



MTO North Management plan Summary May 2026

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1. Introduction

MTO Forestry acquired the plantations now called MTO Lowveld from BEDROCK MS in November 2014. BEDROCK acquired the company's assets from MONDI in August 2010. Imvelo Forests (PTY) Ltd and Ramanas Farms (with a 25% Shareholder) were owned by the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) when MTO Lowveld acquired management and ownership of Ramanas Farms and Imvelo Forests in 2017. MTO North thus comprises MTO Lowveld, Ramanas Farms, and Imvelo Forests.

The landholdings of MTO North are fairly fragmented and located around Barberton, White River, and Hazyview in Mpumalanga.

1.1 Purpose of the Document

This summary of the overall Management Plan provides details of the various aspects of the forestry operations and landholdings of the company and provides insights into MTO North's corporate commitment towards responsible forest management, health and safety and environmental management.

This Management Plan is an important supporting document to existing Company Policies, Integrated Management System (IMS) procedures, agreements, and other systems that may be required in complying with the legislation of the Republic of South Africa. The Management Plan does not include requirements that are documented in detail within other supplemental plans and agreements, but does refer to them where required.

This Management Plan is available free of charge to Stakeholders upon request.

1.2 Scope of the Document

The Management Plan encompasses forest management activities conducted on behalf of MTO North by employees, contractors, and subcontractors. However, the Management Plan is typically referenced only by management and planning personnel at the strategic level. Crews conducting field operations will refer to Best Operating Practices (IMS) and the approved Plan/Map for the work area (these documents guide site-level activities and will incorporate the specific requirements applicable to each site).

1.3 Review

The management plan is periodically reviewed and revised as required (at least once every three years) to facilitate adaptive management and to incorporate the results of monitoring and assessments, as well as any new information that becomes available (e.g., technical, scientific, social, economic, etc.). Any required revisions to the management plan are the responsibility of the MTO North Management Team. The final version is approved by the MTO North General Manager.

1.4 Management Commitment

The management team of MTO North (license number FSC-C109194) is committed to responsible forest management and, in the long term, to complying with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) Principles and Criteria. In addition, the company is committed to managing any leased farms that are excluded from the scope of the certified FMU, in the spirit of the (FSC®) Principles and Criteria.

The organization recognizes that ongoing communication and consultation with its identified Stakeholders are integral to the business to ensure its viability and sustainability.

1.5 Management Objectives

MTO North's management objective is to create a high-value, responsibly managed forest resource and to extract maximum value from it for the benefit of all stakeholders in the future, on a sustainable basis. To achieve this objective, the following objectives are considered important:

Forest Management Objectives

- To establish and manage timber stands with superior genetic material to become the leading *Eucalyptus* grower and *Eucalyptus*-associated product supplier in the South African forestry industry.
- To continue with *Eucalyptus* transmission poles, building & fencing poles, *Eucalyptus* saw timber/veneer, and *Eucalyptus* mining timber working circles. The working circles in MTO North have the flexibility to produce for different market segments.
- To harvest mature stands using efficient and low – impact harvesting systems.
- To establish a management protocol for stands affected directly and indirectly by extensive drought, the influence of *Leptocybe*, *Glycaspis*, and other pests and diseases that may occur. These aspects have been researched by Professor Ben du Toit from the University of Stellenbosch and his report on these influences is available.
- To accelerate the planting of temporary unplanted areas. The temporarily unplanted area was at 8.9 % at the end of 2025.
- To improve growth performance and stand quality, reduce environmental impacts, and enhance operational efficiency through the development and implementation of a forestry site classification system and research and development program.
- To implement responsible forest management practices according to the Principles and Criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)®.
- To normalise the age class distribution following the drought, diseases, fires, and theft.
- To diversify the genetic base for forest protection.
- To develop a science-based management system with respect to site: species matching, residue management and growth monitoring.

Conservation Management Objectives

- To compile and implement dedicated Conservation Management Plans for the respective forest management areas.
- To protect conservation areas from too frequent fires, pests, diseases, and illegal encroachment.
- To control invasive alien plants in both commercial and conservation areas.
- To maintain and enhance wildlife habitats, rare and endangered species and areas of special interest.
- To protect the hydrological integrity of the region by identifying, demarcating, and managing riparian zones, drainage lines, and wetlands.
- Where applicable, to identify and improve the long-term conservation management of Priority Conservation areas/ High Conservation Value Forest through long-term planning and action.
- As a Plantation Forestry company, MTO North explicitly does not harvest any indigenous forests on its landholdings and, as such, is not involved in/responsible for the conversion of any natural forest to any other land use. Where applicable, MTO is committed to restoring significantly degraded natural forests that may occur on its landholding.

Socio-Economic Management Objectives

- To provide employment opportunities and to contribute to socio-economic development and enhance the livelihood of local people in the areas we operate.
- To conduct human resource development and enhance professional work skills.
- To establish mechanisms for dialogue and conflict management and the resolution of declared disputes between the company and communities.
- Where feasible, to assist with the identification and implementation of community development projects.

Our Evergreen Values

We are a market-facing organisation focused on solutions and performance. We are governed by our Evergreen values, which drives us to look at new opportunities while empowering our stakeholders.

						
Transparent	Stronger Together	Global	Courageous	Flexible	Leaders	Passionate
Behave with integrity	Get the job done	See the bigger picture	Challenge common practice/convention	Create solutions	Act with respect and humility	Be energetic, have fun

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



MTO Forestry (Pty) Ltd hereafter MTO recognises that excellence in the management of risks relating to the Environment is integral to the sustainable success of its business. The personal involvement and commitment of all employees is essential to achieve the highest possible standards in environmental performance and MTO will strive to continually improve its performance in accordance with the following goals:

Performance standards

While complying with the law as a minimum requirement, we will also implement an Integrated Management System for our forestry and sawmilling operations based on appropriate industry standards and principles and, in doing this, meet the principles and criteria of the internationally recognised Forest Stewardship Council®.

Management of environmental impacts

We will take a proactive approach to minimise or, where possible, prevent negative impacts, which our operations may have on the natural environment, with particular emphasis on soil, air, water and biodiversity.

Climate mitigation

We will take a conscious approach to manage our impacts on air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, waste management, water and resource use, and energy efficiency by adopting the principles of "minimise, control or prevent". We will strive to replace greenhouse gas emissions with green energy solutions when possible and feasible.

Conservation

We will wisely manage biodiversity in natural ecosystems and protect rare and endangered species, communities, habitats and archaeological or cultural artefacts that occur on our land.

Land use

Before commencing new afforestation or any significant change of land use, we will assess the likely effect on the environment and, where appropriate, consult with interested and affected parties. Use of the land will be subject to clear long-term objectives documented in management plans.

Training and education

We will ensure that our employees and contractors at all levels are made aware of the values and goals implicit in this policy, that they understand their roles in achieving these goals, and that they have the necessary knowledge and skills to do so by providing appropriate training.

Contractors, suppliers and customers

We will require that services provided by contractors comply with MTO environmental standards.

We will strive to include environmental considerations in our procurement decisions.

We will expect of contractors, suppliers and customers to apply and enforce adequate Environmental management measures within their own operations.

Audits and reports

We will conduct Environmental and other relevant audits of all our forestry and processing operations and activities on at least a biennial cycle and will periodically publish a report of our environmental performance.

