

Assessing the Shifting Trends in NTFP Extraction and Consumption in the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa

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KEYWORDS NTFP. Rural Resources. Commercialisation. Timber. Rural Livelihoods

ABSTRACT This study seeks to find out, through empirical evidence, the prevailing use of NTFP in rural Eastern Cape, available opportunities for income generation and suitability of commercialising NTFP in the province. The findings showed that there is very little use of NTFP in the area under study. The only significant use was that of firewood and a rather insignificant percentage of the respondents reported using it for medicinal purposes. Further interviews with other key informants and a review of the literature shows that there is a shift in the way NTFP are produced and consumed, with the production being done in a conventional agricultural environment rather than harvesting the products in the wild. Looking at forestry in general, the study also found that timber still plays an important part in people's livelihoods in the target area, far more than NTFP.