

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NO. 4277

26 January 2024

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998
(ACT NO. 107 OF 1998)****CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED ADOPTION OF THE SANDVELD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK STANDARD, 2023 AND THE PROPOSED EXCLUSION OF THE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE CLEARANCE OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS LISTING NOTICES 1, 2 AND 3**

I, Barbara Dallas Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby publish my intention to adopt, in terms of section 24(10)(a)(i) and 24(10)(a)(ii) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), the *Sandveld Environmental Management Framework Standard, 2023*, and based on compliance with this Standard, exclude, in terms of section 24(2)(d) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) the following activities identified in the Listing Notices associated with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, from the requirement to obtain an environmental authorisation from the competent authority prior to commencement when undertaken in the geographical area assessed by the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework included on the map provided as Annexure 1:

Activity 27 of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014;
Activity 15 of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014; and
Activity 12(i) of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014.

The Sandveld Environmental Management Framework was adopted by the Western Cape Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on 7 June 2019 as a shared vision of sustainable agriculture within the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework geographical area. The Sandveld Environmental Management Framework introduces the concept of farm-level planning which is to be implemented through the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework Standard, 2023.

The Standard identifies the measures for the management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the cultivation of land in the geographical area assessed by the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework and establishes the processes and procedures for the clearance of indigenous vegetation, to be excluded from the requirement to obtain an environmental authorisation. The Standard furthermore prescribes procedures and criteria to be used by the competent authority for the monitoring of excluded activities.

The Standard is available at the following link on the following webpages:
https://www.dffe.gov.za/projectprogrammes/environmental_management_instruments
<https://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp/>.

Members of the public are invited to submit written comments or inputs, within 30 days after the publication of this Notice in the *Gazette*, or of a newspaper notice calling for comments, whichever period occurs last, to the following addresses:


By post to: The Director-General
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Attention: Dr D Fischer
Private Bag X447
PRETORIA
0001