MTO does not harvest trees from indigenous forests.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Woodbridge'.

10 July 2024

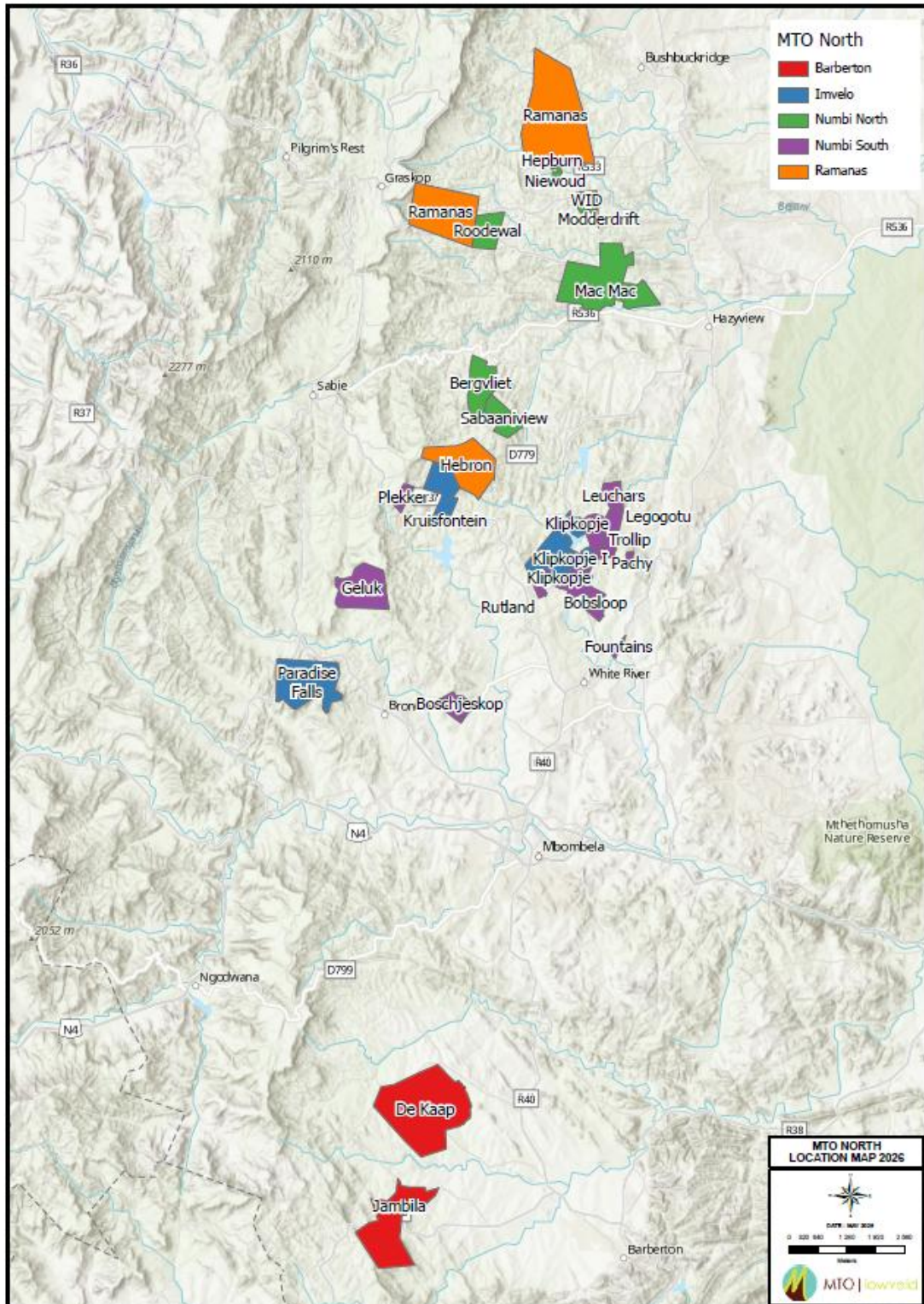
Signed: Mr G. WOODBRIDGE (Group Chief Executive Officer)

Date

2. General property description and Location

2.1 Location of Plantation Areas

The map below depicts the various farms that make up the MTO Lowveld, Ramanas Farms, and Imvelo Forests entities, as well as the relative locations of the different MTO North Plantations.



2.2 Summarised Property Detail for MTO North

MTO North (including MTO Lowveld, Ramanas Farms, and Imvelo Forests) covers 30,679 hectares in total.

The map above shows the details of the various farm units that make up the MTO Lowveld, Ramanas Farms, and Imvelo Forests entities, as well as the relative locations of these MTO North Plantations.

Detailed information regarding the size (in hectares) of the different farm units is available upon request from the MTO North Planning Department.

2.3 Exclusions from the FSC-certified Forestry Management Unit

The only exclusion from the FSC-certified Forest Management Unit for MTO North is the leased farm Geluk. Details regarding this farm are available upon request from the MTO North Planning Department.

2.4 Land Use

The summary of the respective land use in hectares as of 30 September 2025 for MTO Lowveld, Ramanas Farms, and Imvelo Forests is shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1: MTO North land use

Landuse	MTO Lowveld	Ramanas Farms	Imvelo Forest	Total (ha)
Macadamia Planted	139	0	228	367
Macadamia TUP	11	0	0	112
Macadamia Total	251	0	228	479
Forestry Planted	9 302	5 084	2 719	17 105
Forestry Unplanted	1 254	482	253	1 989
Forestry Plantable	10 556	5 566	2 972	19 094
Total Commercial	10 807	5 566	3 200	19 573
Conservation Area	5 528	2 514	1 300	9 342
Fire Protection	411	77	180	668
Maintained	238	27	51	316
Utility	2			2
Others (Incl Roads)	585	163	29	777
Total non-commercial	6 764	2 781	1 560	11 105
Total	17 571	8 347	4 760	30 678

2.5 Brief description of the Plantation Management Areas

The MTO North landholdings is divided into five Management Areas namely Imvelo, Barberton, Numbi South, Numbi North and Ramanas.

Table 2 below indicates the grouping of farms into plantations and plantations into Forestry Estates.

Table 2: MTO North farm grouping into Divisions

Division	Estate	Farm
Imvelo	Imvelo	Klipkopje I
		Klipkopje P
		Kruisfontein
		Paradise Falls
MTO Lowveld	Barberton	De kaap
		Jambila
	Numbi North	Bergvliet
		Hepburn
		Mac Mac
		Modderdrift
		Niewoud
		Roodewal
		Sabaaniview
		Wid
	Numbi South	Bobsloop
		Boschjeskop
		Fountains
		Geluk (Lease)
		Legogotu
		Leuchars
		Pachy
		Plekker
		Rutland
		Trollip
Ramanas	Ramanas	Hebron
		Ramanas

The information below provides a brief overview of the natural characteristics of the various management areas of MTO North.

Barberton Area

The Barberton area lies within the Barberton Mountain Land (BML), also known as the Barberton Greenstone Belt or the Barberton Super Group Geological Formation. Its varied geology produces steeply incised mountainous terrain. The hills are rocky, with moist grassy uplands and forested valleys. Altitudes range from 600 to 1800 meters above mean sea level.

