

Protected Trees of South Africa

The full national list — declared under Section 12 of the National Forests Act, 1998

These 51 species are protected nationally. You may not cut, damage, remove or sell any of them — or their wood — without a licence from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment (DFFE), even on private property. Rows shaded in amber are species you may encounter in and around Cape Town.

| COMMON NAME | BOTANICAL NAME | TREE NO. |
|---|------------------------------------|----------|
| Baobab | <i>Adansonia digitata</i> | 467 |
| Pod mahogany | <i>Azelia quanzensis</i> | 207 |
| Torchwood | <i>Balanites maughamii</i> | 251 |
| Powder-puff tree | <i>Barringtonia racemosa</i> | 524 |
| Red / Pink ivory | <i>Berchemia zeyheri</i> | 450 |
| Shepherd's tree | <i>Boscia albitrunca</i> | 122 |
| Msasa | <i>Brachystegia spiciformis</i> | 198.1 |
| Matumi | <i>Breonadia salicina</i> | 684 |
| Black mangrove | <i>Bruguiera gymnorrhiza</i> | 527 |
| Swazi onionwood | <i>Cassipourea swaziensis</i> | 531.1 |
| Bushman's tea | <i>Catha edulis</i> | 404 |
| Indian mangrove | <i>Ceriops tagal</i> | 525 |
| False tamboti | <i>Cleistanthus schlechteri</i> | 320 |
| Pondo weeping thorn | <i>Colubrina nicholsonii</i> | 453.8 |
| Leadwood | <i>Combretum imberbe</i> | 539 |
| Assegai CAPE | <i>Curtisia dentata</i> | 570 |
| Jackal-berry | <i>Diospyros mespiliformis</i> | 606 |
| Bushveld saffron | <i>Elaeodendron transvaalensis</i> | 416 |
| Bushveld red balloon | <i>Erythrophysa transvaalensis</i> | 436.2 |
| Ebony guarri | <i>Euclea pseudebenus</i> | 598 |
| Swamp fig | <i>Ficus trichopoda</i> | 54 |
| Silver tree CAPE | <i>Leucadendron argenteum</i> | 77 |
| Tonga mangrove | <i>Lumnitzera racemosa</i> | 552 |
| Pondo bushman's tea | <i>Lydenburgia abbottii</i> | 407 |
| Sekhukhuni bushman's tea | <i>Lydenburgia cassinoides</i> | 406 |
| Coastal red milkwood | <i>Mimusops caffra</i> | 583 |
| Lebombo wattle | <i>Newtonia hildebrandtii</i> | 191 |
| Stinkwood CAPE | <i>Ocotea bullata</i> | 118 |
| Gariep resin tree | <i>Ozoroa namaquensis</i> | 373.2 |
| Apple-leaf | <i>Philenoptera violacea</i> | 238 |
| Cheesewood | <i>Pittosporum viridiflorum</i> | 139 |
| Breede River yellowwood CAPE | <i>Podocarpus elongatus</i> | 15 |
| Outeniqua yellowwood CAPE | <i>Podocarpus falcatus</i> | 16 |
| Henkel's yellowwood | <i>Podocarpus henkelii</i> | 17 |
| Real yellowwood CAPE | <i>Podocarpus latifolius</i> | 18 |
| Saddleback sugarbush | <i>Protea comptonii</i> | 88 |
| Serpentine sugarbush | <i>Protea curvata</i> | 88.1 |
| Red stinkwood | <i>Prunus africana</i> | 147 |
| Wild teak (Kiaat) | <i>Pterocarpus angolensis</i> | 236 |

| COMMON NAME | BOTANICAL NAME | TREE NO. |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Red mangrove | <i>Rhizophora mucronata</i> | 526 |
| Manketti | <i>Schinziophyton rautanenii</i> | 337 |
| Marula | <i>Sclerocarya birrea</i> | 360 |
| Violet tree | <i>Securidaca longepedunculata</i> | 303 |
| White milkwood CAPE | <i>Sideroxylon inerme</i> | 579 |
| Pondo poison pea | <i>Tephrosia pondoensis</i> | 226.1 |
| Umtiza | <i>Umtiza listeriana</i> | 205 |
| Camel thorn | <i>Vachellia erioloba</i> | 168 |
| Grey camel thorn | <i>Vachellia haematoxylon</i> | 169 |
| Pepper-bark tree | <i>Warburgia salutaris</i> | 488 |
| Clanwilliam cedar CAPE | <i>Widdringtonia cedarbergensis</i> | 19 |
| Willowmore cedar CAPE | <i>Widdringtonia schwarzii</i> | 21 |

Source: Minister's annual list, Government Notice 4496, Government Gazette 50291 (13 March 2024). Tree numbers follow the official National Tree List.

The penalty: cutting down a protected tree without a licence is a first-category offence under the National Forests Act — a fine, or up to three years' imprisonment, or both.

Think your tree is protected? We identify it, confirm whether a licence is needed, and can handle the application. protreefellingcapetown.co.za · 084 966 4252

Tree Felling Cape Town · This guide is general information, not legal advice · Confirm the current list with DFFE before any work.