORT** | **PLANNED ACTION** |
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| * 1. Outstanding funds that are to be paid by Mountain to Ocean (MTO) and PG Bison Forestry companies to the community of Tsitsikamma. The funds have since been paid to DAFF. | DAFF / DRDLR | PG Bison is a private company, it does not lease land from the State and no payment of rental to DAFF is done by them  The Tsitsikamma claim is on the land that is leased by MTO. MTO pays rental to DAFF for the use of the land and the funds are currently held by the Kabelo Land and Restitution Trust. The claim has not been finalized by DRDLR and funds will only be transferred to the community once the claim is finalised.  A letter has been sent to the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform informing him of the matter.  This information was shared with the WCFSF | Funds are only disbursed once the claims have been finalized. The reason for the delay of payment to the Tsitsikama community is the unresolved conflict amongst the land claimants.  DAFF will continue to engage with DRDLR and follow up will be made based on the Ministerial letter.  The actions identified in the WCFSF are part of the action plan that DAFF will use for follow up |
| * 1. The leases process is not transparent; the communities will like to get an insight into the lease agreement, issues of shareholders and workers who are foreign nationals that are not sympathetic to the local people. | DAFF / Lessees (AFC, Singisi, SQF and MTO) | The lease agreement is between DAFF and the forestry companies were entered into as part of the privatisation process where DPE was leading on behalf of government.  The contents of the lease agreement are confidential and can only be shared with communities if all parties agree. | Communities can access the lease agreement through application of PAIA. |
| * 1. None and or limited benefit from the leases of State Forests by small entrepreneurs and local contractors as they are warded small and short term contracts only; safety threats by big companies when they tender; unreasonable requirements of heavy machinery from small contractors which they do not afford to procure or even hire; overseas shareholders; lack of transformation (inclusion of women ad youth) in contracts awarded; short time frames for submitting tender documents. | DAFF and Lessees | Lessees through enterprise development and Corporate Social Investment initiatives do provide opportunities for local communities as part of implementation of the Forest Sector Charter.  In Western Cape, MTO manages some land on behalf of DAFF and all tenders and contracts are advertised in the local media and that their procurement policy is based on a principle of fairness, openness and transparency. MTO accounts to DAFF quarterly on this project and contracts are awarded to the local communities. | DAFF engages with the Lessees on a quarterly basis and the Department will keep encouraging the employment of local contractors. |
| * 1. Substantial contracts are awarded to white contractors from other provinces e.g. Mpumalanga; local contractors are given minor jobs cited lack of capacity in Tsitsikamma. | MTO | MTO Forestry runs an open, transparent, and fair tender or quotation process. Opportunities for  contractors are advertised in local newspapers, and local contractors in MTO data base are also informed through emails and existing contractor forums. On tenders, a detailed quotation document is drawn up which contains all the specifications and MTO Forestry standard quotation template. |  |
| * 1. None or limited benefit of youth from MTO, youth only benefit as labourers and do not get any technical jobs. | MTO | DAFF engages with MTO on a quarterly basis and MTO has committed itself from 2015 in contractor development programmes that addresses the following:   * Create an enabling environment for contractors to position themselves in value creation (directors, employers and local communities). * Created a sustainable, reliable and consolidated contractor supplier base. * Encourage accountability and compliance. * Support growth and development.   MTO Forestry makes every effort to make available MTO Forestry makes every effort to make available some  of its resources for a number of programmes in an attempt to encourage involvement of women and youth groups in forestry. Some of those initiatives or programmes are discussed in ***annexure 2(a) of MTO Forestry’s CSI initiatives***. |  |