Rainfall in the Barberton area ranges from 755 to 1200 mm per annum, with an average annual rainfall of around 700 mm. On average, 80% of the annual rainfall occurs between November and March. During this period, rain falls mainly as thunderstorms and sporadic showers. Hail can be expected. Mist may be experienced in the higher-altitude areas. Temperatures can range from about 16 °C to 32 °C, but the mean annual temperature is about 24 °C in the area.

The Barberton valley is predominantly composed of Nelspruit Suite Granites and Granodiorites intruded by younger dolerite and diabase dykes, in contact with Dolomites and limestones overlain by Norites, Anorthosites, and Gabbros. The soil types present include orthic phase (Hutton, Griffin, Clovelly forms), humic phase (Inanda form), damp to wet-based soils (Avalon, Westleigh), soils with E horizons (Longlands, Wasbank), and shallow soils (Glenrosa and Mispah).

Numbi South - White River Area (including parts of Imvelo Forests)

The White River Area receives rainfall ranging from 850 to 1200 mm per annum. On average, 80% of the annual rainfall occurs between November and March. During this period, rain falls mainly as thunderstorms and sporadic showers. Hail can be expected. Mist may occur in higher-altitude areas. Temperatures can range from about 4 °C to 43 °C, but the mean annual temperature is about 18 °C in the area.

The White River Area is predominantly composed of Nelspruit Suite Granites and Granodiorites intruded by younger dolerite and diabase dykes, in contact with Dolomites and limestones, overlain by Norites, Anorthosites, and Gabbros. The soil types present are orthic phase (Hutton, Griffin, Clovelly forms), humic phase (Inanda form), damp to wet-based soils (Avalon, Westleigh), soils with E horizons (Longlands, Wasbank), and shallow soils (Glenrosa and Mispah).

Numbi North - Hazyview Area

The Hazyview Area is situated in the central/eastern part of Mpumalanga between the towns of Hazyview – Graskop and Sabie.

The surrounding land use is timber and pulp production, with mixed subtropical fruit farming between the plantations. The topography is dominated by the northwestern-to-southeastern Drakensberg escarpment, which ranges from 670 to 1225 masl. Along the escarpment, there are a number of east-west ridges at regular intervals, separated by incised valleys.

The soils of the Sour Lowveld Bushveld and the Mixed Lowveld Bushveld are predominantly moderate to deep, sandy to sandy loam in the uplands, and clayey with a strong structure in the lower-lying areas. These are derived from gneisses and granites. Along the North-eastern Mountain Grassland biome, the soils are mostly shallow lithosols derived from a variety of rock types.

The Hazyview Area lies within a transitional zone between the Northeastern Mountain Sourveld, the Lowveld Sour Bushveld, and the Lowveld veld types.

The dominant vegetation types are thicket and riparian vegetation. The steep upper drainage areas consist of pioneer forest patches and thickets, while the lower-lying areas are dominated by open shrubland and woodland, as well as wetlands. Wetlands are dominated by Phragmites, hydric grasses, and sedge species.

Ramanas

The region receives approximately 1300 mm of rainfall per annum, which is highly suitable for growing Eucalyptus species at these altitudes. It is a typical summer-rainfall area, with most rainfall occurring between October and April. The months May to September are generally dry.

The following soil types were identified in the Ramanas area:

- Plinthic soil;
- Alluvial soils that are poorly drained;
- Neocutanic soils, which are generally good for forestry, but due to flood hazards and wetness, they become sub-optimal for forestry;
- Rocky lithosol.

The Hebron area has granite outcrops which are not forested, and planted areas are mostly decomposed granite with red clay.

3. Environmental and Social Risks, Values and Safeguards

3.1 Environmental Risks and Values

Risks are an inevitable part of forestry. Within the MTO North context, fire, drought, hail, and insect damage are the most significant risk factors. The risks of drought, hail, and insect damage are being addressed through improved site-species matching and a site classification system that accounts for these risks.

The following elements of the biophysical and human environment are referred to as Environmental Values:

- a. ecosystem functions (including carbon sequestration and storage)
- b. biological diversity
- c. water resources
- d. soil
- e. atmosphere
- f. landscape values (including cultural and spiritual values).

MTO strives to protect these environmental values by conducting risk assessments and developing standards and procedures to minimize risk. Within the context of MTO North, fire, hail, drought, and insect damage are the most significant risk factors.

3.2 Social Risks and Values

An initial social risk assessment was conducted by an external specialist group. The Stakeholder Department has since made good progress in further developing this process.

Social values refer to the company's values and those that affect employees and the communities surrounding the company. MTO is committed to upholding the highest standards in employment practices, health and safety, stakeholder liaison, and the use of benefits from the forest. MTO strives to identify and implement safeguards by completing risk assessments and developing standards and procedures to minimize risk.

3.3 Environmental and Social Safeguards

MTO North has implemented the MTO Integrated Management System (IMS) to manage environmental and social risks. The IMS is accessed through the MTO SharePoint Platform.

The IMS outlines the minimum procedures that govern all company operations. This management system applies to all forestry operations at the plantation level and includes procedures for land use, non-timber forest products, harvesting, infrastructure, conservation management, planning, silviculture, and roads. These

procedures are based on an assessment of all potential environmental impacts of operations and aim to minimize these impacts through proper planning and control.

The IMS is designed to promote continual improvement through a system of planning, implementation, checking, correcting, and review. In implementing a management system, it is vital that it addresses all significant environmental aspects that forestry could affect. Operational procedures include environmental safeguards based on environmental impact assessments and on accepted South African forestry practice. The management system also ensures that all activities take legal requirements and national forestry standards into account as a minimum requirement.

3.4 Fire Protection

MTO Forestry North recognizes the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, Act No. 101 of 1998, as amended, as the overarching legislation informing and regulating Integrated Fire Management (IFM).

MTO North further acknowledges the increasing complexity and intensity of wildfire risk associated with climate variability, expanding development interfaces, changing fuel dynamics, prolonged drought periods, and extreme fire weather events. As such, MTO North remains committed to a proactive, integrated and collaborative approach to wildfire risk reduction and emergency response.

MTO North will continuously endeavor to maintain an appropriate balance between the three primary components of Integrated Fire Management, namely Fire Prevention, Fire Protection and Fire Suppression by:

