



Ref: EDMS 218090B

Dear Valued Stakeholder

CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT WHITE PAPER ON THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S BIODIVERSITY 2022 AND THE DRAFT GAME MEAT STRATEGY FOR SOUTH AFRICA

The above subject matter refers.

As you may be aware, the Department has published two important documents on government gazette for public comments, this include:

- I. A notice inviting public to submit written comments on the Draft White Paper 2022 published in the Government Gazette 46687 (Notice No. 2252) on 8 July 2022 for 60 days.
- II. A notice inviting public to submit written comments on the Draft Game Meat Strategy for South Africa published in the Government Gazette 47024 (Notice No. 2293) on the 18 July 2022 for 30 days.

The Department has lined-up various physical workshops in all provinces to gather inputs on the above-mentioned documents. The expected participants to these workshops are stakeholders from government, private sector (e.g Game Farmers, SMMEs), academia, civil society, traditional/ local communities, traditional authorities, traditional healers, etc. You are therefore humbly invited to attend a face-to-face consultation workshop scheduled as follows:

Date: 23 August 2022
Location: Phillip Sanders Resort
Time: 10.00 – 16.00

For your noting, the High-Level Panel Report ("HLP Report") on the review of policies, legislation and practices on matters related to the management, breeding, hunting, trade and handling of elephant, lion, leopard and rhinoceros, that was approved by Cabinet and released to the public in April 2021, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has undertaken to implement the

Report which comprises 18 goals and 60 recommendations. One of the key recommendations made in the HLP Report was the development of an overarching national policy on biodiversity that provides a clear vision and objectives on South Africa's approach to conservation and sustainable use of the country's biodiversity.

In this regard, a draft White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity 2022 (draft White Paper 2022) has been developed which is based on key foundations of policy and practice that draws directly from the Constitution 1996, African traditions associated with Nature, environmental management principles, the HLP Report principles, the Draft White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biological Diversity, 1997 and the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for policy development that was published in December 2020.

INVITATION TO ATTEND CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT WHITE PAPER ON THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S BIODIVERSITY 2022 AND THE DRAFT GAME MEAT STRATEGY FOR SOUTH AFRICA

The Draft White Paper 2022 is intended to:

- a. Provide policy certainty and a stable base for conservation, growth, and sustainable development;
- b. Reposition South Africa as a leader in conservation and responsible use of biodiversity;
- c. Re-imagine the role of protected areas, both state and other, in contributing to ecologically sustainable use and to rural development; and
- d. Propose transformation of the sector, with real meaningful access to nature-based development opportunities and benefit flows to marginalised communities.

Furthermore, South Africa produces 59 000 tons of game meat and exports just over 3000 tons of the 3900 tons. The African continent exports at least 3900 tons of game meat. Similarly, South Africa ranks number one in Africa in terms of game meat tonnage produced and generates \$12 million out of the \$14 million generated by the whole continent of Africa. The draft Game Meat Strategy for South Africa therefore intends to expand, differentiate and formalise the Game Meat Industry in South Africa, which has shown considerable potential for growth. If properly developed, this market could contribute favourably to economic development, job creation, food security and sectoral transformation.

Any inquiries and confirmation of availability in connection with consultation sessions/roadshows can be directed to;

DESTEA Free State: Dave Hayter by email at hayterd@destea.gov.za or +27 70 507 8820 or to Ms Gontse Mocwaledi at sebetleleg@destea.gov.za or +27 60 968 3186

Alternatively;

DFFE: Ms. Tseleng Mabunda by email at tmabunda@dfpe.gov.za or +27 63 750 3691 or Ms. Ofentse Mashiyane by email at omashiyane@dfpe.gov.za or +27 71 607 0604.

Your continued cooperation and support in this regard is highly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Ms Nomfundo Tshabalala
Director-General
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Letter signed by: Ms Flora Mokgohloa
Designation: Deputy Director-General: Biodiversity and Conservation
Date: