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## **PUBLICATION OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES**

The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and the Members of the Executive Council of the respective provinces that scrutinise environmental affairs - who are all members of the MINMEC: Environment - approved on 18 March 2003 that the strategies and policy as set out in the schedule be published for general information.

### **SCHEDULE**

Appendix 1 - Strategy on the Conservation and Utilisation of Reptiles and Amphibians in South Africa - approved by MINMEC: Environment on 12 March 2002.

Appendix 2 - National Principles, Norms and Standards for the Sustainable Use of Large Predators in South Africa - approved by MINMEC: Environment on 15 October 2002.

Appendix 3 - A Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wild Populations of Southern White Rhino *Ceratotherium simum simum* in South Africa- Approved by MINMEC: Environment on 29 February 2000.

**APPENDIX 1****STRATEGY ON THE CONSERVATION AND UTILISATION OF REPTILES  
AND AMPHIBIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA****CHAPTER 1****INTRODUCTION**

The Constitution states, amongst others, that everyone has the right to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that;

- prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
- promote conservation; and
- secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.

It is the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism's (DEAT) responsibility to ensure the conservation of natural resources and the utilisation thereof takes place in a sustainable manner and has therefor embarked on the development of a national environmental management system through the CONNEP process. This resulted in the development of the White Paper on Environmental Management Policy for South Africa, which has been submitted to cabinet for approval.

On a more specialised level DEAT also initiated the development of a national policy for the conservation of South Africa's Biodiversity, which resulted in the White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biological Diversity approved by Parliament in September 1997.

To implement the policy on Biological Diversity, certain focus actions in the form of strategies for specialised groups of fauna and flora needs to be taken.

DEAT realised that there is an urgent need for a strategy on the conservation and sustainable utilisation of reptiles and amphibians, after several stake holders such as nature conservation authorities, herpetological associations, traders, etc. approached DEAT with their concerns. Problems such as illegal trade, lack of uniform legislation, as well as habitat destruction, are some of the major issues that need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

After two workshops this draft strategy was developed. The strategy document itself falls within the framework of the previously mentioned White papers.

This strategy will contribute directly towards attaining the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, viz. conservation of biodiversity, sustainable

use of natural resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

Furthermore, the strategy is aligned towards the following guiding principles contained in:

**(i) Policy on the Conservation and Sustainable use of South Africa's Biological Diversity**

- I. Intrinsic value
- II. Duty of care
- III. Sustainable use
- IV. The fair and equitable distribution of benefits
- V. Informed and transparent decision making
- VI. Precautionary principle
- VII. Accountability and transparency
- VIII. Subsidiarity
- IX. Participation
- X. Co-ordination and Co-operation
- XI. Global and international responsibilities
- XII. Evaluation and review

**(ii) White Paper on Environmental Management Policy for South Africa**

- I. Accountability
- II. Capacity building and education
- III. Co-ordination
- IV. Equity
- V. Global and international co-operation and responsibilities
- VI. Good Governance
- VII. Participation
- VIII. Precaution

The provisions of international conventions such as, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Wild Animals (CMS) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), were taken into account and are expressed throughout the implementation of the strategy.

Furthermore, it should be accepted that the continued maintenance and conservation of viable wild populations of these species are the primary objectives for this strategy.

## CHAPTER 2

### STEPS IN THE STRATEGY FORMULATION PROCESS

- Nature conservation is a concurrent competence between central and provincial government and therefore the DEAT took the lead in the development of this strategy by arranging a workshop in May 1997, to which all the provincial nature conservation institutions were invited. During this workshop the Department met with the provincial representatives to discuss the proposed strategy.
- The purpose of this workshop was to identify and discuss all the issues that needed to be addressed in such a policy and to get a document on the table from where the process could continue.
- In view of the deliberations at the workshop and additional comments and suggestions received from the provinces, a discussion document was drafted.
- This document was then submitted to the Minister who approved the document as well as the development of the strategy.
- The document was distributed to all the provincial nature conservation authorities, non-governmental institutions and other relevant role players of whom the DEAT was aware.
- A press release was also issued by the Minister to inform the public of the approved strategy process and the planned workshop.
- A workshop was held in April 1998, to which all stakeholders were invited. The discussion document was discussed in detail at this occasion.
- The discussion document was then amended to accommodate the recommendations and inputs made at the workshop and the document became the Draft Strategy on the Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of Reptiles and Amphibians.
- The strategy will be submitted to MINMEC and the CEC for final approval where after it will be implemented jointly by all government role players.

## CHAPTER 3

### STRATEGY FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

**GOAL 1.** Provide general guidelines, which will ensure the conservation of reptiles and amphibians

#### 1.1 National inventory

There is a need for a national inventory of herpetofauna, which would, at a national level, incorporate information about the distribution of all reptile and amphibian taxa. Knowledge about the taxonomic status of reptile and amphibian taxa is a critical tool for the formulation of conservation plans as well as for the management and utilisation of South Africa's herpetofauna.

#### OBJECTIVE 1.1

Establish a national inventory of herpetofauna

##### Actions:

- The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), in collaboration with a panel of experts, will manage the continued compilation of the South African Red Data Books (RDB) on reptiles and amphibians as part of the national inventory.
- RDB's will still be published in hard copy and in due course an electronic database of RDB, which would be accessible to everyone, should also be developed and maintained.
- The RDB's should be revised at intervals of maximum five years
- DEAT co-ordinate the establishment and maintenance of a national inventory on the distribution and the taxonomic status of reptiles and amphibians in South Africa.
- Uniform terminology should be drafted and applied throughout.
- The first conservation priority for scientists should be to assist in obtaining and compiling these data.
- For the purpose of this document the IUCN criteria will be applied.