By hand at: Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
ARCADIA
0083

By e-mail: dfischer@dfpe.gov.za

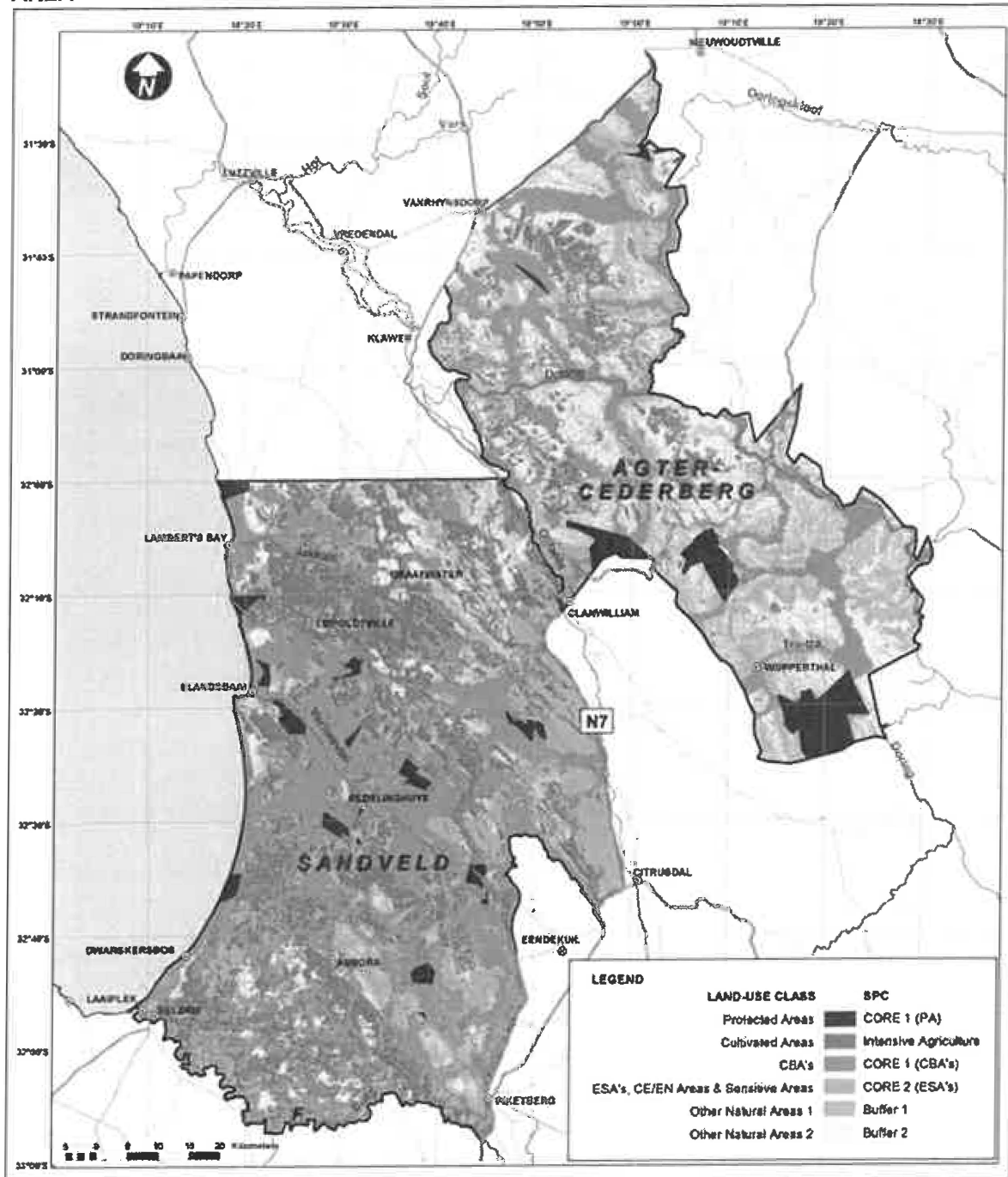
Any inquiries in connection with the notice can be directed to Dr Dee Fischer at dfischer@dfpe.gov.za or (012) 399 8843. Comments or inputs received after the closing date may not be considered.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment complies with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013). Comments received and responses thereto are collated into a comments and responses report which will be made available to the public as part of the consultation process. If a commenting party has any objection to his or her name, or the name of the represented company/organisation, being made publicly available in the comments and responses report, such objection should be highlighted in bold as part of the comments submitted in response to this government notice.



BARBARA DALLAS CREECY
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

ANNEXURE 1: SANDVELD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK GEOGRAPHICAL AREA



RMC

SCHEDULE

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL SANDVELD EMF STANDARD AND ASSOCIATED EXCLUDED ACTIVITIES

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CHAPTER 1 – INTERPRETATION, PURPOSE AND APPLICATION

1. Definitions

In this Standard a word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in section 1 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), or regulation 1 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, bears the same meaning –

“agricultural scientist” means a specialist in the field of agricultural science;

“botanist” means a specialist in the field of botanical science;

“CapeNature” means the provincial public entity as established by the Western Cape Biodiversity Act, 2021 (Act No.6 of 2021), in existence as a juristic person and a provincial public entity responsible for the conservation of biodiversity in the Province;

“competent authority” means the organ of state that would have been designated by section 24C of the Act in respect of a listed or specified activity;

“cultivated land” means land that is prepared and used to grow crops;

“critical biodiversity area” means an area that is required to meet biodiversity targets for ecosystems, species, ecosystems or ecological processes and infrastructure and that is identified in a systematic biodiversity plan developed by CapeNature, of which geographical representations can be found on the South African National Biodiversity Institute’s BGIS website <http://bgis.sanbi.org/> and CapeFarmMapper: <https://gis.elsenburg.com/apps/cfm/>;

“Department” means the provincial department responsible for environmental affairs in the Western Cape Province;

“environmental control officer” means a suitably qualified and experienced environmental assessment practitioner appointed by the proponent to monitor and audit all activities carried out in undertaking a registered project;

“Ecological Support Areas” means areas that are not essential for meeting biodiversity targets, but that play an important role in supporting the functioning of protected areas or critical biodiversity areas, are often vital for delivering ecosystem services and which support landscape connectivity, encompass the ecological infrastructure from which ecosystem goods and services flow, and strengthen resilience to climate change, including features such as regional climate adaptation corridors, water source and recharge areas, riparian habitat surrounding rivers or wetlands, and endangered vegetation;