- Proactively engaging with neighbours, stakeholders, communities, Fire Protection Associations (FPA's), local authorities and industry partners in order to create awareness of potential fire risks and to encourage shared responsibility in wildfire prevention and preparedness;
- Timeously detecting, reporting and actively participating in the suppression of all fires which may pose a threat to any MTO landholding, neighbouring property, community infrastructure, conservation area or strategic asset;
- Maintaining sufficient fire-fighting resources, trained personnel, equipment, aviation support arrangements and operational capacity relative to the risk profile and exposure of each management unit;
- Aligning and refining local fire readiness levels in relation to Fire Danger Index (FDI) forecasts, fuel load conditions, weather monitoring and prevailing operational risks in order to ensure rapid and coordinated response capability in accordance with approved Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's);
- Continuously training employees, contractors and fire personnel to conduct fire-fighting and prescribed burning operations aggressively, professionally and safely, while promoting a strong safety culture and zero-harm approach during all fire-related activities;
- Applying the principles of the Incident Command System (ICS) and unified command structures at fire incidents to improve operational coordination, communication, accountability and resource management across agencies and stakeholders;
- Conducting ongoing Fire Risk Assessments and strategic fire planning processes to identify, prioritise and mitigate significant fire hazards and operational vulnerabilities in order to reduce potential wildfire losses and business interruption risks;
- Identifying, developing and maintaining strategically located fuel reduction zones, buffer areas, tracer belts, access routes and fire breaks at both plantation and landscape level, in collaboration with neighbouring landowners and relevant FPA structures;
- Implementing responsible fuel load reduction strategies, including prescribed burning, post-harvest residue management, open-area burning, selective under-canopy burning and mechanical fuel reduction where appropriate and environmentally acceptable;
- Integrating fire risk reduction principles into all relevant forestry, agricultural, conservation, infrastructure and land management activities as part of a holistic Integrated Fire Management approach;
- Supporting local FPA's and regional fire coordination structures to improve collective fire preparedness, resource sharing, aerial fire-fighting coordination, communication systems and regional wildfire response capability for the benefit of all stakeholders;
- Promoting the use of appropriate technology, fire intelligence systems, weather monitoring platforms, GIS mapping, vehicle tracking, communication systems and other decision-support tools to strengthen wildfire preparedness, situational awareness and operational effectiveness;

- Continuously reviewing and improving fire management systems, operational readiness, emergency response procedures and post-fire recovery processes through lessons learned, audits, debriefs and stakeholder engagement; and
- Supporting community upliftment, awareness programs, and responsible environmental stewardship initiatives aimed at reducing unwanted ignitions, promoting safer land-use practices, and enhancing regional fire resilience.

4. Monitoring Change over time

Development, implementation, and follow-up of monitoring programs are essential for determining baseline information, detecting changes after a predetermined period, and monitoring and implementing appropriate management activities. In any effective management system, monitoring is essential. Monitoring ensures that standards are maintained and that continuous improvement occurs where needed.

A strategic monitoring program covering 2022 to 2026 for MTO North has been completed and is available on request. The program outlines priority monitoring for the next five years. In addition to this monitoring, the MTO management system includes systems that track daily forestry activities on the plantation, such as silvicultural and harvesting operations.

Long-term, goal-oriented, and systematic assessment of process trends is needed as part of a strategic monitoring program. Monitoring the impact of forestry across ecosystem and landscape levels, and within communities, is needed to track trends over time. Therefore, monitoring biodiversity patterns and processes, as well as specific species, forms the basis for developing the strategic monitoring program. The different levels at which this program is aimed at the MTO North plantations are shown in the table below.

The strategic ecosystem levels to be monitored under this monitoring program.

Level of monitoring	Description	Identified and Implemented Monitoring Programs
Environmental Monitoring		
Biodiversity pattern	Monitoring the extent, intactness and health of identified ecosystems such as forest, wetlands and grasslands.	☐ Priority Conservation Area Identification. ☐ Priority Conservation Area monitoring ☐ Habitat condition biomonitoring (using <i>Odonata</i> as indicators)
Biodiversity process	Monitoring the potential of the site to function as a biological corridor that will enable the movement of plants and animals over ecological time-scales (e.g. seasonal movement), evolutionary time-scales (population differentiation and diversification) and in response to anticipated anthropogenic climate change.	☐ Water Quality monitoring ☐ Erosion monitoring ☐ Weed eradication monitoring ☐ River crossing assessment
Species Monitoring	The monitoring of identified rare, threatened and endangered species to determine and manage the impacts of forestry on these species over time.	☐ General Fauna monitoring. ☐ Fish monitoring ☐ Red Data Species Monitoring.
Landscape scale Monitoring		
Fire Impacts	The monitoring of unplanned or wildfires. Documented records of past fires, which include: number of fires, extent of damage and examination of causes and analysis of trends	☐ Fire history monitoring.
Soil trend/growth monitoring	The long term monitoring of tree growth as a function of soil sustainability	☐ Long term growth trend monitoring.
Socio-economic monitoring		
Areas of Special Interest Monitoring	The monitoring of identified cultural and historical sites listed on plantations, to monitor their status	☐ Areas of Special Interest Program.

	over time, and prescribe management actions as necessary.	
Employment, Training and Contractor	Monitoring the long term employment, training and opportunities for contractors provided by the company	☐ Employment, Training and Contractor Monitoring.
Social and Economic development	Monitoring of provision of social economic development opportunities to communities.	☐ Socio-economic development monitoring.
Community engagement	Monitoring engagement with local communities.	☐ Community engagement monitoring.

The monitoring program is intended to provide sufficient information for informed decisions, but it must also be affordable and general enough to be implemented easily over time. Quantitative and qualitative site monitoring, fixed-point photo monitoring, and site-, habitat-, and species-specific monitoring protocols are all tools that will be considered when developing the strategic monitoring program for MTO North. Cost, the amount of information obtained, and the use of this information are also critical decision-making components.

Further details regarding the monitoring program are available upon request. This information is not included in this document, as it could be regarded as sensitive, especially given the current nationwide escalation in illegal hunting and illegal trading in protected species.

5. Environmental Management

5.1 Environmental Mapping

MTO North divides permanently unplanted areas into practical conservation units (open area codes) so they can be managed to conserve biodiversity. When delineating conservation units, consideration should be given to vegetation type, current weed status, and burning regimes. The review of the vegetation land mapping (VLC) using the standardized Environmental Conservation Data Base (ECDB) mapping procedure, along with a review of the open area numbers, began in the latter half of 2016, and the initial desk-top part of this work was completed in 2017. The ECDB Mapping project was completed by the last quarter of 2021.

In addition to the above, all open-area compartments were rated for weed status in 2018 and again in 2021. Although originally scheduled for 2020 (instead of 2021), the decision was taken to delay the weed rating assessments by one year due to the financial and other effects of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020. Weed rating assessments are now conducted annually.

Roads, streams and rivers are used to separate conservation units, as they provide an effective break for activities such as weed control and burning where necessary.

Assigning an open area status ensures that special management activities can be identified and integrated into the overall weeding and burning program for the plantation.

MTO North's conservation areas are areas that are considered worthy of protection for one or all of the following reasons:

- Ecological and species diversity considerations, including the presence of threatened, rare, or endangered fauna and flora species; areas of higher biodiversity; ecologically important areas such as wetlands, ecological corridors, and breeding sites; and areas with cultural importance.
- In line with the attributes determined by the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Plan.
- The size of an area plays an important part, as larger areas tend to support a greater number of habitats and may be easier to manage.
- Water requirements of downstream users.

- Aesthetic value of the site.

5.2 Conservation Management Plans

Following the acquisition of the areas comprising MTO North, the need to develop dedicated Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) for the respective Forest Management Areas was identified.

The main aim of a Conservation Management Plan is to guide and schedule conservation planning. The Conservation Management Plan should provide a summary of all important conservation areas and the requirements for managing them and must endeavor to coordinate and prescribe the long-term conservation actions for the entire non-commercial area.

Conservation working plans (action plans input into Microforest), which form part of the CMP, must prescribe effective management activities for conservation areas. Conservation work plans need to be flexible enough to adjust priorities in response to events such as fires and floods. For this reason, the CMP will be updated at least every 2-3 years and the conservation plan annually as part of Microforest updating.

CMPs are available on request by Stakeholders.

