

**Impact of Deforestation on Sustainable Livelihoods in
Low-Resourced Areas of Thulamela Local Municipality:
Implications for Practice**

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ABSTRACT People in rural settings depend on woods to prepare foods which damage the environment and places future risk against heavy storms. Social policy is quiet and tends to overlook the environmental wood deforestation in rural areas. The paper sought to appraise perspectives, explore their perceptions and strategies of people in rural areas on the impacts of deforestation. Exploratory-descriptive designs, interview schedule, audio tape, verbatim transcriptions and NVivo were considered. Participants of a percentage of ninety-six indicated that deforestation in rural areas cause damages as heavy windy storms destroys houses because there are no longer big trees to block the winds. It was concluded that government should give electrical prepaid subsidies, integrate social and environmental policies to deal with the impacts of deforestation. Social Workers should be involved in prevention by raising awareness to mitigate the impact of deforestation rather than only providing counselling and social relief of distress during disasters.