| * 1. Neglect of communities by Municipality formed due to establishment of plantations (“bush communities”). Housing developed then is not maintained and is in very poor conditions; poor sanitation facilities, school and scholar transport, road infrastructure is also very poor or non-existent. There is limited access of medical facilities and electricity. Some of the challenges are brought about by the areas having been transferred to South African National Parks. Some people residing in these communities are facing possible eviction from these houses because they cannot afford basic services. They cannot request job opportunities in these areas as they are already benefitting and the requirements for contracting prioritise those who are not benefiting or have minimum benefits. | Municipalities/SANParks | DAFF is addressing the villages within the leased areas through discussions with municipalities. In some cases, Municipalities have agreed to take over the responsibilities and some have not. DRDLR is assisting DAFF in resolving the matter.  In terms of SANParks areas, the matter has been referred to SANParks through a Ministerial letter | DAFF has spent about R1m in maintenance of these villages, due to funding constraints,the Department is unable to provide all the services.  Follow up discussions with municipalities and DRDLR to be conducted |
| * 1. Withheld pension benefits from lessees and assigned companies e.g. MTO and South African National Parks. | MTO and SANParks | The matter has been referred to MTO and SANParks through a Ministerial letter.  Meeting held with the WCFSF resolved that a task team be established to liaise with the relevant stakeholders | WCFSF to provide a list of the pensioners  DAFF to follow up |
| * 1. Dysfunctional Participatory Forest management Committees due to lack of resources and DAFF’s involvement. | DAFF | PFM is an approach to involve communities in the management and conservation of forests. The PFM Committees were established as a means to conserve the Indigenous Forests in provinces where they occur. DAFF due to financial constraints has not been able to run the PFM Committees as envisaged | Funding through the SADC/JICA project is being sought to resuscitate these.  This is part of the SADC Protocol on Forestry that South Africa has ratified.  Forums to be linked with the local government structures to reduce the possibilities of failure. |
| * 1. Participatory Forest Management is not serving the purpose for which it was established for; economic benefits are for white people including farmers. | DAFF | PFM Committees were established as a means to conserve the Indigenous Forests in provinces where they occur. | DAFF will investigate this specific allegation. |
| * 1. There is proposed coal mining in Bredekamp, community formed due to establishment of plantations (“bush community”). Community is concerned of their lack of participation. | DAFF | DAFF engaged with the Western Cape Forestry Sector Forum on this and other matters raised at the public hearing. An action plan to resolve these issues has been developed. | WCFSF to engage with the coal mining company as part of the action plan. DAFF will provide support as necessary. |
| * 1. Lack of social responsibility by leases (MTO) to local communities on other aspects other than forestry e.g. agriculture, bursaries and construction of basic infrastructure for communities. This is specific to the Buffelshoek community, also formed due to the establishment of the plantation. The community has a population size of 139 households. Only 30 people are employed by the MTO. | MTO | MTO Forestry has a Social Performance Framework which, amongst other aspects, addresses the Social Corporate Investment (CSI). Beneficiaries are primarily communities from neighbouring MTO Forestry plantations. CSI budget is determined by the profit targets for a particular year. The lack of certain government services in rural forestry areas drives to forestry communities’ dependence on MTO Forestry for support whilst available insufficient resources to address all the expectations becomes a limiting factor. In addition, there are more than 80 communities neighbouring MTO Forestry plantations which expect MTO to support them in one way or another. See **Paragraph 10** of MTO Forestry response letter. | DAFF will continue to engage with MTO in ensuring that job opportunities are accessible to local communities |
| * 1. No consideration of the Longmore community during the lease and service level agreements that was completed in 2001, 2009 and 2010 between South African National Parks / DAFF and MTO although they are key stakeholders. | DAFF | Communities that are within the Western Cape recommissioning areas were consulted on the matter and the Longmore community is not part of the areas to be replanted. | The Longmore community will be consulted should there be any opportunities in the area |
| * 1. Exposure to fire hazards due to residing close to commercial forests. | DAFF and Forestry Industry | There is a need to strengthen awareness campaigns for the community on fire protection and prevention. | MTO has committed to increase firebreaks around forest villages as part of the action plan developed with the WCFSF. |
| * 1. Non-compliance of stakeholders to the BBBEE Charter. | FSCC | The matter has been referred to the Forest Sector Charter Council Chairperson through a Ministerial letter.  Council has concluded that non-compliance is a result of: (1) companies being verified either by generic or other scorecards; and (2) companies do not necessarily undertake BBBEE in general because of lack of understanding of its strategic value in their businesses bottom line.  Furthermore, the Council has no enforcement controls. | Options to improve capacity of the Charter are being explored |