5.3 Priority Conservation Area / High Conservation Value

The Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency developed the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP) in 2014 (<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=c89fe9d818824974b23fbf91b2478479>). The main purpose of biodiversity sector plans is to ensure that the most recent, highest-quality spatial biodiversity information can be accessed and used to inform land-use and development planning, environmental assessments and authorizations, and natural resource management. A biodiversity sector plan achieves this by providing a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) map of terrestrial and freshwater areas that are important for conserving biodiversity patterns and ecological processes – these areas are called Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs). The CBA map delineates Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs), Ecological Support Areas (ESAs), Other Natural Areas (ONAs), Protected Areas (PAs) and areas that have been irreversibly modified from their natural state. Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) are areas that are required to meet biodiversity targets for species, ecosystems or ecological processes. These include:

- All areas required to meet biodiversity pattern targets and to ensure the continued existence and functioning of species and ecosystems, special habitats and species of conservation concern;
- Critically Endangered ecosystems; and
- Critical linkages (corridor 'pinch-points') to maintain connectivity.

CBAs are areas of high biodiversity value and need to be kept in as natural a state as possible, with no further loss of habitat or species. For this reason, these areas have been identified as Priority Conservation areas.

MTO North has assessed the biodiversity attributes of its plantations in conjunction with Dr. Mervyn Lotter from the MTPA, who overlayed the MTO shapefiles with that of the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Plan. These areas are again internally being assessed in 2026.

Following feedback from Dr. Lotter, a Priority Conservation Area (PCA) / High Conservation Value (HCV) has been identified at the Waterhoutboom section of Ramanas, which borders the Roodewal section of Mac Mac at the Hazyview plantation.

5.4 Fauna and Flora

Details of fauna and flora identified or expected to occur at the respective Forest Management Areas can be found in the CMPs for these Areas.

General fauna and flora monitoring should be viewed as a long-term action, and the information base will be expanded as additional information becomes available.

5.5 Identification of Red Data Species

Red Data species are considered rare or threatened with extinction according to IUCN criteria. Species listed in the Red Data List or the South African Threatened or Protected Species List (TOPS) are placed in categories that reflect their scarcity. Species may be classified as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, or Near Threatened. Identifying these species should be a priority, as those in areas where forestry could affect their survival will require additional management and protection to ensure their persistence. Using the known literature for South Africa (www.sanbi.org), the IUCN Red List (www.iucnredlist.org), and previous studies, a list of potential Red Data species has been compiled for each area.

5.7 Areas of Special Interest

Areas of Special Interest (ASIs) are areas on a plantation estate of cultural, historical, and archaeological interest, or sites that include outstanding natural features. These may include paleontological sites, archaeological sites, historical sites, structures, buildings and ruins, caves, waterfalls, scenic viewpoints, vegetation of historical or special interest, and graves.

MTO has identified numerous Areas of Special Interest (ASIs) throughout the respective Areas. Details of the ASIs can be found in the CMPs for the respective Areas.

5.8 Multiple Resource Use

Limited multiple resource use (MRU) and recreational uses occur. Historically, MRU included the collection of reeds (for sleeping mats), "Broomgrass" (for yard brooms), Mauritius thorn (for hoe and axe handles), and grass (for thatching). Plantation firewood collection is practiced by various local stakeholders, and permits are issued for this activity. Indigenous firewood collection is not allowed.

With the inclusion of Imvelo in the MTO North management and the MTO's focus on ecotourism, a network of mountain bike trails has been developed on the Imvelo MTO land in the White River area.

6. Stakeholder Relations and Management

6.1 Socio-economic Conditions

MTO North falls within the Mpumalanga Province. The table below depicts the relative percentage of the overall MTO North landholding per Local Municipality.

Local Municipality	Ward	% of Area
Mbombela	38	6.7
Mbombela	8	9.3
Mbombela	41	7.0
Mbombela	45	15.7
Thaba Chweu	10	24.9
Thaba Chweu	11	26.2
Bushbuckridge	9	10.2

The majority (51.1%) of the MTO North landholding falls within the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality.

According to the 2025 Municipal Capacity Assessment of the Municipal Demarcation Board (www.demarcation.org.za), the following socio-economic conditions prevail in the Thaba Chweu area:

- 109 223 people live in the area.
- The population makeup is 81.6% black, 14.5% white, and 3.2% Colored/Indian.
- The age structure of the population is 9.8% for the younger than 5-year category, 23.8 % for the 20-29-year category, 21.3% for the 20–29-year category, 40.2% for the 30-64-year category, and 4.8% for the 65 and older category.
- The male-female ratio of the population is 105 males per 100 females.
- The annual population growth is estimated at 4.2%
- Households with 1-2 members make up 62.5% of the population, while households with more than 5 people make up 8.9% of the population.
- The unemployment rate of the population is %. 28. The most significant employment sectors are Agriculture, Forestry, and hunting as the largest employment sector with 29.7%, followed by Wholesale and Retail of 16.01%, and Manufacturing with 13.7% employment, respectively.

A total of 38.7% of the MTO North landholding falls within the Mbombela Local Municipality. The Mbombela Local Municipality also hosts Mbombela, the capital of the Mpumalanga Province.

According to the 2025 Municipal Capacity Assessment of the Municipal Demarcation Board (www.demarcation.org.za) The following socioeconomic conditions prevail in the Mbombela area:

- 818.925 people live in the area.
- The population makeup is 89.2% black, 8.8 %white, and 1.8% Colored/Indian.
- The age structure of the population is 1.2% for the younger than 5-year category, 28.6 % for the 5–19-year category, 21.9% for the 20–29-year category, 34.1% for the 30-64-year category, and 4.1% for the 65 and older category.
- The male-female ratio of the population is 96 males per 100 females.

- The annual population growth is estimated at 27.5%
- Households with 1-2 members make up 45.7% of the population, while households with more than 5 persons make up 15.4% of the population.
- The unemployment rate of the population is 28.0%.
- The most significant employment sectors are Community & Social as the largest employment sector with 19.6%, followed by Wholesale & Retail with 18.0%, Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting with 13%, Manufacturing with 10.9% and Private Households with 10.6% employment respectively.

A total of 10.2% of the MTO North landholding falls within the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality. According to the 2018 Municipal Capacity Assessment of the Municipal Demarcation Board (www.demarcation.org.za), the following socio-economic conditions prevail in the Bushbuckridge area:

- 750 821 people live in the area.
- The population makeup is 99.6% black, 0.2 %white, and 0.2% Colored/Indian.
- The age structure of the population is 13.0% for those under 5 years, 36.5% for those 5-19 years, 18.4% for those 20-29 years, 26.7% for those 30-64 years, and 5.1% for those 65 and older.
- The male-female ratio of the population is 83 males per 100 females.
- The annual population growth is estimated at 7.3%
- Households with 1-2 members make up 36.2% of the population, while households with more than 5 people make up 22.7% of the population.
- The unemployment rate of the population is %. 52%
- The most significant employment sectors are Community & Social as the largest employment sector with 34.3%, followed by Wholesale & Retail with 16.0%, Private Households with 9.6%, and "Other" as 8.8% employment respectively.

6.2 Profile of Adjacent Land

Due to the fragmented nature of the MTO North landholdings, the adjacent land consists of a wide range of owners and land uses. The adjacent land can be divided into forestry areas of other forestry companies, commercial and smaller farms with private ownership, farm land occupied by land claimants, small and large communities, and settlement areas/townships that are part of Municipal areas.

