



# Finding the balance between modern silviculture and the need for socio economic upliftment in forestry dependent communities.

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**forestry, fisheries & the environment**  
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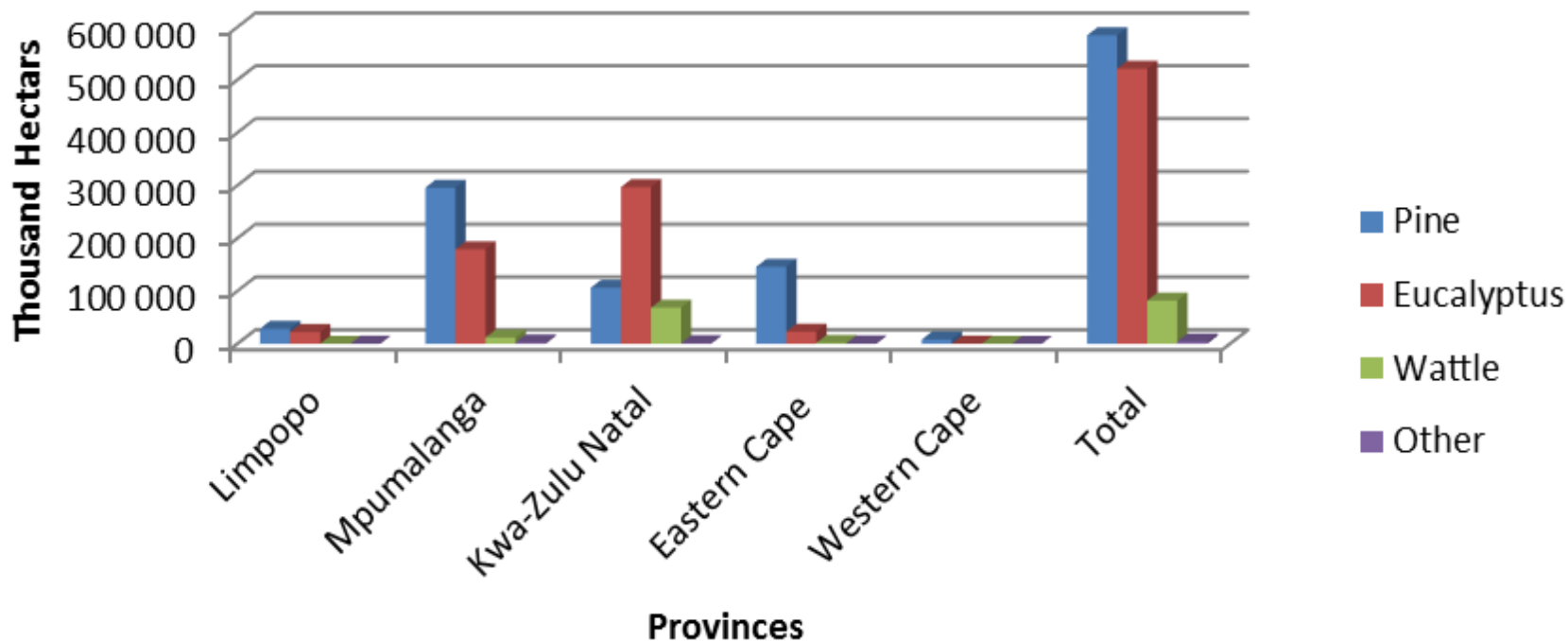


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# Geographical Distribution of Timber Species by Provinces

