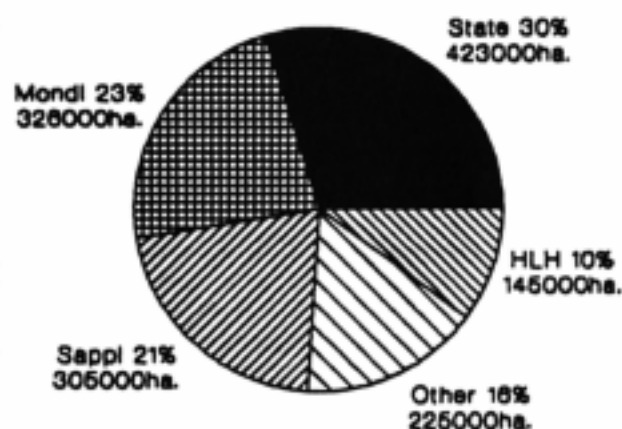


Land Briefs

The big three in forestry

THREE companies own 54% of South Africa's forests. Mondi owns the most forest land (23% or 326 000 ha, only 7% less than the state). Sappi follows, with 21% (305 000 ha) then HLH with 10% (145 000 ha). Together Mondi, Sappi and HLH control at least 77% of forest land in private hands.

Forest ownership 1991
(SALB Vol. 16 No. 5)



Their control of other areas of the wood based industry is also significant. Mondi and Sappi own all the pulp and paper plants in South Africa. Mondi, Sappi and HLH own almost all the board mills and are dominant in the sawmilling and mining timber sectors.

In turn, Mondi, Sappi and HLH are part of bigger conglomerates that dominate the South African economy. Mondi is owned by Anglo American, HLH is owned by Anglo/Rembrandt (50%/50%) and Sappi is owned by Gencor. These conglomerates in turn own nearly all South Africa's major mines, construction companies, printers and also have

extensive interests in a range of farming and related enterprises.

Anglo American owns Amfarms (farming enterprises ranging from piggeries to vineyards), Premier Milling, Times Media, The Argus and LTA construction company.

Gencor owns Murray & Roberts

Rembrandt owns Rainbow Chickens (the largest chicken producer in South Africa), citrus and tea estates.

Despite the recession, Mondi profits rose from R36million in 1979 to R363million in 1989. Sappi's profits rose from R51million in 1980 to R639million in 1990.

What does the ANC say about labour tenants?

AN ANC government will protect land occupation and use rights of former labour tenants and share croppers, and their families, who have had a long association with particular pieces of land. And no one will be evicted from land or have his or her home destroyed, unless a tribunal or another court has considered the availability of alternative accommodation. This is one of the undertakings the ANC makes in its Land Policy.

The Land Policy was one of several adopted by the ANC at its National Policy Conference in May 1992.

In the document, the ANC also says it will set up an independent, non-racial, non-sexist and representative land claims court to focus on land rights and that the law will lay down clear criteria for land claims.

Support services will be set up to inform communities of their constitutional rights and to act as channels of access to the legal system and legal counsel.

The ANC also undertakes to recognise and protect diversity of tenure forms and to strengthen tenancy rights, including public ownership (held by community land trusts). Diverse forms of tenure should not prejudice people's access to credit, says the ANC.

Natal communities plan programme of action

ABOUT 80 delegates from 10 land claiming communities in Natal met in May to plan action around land restoration for the next six months. One of the main points to emerge from the workshop was that communities would conditionally cooperate with the government appointed Advisory Commission on Land Allocation as one part of a broader strategy to get back their land. Communities also agreed to work together although their claims are different.