“Environmental Management Framework base map” means the map of the relevant farm as included in the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework, before any groundtruthing has taken place;

“Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations” means the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, published in terms of section 24(5) of the Act under Government Notice No. R. 982 in Government *Gazette* No. 38282 of 4 December 2014, as amended from time to time;

“excluded activity” means an activity identified in Annexure 1 to the Standard, which activity is excluded from the requirement to obtain environmental authorisation from the competent authority after following the process prescribed in paragraph 4 of the Standard, subject to compliance with the Standard;

“farm unit” means one or more cadastral units that are registered separately in a deeds office, which is used as a single unit for growing crops and falls entirely within the geographical area of the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework as contemplated in Annexure 2;

“GIS specialist” means a specialist in the field of geographical information systems;

“method statement” means a written submission by the proponent in response to the Farm-Level Management Plan or a request by the environmental assessment practitioner which sets out the equipment, materials, labour and method(s) proposed to meet an impact management outcome or action;

“other natural areas” means areas that have not been identified as a priority in the current Western Cape Provincial biodiversity spatial plan but retain most of their natural character and perform a range of biodiversity and ecological infrastructure functions and while these have not been prioritised for meeting biodiversity targets, it forms an important part of the natural ecosystem;

“proponent” means the person that intends to undertake or undertakes an excluded activity and is also responsible for ensuring compliance with the Standard, and includes the “registered entity” once registration has been issued, contemplated in Annexure 3;

“protected area” means any of the protected areas referred to in section 9 of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003);

“Province” means the Province of the Western Cape;

“Provincial Minister” means the MEC in the Province;

“registration” means the process whereby the competent authority records the person and farm unit to which the Standard apply;

“Sandveld Environmental Management Framework” means the environmental management framework adopted by the Provincial Minister under section 24(3) of the Act for the Sandveld and gazetted in the Western Cape Government Provincial Gazette No. 8105 of 7 June 2019;

“the Act” means the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998);

“the Appeals Regulations” means the National Appeals Regulations, 2014, published under Government Notice No. R. 993 in Government *Gazette* No. 38303 of 8 December 2014, as amended from time to time;

“the Standard” means the Standard for the Management and Mitigation of Cultivation in the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework geographical area, 2023; and

“water use entitlement” means a right to use water in terms of any provision of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) or in terms of an instrument issued under that Act.

2. Purpose of the Standard

The Standard—

- (a) identifies the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework geographical area in terms of section 24(2)(c) of the Act and activities contemplated in Annexure 1, in terms of section 24(2)(d) of the Act, which are excluded from the requirement to obtain environmental authorisation, subject to compliance with the Standard;
- (b) provides for rules, guidelines or characteristics that are commonly and repeatedly used and against which the performance of excluded activities or the results of those excluded activities are to be measured for the purposes of achieving the objects of the Act;
- (c) prescribes reporting and monitoring requirements;
- (d) prescribes procedures and criteria to be used by the competent authority for the monitoring of excluded activities in order to determine compliance with the Standard; and
- (e) aims to avoid and mitigate detrimental impacts on the environment, and to optimise positive environmental impacts, and provide for matters pertaining thereto.

3. Application of the Standard

- (1) The Standard applies to activities contemplated in Annexure 1 where –
 - (a) the excluded activities are proposed to be undertaken for the purpose of cultivation of land situated within the geographical area of the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework;
 - (b) the excluded activities proposed to be undertaken fall within the land use category defined as “land to be cultivated” as indicated in the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework;
 - (c) the Provincial Minister is the competent authority for the excluded activities; and
 - (d) the farm units on which the excluded activities are proposed to be undertaken fall entirely inside the boundary of the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework geographical area; and
- (2) Compliance with the Standard does not negate the need for the proponent to comply with all other applicable legislation.