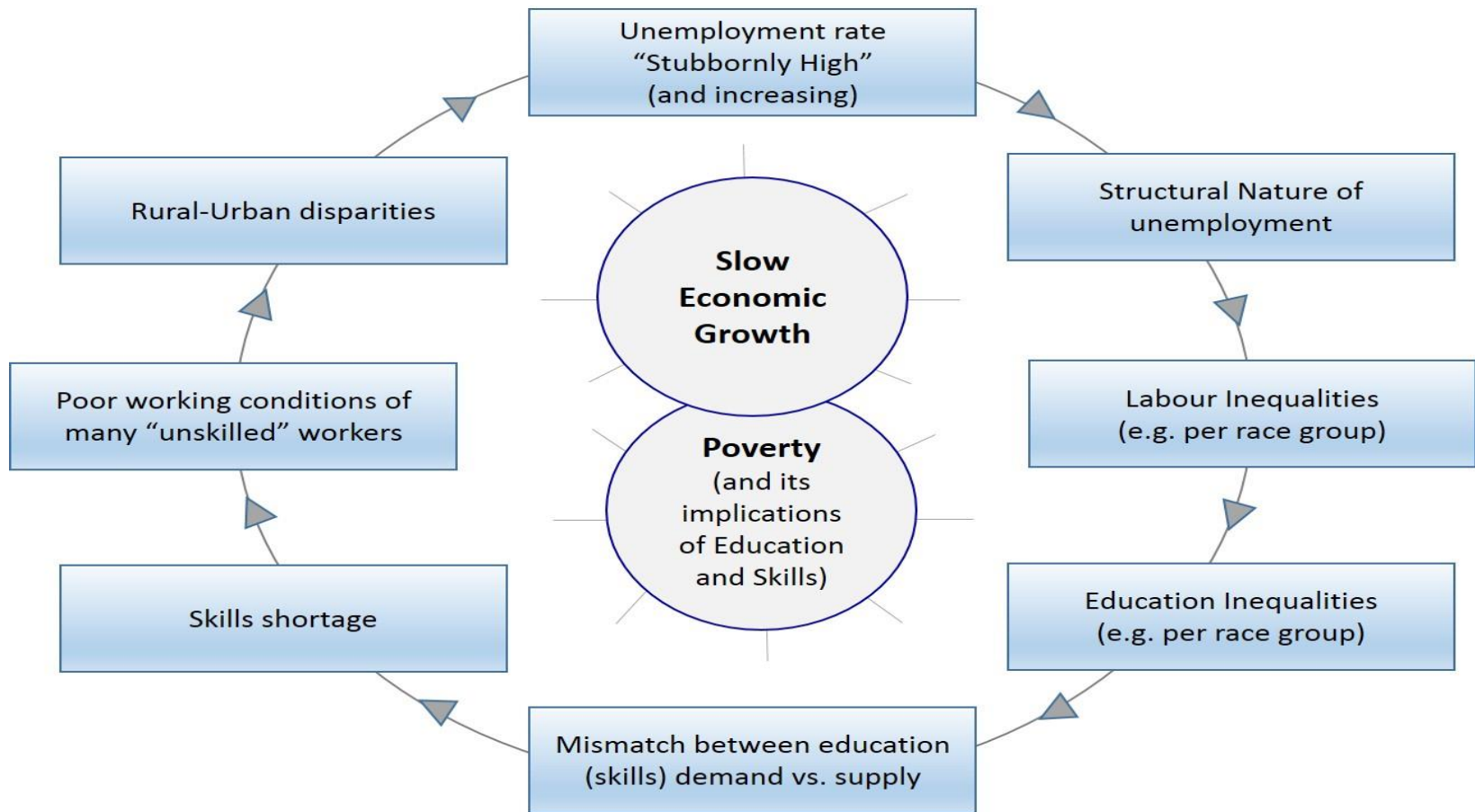


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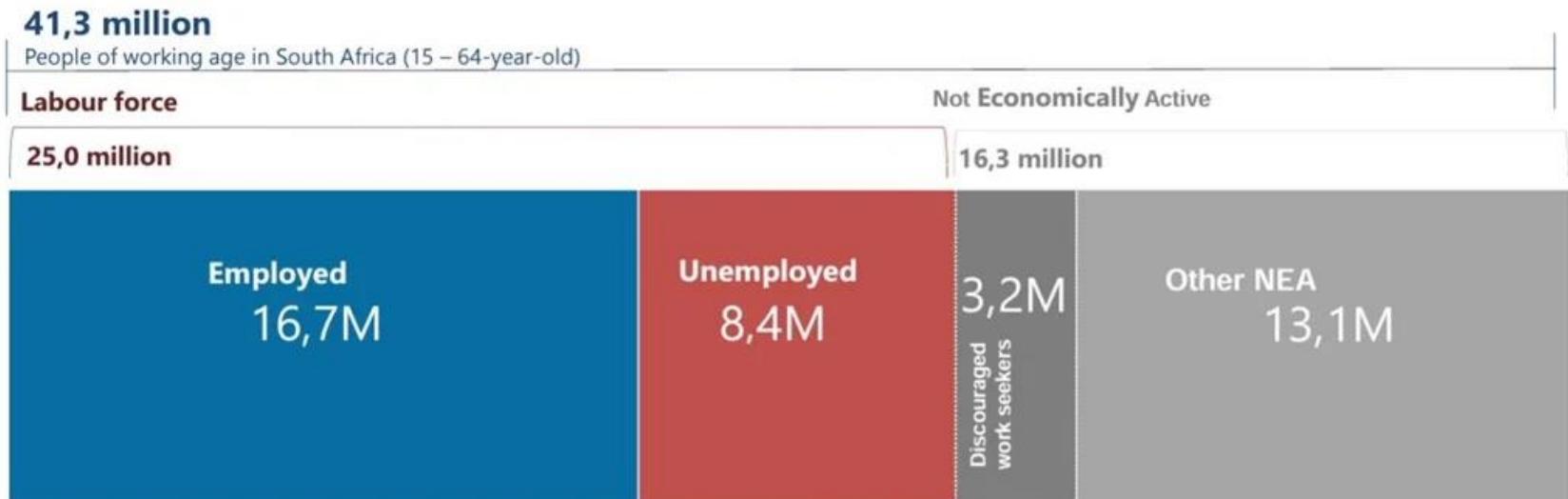


