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**GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS**

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES****NO. 385****28 APRIL 2017****DECLARATION OF PHASE 2A OF THE OLIFANTS RIVER WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (ORWRDP) OFFSITE MITIGATION AREA AS A TEMPORARY PROTECTED WOODLAND UNDER SECTION 14 OF THE NATIONAL FORESTS ACT (No. 84 of 1998) AS AMENDED**

By virtue of powers vested in the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries under Section 14 of the National Forests Act, 1998, (Act No. 84 of 1998 - hereinafter referred to as "the Act") I, Avhashoni Renny Madula, Director: Forestry Regulation and Oversight, by delegated authority; hereby declare the Olifants River Water Resources Development Project Offsite Mitigation Area and associated land described hereunder as temporary protected woodland. Having noted the uncontrolled harvesting and destruction of woodland trees and noting the conservation value of the area in question; I am of the opinion that urgent temporary protection is necessary to preserve the conservation value of this area pending the preparations for its permanent protection.

**Description:** The area consists of mixed modified and unmodified woodland belonging mainly to the Sekhukhune Plains Bushveld (SVcb27) and Sekhukhune Mountain Bushveld (SVcb 28) woodland types. It incorporates land adjacent to the De Hoop dam, including land set aside as part of the ORWRDP off-site mitigation requirement as well as all land bought out by the State for the construction of the dam and private land falling within the general boundary of the farms mentioned below.

**Background:** The locality forms part of an area distinguished by high concentration of endemic plant species, the Sekhukhuneland Centre of Plant Endemism (SCPE) that incorporates approximately 2200 plant taxa. Within the Steelpoort Sub-centre of the SCPE, where this area is located, several new plant species have been discovered in recent years. The locality is designated a category one Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA-1); important, among other, for plant conservation to prevent the loss of unknown and unique genetic resources.

Location:	Limpopo Province, between Steelpoort and Roossenekal
Properties:	<p>The area protected includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All portions of the farm Buffelskloof 141 JS</li><li>• All portions of the farm Uitvlugt 887 KS</li><li>• Portions 4, 5, 6, 8 and 21 of the farm De Hoop 886 KS</li><li>• Portions 3, 8 and 13 of the farm Steelpoortpark 366 KT</li></ul>
Landownership:	State and Private
Magistrate District:	Lydenburg (1996)
District Municipality:	Sekhukhune – DC47 (2012)
Local Municipality:	Greater Elias Motsoaledi and Greater Tubatse (2012)
Period of Protection:	Section 14(5) of the National Forests Act determines that the temporary protection in terms of this declaration will lapse automatically after 12 months effective from the date of publication of this notice in the Government Gazette or if the area becomes permanently protected during this time.
Prohibitions:	<p>As determined in Sections 14(4) and 15(1) of the Act, read together with Section 2(1)(xxxvi) no person may:</p> <p>(a) cut, disturb, damage, destroy or remove any tree, including juvenile trees</p> <p>(b) collect, remove, transport, purchase, sell or donate any tree (including branches and other parts of trees)</p>
Penalties:	Any contravention of the above restrictions constitutes a first category offence in terms of Section 62(2)(c) of the Act. Offenders may be liable to a fine and /or up to five years prison sentence.