CHAPTER 2 - PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

4. Notification and Registration

- (1) The proponent must -
 - (a) appoint an environmental assessment practitioner to develop a Farm-Level Management Plan in accordance with the requirements as set out in the Standard;
 - (b) notify of the intention to register, in writing, and provide a copy of the Farm-Level Management Plan to –
 - (i) the landowner(s) or person(s) in control of the farm unit to which the proposed registration relates, if the proponent is not the landowner or person in control of that farm unit;
 - (ii) all the owners and persons in control of any land that shares a common boundary with the farm unit to which the proposed registration relates;
 - (iii) the department responsible for agriculture in the Province;
 - (iv) the department responsible for water resources; and
 - (v) CapeNature; and

- (c) submit the following documents to the competent authority for purposes of registration -
- (i) the completed registration form, as attached in Annexure 5;
 - (ii) declarations, including declarations from the environmental assessment practitioner and every specialist, as contemplated in Annexure 6; and
 - (iii) Farm-Level Management Plan;
- in accordance with the requirements set out in the Standard.
- (2) The competent authority must, within 30 days of receipt of the request to register, register the project or decline to register the project should the project not fall within the scope of the Standard or the request to register is incomplete.
- (3) The competent authority must draw the attention of the proponent to the fact that an appeal may be submitted in terms of section 43 of the Act and the National Appeal Regulations against the decision contemplated in subparagraph (2).
- (4) The proponent must inform the stakeholders mentioned in subparagraph (1)(b) of the decision.
- (5) The proponent must ensure that proof of registration is available -
- (a) on the farm unit at all times;
 - (b) on request; and
 - (c) where the proponent or owner has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
- (6) Registration lapses if commencement does not occur within 5 years of the date of registration, in which case the process to register contemplated in this paragraph will apply afresh.
- (7) The competent authority must keep a register of all exclusions registered in terms of this Standard and must make the information available on the website of the competent authority, which register should include as a minimum:
- (a) the location of the activity excluded;
 - (b) the name of the proponent;
 - (c) the date of registration; and
 - (d) the location at which the registration documents can be accessed.

5. Amendment of registration and Farm-Level Management Plan

- (1) A proponent may request the following amendments to the Farm-Level Management Plan, submitted with registration –
 - (a) amending the details of the proponent or owner of the farm;
 - (b) amending the management measures of the Farm-Level Management Plan, in line with the outcome of the compliance reporting statement or compliance audit report as required by paragraph 7 of this Standard;
 - (c) amending the Farm Management Map of the Farm-Level Management Plan, in line with the outcome of the compliance reporting statement or compliance audit report as required by paragraph 7 of this Standard; and
 - (d) amending the Farm Use Map of the Farm-Level Management Plan, in line with the revision of the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework or in line with an outcome identified in the compliance audit report.
- (2) A proponent who wishes to amend its registration, must—
 - (a) submit to the competent authority the amendments made to the registration form, declaration and the Farm-Level Management Plan where amendments are made in terms of subparagraphs (1)(b), (c) or (d);
 - (b) when amending the details of the proponent or owner of the farm, complete and submit the registration and declaration forms to the competent authority;
 - (c) when amending the Farm-Level Management Plan, appoint an environmental assessment practitioner to make such amendments; and
 - (d) where such amendments will result in changes to the Farm Use Map of the Farm-Level Management Plan, apply the registration process set out in paragraph 4 and any reference to registration in paragraph 4 must be read as a reference to re-registration.

CHAPTER 3 - ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SPECIFICATIONS

6. Farm-Level Management Plan

- (1) The Farm-Level Management Plan must include -
 - (a) the Farm Use Map;