| * 1. DAFF is unable to administer effectively the current legislation especially on issues related to land management. | DAFF | DAFF is responsible for administering the National Forests Act 84 of 1998 within the available resources. | Additional resources will assist the Department in ensuring that the legislation is effectively administered and implemented. |
| * 1. Establishment of dysfunctional forums e.g. Southern Cape Forestry Coordinating Committee. The committee was established in 2017/08/01 but has never met. The meeting has been scheduled to take place on the 21 October 2017 after 3 years of its existence. | DAFF | DAFF has established Forestry Development Forums in all forestry provinces – these are self-sufficient and DAFF only provides limited funding to run them.  Following the Public Hearings, DAFF held two discussions and a roadmap was developed to address the issues raised at the hearings. | DAFF through the action plan will work with the WCFSF |
| * 1. (i) Insufficient time awarded to community to make contribution to the Bill. (ii) The Community was never consulted by DAFF about the Bill. (iii) The officials within DAFF are developing laws that they do not understand. | DAFF | The Bill was published twice for 60 days in the Government Gazette in 2012 and 2014 for public comments and two consultation sessions were held in the Western Cape. Through the parliamentary processes, public hearings and public education sessions were held in the area prior to the extended public hearings. | DAFF holds refresher courses for its staff and will continue to do so |
| * 1. The Bill promotes under-development of previously disadvantaged individuals and promotes development of white people who operate and manage both indigenous and planted forests, example promoting of honey bush harvesting project identified by the Tsitsikamma communities awarded to a white farmer from Port Elizabeth. | DAFF/MTO | 5 community members who created 25 employment opportunities for local community members were granted access to harvest honey bush tea between October and December 2016. However, MTO had to put such access on hold because there were certain non-compliance practices the community members were engaged in , which were not in line with the legal requirements of the permit issued by the Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs (DEDEA). | Rhodes University will conduct an assessment on the available honey bush tea to determine sustainable harvesting levels.  MTO will engage the Koukamma Local Municipality to finalize an integrated honey bush tea strategy that will ensure that those having an interest in harvesting honey bush benefit.  Parties interested in harvesting the honey bush tea will be engaged/consulted in the development of the integrated honey bush tea. |
| * 1. The current Bill does not address challenges that communities are faced with on a daily basis. | DAFF | The Principal Act has mechanisms of allowing use/benefit from forests for examples through exemptions, licensing and access. | The Department will continue to implement the Act and also consider the challenges experienced by communities in the policies and guidelines |
| * 1. The clauses of public trusteeship and youth and women representation mentioned in the Bill are just statement that will not make a difference. | DAFF | The Principal Act is being amendment to address challenges experienced by communities and official implementing the Principal Act | DAFF will rely on the participation of the communities to ensure that the clauses make a difference. |
| * 1. The National Forests Act 84 of 1998 needs to be reviewed as it does not come close to addressing challenges to transform the sector. | DAFF | The Principal Act does address issues related to transformation e.g. s29 that provides for management of plantations by communities | The Act is used in conjunction with other relevant legislation and policies such as Forest Sector Charter to make it effective. |
| * 1. The inclusion of black people in the Department Advisory Council, BBBEE Charter Council and other Steering Committee are not promoting the benefits from forestry resources by previously disadvantage individuals. | DAFF / Community representatives | The nominated people that represent communities in these structures should take the responsibility of ensuring that community issues are addressed. | DAFF will also work with the representatives to ensure that communities benefit from this participation |
| * 1. Communities lost ownership of land including forests to multi-national companies and want Government to restore it. | DRDLR | DAFF engages on a continuous basis with DRDLR on this issue and other land reform related issues.  A letter has been sent to the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform informing him of the matter. | DAFF will continue to engage with DRDLR and follow up will be made based on the Ministerial letter. |