The Conservation Management Plan for each Forest Management Area provides further detail on the profile of adjacent land use.

6.3 Social Performance Policy and Framework

In 2016, MTO Forestry embarked on a comprehensive and inclusive process to redesign the organization's standards and approach to identifying and engaging with its internal and external Stakeholders.

The Social Performance Policy, as stated below, clearly outlines the organization's commitment in this regard:

Social Performance Policy

MTO seeks to build healthy, lasting relationships through active engagement with its stakeholders.

MTO aims to avoid impacting negatively on its internal and external stakeholders. Where such impacts are unavoidable, MTO will put in place measures to minimize, mitigate and monitor these impacts.

MTO is committed to bringing benefit to the local areas where we operate. MTO recognises and respects the responsibilities of government, civil society and the private sector in community development and well being.

MTO respects the human rights of all individuals.

Through all our activities, MTO aims to enhance community support for our operations.



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6.4 Stakeholder Engagement

As an outcome of a Social Performance Framework work session conducted in 2016, a review of Stakeholders of the respective Forest management Areas were done and the Stakeholders were rated in terms of their respective importance and the urgency required in engaging with them through a suitable formal communication forum.

The above process included the full range of local Stakeholders, ranging from neighbours to neighbouring communities, land claimants, etc.

With the assistance of the MTO Stakeholder Relations Manager, several meetings were scheduled and held with stakeholders, and good progress has been made in building long-term relationships to address and manage mutual concerns, impacts, and challenges.

MTO North has made good progress through meaningful engagement with both local and national government, political leaders, and traditional leaders in the areas surrounding our plantations, and good results are expected from these engagements.

Regarding community engagement, the challenges we face largely stem from our relatively small farms, which are often surrounded by "communities" that span vast areas and include millions of people (e.g., Bushbuckridge). By engaging with the higher-level Stakeholders mentioned in the paragraph above and integrating our engagements, we aim to best define where our engagements with neighboring communities will be most effective and meaningful. The company has also developed a formal grievance procedure that the community can use to resolve disputes.

6.5 Local Employment

MTO North employs approximately 413 people directly and another 596 through forestry contracting positions. All staff receive employment contracts, and contracts are signed with service providers who assist with harvesting and silvicultural operations. Staff is notably drawn from the local area, and MTO North strives to provide jobs in the local economy, either directly or indirectly through contractors and downstream processing.

The table below shows the employment and training details for MTO North.

The table shows the employment numbers for MTO North.

Employment Numbers	Total
Men	296
Women	211
Number of Own Employees	507
Number of Contractors	9
Number of Contractor workers	596
Total number employed	1112

The table below shows the training provided by MTO North to Own and Contractor teams in 2025.

Number of Own and Contractors trained	Total
Men	453
Women	155
Number Own employees trained	608
Men	227
Women	143
Number of Contractors trained	370
Total numbers Trained	978

7. Growing Stock

7.1 Species/Hybrids Distribution and Introduction of Species/Hybrids

Table 3 below lists species and the area planted to each species for MTO North. MTO North's growing stock is dominated by *Eucalyptus grandis* x *urophylla* hybrids, with *Eucalyptus grandis* the next most widely planted species (Figure 1). More details on the species and hybrids planted per division are available in the respective Forest Management Plans for MTO Lowveld, Ramanas, and Imvelo Forests.

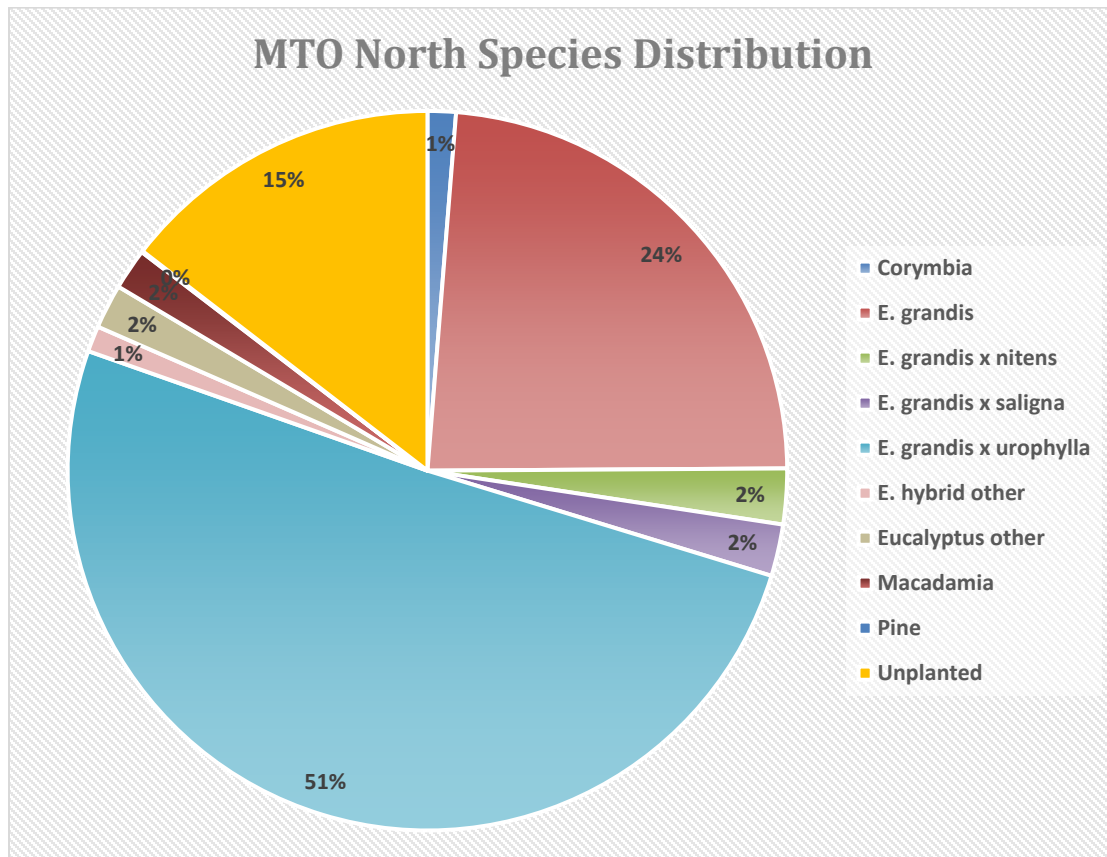


Figure 1 MTO North species distribution.

The presence of *Leptocybe invasa* (the gall wasp) causes galling on the leaves of a variety of *Eucalyptus* species, hybrids, and clones. This wasp can cause considerable damage, especially to *Eucalyptus grandis* seedlings and even more so to *Eucalyptus grandis* coppiced young stands. Where plantations are heavily infested, growth is stunted and tree mortality may be severe.

Glycaspis brimblecombei (red gum lerp psyllid) is another pest that attacks *Eucalyptus* species, especially *E. grandis* × *E. camaldulensis* in the Barberton area. Replanting of affected compartments is done with disease-resistant species, hybrids, or clones.

Species selection (including hybrids and clones) is crucial to the sustainable growth of *Eucalyptus* plantations.

