

Mr Chairman, distinguished  
guest, South Africa  
welcomes <sup>the</sup> FAO report  
on Wood & Energy. The  
country has an estimated  
8.7 million hectares of  
forest. Of these 1.3 million <sup>ha</sup>  
is plantation, 5 000 000 ha  
is natural forest and  
the rest is woodland.

These resources provide  
a wide range of  
environmental goods  
and services mainly to  
the rural poor.

South Africa however  
is concerned about the  
rate of deforestation  
and welcome the  
recommendation that  
FAO should build capacity

South Afr

at local level. In deed  
We need better information  
to make better policies

The challenge of introducing  
crops for biofuel production  
of agriculture and forestry  
needs proper analysis  
of land use patterns.

South Africa is mindful  
of the impact that biofuel  
production will have on  
food security. The

Ministry of Agriculture  
together with sister ministry  
~~Department of~~ Minerals + energy have been  
asked to leading our biofuels strategy  
use fallow lands estimated  
at 3-4 million hectares  
for fuel production in our rural  
areas. This will create jobs for poor rural  
With respect to famines  
global warming, South  
Africa is <sup>also</sup> mindful of the

Program to cut down  
on carbon emission  
and several milestones  
have been reached.

The universal target  
for access to electricity  
by the majority of S.A  
is 2014. To date 80%  
of the population have  
access to electricity and  
20% have access to  
electricity for lighting  
and cooking.

We encourage FAO  
to put more resources  
into research for alter-  
native forms of biofuel  
production rather than use  
crops for food production.