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GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

NO. 1339

11 DECEMBER 2020

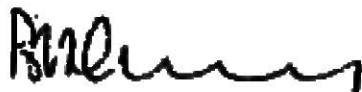
**NATIONAL FOREST ACT, 1998
(ACT NO. 84 OF 1998)****DECLARATION OF THE GREY DELL AND FORT GREY FORESTS AREAS AS A NATURAL FOREST UNDER SECTION 7(2) OF THE NATIONAL FORESTS ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 84 OF 1998)**

I, Barbara Dallas Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby declare, under section 7(2) of the National Forests Act, 1998 (Act No. 84 of 1998), to be a natural forest, all indigenous tree cover, in any stage of development, occurring on the indicated properties in the Grey Dell and Fort Grey Forests areas, set out in the Schedule hereto, with the incorporation of interspersed open land, degraded forest and planted forest serving as nursery crop.

Section 2(1) of the National Forest Act, 1998 (Act No. 84 of 1998) defines "forest" to include "the ecosystem which it makes up". It must be noted that the forest ecosystem on the indicated properties must be viewed as an integrated functioning ecosystem. These forests consist of a mosaic of degraded and well-developed intact primary natural forest belonging to the type: Scarp Forest (VEGMAP type: FOz 5) which is seamlessly intermingled with Buffels Thicket (VEGMAP type: AT 12) and Albany Coastal Belt Thicket (VEGMAP type: AT 9) with possible interspersed elements of Southern Afrotemperate Forest (VEGMAP type FOz 1). Furthermore, it is recognized that ecological interface exists between forest and natural open vegetation in proximity to extant forest cover, as well as the small pockets of plantation of exotic species that provide extended habitat for some forest fauna and a nursery forest stand.

The declaration is an urgent measure to prevent further deforestation due to illegal activities and to enable forest rehabilitation in the affected areas. Due to illegal activities on the affected land, some of the natural tree cover had been degraded, so that contiguous canopy cover may no longer exist in parts, whereas some areas previously wooded may also now be completely denuded as a result of deforestation. Degradation due to invasion of exotic species also occurs.

The areas and properties that fall within the scope of the declaration are thus viewed as an integrated functioning ecosystem, of which some parts have been degraded and deforested, and include all natural wooded land, interspersed open land and plantation patches on the designated properties.



**BARBARA DALLAS CREECY
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

SCHEDULE**Fort Grey / Grey Dell natural forest declared in terms of section 7(2) of the National Forests Act, 1998 (Act No. 84 of 1998)**

Location: Eastern Cape Province

Local Municipality: Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality

Properties included:

- Umtiza Nature Reserve
- Farm 853: Portions 3; 4; 5; 6; and 9
- Farm 856: Remainder
- Farm 857: Portion 0
- Farm 870: Portions 4; 8; and 9
- Farm 871: Remainder and Portion RE/1
- Farm 871: Portions 2; 3; 5; 6; 7; 9; 11; and 12
- Farm 872: Remainder
- Farm 875: Portions 3; 8; 10; 13; and 15
- Farm 875: Remainder
- Farm 1304
- Farm 1345: Portions 0 and 1
- Farm 1504

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