#### 1.2 Research

Management of herpetofauna cannot take place without the information, which results from research. Research forms the foundation of the majority of conservation decisions.

**OBJECTIVE 1.2**

Promote research in the field of herpetology

**Actions :**

- Biologists should be encouraged to engage in research projects on the biology of our indigenous reptiles and amphibians. No distinction needs to be made between foreign scientists and local scientists. (Within the obligations of local capacity building).
- Research on the level of utilisation, which still meets the requirement of sustainable utilisation of indigenous herpetofauna, should be encouraged .
- Researchers should be encouraged to make findings of conservation importance known to the conservation authorities and supply them, if possible, with conservation management recommendations as well as articles and reports resulting from their research.
- Reptile breeders should be encouraged to make available to the relevant nature conservation authorities, any knowledge which may have scientific or conservation value, keeping in mind the issue of intellectual Property Rights.
- Uniform standards for the screening and approval of research projects on our indigenous herpetofauna need to be defined. Due to a lack of herpetological expertise this could be achieved if a focal point or competent authority for the approval of research projects was instituted at the provincial level.

**1.3 Capacity building****OBJECTIVE 1.3**

Create opportunities for capacity building

**Actions:**

- An acute shortage of herpetological expertise exists within the conservation organisations nationally. Since it is unlikely that additional posts requiring herpetological skills will arise, provinces should be encouraged to allow staff to undergo in-service training. This would allow the provinces to evaluate the conservation status of the herpetofauna within their regions and to make informed decisions about permit applications.
- Institutions such as the S.A. Wildlife College should be encouraged to offer short courses in herpetology, aimed at nature conservation staff and other interested parties such as breeders and traders. In addition, universities should be encouraged to offer degrees with specialisation in herpetology

## **1.4 Mechanisms for monitoring**

### **OBJECTIVE 1.4**

Establish mechanisms for monitoring

#### **Actions :**

- Permits will be issued to reptile collectors with the condition attached that the collectors return information regarding precise dates and exact localities of herpetofauna collected from the wild to conservation authorities. These data could contribute to the above national inventory.

## **1.5 Conservation**

### **OBJECTIVE 1.5**

Promote conservation of reptiles and amphibians through reintroduction and conservation programs

#### **Actions :**

- A yearly reporting system should be established where provinces should supply progress reports regarding the implementation of this strategy and where information regarding "new" trade can be reported. In this way, the impact of this strategy, and the impact of commercial use, on the long-term conservation of natural populations, can be evaluated.
- Conservation programs need to focus mainly on the protection of the species and the habitat in which they occur.
- The need for a structured breeding and reintroduction program of rare and endangered herpetofauna is recognised. However, such initiatives should only be undertaken when the reintroduction is an integral part of the conservation program for a particular species and/or ecosystems.
- Reintroduction programmes should follow the IUCN/SSC Guidelines for Reintroductions.
- Prospective conservation breeding programmes for rare and endangered species should be submitted to a panel of experts for recommendations.
- An option is to establish a working group on the reintroduction at herpetofauna to articulate the procedure for reintroduction.
- The implications of reintroduction, such as inbreeding, genetic contamination and the spreading of diseases, should also be taken into account, as well as the danger of the over utilisation of habitats.

- The final decision on whether to allow the introduction of certain species, remains the responsibility of the provincial authorities, with the implications of reintroduction taken into account as well as the broader national implications of the decision. The final decision has to conform to national interests and not counter the interests of another province.

## **GOAL 2. Establish guidelines for general use of reptiles and amphibians**

### **2.1 The use of reptiles and amphibians during research**

This section refers to the utilisation of herpetofauna for any research purposes, e.g. medical, conservation or academic purposes.

#### **OBJECTIVE 2.1**

Ensure that the use of reptiles and amphibians in research of any nature does not adversely affect the conservation status of reptiles and amphibians.

#### **Actions :**

- Researchers should be encouraged to make findings of conservation importance known to the conservation authorities.
- The national principle should be that the institutions involved, should be *bona fide* research institutions, which will be obliged to adhere to applicable legislation. The applicable permits may only be issued when the province has been convinced of the credibility of the project and the institution, after thoroughly investigating the objectives and purpose of the study.
- Uniform standards for the screening and approval of research projects on herpetofauna need to be defined. A focal point or clearinghouse for the approval of research projects could be used to screen research projects in provinces with no herpetological expertise.

### **2.2 Obtaining and keeping of reptiles and amphibians**

#### **OBJECTIVE 2.2**

Regulate obtaining and keeping of reptiles and amphibians to minimize the adverse effects on South Africa's biodiversity components.

#### **General actions :**

- It is the responsibility of the provincial nature conservation authority to process information and to monitor permit holders on a merit base.
- All users should be treated equally, including traditional healers, breeders, hobbyists, researchers, zoos, herpetological associations, animal



rehabilitators and any other institution or person. However, when demands are of such nature that priorities need to be assigned, *bona fide* research institutions should enjoy priority above individual collectors.

