



Ref: 1/24/1

December 12, 2017

Dr. N.T Giba  
7 Circular Drive  
Paradise  
Knysna  
6570

To: Whom it may concern

**RE: Confirmation of the status of Timber Harvesting in the Forest of the Garden Route National Parks:**

Section 41 of the National Environment Management: Protected Areas act, (Act No 57 of 2003) gave existence to the Garden Route National Park and granted it the powers to manage the following areas,

- The formerly proclaimed Wilderness National Park.
- The Knysna National Lake Area\*
- The formerly proclaimed Tsitsikamma National Park.
- The indigenous forest areas and associated fynbos areas previously managed by the Department of Forestry (Farleigh-Diepwalde; and Tsitsikamma Forest Estates).

All indigenous and exotic timber harvested in these areas are done following the Senility Harvesting Criteria which aims to ensure that all harvesting is done in a well-managed and ecologically controlled manner. This is part of our ongoing natural forest management system that ensures that only specifically designated trees are felled. The felling method as well as the slipping methods are controlled to ensure minimal impact on the surrounding flora and erosion is controlled. Therefore, timber is harvested in a sustainable manner that seeks to conserve the forest.

Kwakhanyisa Co-operative was granted the rights by SANParks, through a Public Private Partnership agreement, to harvest and dispose the timber to the market for a period of 10 ("ten") years. This was done in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003(Act No. 57 of 2003) and the regulations promulgated in terms of that Act, SANParks is authorized under Section 50 of the said Act to carry out and allow commercial activities in a national park. This is also supported by Regulation 16.1 of the Public Finance Management Act (Act 1 of 1999). This agreement was done on the condition that Kwakhanyisa Co-operative continues to harvest following strict monitoring guidelines that will ensure sustainable harvesting of the resource.

SANParks is aware and has no objection to Kwakhanyisa entering into strategic partnerships with other entities. This includes the partnership that it has with Intlumisawano Co-operative that harvest and dispose of the harvested timber on behalf of Kwakhanyisa. This has been done in a legal and legitimate manner that is acceptable to SANParks.

Yours Faithfully



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