| * 1. Communities who successfully claimed land are still waiting for compensation for forested land claims finalised some years ago. | DRDLR | The Tsitsikamma claim is on the land that is leased by MTO. MTO pays rental to DAFF for the use of the land and the funds are currently held by the Kabelo Land and Restitution Trust. The claim has not been finalized by DRDLR and funds will only be transferred to the community once the claim is finalised.  A letter has been sent to the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform informing him of the matter. | Funds are only disbursed once the claims have been finalized. The reason for the delay of payment to the Tsitsikama community is the unresolved conflict amongst the land claimants.  DAFF will continue to engage with DRDLR and follow up will be made based on the Ministerial letter. |
| * 1. Community members from the forested areas of Tsitsikamma who worked for the former Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) and later DAFF and the South African National Parks, were promised pay-outs after retrenchment including pensions but they were never paid. | DAFF/SANParks | At the engagement with the WCFSF it was agreed that SANParks should participate in the Forum and will therefore deal with this matter as part of the action plan.  The matter has been referred to SANParks through a Ministerial letter. | WCFSF to provide a list of the employees affected (as part of the action plan)  DAFF to follow up |
| * 1. The Bill to include a clause for the establishment of Trust Fund by Government and forestry companies for bursaries to study forestry. | DAFF | DAFF and the industry have several sector and training programmes that include bursaries and internships. A number of students have been assisted through these programmes. These are published annually in print and electronic media. | It will not be necessary to address this through the Bill |
| * 1. Dilapidated living quarters rented from South African National Parks by community members. | SANParks | At the engagement with the WCFSF it was agreed that SANParks should participate in the Forum and will therefore deal with this matter as part of the action plan  The matter has been referred to SANParks through a Ministerial letter. | DAFF to monitor through the WCFSF action plan |
| * 1. Eviction of community members by South African National Parks after retirement/ death/ injury of breadwinners. | SANParks | At the engagement with the WCFSF it was agreed that SANParks should participate in the Forum and will therefore deal with this matter as part of the action plan  The matter has been referred to SANParks through a Ministerial letter. | DAFF to monitor through the WCFSF action plan |
| * 1. Prohibition by landowner’s e.g Sanpark to undertaking agricultural activities such as grazing. | SANParks | At the engagement with the WCFSF it was agreed that SANParks should participate in the Forum and will therefore deal with this matter as part of the action plan  The matter has been referred to SANParks through a Ministerial letter. | DAFF to monitor through the WCFSF action plan |
| * 1. DAFF to assist communities (Tsitsikamma) to develop and manage wetland for economic benefits. | DEA | The matter has been referred to DEA through a Ministerial letter. | DAFF to follow up |
| * 1. Community members worked in the forestry companies such as SAFCOL for over 40 years but were not compensated accordingly upon retirement. Some were promised shares that were never paid. | SAFCOL | The matter has been referred to SAFCOL through a Ministerial letter. | DAFF to monitor through the WCFSF action plan |
| * 1. Local contractors have no confidence in DAFF, SAFCOL and or SANParks as they collude with forestry companies against the communities when it comes to concerns and challenges reported. It was reported that DAFF does not even respond to any correspondences or follow up issues. | DAFF, SAFCOL and SANParks | The matter has been noted and has been included in the WCFSF action plan | DAFF to monitor through the WCFSF action plan |
| * 1. Monitoring of operations and plantations by DAFF to ensure communities take ownership and benefits from forestry resources as claimed in the Bill | DAFF | To ensure effective and efficient management of DAFF plantations, Management Models have been developed and will be consulted with all affected stakeholders including the communities | After consultations, models will be approved for implementation |
| * 1. Request for allocation of land by Government to communities for effective utilisation to benefit upliftment. | DRDLR | The matter has been referred to DRDLR through a Ministerial letter. | DAFF to follow up |