- Keepers of reptiles and amphibians must have proof of legal acquisition (collection permit, purchase slip, letter from donator or seller)
- Provision should be made in the envisaged legislation for penalising in instances where legal acquisition cannot be proved.
- Keeping and breeding facilities should be approved and adhere to nationally defined and approved guidelines. Guidelines will be defined and approved by the Department of Agriculture, which is responsible for regulating animal health, after consultation with nature conservation authorities as well as *bona fide* zoos and snake/reptile parks.
- Breeders and traders should keep a register, detailing all births and deaths involving herpetofauna in their possession or on their property. This information should be made available for inspection to a law enforcement officer or other competent officer from the relevant provincial nature conservation institution at any time.
- The keeping of injured animals by members of the public should be discouraged and a campaign on this issue should be launched. Animals can be taken to a rehabilitation institution.

**b. Specific actions for indigenous species:**

- All indigenous herpetofauna, regardless of their conservation status, i.e. endangered, vulnerable or common should be regarded as precious and valuable. No exceptions between species of different conservation status will therefore be made with regards to permit requirements .
- Collection permits will be issued on the basis of the application (whether the applicant is collecting for trade purposes or whether the applicant is a private collector) as well as on the status and abundance of the species in the relevant province.
- Collection in nature reserves and/or protected areas should be prohibited or limited and subject to the issuance of the applicable permits and authorisation. Furthermore, collection in nature reserves will only be allowed subject to the IUCN category status of the reserves as well as its conservation status.
- Breeders and traders could collect their breeding stock (F0) from the wild.
- Information on permits issued, monitoring of permit holders and numbers of animals collected should also be available on a national database .
- Species will only be released under certain conditions for which criteria need to be established .
- Applications for collection for commercial purposes will only be considered, if a proper project proposal accompanies the application. Additionally, an Environmental Assessment should be submitted to the relevant conservation authorities, in order to evaluate the impact and sustainability of such a

development/project, and to inform the local community of the proposed activity.

**c. Specific actions for exotic species:**

- The keeping and importation of exotic species will only be allowed under strict conditions, including the requirement of a permit. It should be kept in mind that exotic species could be potentially invasive or potential vectors of diseases to both humans and other species.
- Before a permit will be issued, the applicant should provide proof that the species, to be imported, will hold no potential threats to South Africa's indigenous fauna and flora. The Precautionary Principle will apply and the import and keeping of exotic species will only be considered, if an Environmental Assessment shows no harmful effects. The assessment should be conducted by an independent and recognised consultant at the expense of the prospective importer. The assessment report will be scrutinised by the relevant authorities and experts to enable them to approve or refuse the application.
- The prospective importer must submit an integrated environmental management plan to the relevant authorities for approval.
- A list of exotic species, which will not be allowed in South Africa, should be compiled, maintained and reviewed on a regular basis. This will enable the conservation authorities to eliminate species, which could pose a potential threat to the indigenous fauna and flora. This should also be linked to the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM).
- Exotic reptiles and amphibians must be kept in escape-proof holding facilities that are registered as such with the relevant conservation authorities.
- No release of exotic species into the wild will be allowed.

**d. Specific actions for alien species:**

- The keeping of alien species will only be allowed under strict conditions, including the requirement of a permit. Alien species could be potentially invasive or potential vectors of diseases to both humans and other species.
- Before a permit will be issued, the applicant should provide proof that the species to be brought into the province will hold no potential threats to the province's indigenous fauna and flora. The Precautionary Principle will apply and the bringing into the province and the keeping of alien species will only be considered if an Environmental Assessment shows no harmful effects. The applicant for the permit to move or bring the species into the province should be tasked to have an assessment conducted by an independent and recognised consultant at the applicant's own expense. The assessment report will be scrutinised by the relevant authorities and experts to enable them to approve or refuse the application.
- The applicant must submit an integrated environmental management plan to the relevant authority for approval.

- A list of alien species, which will not be allowed into a specified province, should be compiled, maintained and reviewed on a regular basis. This will enable the conservation authorities to eliminate species that could pose a potential threat to the province's indigenous fauna and flora. This could be linked to the Clearing House Mechanism.

### **2.3. Commercial use and trade**

#### **OBJECTIVE 2.3**

Regulate commercial use of reptiles and amphibians to minimize the adverse effects on South Africa's biodiversity components .

##### **a. General actions:**

- Breeders and traders should keep a record book detailing all business transactions involving herpetofauna in their possession or on their property. This information should be available for inspection by any relevant nature conservation authority at any time.
- Crossbreeding should be very well controlled and the risk of Genetic Modified Organisms should be taken into account. Criteria need to be established.
- All species listed in the Appendices of CITES that are imported must be accompanied by the necessary CITES permits.
- All specimens of species listed in Appendix I of CITES should be micro-chipped by the owner, whether or not it was imported or bred in captivity. Records should be sent to the nature conservation authorities on a yearly basis.

##### **b. Specific actions for indigenous species:**

- Subject to the principle of sustainable use, utilisation and commercial exploitation of indigenous herpetofauna will be allowed for all species except wild-caught threatened species .
- Breeding stock must be obtained legally. Criteria for allowing collection from the wild of limited specimens need to be established.
- Subject to the principle of sustainable use, trade of wild-caught indigenous herpetofauna will be allowed for all species except threatened species. A functional application system should be developed to make provision for distinguishing between wild-caught and captive bred herpetofauna .
- Crossbreeding will not be allowed for any indigenous species.
- Pet shops are allowed to trade in certain indigenous species subject to relevant permit requirements. The nature conservation authorities in conjunction with zoos, snake/reptile parks and museums will compile a list of species that can be allowed in the pet trade.

