

North-West Charcoal Producers Association Charcoal Production Guidelines

1. Documentation.

- Proof of ownership (Title Deed) for harvesting on own property.
- Lease Agreement if the producer is not the owner of the land.
- Written permission from the Traditional Authority for harvesting on communal land.
- Written permission from the chairperson if the farm is part of a Conservancy.
- Farm Map with camps, camp numbers, camp hectare, waterpoints and roads.

2. Licences.

- Apply for a Licence for Forest Produce (Form 10) at your Forestry Office
- Receive Forestry Inspection Report (Form 11) plus a Licence for Harvesting (Permit - Form 12) and sign the condition on the reverse side of the Permit.

3. Charcoal Administration:

- With a valid Harvesting Permit the harvesting of invader tree species can start on the farm or Charcoal unit according the applicable allocations by Forestry. (Tree Species, Charcoal Quantities and a 3 months period)
- Apply for a Signed Supply Agreement at your most reliable Buyer.
- Apply for Membership at your regional Charcoal Producer Association and pay the annual fees
- Register your charcoal contractors at the Regional Charcoal Producer Association .
- Apply when necessary for:
 - A Transport Permit to the buyer (Form 13) and sign the reverse side
 - A Marketing Permit to the buyer (Form 17) and sign the reverse side
 - A new Harvesting Licence before the expiring date on the valid Permit and provide Forestry with a complete Summary Report (Form 20) of the previous harvest quantities.

4. Charcoal Management.

4.1 Social Aspects:

- Use your Farm Map and indicate the harvesting years in the applicable camps for the future harvesting activities. (Annual Camp Based Harvesting Plan)
- Complete a signed agreement with each independant charcoal service provider (contractor) and assure the following:
 - Harvesting area to complete clearly indicated to each contractor
 - Harvesting species to cut for charcoal production according the Forestry allocations
 - Protected tree spesies not to utilise (Annesure 2)
 - Farm Rules applicable on every body (Poaching/polution/Field Fires etc.)
 - Charcoal compensation in N\$/Ton (At least 40% of bruto income)
- Monitor each new charcoal worker efficiency with the Charcoal Producer Association before employment and report all dismissals or deserters to the body for future enquiries.
- Provide Social Security/Workmen's Compensation, Protective Clothing, acceptable Housing/toilets/showers, clean running water and First Aid to the charcoal producers.

4.2 Environmental Aspects:

- Train charcoal workers not to harvest Protected Tree Species but only species indicated on the Permit by Forestry as well as the sizes (18 cm) and levels (ground level) to cut. The main aim to combat bush encroachment is to reach a balance between grass production for sustainable farming activities and vegetation control for bio-diversity.
- Train all farm and charcoal workers for fire prevention and provide the necessary equipment.
- Avoid Aerial application of herbicides.
- Apply only prescribed herbicides for aftercare on stumps and encroachment seedlings as well as selective bush control by hand.
- Notify all neighbours/Stakeholder of harvesting activities and settle any disputes.

4.3 Economical Aspects:

- Implement a complete Charcoal Budget to insure a profitable charcoal production.
- Provide a viable compensation of not less than 40% of the brutto income per ton (Farm Gate Price) to the contractors.
- Pay all Charcoal levies to Authorities and Associations
- Be careful for untested and expensive harvesting equipment.

4.4 Common Charcoal Harvesting species:

The most common encroachment tree species to be harvested for charcoal can be the following:

- Acacia mellifera (Swarthaak)
- Acacia reficiens (Rooihaak in North/Western Areas)
- Acacia luederitzii (Baster-haak-en-steek in North/Eastern Areas)
- Acacia tortilis (Krulpeul)
- Acacia erubescens (Withaak)
- Acacia senegal (Geelhaak)
- Acacia kirkii (Vloedvlaktedoring)
- Terminalia prunioides (Deurmekaar)
- Terminalia sericea (Geelhout)
- Dichrostachys cinerea (Sekelbos)
- Determine the stems per hectare that exceed the 18 cm Forestry restriction at ground level of to apply for a special written approval from the Forestry Office to harvest these species.
(Formula: Total stems on 20x20 sq.m x 25 = stem per hectare)

4.5 Encroachment Palatable Schrub Species:

- Catophractes alexandri (Gabbabos)
- Tarchonanthus camphoratus (Kamferbos)

4.6 After Care:

The combat against bush encroachment is useless without some of the following effective aftercare methods:

- Stem digging. (Hard work in rocky areas)
- Stumpburning (Risky for veldfires)
- Controlled veldfires (Very Risky for uncontrolled veldfires and damages to the Eco-System)
If fires are selected, graze the surrounding camps completely, consider or make sure of the windspeed/direction, burning material and leave one side of the burning area open as an escape route for animals.
- Bush Control with prescribed herbicides. Apply for a Bush Control Licence (Form 7) at the Forestry Office and use the herbicide selectively on harvested stumps and encroachment seedlings species. (Destroy all herbicide containers in a fire and do not wash the equipment near gardens or ornamental trees around living places.)
- Mechanised aftercare methods might disturb the top soil layers and result in mono-diversities of Acacia mellifera/reficiens, Dichrostachys cinerea or Bitterbos seedlings and regrowth.
- Make use of browsers to feed on pods, seedlings and regrowth on stumps.
- Avoid the felling of protected tree species and minimize the impact on the residual vegetation with Charcoal extracting roads.

4.6 Safety Precautions:

- Make fire breaks of 15 meter around each burning kiln and 6 meter on each side or the surrounding fence of the camp(s) to be harvested.
- Graze the harvesting camps completely to avoid potential veldfires in long dry grass.
- Close the lid of the kiln during strong winds and no wood or flames must be above the entrance of the kiln during the burning period.
- Make sure that the charcoal in the kiln is cold before removing the charcoal.
- Firefighting equipment must always be available at the harvesting sites.