| * 1. It was reported that Cape Pine is a divisive company that bribe community leaders to create divisions within communities. | MTO | MTO Forestry participates in a toll-free anonymous a whistle-blowing facility managed by Deloittes  and all instances of corruption and bribery can be reported via this facility. All matters are reported and investigated to the chairperson of the Audit and Risk sub-committee of the board and treated with immediate and serious responses. The board subscribes to a high Ethical policy and protocol.  . | MTO to investigate any allegations of corruption and bribery. |
| * 1. During the fire disaster that affected Knysna and other surrounding areas, contractors came from outside the area and took funds that were supposed to assist the local people. | MTO | MTO lost more than 700,000m³ of standing timber in the June 2017 fires. The company had to harvest all the burnt timber within a space of 8 months before the wood degraded beyond use. Under normal circumstances, MTO harvest about 50,000m³ per month, but with the burnt timber the harvesting rate had to be increase to 115,000m³ per month. MTO had to bring in additional capacity from outside the Cape. All local contractors with equipment to harvest timber were given an opportunity to participate in the salvage operation. | DAFF to follow up |
| * 1. Local contractors do not get satisfactory and require assistance from DAFF with following issues: delayed applications, setting up and registration of businesses to be able to participate in the forestry value chain. | DAFF | DAFF in supporting small and medium enterprises, has developed guidelines for timber growing, honey production, sawmilling and charcoal production. These have been translated into four other languages. These are used by forestry advisory services in providing extension services. | DAFF to increase awareness on these initiatives. |
| * 1. General lack of capacity building and government support in terms of infrastructure, equipment, markets and access to land to ensure that local entrepreneurs are uplifted and benefit from the forestry resources. | DAFF | DAFF in supporting small and medium enterprises, has developed guidelines for timber growing, honey production, sawmilling and charcoal production. These have been translated into four other languages. These are used by forestry advisory services in providing extension services. | DAFF to increase awareness on these initiatives. |
| * 1. Victimisation of local activists and small contractors when they express discontent regarding issues that affect local communities. As a result, most small contractors in Tsitsikamma suffer in silence and are afraid to speak out; those who have spoken out have since lost businesses | MTO | None of MTO Forestry contractors are victimised. MTO Forestry took an initiative to assist local contractors by establishing a Contractor Forum to encourage open and transparent engagement between MTO Forestry and contractors. The Enterprise and Supplier Development programme in partnership with DTI also assist in facilitating ongoing discussions in matters that might affect contractors negatively.  When terms of a contract are contravened, i.e. safety requirement or compliance to legal obligations, contracts get terminated but  after lengthy meetings and advice to the contractors. |  |
| * 1. Disregard for the country’s labour law particularly by MTO, when it comes to minimum wages, living quarters, injury on duty and even pension allowances and pay out after people have worked for more than 40 years. | Forestry South Africa (FSA) /MTO/DoL | As a FSC certified commercial forestry company, MTO Forestry fully subscribes to the applicable  national and international legislative framework and standards in respect of labour legislation. MTO Forestry conform to the provisions of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA), the Labour relations act (LRA), the Employment Equity act (EEA), the Skills development Act (SDA) and the OHSACT. As the employer, the company ensures that employees are aware of the company’s policies and procedures compliant within the legislative framework and that they are consistently and fairly applied. The Department of Labour have conducted several investigation which are tabled in (Annexure 24(c) of MTO Response letter: |  |
| * 1. Workers are exploited and treated like slaves while in some instances are even charged transportation costs (in truck) from their residence to plantation where they work. | Forestry South Africa (FSA) /MTO/DoL | A letter to the Minister of Labour and FSA to assist with the resolution of this matter | DAFF to follow up with FSA and DoL |
| * 1. Lack of transformation in the forestry sector, implementation of the Forest Sector BBBEE Charter to ensure that local and previously disadvantaged people benefit from the forestry industry. | FSCC | MTO Forestry is a level 4 BBBEE verified company under the new BBBEE Forestry Sector codes. This underpins the commitment of MTO Forestry towards a transformed forestry industry in South Africa. |  |
| * 1. Noncompliance with the Charter by companies | Forestry Industry | The matter has been referred to the Chairperson of the Forest Sector Charter Council | DAFF to follow up |