**c. Specific actions for exotic species:**

- A list of exotic species, which will not be allowed in South Africa, should be drafted.
- There should be strict control for the re-export to prevent South Africa being used as a route for easy trade.
- A national database of imported exotic species should be maintained. The extent of information that should be included in the database as well as capacity constraints needs to be included.
- Guidelines for the exportation of species should be outlined. When issuing permits the sovereign rights of the government over biological diversity and resources should be considered.
- Pet shops are allowed to trade in exotic species that are not on the prohibited list and that have been shown by an environmental assessment to hold no potential threats to South Africa's indigenous fauna and flora and have been approved by the relevant conservation authorities. The trade will be subject to the relevant permit requirements.

**2.4 Transportation****OBJECTIVE 2.4**

Regulate transportation of reptiles and amphibians

**Actions:**

- IATA regulations shall be followed for reptiles and amphibians transported by air.
- Transport permits within provinces should be phased out. Permits to capture and/or hold or sell herpetofauna should include permission to transport reptiles and amphibians intra-provincially. Inter-provincial transport should be on permit.
- For inter-provincial movements it is very important to realize that uniform provincial policies are essential to make effective control possible. Therefore a national policy or strategy should bound provinces to apply uniform criteria.

**2.5 Translocation of indigenous species**

Regulate translocation of reptiles and amphibians to minimize the adverse effects on South Africa's biodiversity components.

**OBJECTIVE 2.5**

Provide interim guidelines for the translocation of reptiles and amphibians

**Actions:**

- The issue of translocation should and will be dealt with in a national strategy on the translocation of wildlife. Until that is in place, provision should be made for this in the present document to deal with the issue on an interim basis.
- Regarding the removal of animals from urban areas as well as animals that need to be removed from areas where development is due to take place. These animals should be captured and translocated, by a competent nature conservation official, to the nearest suitable habitat, preferably not a nature reserve, unless it is the only suitable habitat. The provincial nature conservation institutions should use their own discretion.
- The animals can be donated or sold by nature conservation authority to any institution such as zoos, snake parks, museums, universities, approved private keepers, the traditional healers ect. or rehabilitation centres or person.
- The question whether to replace, rehabilitated animals is a matter of concern. There ought to be a distinction between animals from a known origin and animals whose origin is unknown. The possibility of introducing diseases to wild populations is another implication of reintroduction that should be considered. Criteria need to be developed to address these concerns.

**2.6 Rehabilitation of indigenous species**

**Regulate rehabilitation of reptiles and amphibians to minimize the adverse effects on South Africa's biodiversity components.**

**OBJECTIVE 2.6**

Ensure that the rehabilitation of reptiles and amphibians are strictly regulated

**Actions:**

- Rehabilitators should register with a national body or the provincial conservation authorities.
- All rehabilitation institutions should meet the national strategy conditions as well as conformation with the provisions of the province, concerned.
- Rehabilitation centers is considered as users and are therefore subject to the same criteria as other users.

**GOAL 3. Establish guidelines for the disposal of confiscated and surplus animals****OBJECTIVE 3.1**

Provide guidelines for the disposal of confiscated reptiles and amphibians.

**Actions:****a. General**

- Criteria need to be established to define under which circumstances animals can be confiscated. In general, animals will be confiscated when the permit requirements are contravened or proof of legal acquisition cannot be complied.
- Prior to disposal, confiscated and surplus animals should be kept in the same manner as required in this strategy for the keeping of animals.
- The decision on the disposal of confiscated live animals listed in the Appendices of CITES, should be undertaken in accordance with the procedures set out by CITES (Refer Conf. Res. 9.11).

**b. Indigenous species:**

- Donate animals to institutions such as zoos' or snake parks. (Treasury restrictions on state property should be kept in mind.)
- Reintroduce or release animals to their natural habitats, only if origin is known and animals are free from contagious diseases.
- Animals can be sold per tender. The Nature Conservation Authority should control this.
- Euthanasia can be considered if all other options failed. Euthanasia of indigenous species should make provision, if possible, for the utilisation of the products derived from the specimen. Euthanasia should be done in the most humane way, either by a veterinarian (state or private) or by competent nature conservation official.

**c. Non-CITES exotic species**

- The animals could be donated or sold to any relevant institution such as museums and universities, zoos or snake parks or approved private persons or traditional healers.
- Specimens of listed undesirable exotics should be euthanasia .
- Animals could be put back into trade or sold per tender or be exported or sent back to country of origin.

**GOAL 4. Provision for permits and legislative requirements****OBJECTIVE 4.1**

Provision for legislation and permits in order to control the use of reptiles and amphibians.