7.2 Growing Sites at MTO North

There is considerable variation in geographic environments across MTO North sites due to a large altitude range, from 600 to 1,400 m, corresponding to mean annual temperatures of 16 to 21 °C. The climate, therefore, ranges from warm temperate to subtropical. Mean annual precipitation (MAP) ranges from as low as 750 mm per annum at the eastern edge of Mac Mac plantation (Hazyview) to over 1250 mm at Jambila (Barberton).

Frost is relatively infrequent across the entire range of plantations and occurs only in deeper valleys with standing water. In most plantations, a considerable range of soils is encountered, from very deep red apedal soils to shallow soils with rocky outcrops. The best sites are in the warm temperate area (MAP 16 – 20 °C) with high rainfall (> 1 100 mm) and deep red apedal soils, whereas the most challenging sites are sub-tropical, lower-altitude sites with low MAP (< 900 mm). On such sites, soil depth plays a critical role in reducing the risk to the plantation crop. It is also important to understand that on poorer, hotter sites with low MAP, it is likely that sites will receive less than half the MAP in a single year during a typical 10-year rotation.

The broad criteria and actions for site species matching will be as follows:

The wide range of growing sites makes site species matching important. Tree species suitable for poles in this climatic range are *E. grandis*, *E. cloeziana*, *C. henryi*, *C. maculata*, and *C. citriodora* ssp. *variegata*. Suitable hybrids include *E. grandis* × *urophylla*, *E. saligna* × *urophylla*, and combinations thereof. The increasing prevalence of gall wasp and the higher growth rates of hybrids mean that alternative species need to be planted. Where *E. grandis* is the best species, care must be taken to ensure that preventative measures are put in place. The following preventative measures can be applied:

- Plant gall wasp and fire-resilient species, such as those of the *Corymbia* species and *E. cloeziana*, closer to boundaries where gall wasp hotspots are located, e.g., unmanaged areas with large areas.
- *E. grandis* hybrids are matched to sites, e.g., more demanding clones to wetter sites and more drought-tolerant clones to drier, hotter sites.
- Planting of *E. grandis*, particularly at low altitudes < 900 m, should be avoided.
- To increase the diversity of hybrid clones being planted. At least 5 hybrid clones should be deployed in any one region and year.
- Winter planting has produced good results in low infestation areas to ensure plants are well established once *Leptocybe* sets in in summer.

7.3 Working Circles

Details of the MTO North working circles are available from the respective Forest Management Plans for MTO Lowveld, Ramanas, and Imvelo Forests.

The plan is to phase out the Pine Sawlog (PS) and Eucalyptus Biomass (EB) working circles and continue only with the new Working Circles based on the Site Qualities. These are EA (Eucalyptus Average) for medium Site Qualities (SQ 3 & 4), EH (Eucalyptus High) for high potential Site Qualities (SQ 1 & 2) and EW (Eucalyptus Weak) for poor Site Qualities. Sites were also identified for a new Working Circle for Eucalyptus Saw and Veneer logs (EV). Planting genetically improved material specifically matched to the site will be done during the conversion process.

There is a wide range in growing sites in MTO North sites due to the large range in altitude between 600 and 1,400 m, corresponding to mean annual temperatures of between 16 and 21 °C. The climate ranges from warm temperate to sub-tropical. Mean annual precipitation is as low as 750 mm per annum at the eastern edge of Mac Mac plantation to over 1250 mm at Jambila.

A considerable range of soils is encountered, from very deep red apedal soils to shallow soils with rocky outcrops. The best sites are those in the warm temperate area (MAT 16–20°C) with high rainfall (>1 100 mm) and deep red apedal soils, whereas the most challenging sites are subtropical, lower-altitude sites with low MAP (<900 mm).

8. Silviculture Management

8.1 Reforestation and Afforestation

Details of the MTO North reforestation and afforestation are available from the respective Forest Management Plans for MTO Lowveld, Ramanas and Imvelo Forests.

8.2 Establishment

Planting should be done within 6 months after harvesting. Planting can be done throughout the year if there is adequate rainfall and no history of frost. When planting is done without adequate rainfall, watering (minimum of 4 L/plant) or the application of water-absorbent materials that are FSC-compliant should be employed.

Planting spacing will be at 3.0m x 3.0 m (1 111 spha) for clones and seedlings for Eucalyptus Average (EA), Eucalyptus High (EH), and Eucalyptus Veneer) EV working circles. Planting espacement will be 3.0 m x 2.5 m (1 333 spha) for clones and seedlings for the Eucalyptus Weak (EW) working circle. All the seedlings/cuttings will be from improved genetic material sourced from Ezigro Nursery or any other SGASA-certified nursery if the latter cannot supply.

All compartments allocated to the EW working circle and planted at an initial spacing of 1,333 spha will be considered for a coppice rotation. A coppice assessment will be conducted to determine whether at least 1 100 live stumps are present. Compartments will only be coppiced once and then replanted.

The temporarily unplanted area (TUP) as of the end of 2025 is 8.5% for MTO Lowveld, 9% for Ramanas, and 10.3% for Imvelo.

Details of the MTO North TUP target are available from the respective Forest Management Plans for MTO Lowveld, Ramanas, and Imvelo Forests.

8.3 Silviculture Regimes

A new growing strategy to optimise productivity at MTO North was implemented in 2018. The strategy aims to fully unlock the high potential of the growing sites whilst maintaining and ensuring a degree of flexibility to cater to a range of identified markets.

The working circles are assigned to cater to the following Site Qualities.

- EV (Eucalyptus Veneer and saw logs) (SQ 1)
- EH (Eucalyptus High) for High Site Qualities (SQ 1 & 2)
- EA (Eucalyptus Average) for Medium Site Qualities (SQ 3 & 4)
- EW (Eucalyptus Weak) for Poor Site Qualities (SQ 5)

Details of the MTO North Silviculture regimes for the various working circles are available from the respective Forest Management Plans for MTO Lowveld, Ramanas and Imvelo Forests.

8.4 Weeding

The objective of weeding is to minimize the occurrence of weeds over time, to optimise land use, reduce fuel load and promote forest hygiene and access. It should be done safely and in such a way as to improve the quality of the final product, and productivity of resources, whilst mitigating the impacts of these operations on the environment.

Biological control agents, sourced from the Agriculture Research Council Plant Protection Research Institute, where available and effective, should be used in the control of weeds. Where this does not prove to be feasible or effective, a combination of biological and chemical treatment should be considered. The use of chemicals must be limited and applied as part of the Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) and associated procedures/checklists.

Only chemicals not on the FSC® highly hazardous list, as per the latest approved TIPWG list, will be used for chemical treatment.

In accordance with the IPM and the Chemical Checklist, due consideration should be given to mechanical and other non-chemical weed control methods.

The main purpose of weeding in commercial compartments with trees that are less than 3 years old, is to eradicate weeds around the trees. After 4 years, the purpose is to suppress the weeds and also reduce fuel load to reduce fire damage to standing trees in the event of fire.

The strategy and approach towards prioritizing weed control work in the non-commercial areas, is detailed in The Weed Control Strategy In Open Areas.