| * 1. Lack of mentorship programmes for females within the MTO. Approximately 80% of women entrepreneur have fallen off the system due to victimisation and lack of support from companies such as MTO as well as DAFF. | MTO/DAFF | MTO Forestry has a Social Performance Framework which, amongst other aspects, addresses the Social Corporate Investment (CSI). Beneficiaries are primarily communities from neighbouring MTO Forestry plantations. CSI budget is determined by the profit targets for a particular year.  There are more than 80 communities neighbouring MTO  Forestry plantations which expect MTO to support them in one way or another. | DAFF to monitor through the W |
| * 1. Environmental Monitors employed by SANParks are given short term contract of five years. | SANParks | The matter has been referred to SANParks | DAFF to follow up |

1. **NKOWANKOWA (TZANEEN), LIMPOPO PROVINCE, 31 OCTOBER 2017**

| **ISSUES RAISED** | **RESPONSIBILITY / LEAD INSTITUTION** | **PROGRESS REPORT** | **PLANNED ACTION** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * 1. The Makgoba community raised a concern that in 1998 and 2004 they were given a farm through the land claims process, however the ownership is only through papers, they do not have access to the farms to harvest resources such as herbal medicine and they are denied the right to visit their ancestral graves. The alleged the problem was with the Provincial Department responsible for agriculture. | DRDLR / DAFF | Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries met with the Makgoba Traditional Authority on 25 September 2017 and an action plan was developed | The Department discussed with the Limpopo Regional Lands Claims Commissioner and agreed that the verification of Land Claimants will be prioritised |
| * 1. Communities also raised a concern of none functionality of the Makgoba tea estate; they want the tea estate to start functioning so community members can be employed. They also alleged that another Makgoba group (faction) sold land to Mr BJ van Zyl of the ZZ 2 farms. | DAFF | This matter was raised during the Ministerial visit and is part of the action plan referred above.  The matter of the trust is currently being resolved through a court process. | Once the matter has been resolved through the court, DAFF will engage with the relevant stakeholders. |
| * 1. A looming eviction of communities from a tea farm. They suggested that the tea farm should instead be resuscitated to create jobs to local communities. They alleged they have a foreign investor willing to invest on the tea farm but provincial department of agriculture is not interested citing lack of market as the reason. | DAFF | The issue of the tea farm will be dealt with according to the action plan as mentioned above.  The eviction of communities has been referred to the Minister of Labour. | DAFF to follow up with DoL |
| * 1. Perceived corruption: a community member indicated that their investigation revealed that R15 million was allocated for projects but only R7 million could be accounted for. | DRDLR and DAFF | The resolution of the trust matter by the court process will assist in dealing with this matter. | Once the matter has been resolved through the court, DAFF will engage with the relevant stakeholders |
| * 1. The Department should provide programmes to raise awareness in terms of the National Forests Act 84 of 1998 (natural forests); since it was the communities’ first encounter through this public hearing. | DAFF | Department has programmes and plans in place to raise awareness such as Arbor week, NFA foundation course, media advertisement of protected trees at an estimated cost of R4 million annually | DAFF to continue with the awareness campaigns. |
| * 1. Involvement of communities in public participation and monitoring of the functionality of the Act. Government should have a comprehensive plan for community participation. | DAFF | Department has programmes and plans in place to raise awareness such as Arbor week, NFA foundation course, media advertisement of protected trees at an estimated cost of R4 million per annum. | The Department will continue to ensure that there is community participation in future. The intention of the Department with funding allowing is to make significant impact to all local communities. |
| * 1. Communities are not benefiting from the forests, in terms of job opportunities; hence the Department should consider employing community members around or near the forests, instead of employing people from far away such as those from the Eastern Cape. | DAFF | DAFF when issuing tenders in State forests insists on labour to be sourced locally. Companies are also encouraged to source labour within their areas of operation.  DAFF also works closely with the Working on Fire programme in ensuring that fire fighters within the programme are sourced locally. | DAFF to consider the possibility of inclusion of local employment as part of the specifications in the tender process within the Treasury Regulations |
