



destea

department of
Economic, Small Business Development,
Tourism and Environmental Affairs
FREE STATE PROVINCE

Media Statement

To: All Media Houses

For Immediate Release

07 March 2023

Three hippopotamus, five still missing

The Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA) commended the Search Operation Team for successfully finding three Hippopotamus after eight of them escaped following the floods at Vierfontein near Vaal River .

Two weeks ago, 23 February 2023, about eight hippopotamus went missing after being flooded out from the Boma at Bellavae private nature reserve (game farm). The department is thankful to the Search Operation Team for their hard work and dedication in nabbing these dangerous species.

It is for this reason that the department is confident that the search operation team will continue to work towards recovering the remaining five alive animals. The department reiterates its call for members of the community around that area to remain vigilant as other hippopotamus are still on the loose.

Issued by DESTEA

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