**Actions:**

- National legislation, implemented by the provincial nature conservation institutions, is required.
- Functional implementation of a permitting system in accordance with national criteria should be developed together with a standard protocol for the issuing of permits.
- There is a need in some provinces for provincial legislation to authorise officials to search any person or vehicle, should foul play be suspected. The constitution does make provision for this provided that the right procedures are followed.
- There shall be stricter monitoring and control of all possible exports and imports at airports, harbours, border posts etc. Control and inspections of consignments shall be a national competency. Limited ports will be considered.
- Permit authorities should perform inspections of premises of permit holders. Criteria need to be established, as well conditions and responsibilities

**Permits required:**

Indigenous species	Exotic Species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provincial entry permit for all species to province of final destination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provincial entry permit for all species to province of final destination</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provincial exit permit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provincial exit permit</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Import permits for all indigenous species to be imported, subject to proof of legal acquisition.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Import permit for all exotic species to be imported</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Export permits for all indigenous species to be exported, subject to proof of legal acquisition.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITES permits for all CITES species to be exported or imported.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITES permits for all CITES species to be exported or imported.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping permits for all exotic species. This includes transport permit.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trade or disposal permits for wild-caught and captive bred indigenous reptiles and amphibians. This permit is required to sell, donate, swap any indigenous reptile or amphibian species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trade or disposal permits for exotic reptile and amphibians species. This permit is required to sell, donate, swap any exotic reptile or amphibian species</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection permits to collect indigenous species from the wild.</li> </ul> <p>*Collection permit for traders will be subject to a quota system determined by the relevant provincial nature conservation authority and will be issued at the beginning of each year to be valid for a one year period. Applicants can apply for additional permits during the year.</p> <p>*Collection permit for private collectors will be subject to a limited number of specimens (2 or 3 at a time) as well as restricted to a time period for collection.</p>	



**CHAPTER 4****GLOSSARY**

<i>Alien species</i>	Species which do not naturally occur in an area, and which are deliberately or accidentally introduced by humans to ecosystems outside of their natural range.
<i>Captive bred</i>	Offspring, including eggs, born or otherwise produced in a controlled environment.
<i>Captivity</i>	The keeping of animals under artificial conditions .
<i>CITES Appendix I</i>	Include all species threatened with extinction which are or may be affected by trade. Trade in specimens of these species must be subject to particularly strict regulation in order not to endanger further their survival and must only be authorized in exceptional circumstances.
<i>Collection</i>	Obtaining of specimens from their natural habitat
<i>Commercial purposes</i>	Intention to make money/profit
<i>Conservation</i>	The management of human use of the biosphere to yield the greatest benefit to present generations while maintaining the potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations
<i>Conservation status</i>	The status of a species in the environment in which it originally occurred; threatened, endangered, vulnerable, common.
<i>Endangered species</i>	Species facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.
<i>Euthanasia</i>	Humane killing of an animal by a chemical process .
<i>Exotic species</i>	Any species from a foreign country which does not naturally occur in South Africa.

<b><i>F1 generation</i></b>	first generation offspring
<b><i>F2 generation</i></b>	Second generation offspring
<b><i>Genetically Modified Organisms</i></b>	Organisms whose genetic material (inclusive RNA and DNA) does not occur naturally by mating or natural recombination.
<b><i>Highly exploited</i></b>	Species utilised due to popularity.
<b><i>IATA Life animal regulations</i></b>	International Air Transport Association. Guidelines in respect of transportation of animals by air.
<b><i>Indigenous species</i></b>	Species native to a particular area i.e. South Africa
<b><i>inter provincial</i></b>	Between different provinces
<b><i>intra provincial</i></b>	Within a province
<b><i>Precautionary principle</i></b>	Where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity but inadequate or inconclusive scientific evidence to prove this, action should be considered to avoid or minimise threats.
<b><i>Protected areas</i></b>	Geographically defined areas designated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives. Protected areas are dedicated primarily to the protection and enjoyment of natural or cultural heritage, to the maintenance of biodiversity, and to the maintenance of life-support systems.
<b><i>Red data Books</i></b>	These provide information on the current status and conservation requirements of threatened species and ecosystems. This can be at a global or national level.
<b><i>Re-export</i></b>	Export of specimen that did not originate in South Africa.
<b><i>Rehabilitation</i></b>	To return a degraded ecosystem or population to an undegraded condition and to productive use.

<b><i>Reintroduction</i></b>	The introduction of a specimen to the ecosystem from which it originally came.
<b><i>Sustainable use</i></b>	The use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to its long-term decline, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.
<b><i>Trade</i></b>	To negotiate or enter into any transaction in relation to, purchase, sell, exchange, offer for sale any reptile or amphibian species.
<b><i>Traditional knowledge</i></b>	A body of knowledge built up by a group of people through generations of living in close contact with nature. It is both cumulative and dynamic, building upon the experience of earlier generations and adapting to the new technological and socio-economic changes of the present.
<b><i>Translocation</i></b>	The removal of species both from their natural habitat as well as from urban areas and the release of species in another area.
<b><i>Transportation</i></b>	The actual transport of species per vehicle, plane etc. within and between province.
<b><i>Wild caught</i></b>	Taken from the wild.

**APPENDIX 2****NATIONAL PRINCIPLES, NORMS AND STANDARDS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF LARGE PREDATORS IN SOUTH AFRICA**

This document provides national principles, norms and standards for the sustainable utilisation of large predators in South Africa within the context of applicable national legislation and policies. Provincial policies may be more restrictive.

Existing operations will have a one-year period of grace before having to conform to this policy.

**AIMS**

Aims of the principles, norms and standards are:

- (i) to provide a national approach and minimum standards to all aspects relating to the management of large predators;
- (ii) to regulate the hunting of large predators;
- (iii) to promote the ethical hunting of large predators;
- (iv) to regulate the control of damage-causing animals;
- (v) to protect the rights of owners of properties neighbouring those on which large predators are introduced;
- (vi) to regulate the import and export of large predators;
- (vii) to protect the genetic integrity of indigenous predator populations; and
- (viii) to ensure sustainable use of large predators.

*In this document the term large predator refers to lion, leopard, cheetah, wild dogs, hyaena and excludes exotic cats of the genera Panthera and Felis*

**1. DEFINITIONS**

**Wild:** A large predator is considered to be wild if:

- it is free-ranging,
- it lives on wild prey populations, which do not require to be supplemented in numbers or with food,
- its own diet is not supplemented with food artificially,
- it occurs in its natural habitat within the historical distribution range of the particular species, and
- the particular species' social requirements must be met at all times

**Managed wild populations -A large predator population is considered to be a managed wild population if:**

- it is free-ranging,
- it lives on wild prey populations whose numbers may require to be supplemented,
- it occurs in its natural habitat within the historical distribution range of the particular species, and
- the particular species' social requirements must be met at all times

Captive                      A large predator is considered captive if any of the criteria of the definitions for wild or managed wild populations are absent.

Captive-bred             · A large predator bred under controlled unnatural conditions is considered to be captive-bred

Canned hunting        Canned hunting is considered to be any form of hunting where:

- a large predator is tranquillised, artificially lured by sound, scent, visual stimuli, feeding, bait, other animals of its own species, or another species, or any other method, or
- captive large predators are hunted.

## **2. MANAGEMENT OF LARGE PREDATORS IN THE WILD**

- This policy applies to predators which occur naturally in the wild and those that have been acceptably re-established in the wild within their natural distribution range.
- The following principles shall apply when re-establishing large wild predators:
  - enough suitable habitat must be available to accommodate a viable group;
  - sufficient suitable prey must be available to sustain the predators through natural hunting;
  - adequate fencing as prescribed by the relevant provincial conservation authority must be erected
  - only truly wild or properly rehabilitated large predators may be utilised for re-establishment purposes.
- The re-establishment of any large predator will be subject to an environmental assessment and feasibility study by the applicant, which will be reviewed by the relevant provincial conservation authority, and which will lead to the development of a formal ecological management plan.

- Wild large predators may only be temporarily kept in a release camp prior to release and shall be subject to the fencing specifications prescribed by the relevant provincial conservation authority.
- Capture and temporary keeping of large predators for any other reasons is subject to authorisation by the relevant provincial conservation authority.
- The written comments of adjacent landowners will be considered by the relevant provincial conservation authority when establishing large predators.

### **3. HUNTING OF WILD AND MANAGED WILD INDIGENOUS LARGE PREDATORS**

- No large predator may be hunted without authorisation issued by the relevant provincial conservation authority.
- No human-imprinted predators may be hunted.
- The area in which the hunt will take place must fulfil the following requirements:
  - the large predator must be wild as defined above;
  - the area must be fenced according to the requirements of the relevant provincial conservation authority; and
  - hunting of a specific animal will only be considered six months after introduction of the particular animal.
- No large predator may be artificially lured by sound, scent, visual stimuli, feeding, bait, other animals of its own or another species or any other method.
- No dogs may be used, except where the predator has been wounded in the hunt and needs to be traced.
- No large predator under the influence of any tranquilliser or similar drug may be hunted.
- No large predator may be hunted at night.
- The methods of hunting of leopard will be dealt with at the discretion of the relevant provincial conservation authority.

- Hunting must be done on foot and from at least 200 m from the vehicle (except for disabled hunters)
- Hunting is only allowable using legal hunting methods.
- The relevant provincial conservation authority must be informed regarding the date and time of hunt and reserves the right to be present at the hunt.
- The hunter must be in possession of all permits, licences and relevant documentation and must be able to present these upon request.
- No large predator should be hunted in a pride situation.
- Wounded and hunted animals must be reported to the relevant provincial conservation authority within 24 hours.
- The conservation authority may specify the calibre of fire -arm or weapon used during the hunt.
- Special permits are required from the relevant provincial conservation authority for hunting with bow and arrow.

#### **4. KEEPING AND BREEDING OF CAPTIVE LARGE PREDATORS**

Large predators kept captive for species conservation and commercial purposes are subject to the following conditions.

- The establishment of a captive operation of large predators will be subject to an environmental assessment in terms of NEMA. The following will be minimum requirements :
  - a management plan, and
  - a business plan
- No large predator may be kept under captive circumstances unless the applicant satisfies the relevant provincial conservation authority that the capture, keeping and/or breeding of the predator/s has a conservation, commercial, rehabilitation or education objective or forms part of a *bona fide* research programme or project attached to a recognised institution of research or higher learning .
- No large predators may be kept as pets.
- Exhibition of large predators must conform to the Performing Animals Act (PAA) and the requirements of the NSPCA. The issuance of licenses in

terms of the PAA must take into account the guidelines as set out in this document.

- All large predators in a captive operation shall be subject to micro-chipping as prescribed by the relevant provincial conservation authority. The applicant will be responsible for the costs of such micro-chipping. Such information will be housed in a national database, to be established by DEAT for this purpose, to ensure standardisation. Standardised micro-chips to be used as prescribed by DEAT. Provinces must supply DEAT with the information.
- Fencing specifications as prescribed by the relevant provincial conservation authority for the management of wild large predators must be adhered to (see section 3).
- The written comments of adjacent landowners will be considered when establishing a captive facility for large predators.
- No permit for the keeping of large predators in captivity will be issued before the facility has been inspected and approved by the relevant provincial conservation authority.

