

*THE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTRY PROJECTS: A CASE OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY (DWAF) IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE*

BY

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## ABSTRACT

The study investigates the management of the Forestry Projects under the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry in the Limpopo Province. The lack of security and control mechanisms of natural resources encourages the community to lose trust in the Department and leads to the uncontrolled rush to the resources. If policies are not reformed or reviewed, and appropriate management be in place to protect the resources, the productivity will soon be lost to those people who are most dependent on it. In Limpopo Province, degradation of the woody plant resources and natural environment occurs in many rural areas where the population pressure and material needs are found to be high. While one must accept that the rural areas community will continue to put pressure and depend on the resources, management structure will be put in place that can sustainably manage them.

A triangulation of quantitative and qualitative methodologies were used in the study. The research design which were used was descriptive in nature and to get a holistic view, a non-probability, purposive sampling method was used to obtain samples from the population. Data was collected from the respondents using structured interviews and close-ended questionnaires that was distributed to communities, Managers, Foresters, Municipal officials and Fire Association members. The population of study was 110. Data analysis was done using Tesch's eight steps method of open coding for the qualitative approach. In quantitative approach, collected data was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) 13.0. Ethical issues were taken into consideration throughout the research process.

## THE MAIN FINDINGS OF THIS STUDY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Traditional Healers contribute to the distraction of forests when collecting medicinal plants.
- Lack of security forest guard encourages timber theft by communities.
- Fire management strategy is ineffective.

- Community utilizes forestry resources without the knowledge of conserving the nature.

#### THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY:

- Traditional Healers be given information about conserving natural resources and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries should invest in training of Traditional Healers how to sustainably harvest forest resources. Also to consider options in training the traditional medicine experts to at least plant herbs or plants that are mostly utilized in the forest.
- DAFF should see to it that budget be made available to employ forestry expert and forestry security guards to minimize timber theft.
- The Local Municipality should work closely hand in hand with the appointed Fire Protection Associations under its jurisdiction. Funds should be made available to train Fire Protection Association members. Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries should make provisioning of funds to raise awareness to the communities with the coordination of the Local Municipality and all relevant stake holders. concerned.
- The state commercial forest plantations should be kept productive and running sufficiently. The locals would then opt to use indigenous forest areas for less destructive commodities such as bark, herbs and animals. The collection of non timber forest resources also still need to be monitored and evaluated frequently if not daily.