Plantation forestry activities fall under the following State Legislation. Visit the South African Government Online website for more information.

- Agricultural Pest Act 36 of 1983
- Alienation of Land Act 68 of 1981
- Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962
- Apportionment of Damages Act 34 of 1956
- Assessment of Damages Act 9 of 1969
- Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act 45 of 1965
- Aviation Act 74 of 1962
- Basic Conditions of Employment Act (1997)
- Black Administration Act 38 of 1927
- Black Communities Development Act 4 of 1984
- Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act 130 of 1993
- Competition Act 89 of 1998
- Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 43 of 1983
- Conventional Penalties Act 15 of 1962
- Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977
- Development Facilitation Act 67 of 1995
- Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002
- Electronic Communications and Transactions Act 25 of 2002
- Employment Equity Act (Act 55 of 1998)
- Environment Conservation Act (Act 79 of 1992)
- Expropriation Act 63 of 1975
- Extension of Security of Tenure Act (1997)
- Fertilizers, Farmfeeds, Agricultural Remedies, and Stock Control Remedies Act 36 of 1947
- Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act 54 of 1972
- Forest Act 122 of 1984
- Formalities in respect of Leases of Land Act 18 of 1969
- Further Education and Training Act (Act 98 of 1998)
- Game Theft Act 105 of 1991
- Genetically Modified Organisms Act 15 of 1997
- Hazardous Substances Act 15 of 1973
- Health Act 63 of 1977
- Health Professions Act 56 of 1974
- Housing Act 4 of 1996
- Income Tax Act 58 of 1962
- International Health Regulations Act 28 of 1974
- KwaZulu Natal Animal Protection Act 4 of 1987
- KwaZulu Natal Health Act 4 of 2000
- KwaZulu Natal Heritage Act 10 of 1997
- KwaZulu Natal Igonyama Trust Act 3 of 1994
- KwaZulu Natal Land Affairs Act 11 of 1992
- KwaZulu Natal Planning and Development Act 5 of 1998
- Labour Relations Act (Act 66 of 1995)
- Land Affairs Act 101 of 1987
- Land Affairs Act 11 of 1992
- Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Act (1996)
- Land Survey Act 8 of 1997
- Local Government Municipal Structures Act 1 of 2003
- Local Government Transitional Act 209 of 1993
- Medicines and Related Substances Control Act 109 of 1965
- Minerals Act 50 of 1991
- Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act 28 of 2002
- Mountain Catchment Areas Act 63 of 1970
- National Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004
- National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act 103 of 1977
- National Code of Practice for Training Providers to Lifting machine operators
- National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998)
- National Forests Act (Act 84 of 1998)
- National Health Act 61 of 2003
- National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)
- National Monuments Act 28 of 1969
- National Parks Act 57 of 1976
- National Roads Act 54 of 1971
- National Road Traffic Act 93 of 1996
- National Veld and Forest Fires Act (Act 101 of 1998)
- Nursing Act 33 of 2005
- Occupational Health and Safety act (Act 85 of 1993)
- Petroleum Products Act 120 of 1977
- Physical Planning Act 88 of 1967
- Plant Breeders’ Rights Act 15 of 1976
- Plant Improvement Act 53 of 1976
- Prescription Act 68 of 1969
- Prevention of Illegal Eviction from Unlawful Occupation of Land Act 19 of 1998
- Private Security Industry Regulation Act 56 of 2001
- Promotion of Access to information Act 2 of 2000
- Promotion of Administrative Justice Act 3 of 2000
- Protected Disclosures Act 26 of 2000
- Rental Housing Act 50 of 1999
- Restitution of Land Rights Act (Act 22 of 1994)
- Road Accident Fund Commission Act 71 of 1998
- Road Transportation Act 74 of 1977
- Skills Development Act (Act 97 of 1998)
- South African Weather Services Act 8 of 2001
- Tobacco Products Act 83 of 1993
- Trespass Act 6 of 1959
- Unemployment Insurance Act 63 of 2001
- Water Act 54 of 1956
- Water Services Act 108 of 1997
- Wattle Bark Industry Act 23 of 1960
- World Heritage Convention Act 49 of 1999

Ordinances, Bills and other sources:
- Local Authorities Ordinance 25 of 1974 (Natal)
- Nature Conservation Ordinance 15 of 1974 (Natal)
- Nature Conservation Ordinance 12 of 1983 (Transvaal)
- Prevention of Environmental Pollution Ordinance 21 of 1981 (Natal)
references

- Town Planning Ordinance 27 of 1949 (Natal)
- Town Planning and Township Ordinance 15 of 1986 (Transvaal)
- Umsekelo Municipal Support Services Ordinance 20 of 1941 (Natal)
- Communal Land Rights Bill, 2002
- Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Bill 2002
- Local Authority Bylaws
- Common Law
- Case Law

South Africa is a signatory to:
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- International Labour Organisation Conventions (ILO)

These international agreements, where relevant, are enshrined in the legislation listed above.

The following guidelines have been produced by the forest industry:
- Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Plantations (DWAF, 1997)
- Cable Yarding Safety and Operating Handbook (FESA)
- South African Ground Based Harvesting Handbook (FESA)