#### **5. HUNTING OF CAPTIVE LARGE PREDATORS**

- Hunting of captive large predators (i.e. canned hunting as defined in this document) is prohibited.
- Hunting of captive-bred large predators will only be permitted once they have been certified as rehabilitated to wild status by the relevant provincial conservation authority as defined in this document.

#### **6. CONTROL OF DAMAGE CAUSING LARGE PREDATORS**

- The most effective control measures, taking into consideration the conservation status of the animal, should be applied at all times.
- Permits for the capture or destruction of large predators causing damage to property or which are a threat to human life will only be issued after the relevant provincial conservation authority has been satisfied that the capture or killing of the animal is warranted.
- The control of large predators causing damage shall be treated as prescribed by the relevant provincial legislation.



- The relevant provincial conservation authority will decide on the disposal of the carcass or the skin .
- Damage caused by large predators is an inherent agricultural risk and therefore the onus is on the landowner to use non-lethal preventative measures to protect his property from large predators that might cause damage .

## **7. IMPORT AND EXPORT OF LARGE PREDATORS**

- No large predator shall be imported or exported or transported without the necessary internal, national, or provincial permits and without being micro-chipped.
- Crates for the translocation of large predators must comply with IATA regulations for air transport and the requirements specified by the relevant provincial conservation authority.
- Where an application is received for the import of non-indigenous wild large predators into the country, the applicant will have to prove, by means of appropriate DNA testing, that the predators are genetically sufficiently dissimilar to local predators to the extent that it precludes the possibility of the hybridisation of subspecies, species, or other taxa.
- A certificate of health must be issued by a veterinarian prior to the import of any large predator and such certificate must indicate that each predator is free from diseases such as feline AIDS, TB or any other disease which may threaten local populations. Any other requirements by veterinary and other authorities must also be met.

**APPENDIX3****A STRATEGY FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF  
WILD POPULATIONS OF SOUTHERN WHITE RHINO *Ceratotherium simum*  
*simum* IN SOUTH AFRICA****VISION**

MINDFUL OF ITS CRITICAL INTERNATIONAL ROLE IN THE CONSERVATION OF THE SOUTHERN WHITE RHINO, SOUTH AFRICA'S VISION FOR THE SUB-SPECIES IS OF:

- VIABLE POPULATIONS IN NATURAL HABITAT THROUGHOUT ITS FORMER RANGE.
- SHARED COMMITMENT BY THE STATE, COMMUNITIES AND PRIVATE LANDOWNERS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES.
- SIGNIFICANT FLOW OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO PEOPLE AT ALL LEVELS.
- CONTINUED NATIONAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN CONSERVING WHITE RHINO.

**KEY COMPONENTS OF THE STRATEGY****1. BIOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT****Objective:**

To achieve a medium-term metapopulation growth rate of at least 5%, and to ensure long-term genetic and demographic viability in at least the State and private/community sectors.

Aim to develop and maintain on State protected areas at least 2 populations of more than 1 000 rhinos, 3 greater than 100 and 10 greater than 50; and in private/communal ownership at least 3 populations greater than 100 and 5 greater than 50.

**Rationale:**

An increase number of rhinos in additional populations under a full range of management models (i.e private, community and State) will add strength to the strategy from a security and genetic perspective, and provide an increased buffer against the effects of poaching. The management of populations for maximum growth also increases opportunities for rhinos to generate income that can be used to offset some of the high cost of their conservation (CITES Res Conf. 9.14), as well as building up numbers of surplus animals that can be used to establish additional populations.

**Actions:**

- Estimate Ecological Carrying Capacity of each rhino area.
- Monitor rhinos to get accurate population estimates, measures of reproductive performance, condition, levels of disease, mortality levels etc. (Preferably *use techniques based on individual identification* for all but the very *large populations, e.g. more than 500 rhinos*).
- Manage for maximum productivity, through stocking at a maximum of 75% of estimated Ecological Carrying Capacity.
- Consider supplementary introductions to minimise the loss of genetic diversity.
- Assess suitable areas for the establishment of new populations.
- Aim to have a founder population of at least 20 animals.
- Translocate surplus animals (following recommended procedures and guidelines) to establish new populations in areas of secure and suitable habitats.
- Ensure rhinos that are translocated are free from any notifiable disease.
- Accelerate the establishment of key and important populations on private and communal land.
- Undertake applied research where necessary
- It is recommended that a regular system of status reporting and synthesis of reports is instituted for **key\*\*** (more than 50 rhinos) and **important\*\*** rhino populations (21 -50 rhinos) with a potential carrying

capacity of >50 rhinos. [\*\*As defined by the IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group].

**Indicators :**

- > Metapopulation growth rate of at least 5% per year.
- > Achieve desired number of key and important populations.
- > Status reporting operational. Routine use of appropriate monitoring techniques.
- > Application of reliable tests for notifiable diseases such as bovine tuberculosis (TB).
- > Number of populations of different sizes by management model.

**2. SECURITY PROTECTION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**Objective:**

To reduce the effects of poaching on populations, and ensure the successful conviction and sentencing of rhino poachers and illegal traders.

**Rationale:**

The major threat to rhino numbers is poaching and illegal trade. These must be minimised to sustain population growth and maintain the economic, tourist, social and community value/benefits of white rhino.

**Actions**

- Maintain pro-active crime prevention through the development and use of intelligence networks .
- Undertake threat analyses of rhino areas.
- Develop rhino protection action plans.
- Use effective procedures for more successful prosecutions, (e.g. use specialist investigators, expert witnesses to argue in aggravation of sentence in court, etc.)
- Adequately contain animals within secure areas .
- Maintain continuous monitoring of animals for security .
- Insert micro-chips in animals using a standard system (e.g. Trovan) when immobilising them.
- Establish and maintain good community relations.