| * 1. Department should assist with the long outstanding land claim for the Makgoba and Baneke land claimants. Training of land claims beneficiaries required before handing over land or projects | DAFF | DAFF engages on a continuous basis with DRDLR on this issue and other land reform related issues.  A letter has been sent to the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform informing him of the matter. | DAFF will continue to engage with DRDLR and follow up will be made based on the Ministerial letter. |
| * 1. The Bill should make provision for the protection of important indigenous trees. | DAFF | The Principal Act already make provision for the protection of indigenous trees through section 7 and 3(3)(a) |  |
| * 1. Lack of skills (technical and management): the Department should provide skills development to communities that live near the forests in terms of management of forests, citing that the AgriSETA should be involved, particularly on timber processing. | DAFF | DAFF has developed guidelines for timber growing, honey production, sawmilling and charcoal production. These have been translated into four other languages | DAFF will collaborate with the Fibre, Processing and Manufacturing SETA on using these guidelines for skills development |
| * 1. The Department should provide alternatives to communities in the case where provisions of the Act do not allow the communities to collect resources such as, hunting of animals and firewood from the forests. They alleged communities get involved in illegal activities such as hunting because they do not have an alternative means. | DAFF | The section 24(6) of the principal Act make provision for access to State forest for resources such as collecting of firewood for house hold purposes. Licensing for hunting is regulated by the DEA and provide license for access when hunting license has been obtained. | The Department will continue to raise awareness on this matter. |
| * 1. The Act is silent about community upliftment, especially around the issue of promotion of Bioprospecting. | DAFF | The section 24(6) of the principal Act make provision for access to State forest for resources such as collecting of medicinal plants for house hold purposes. Licensing for prospecting is regulated by the DEA. | The Department will continue to raise awareness on this matter. |
| * 1. Employment, training and capacity building interventions required. | DAFF | DAFF has several sector and training programmes that include bursaries and internships. A number of students have been assisted through these programmes. These are published annually in print and electronic media.  Furthermore, DAFF in supporting small and medium enterprises, has developed guidelines for timber growing, honey production, sawmilling and charcoal production. These have been translated into four other languages. These are used by forestry advisory services in providing extension services. | DAFF to increase awareness on these initiatives. |
| * 1. Department should conduct intergovernmental workshop, whereby each department will be able to address issues raised by the community members. | DAFF | The Department held Forestry Indaba whereby various Government Departments are fully represented. | The Department to continue hosting the Forestry Indaba sessions to ensure community representation and participation. |
| * 1. Communities expressed a desire to benefit from state owned entities. | DAFF and DPE | A letter has been sent to the Minister of Public Enterprises informing her of the matter. | DAFF will continue to engage with DPE and follow up will be made based on the Ministerial letter. |
| * 1. Government officials should not have interest in community development projects as this jeopardises progress since they get conflicted as they seek self-enrichment | DAFF | Public Service Regulations require that all government officials to declare their interest if not disciplinary action is taken against the official. | DAFF will investigate the specific allegation |
| * 1. Allegation that community applied for permit to collect dead wood in State forests and instead DAFF went to take out the dead trees on their own. | DAFF | Public Service Regulations require that all government officials to declare their interest if not disciplinary action is taken against the official. | DAFF will investigate the specific allegation |

1. **GRASKOP COMMUITY HALL, GRASKOP, MPUMALANGA, 21 NOVEMBER 2017**

| **ISSUES RAISED** | **RESPONSIBILITY / LEAD INSTITUTION** | **PROGRESS REPORT** | **PLANNED ACTION** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * 1. The community of Pilgrim’s Rest requested a parliamentary representation desk in the area, | Parliament | Portfolio committee to take note the matter |  |
| * 1. Access for grazing livestock within the farms, | DAFF | Section 23(1)(i) makes provision for a license to graze in a State forest on a controlled basis to reduce possibilities of damage to smaller trees and availability of the resource.  The DAFF has encountered a challenge whereby the communities will neglect their livestock in the State forest which has negative impact on the State forest. | DAFF to further engage communities as part of the implementation of the involved Agroforestry Strategy which allows multiple land use. |