# Characterization of SA Rural Areas



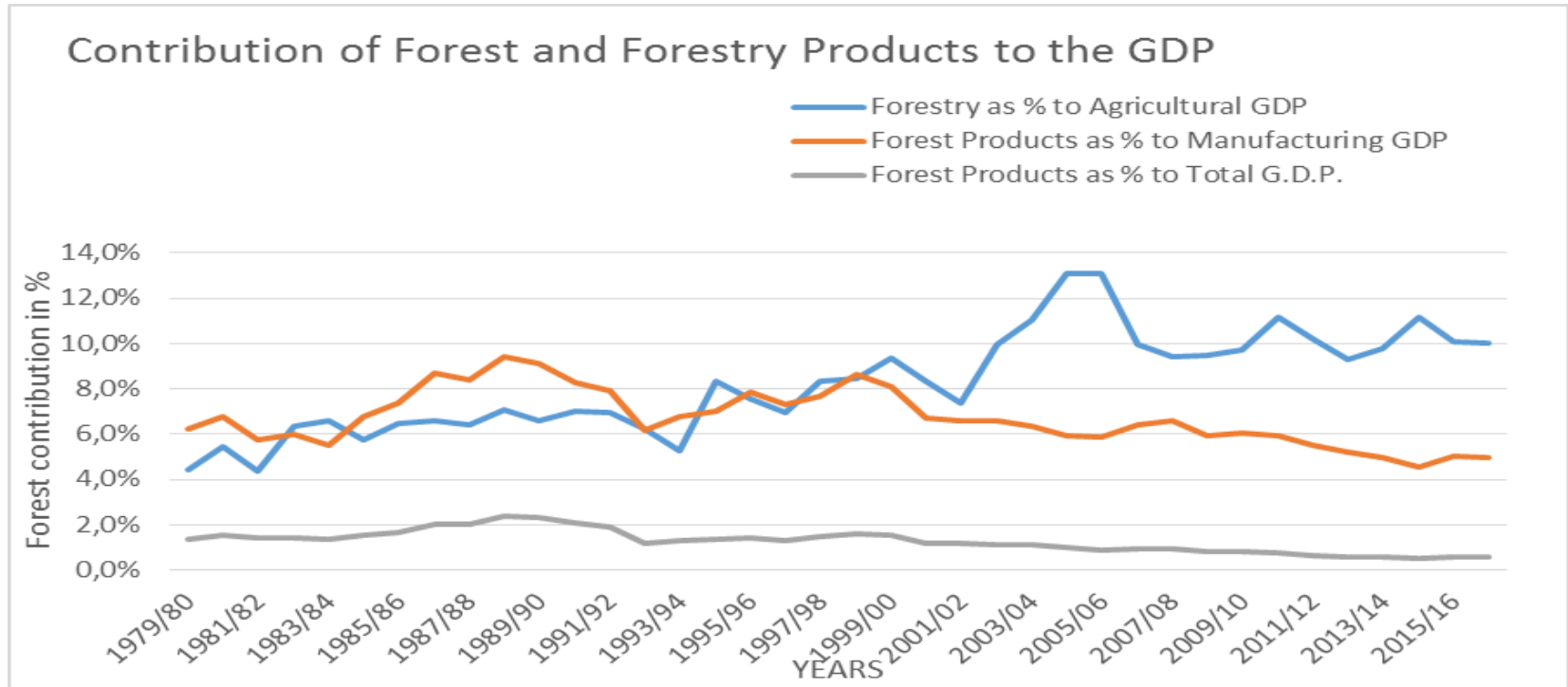
# Unemployment status

- **Unemployment rate jumps to 33.5%, 8.4 million South Africans now jobless - Q2 in 2024**
- South Africa's official unemployment rate increased from 32.9% in the first quarter of this year to 33.5% in the second quarter.
- This is the highest rate since 2022.
- The economy is not producing sufficient jobs, particularly the low-skilled people, most of whom are in the youth age-group.



Source: Statistics SA Second quarter report of 2024

# Significance of forestry industry to the economy



- The South African economic focus is now shifting to developing non-mining sectors, especially those with employment creation opportunities such as manufacturing (IPAP, 2011 and 2017; NGP, 2011).
- Timber plantation plays a key role in the economy as the source of production inputs for several sectors.
- The contribution of sectors to growth and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has changed over the years, as demonstrated in the Figure above.