- Implement a uniform horn registration system, with documented audit trails and subsequent safe storage and auditing of horn stockpiles.
- Maintain effective manpower density, training, equipment and deployment for anti-poaching activities.
- Monitor the effectiveness of field personnel.
- Field management should strive for good leadership, active involvement and supervision.

**Indicators:**

- > Number of rhinos poached (corrected for effort).
  - > Ratio of poached to natural deaths.
  - > Proportion of poaching cases with subsequent convictions.
  - > Court cases won vs. lost, and sentences handed down.
  - > Total number of illegal incidents (not restricted to rhinos) associated with a given rhino population.
  - > Ratio of all illegal incidents to arrests.
  - > Results of staff assessments (skills, readiness, equipment maintenance etc.)
  - > Morale of staff as indicated by staff turnover, corruption, number of disciplinary hearings and number of staff implicated in illegal activities.

**3. SUSTAINABLE USE****Objective:**

To develop the socio-economic sustainability of white rhino conservation and the flow of benefits from sustainable use.

**Rationale:**

The expansion of rhino populations (especially on private and communal land) and the continuation of appropriate conservation management programmes require economic incentives to be maximised. CITES Res. Conf. 9.14 recommends that revenue derived from the use of rhino should be reinvested in rhino conservation programmes.

In the face of declining State contributions to nature conservation, economic returns from wildlife help to sustain conservation management programmes. They also provide the basis for investment by the State, communities and the private sector in further land and expanded populations.

**Actions:**

- Sell live rhinos to appropriate buyers.
- Promote and undertake controlled ethical hunting, including the application of an appropriate procedure for issuing permits, the avoidance of inappropriate hunting methods, and the marking and registration of trophies.
- Promote and undertake safe and responsible tourism opportunities, which do not negatively impact on wild rhinos, their habitats or other species.
- Facilitate investment in tourism facilities, based on rhino conservation, which provide a positive return, increased participation, and the development of new employment opportunities.
- Pursue a legal trade in rhino products in accordance with international agreements and conventions, including CITES.
  - *Promote a uniform national system for controlling a legal trade in rhino horn, including the identification, marking and registration of stocks.*
  - *Promote the development and adoption of national legislation.*
  - *Introduce a system for monitoring the impact of any reopening of a legal trade in rhino horn, on rhino populations in South Africa.*
  - *Promote incentives for the reinvestment of revenues from trade into rhino conservation.*
- Support the captive breeding or display of white rhino by reputable institutions.

**Indicators:**

- > Number of inappropriate practices/contraventions.
- > Proportion of horn stocks registered.
- > Success in acquiring authority to trade in rhino products from CITES.

- > Number of tourists attacked or injured by rhino.
- > Number of rhinos injured or destroyed in tourist-related incidents.
- > Proportion of tourism revenues dependent on rhino conservation.
- > Revenue derived from existing trade, and prices achieved for rhinos and products.
- > Number of transactions, and value of trade.

#### 4. ANIMAL WELFARE

**Objective:**

To ensure that nationally accepted standards of animal welfare are implemented in white rhino conservation.

**Rationale:**

It is essential that South Africa maintain high animal welfare standards both for the sake of individual rhinos and for South Africa's standing internationally. This covers both the management and handling of rhinos in existing populations, as well as the evaluation of the final destination of relocated animals.

**Actions :**

Apply national welfare standards during capture, translocation\*\*, holding live sales and their subsequent management. [*\*\*Ensuring rhinos are exported only to acceptable destinations.*]

**Indicators:**

Proportion of management exercises that achieve the required animal welfare standards.

#### 5. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**Objective :**

To promote and facilitate the participation and involvement of communities and other stake-holders in the conservation and sustainable use of white rhinos.

**Rationale:**

The long-term conservation of white rhinos is dependent upon the support and participation of all sectors of the South African population.

**Actions:**

- Discuss white rhino issues at established liaison meetings.
- Demonstrate and promote the benefits that can be derived from white rhinos.
- Facilitate and promote the establishment of white rhino populations on communal land through partnerships and other supportive mechanisms.
- Create increased awareness of the value of wildlife, including the role of white rhino as flag-ship species.

**Indicators:**

- > Change in rhino numbers within different ownership categories (private, State, communal).
- > Economic benefits derived by local communities from white rhino use.

**6. CO-ORDINATION****Objective:**

To ensure the effective co-ordination of the white rhino industry.

**Rationale:**

There is a need for improved management and controls to optimise the conservation and sustainable use of white rhinos to the mutual benefit of all parties.

**Actions:**

- Establish a consultative forum (involving State nature conservation organisations, African Rhino Owners Association, Professional Hunting & Game Ranchers Association, communities etc.) to develop ideas and mechanisms to promote the white rhino industry, including:



- *The evaluation of current legislation and policy in terms of its relevance and uniformity.*
  - *The recommendation of any further necessary control mechanisms that promote responsible management, e.g. management plans.*
  - *The identification, acquisition and interpretation of relevant information to facilitate the co-ordination and promotion of the industry.*
- Building capacity within the wildlife industry for effective white rhino management, including legislation, hunting and security.

**Indicators:**

- › Extent of active involvement by rhino managers and others in consultative forums.