| * 1. Institute research on conservation implemented through a trust fund that will grant bursaries, | DAFF | The matter will be referred to a number of research and funding institutions such as NRF, CSIR and SANBI | DAFF to follow up |
| * 1. Companies should develop skills of youth; construct recreation facility in the community. | FSA/Forestry Industry | The matter has been referred to Forestry South Africa | DAFF to follow up |
| * 1. DAFF requested to provide extension officers locally. After the Bill has been approved, DAFF should monitor all aspects especially those concerning forestry companies and conduct awareness in the area as the community was hearing of the National Forests Act for the first time. | DAFF | DAFF has programmes and plans in place to raise awareness such as Arbor week, NFA foundation course, media advertisement of protected trees at an estimated cost of R4 million annually. | DAFF will continue with the awareness campaigns |
| * 1. The communities of Mariskop, Hazyview, Maplazini, Waterhoek, Doringlaagte and Wilgeboom expressed deep concern of the working conditions of people residing in the mentioned farms such as: * very low wages compared to farm labourers (in banana plantations) whereas the labour is more intense in forestry; * unpaid leave during maternity and sick leaves; * few days of annual leave up to 15 at most; * non-compliance of employers to the Unemployment Insurance Funds (UIF); * long working hours; * non compensation for injury on duty; * unfair dismissal; * unavailability of protective clothing especially for wet conditions; * sub-standard housing for employees; * lack of transport provide by the companies for access to health facilities and other social amenities; and * Indecent sanitation facilities.   All the mentioned issues affect their social livelihoods such as separation of families; spreading of diseases; promotion of child headed households; drug use and crime. | Forestry South Africa (FSA) /DoL | A letter to the Minister of Labour and FSA to assist with the resolution of this matter | DAFF to follow up with FSA and DoL |
| * 1. DAFF should ensure the companies are adhering to prescripts from Department of Labour such as paying the UIF and other compensations, providing decent housing and protective clothing. | Forestry South Africa (FSA) /DoL | A letter to the Minister of Labour and FSA to assist with the resolution of this matter | DAFF to follow up with FSA and DoL |
| * 1. DAFF may request companies to purchase land where the municipality can construct RDP houses decent enough to stay with families. | DAFF/FSA/DRDLR | A letter to the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform and FSA to assist with the resolution of this matter | DAFF to follow up with FSA and DoL |
| * 1. Most people from the communities are only employed as labourers by the contractors because of lack of skills; the skilled labour comes from foreign provinces. This causes the labourers from local communities to rebel against the contractors. | FSCC/FSA | The matter has been referred to FSA and the Chairperson of the forest Sector Charter | DAFF to follow up |
| * 1. Prolonged process with the issuance of title deeds and concluding land claims. | DRDLR | DAFF engages on a continuous basis with DRDLR on this issue and other land reform related issues.  A letter has been sent to the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform informing him of the matter. | DAFF will continue to engage with DRDLR and follow up will be made based on the Ministerial letter. |
| * 1. Slow progress and poor growth assistance with small businesses. | Forestry Industry/ DAFF | DAFF in supporting small and medium enterprises, has developed guidelines for timber growing, honey production, sawmilling and charcoal production. These have been translated into four other languages. These are used by forestry advisory services in providing extension services. | DAFF to increase awareness on these initiatives. Government Agencies like SEDA will be engaged in future |
| * 1. Restricted access to grave sites located in private farms. | DAFF and Forestry Industry | The Principal Act makes provision for access to graves in State Land | DAFF to investigate whether the matter is not regulated by other legislation |
| * 1. Improvement of the level of learnerships offered by the industries. | Forestry Industry/ FP&M SETA | The matter has been referred to FP&M SETA and FSA through a Ministerial letter | The Department to engage with the FP and M SETA to increase learnerships |
| * 1. The communities of Maronwana and Juvera are worried of the exposure to children to alcohol and drug abuse. | Department of Social Development | A letter has been sent to the Minister of Social Development informing her of the matter. | DAFF to follow up |