For the purposes of comparison and assessing progress with the weed control programme, the significant difference in the total hectares that were rated/assessed between 2016 (4269.5) and 2018 (8264.3) is somewhat problematic. The main contributor to this is the fact that Ramanas was not part of the MTO managed area in 2016. The Barberton ratings for 2016 (956.7ha) and 2018 (2006.8ha) makes up the balance of the difference in hectares between 2016 and 2018 weed ratings. The 2018 weed ratings are therefore considered as the baseline from which MTO Lowveld will measure progress with the weed control programme for its Conservation Areas. Concurrently, the same weed rating system is applied to the commercial areas and this information is available to management from the Planning Department.

Given the context of the above paragraph, good progress was made from 2018 to 2020. The onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic in February 2020 had a very negative effect on MTO North's cash flow.. Funding for weed control in open areas was prioritised between 2020-2021. This is reflected in the table below. Weed control funding has since normalised.

Percentage of commercial area in maintenance phase										
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Maintenance %	30%	45%	48%	52%	56%	47%	47%	58%	56%	62%
Percentage of non-commercial area maintenance phase										
Maintenance %	45%	33%	42%	45%	43%	39%	37%	38%	41%	41%

9. Yield Regulation

9.1 Data, processing and Assumptions Used in Determining Annual Rate of Harvest

The Microforest Plantation Management System is used to generate the timber supply schedules. Microforest is a commercially available system used by most forestry organizations in southern, east and central Africa and some countries in Asia. The system is not regarded as 'off-the-shelf' as customers are responsible for loading and configuring their own data, maps, growth models and other planning system parameters.

MTO North employs a dedicated team of people responsible for maintaining the Microforest database, including spatial data (maps) and a continuous enumeration program. All foresters and operational staff have access to the system, ensuring that the database is an accurate reflection of the actual growing stock.

Microforest utilizes a multi-component growth and yield system (HSS) to estimate future log volumes. The motivation behind this type of system is to obtain the best possible yield estimates from the most easily measured or estimated stand characteristics. Estimates are generally more accurate when enumeration data is available. Direct estimates, based on Site Index (dominant height at 10 years of age) are used in compartments for which inventory data is not available.

Microforest utilizes the most recent enumeration result from each compartment for model calibration, ensuring an accurate prediction of yield and log product quantities that are sensitive to variations in survival, site quality and treatments.

9.2 Monitoring Growth and Yield Modeling

The growth and yield modeling is of critical importance to the whole forest planning process, the determination of harvesting volumes, product quality and long-term sustainability of the growing stock in the company. Measuring actual versus predicted and enumerated volumes are used to test the growth and yield models.

9.3 Enumeration

The precision of volume predictions cannot at present cater for all variables and dynamic growth patterns influenced by the interactions of silviculture, climate, site quality, pest and diseases. To therefore refine the data further, intensive enumeration is also taking place, especially after every thinning to verify data.

Enumeration of part of the growing stock is a systematic and statistically acceptable manner to verify and ensure that predicted and actual growing stock volumes corresponds with acceptable levels of reliability and precision.

The benchmark for a forest resource planning process requires the overall precision (margin of error) to be within 10% with reliability of 95%. Compartments within the different working circle (WC) should be enumerated based on the number of thinning prescriptions required. In compartments where enumerations have not yet taken place, the prediction is based on a theoretical site index. Upon receiving an enumeration result, the new site index is used to predict future growth.

Details of the MTO North enumeration regime is available from the respective Forest Management Plans for MTO Lowveld, Ramanas and Imvelo Forests.

The enumeration policy adopted by MTO North is to measure 90% of compartments before thinning or scheduled clear-felling in any particular year. If not done, the reason for omission must be approved by the

Planning Department. However, where enumeration can compromise safety of personnel, these compartments have been exempted from this standard.

In order to measure the accuracy and reliability of the growing stock estimate, the actual harvested volumes are compared to the predicted volumes. This process must be reported on at least every quarter.

9.4 Estimating Future Yields Based on Site Productivity Potential

The average site index (SI) for each Working Cycle (WC) is used as a simple check to estimate the upper end of potential yield. This is done under the assumption that:

- Age class distributions are normal (no damage events).
- The plantable area is fully utilized.
- All stands are fully stocked and receive good silviculture.
- Pest and disease damage is minimal.
- Optimum species matching for all plantations.

The *Eucalyptus grandis* model was used to calculate the expected UMAI for each WC, based on the average SI10 and standard prescriptions.

Details of the potential yield for MTO North is available from the respective Forest Management Plans for MTO Lowveld, Ramanas and Imvelo Forests.

9.5 Verifying Plantation Yields

The management of plantation yields is done during post harvesting inspections. The products sold are recorded and compared to predictions. Where there is a deviation between the predicted and the actual volumes of more than 30%, an investigation is done to determine the reasons causing this deviation.

10. Volume Forecasts and Rationale for Rate of Annual Harvest

10.1 Area Age Class

Details of the area age class distribution for MTO North is available from the respective Forest Management Plans for MTO Lowveld, Ramanas and Imvelo Forests.

10.2 Yield Prediction and Regulation

Details of the yield prediction and regulation for MTO North is available from the respective Forest Management Plans for MTO Lowveld, Ramanas and Imvelo Forests.

11. Harvesting Systems and Roads

11.1 Harvesting Systems

Harvesting is done by harvesting contractors as well as internal "Own Operations". MTO North typically uses a ground-based harvesting system whereby motorised manual felling is carried out by chainsaw operators. Extraction is mostly done by cable and grapple Skidders, and in some cases where possible, by Bell 3-wheelers and by adapted agricultural tractors.

During 2016, a mechanised harvesting system was temporarily introduced at Ramanas for transmission pole products.

The choice of system is based on a combination of factors, including but not limited to slope, terrain conditions, soil type (sensitivity to disturbance), log size and grade, yarding/skidding distance, and piece size. The standards, as included in the Forest Engineering South Africa (FESA) systems and procedures, are followed. Value and market requirements drive decision-making. Consideration is given to compartments that can be worked in the wet and dry seasons. Road planning is also coordinated with harvesting schedules. Debarking is done by hand.

11.2 Forest Roads

MTO North has over 3 000 km of roads running through the plantations. It is imperative to establish a program to ensure regular monitoring and upkeep of roads and crossings. Roads and road maintenance are among the most important causes of siltation and erosion in forestry.

The company is currently busy with numbering all roads and standardizing the monitoring and management procedures using the Microforest system. As part of this process, the potential to close or re-route problematic roads, originally constructed too close to streams, or in highly erodible sites, will also be investigated.

12. Supporting Documents

MTO North has a complete set of spatial data information in its GIS system with the following layers:

- Cadastral information
- Farm boundaries
- Land use
 - Commercial compartments
 - Open areas including conservation
- Roads
- Soil data (excluding Ramanas, Waterhoutboom and Doornlaagte)
- Contours
- ASI (Area of Special Interest)
- Rivers
- Dams
- Infrastructure
- Powerlines
- Enumeration grid points

The above GIS information is used to produce the following maps (upon request, also available to Stakeholders)

- Stock maps
- Soil maps
- Harvesting maps
- Silviculture (Planting) maps
- Road maps
- APO maps
- Integrated fire management maps
- Conservation Maps

All data is stored in MicroForest (Database)

- Compartment information
- Annual plan of operations (APO)
 - Harvesting
 - Silviculture
 - Conservation

- Roads
 - Fire Protection
- ASI register

Other supporting documents are:

- IMS System Management Prescriptions and BOP's
- Fixed Assets Management Plan
- Annual Budgets

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