

# International Day of Forests

21 March



International Day of Forests is observed every year to celebrate forests of all kinds and create awareness about the importance of looking after them.

Forests are vital to the survival of the planet and are home to many species. They provide food, fuel, income, and employment, and they also help to mitigate climate change by storing carbon.

## Did you know?

Did you know that some types of trees are farmed to make paper and wood for things we use EVERY DAY?

Eucalyptus and pine trees are grown in nurseries until they are ready to plant in special forestry areas. Forestry companies look after the trees until they are big enough to harvest. This can take between 10-25 years!

There are 850 million trees farmed over 676 000 hectares that give us for wood for pulp, paper and packaging!

Each year, only 10% of all the farmed trees in South Africa are harvested. Harvested trees are replaced by new trees. This means there are lots of trees of different ages.

### What South Africa makes from wood

- Pulp
- Writing and printing paper
- Paper packaging
- Food and beverage cartons
- Paper cups
- Tissue and towel for home, away-from-home and industrial use
- Hygiene products
- Cellulose (dissolving woodpulp) for fabrics, foods, pharmaceutical products
- Sawn timber for furniture, flooring, decking, construction
- Engineered wood for construction
- Wood chips
- Poles
- Lignin
- Xylitol
- And many more...

We even use by-products and waste products from our processes as fuel, or convert them into bio-chemicals.

## WORD SEARCH

M N N C R Y F J L C G R E E M  
W C Y U W D Q S R R K Q O D K  
U N E W S P A P E R S G T O R  
J I O L U K E N I Z A G A M M  
F T F I S D E E M Q S P A B S  
Z I R U T W W L O C K K T Z R  
F S M S A A X V H J Q G Q E N  
N S I B I X T O Z U F I C I B  
P U L O N A O N Z C F Y C T L  
C E K X A L Q T A U C H U L Q  
C A R D B O A R D L U J D D V  
I W D O L D T R E E P J V E K  
T N O O E O W O C M N I R Z I  
B K J W N Z R K I C P B K D T  
V N S L S I C X S H J Y I S V

Can you find these words?

Bag	Book	Box	Cardboard
Carton	Cup	Magazine	Newspaper
Paper	Plantation	Recycle	Renewable
Schoolbook	Tissue	Tree	Wood

## Know the difference

### Deforestation

The cutting down of natural forests to make space for houses, shopping centres, factories and farms, or to use as firewood.

### Sustainable Forestry

The farming of trees, so that we always have wood to make houses, furniture, paper packaging, printing paper and even textiles.

## Why Forests and timber plantations are important?

### FORESTS AND PLANTATIONS ARE NATURE'S HOME

Forests are where many animals, birds, insects, and even tiny creatures live. They are homes for everything from teeny-tiny critters, furry and feathered friends, and even larger animals like elephants and leopards.

### FORESTS GIVE US FRESH AIR

Trees in clean the air by taking in carbon dioxide and giving us clean, fresh oxygen to breathe.

### FORESTS PROTECT OUR WATER

Forests help keep rivers, lakes, and streams clean, which is important for people, animals, and plants.

### TREES FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

Trees soak up carbon dioxide, helping the Earth stay cooler and healthier, and they keep the carbon locked up in the wood, even after the wood is turned into a house, a table or a book!

### FORESTS ARE FUN!

Forests are places to explore, hike, ride bikes, and learn about nature. They're like giant playgrounds!

### PLANTATIONS PROTECT INDIGENOUS FORESTS

By growing trees in plantations, we can use wood without cutting down our special indigenous trees.

### FORESTRY PROVIDES JOBS

There are so many jobs to be found in forestry - scientists, growing seedlings, planting and looking after the trees, harvesting and making products, and even accountants and truck drivers.

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