# Timber demand vs supply

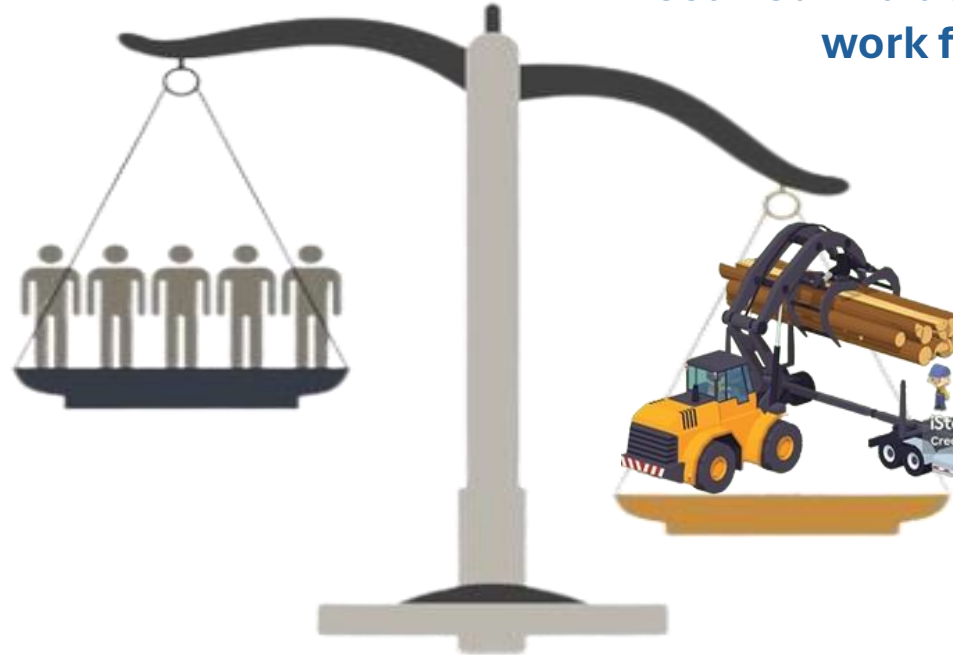
- Unfortunately, investment and expansion in the Forestry sector has not kept pace, which places huge constraints on sector growth.
- Currently, the demand for roundwood amounts to 23 million m<sup>3</sup>/p.a., whereas forests can only supply 20 million m<sup>3</sup> on a sustainable basis.

Five-year period	Total domestic supply	Total Demand	Supply (+)/ deficit (-)	
	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	%
<b>2005-2009</b>	20 550 761	22 249 214	-2 698 453	-13,1
<b>2010-2014</b>	20 087 199	23 932 910	-3 845 711	-19,1
<b>2015-2019</b>	18 609 931	24 650 053	-6 040 122	-32,5
<b>2020-2024</b>	19 454 356	25 448 516	-5 994 160	-30,8
<b>2025-2029</b>	18 666 332	26 372 899	-7 706 567	-41,4
<b>2030-2034</b>	18 134 701	27 501 409	-9 366 708	-51,7
<b>Estimated sustainable supply</b>	<b>19 250 547</b>	<b>25 192 500</b>	<b>-5 941 953</b>	<b>-23,2</b>



# Modernization / mechanization

The increase of mechanization in commercial farming has resulted in a decrease of the work force.



- Ensure International competitiveness
- Good Practice Sustainability Performance standards
- Lower operational costs
- Safer workplace
- Decent work /higher skills/ergonomics
- Consistent & efficient workforce
- Long term relationship with contractors
- Zero harm in the workplace



# People oriented Model

- The presence of healthy labour force to perform operational tasks could limit the use of mechanization.
- Worker's awareness support to deal with social ills is also important.



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# Balancing Act Model



- This is another ideal situation where a balance between employment of people and use of machinery to achieve productivity should be pursued.



# Recommendations

- Overall, small-scale forestry/community growers need more support – financial, technical and market support.
- In particular, development of their plantations should be in close proximity to larger commercial plantations.
- This will assist them to access support with harvesting, transport, value-adding processing equipment, technical know-how and channels into the market.
- Improving access to land by local communities and enabling them to meaningfully participate in various activities along the forestry value chain can help to guarantee long-term sustainability.
- Hence, the need for holistic support that enables small-scale players to achieve sustainability in general.
- The forestry industry must strive to balance between the use of mechanization and people to perform the low skills production tasks.



# THANK YOU!

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Thank You

