

FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT



ABOUT RENEWABLE ENERGY

At the core of the forestry development programme is a genuine commitment to help rural communities exploit the economic value inherent in their vast and largely unproductive land assets. The Eastern Cape has a substantial forestry development potential which is ready to be utilised for improved income generation. The ECRDA continues to support those communities which hold a potential for forestry development by providing the requisite interventions geared for sustained economic growth and development.

In the past, the forestry development sector has been the foray and mainstay of large and commercial enterprises with little or no skills transfer to communal and emerging timber landowners. The ECRDA's role is premised on the need to bridge this gap and to ensure that empowering partnerships and skills transfer programmes are established with commercial forestry growers and enterprises.

ECRDA aims to ensure that communities extend their participation in the sector beyond primary production in the long-term. The plan is to include processing and value-addition activities. The participation in beneficiation activities will improve revenue generation prospects.

100 000ha

of suitable land for forestry development in the Eastern Cape, which is the biggest in the country



The forestry sector was identified as one of the key sectors in the country that can create more jobs with a significant contribution to the economy. It is a strategic sector of investment. The Eastern Cape is a province with the biggest area suitable for forestry development (100 000 ha). Furthermore, government plantations have more than 15,000 unplanted areas which are regarded as low hanging fruits, which do not require initiation costs (i.e. EIA) because no license is required.

QUALIFYING CRITERIA

The ECRDA seeks to partner in projects which have a strong community focus, suitable land for afforestation and an interest in development. The idea is to ensure that communities are able to reap economic benefits from their land assets for as long as possible. The ECRDA encourages an integrated development approach where forestry and other land-uses are optimized to maximise benefits to communities.

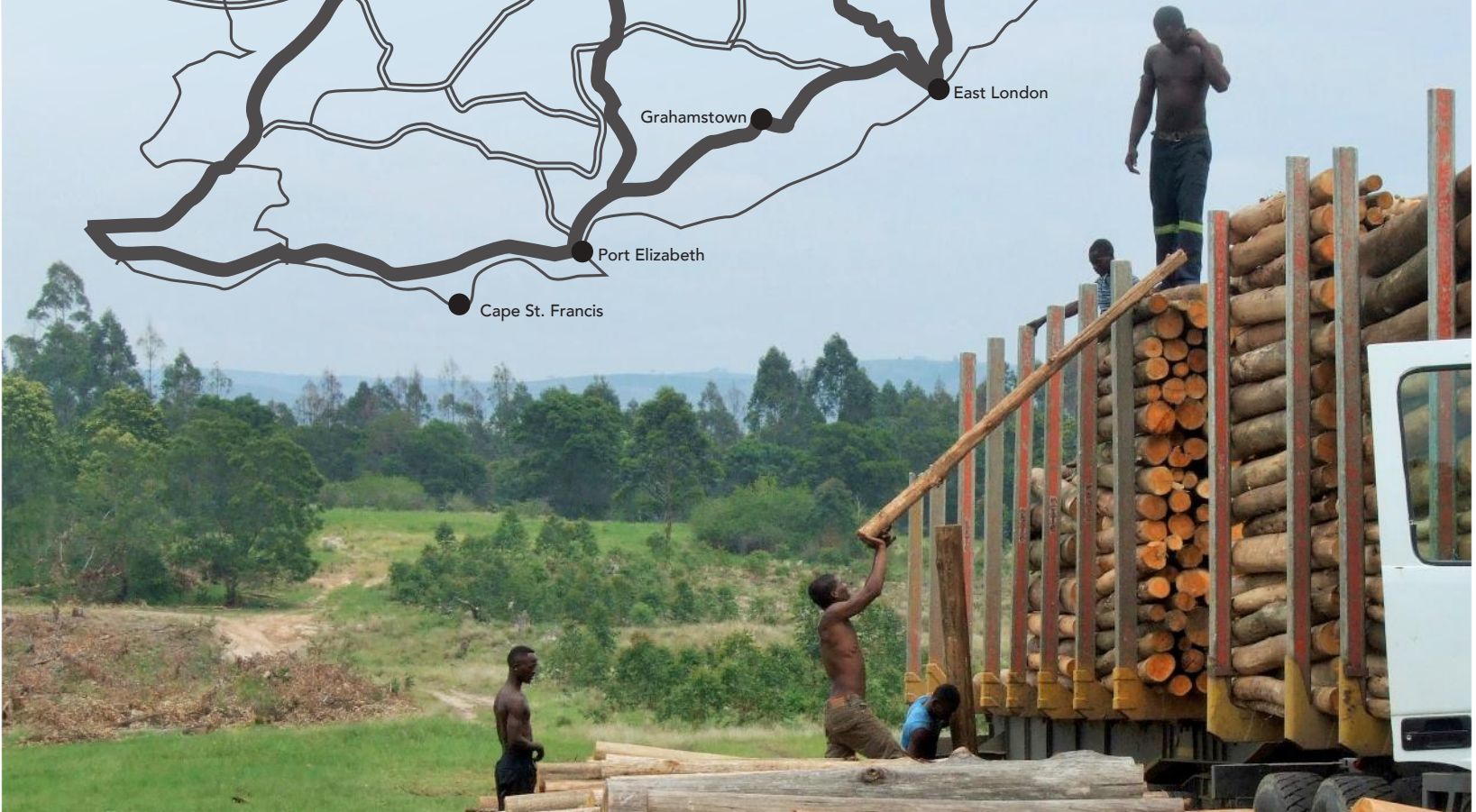




IDENTIFIED PROJECTS

These are community-driven projects in which the landowners contribute their land pockets under a legal entity to manage their assets in the form of trusts, co-operatives and Communal Property Associations. At the four coastal projects the ECRDA supports Sinawo, Izinini, Mkhambathi and Lusikisiki. The ECRDA planted eucalyptus grandis europhylla and eucalyptus dunnii tree species to supply SAPPI at these projects. In Gqukunqa and Sixhotyeni, eucalyptus nitens were planted targeting the PG Bison market.

- Sinawo
- Lusikisiki
- Mkhambathi
- Izinini
- Gqukunqa
- Sixhotyeni



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

ECRDA is pleased with the private sector partnerships these community-based projects have attracted such as SAPPI and PG Bison for heeding the call to enter into empowering and economically viable partnerships with our communities.

ECDC has also partnered with ECRDA in these projects as they share a common objective for community development and viable enterprise development within the Province.

sappi

PG BISON



**EASTERN CAPE
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**