- (b) the Farm Management Map; and
 - (c) management measures that meet the outcomes as contemplated in Annexure 4.
- (2) The Farm-Level Management Plan must—
- (a) use the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework as baseline information;
 - (b) be prepared by an environmental assessment practitioner with specialist input from a botanist, agricultural scientist and GIS specialist;
 - (c) be informed by a groundtruthing exercise; and
 - (d) take cognisance of any relevant guidelines published for the interpretation of the Standard.
- (3) The groundtruthing exercise must-
- (a) be undertaken by the environmental assessment practitioner, the botanist, the agricultural scientist and the GIS specialist;
 - (b) groundtruth the portion of the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework Map contemplated in Annexure 2 that applies to the farm unit; and
 - (c) make adjustments to the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework Map contemplated in Annexure 2 and be represented as the Farm Use Map.
- (4) The Farm Use Map must-
- (a) delineate the farm according to land use categories that are consistent with Annexure 3: Table 3.7 of the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework as follows -
 - (i) cultivated lands;
 - (ii) land to be cultivated;
 - (iii) areas to be protected; and
 - (iv) protected areas;
 - (b) be delineated and signed off by the environmental assessment practitioner, the botanist and agricultural scientist and a GIS Specialist.
- (5) The Farm Management Map -
- (a) must further delineate the farm unit into clearly identified subcategories of the land use categories contemplated in Annexure 3: Table 3.7 of the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework as follows -
 - (i) subcategories of cultivated land as follows:

- (aa) existing irrigated agriculture;
 - (bb) existing dryland agriculture; and
 - (cc) land to be rehabilitated;
 - (ii) subcategories of land to be cultivated as follows:
 - (aa) proposed irrigated agriculture; and
 - (bb) proposed dryland agriculture;
 - (iii) subcategories of areas to be protected as follows:
 - (aa) critical biodiversity areas;
 - (bb) ecological support areas;
 - (cc) other natural areas; and
 - (dd) protected areas; and
 - (b) must be delineated and signed off by the environmental assessment practitioner, the botanist, agricultural scientist and a GIS specialist.
 - (6) The Farm-Level Management Plan must include management measures–
 - (a) as recommended by the environmental assessment practitioner, the botanist and the agricultural scientist to maintain and improve the overall ecological status of the farm unit; and
 - (b) that include, as a minimum, measures that address the outcomes contemplated in Annexure 4.
 - (7) The proponent-
 - (a) must manage the farm unit in accordance with the Farm Use Map, the Farm Management Map and management measures that make up the Farm-Level Management Plan;
 - (b) may only cultivate land in areas identified as “cultivated lands” and “lands to be cultivated” on the Farm Use Map.
 - (8) The proponent may not clear indigenous vegetation in the areas identified as “areas to be protected” and “protected areas” on the Farm Use Map and in accordance with the subcategories of the Farm Management Map.
 - (9) The proponent must use method statements that clearly outline how the requirements contemplated in the Farm-Level Management Plan will be executed.

- (10) Method statements contemplated in subparagraph (9) must be in place before commencing with the clearance of indigenous vegetation and must be made available on request.
- (11) The proponent must notify the competent authority of the intended commencement of excluded activities, at least seven days before the commencement of the excluded activity.

CHAPTER 4 - COMPLIANCE

7. Record keeping and audit requirements

- (1) A proponent must—
 - (a) submit a compliance reporting statement contemplated in Annexure 7 to the competent authority within one year of the date of commencement of the excluded activities and annually thereafter;
 - (b) submit a compliance audit report compiled by an environmental control officer to the competent authority—
 - (i) within five years of the date of commencement, and every five years thereafter;
 - or
 - (ii) when requested to do so by the competent authority;which report must evaluate the effectiveness of the management measures outlined in the Farm-Level Management Plan and the proponent's compliance with the Standard;
 - (c) amend the Farm-Level Management Plan in the event that the compliance audit report contemplated in subparagraph (b) concludes that amendments are required; and
 - (d) ensure that the competent authority's confirmation of registration, compliance reporting statements and compliance audit reports are available for inspection on the farm unit at all times.
- (2) Where a registration is transferred to a new proponent —
 - (a) the proponent must provide the new proponent with a copy of all compliance reporting statements and compliance audit reports submitted to the competent authority as contemplated in subparagraph (1)(a) and (b) respectively; and
 - (b) the new proponent must adhere to the compliance reporting schedule established by the former proponent.

- (3) Non-compliance with paragraphs 4(1), 4(4), 4(5), 5 and 7 constitutes an offence as contemplated in section 49A(1)(bA) of the Act.

8. Authority Inspections

The proponent must provide the competent authority and any authorised official with access to the facility where the excluded activity is undertaken, for the purposes of monitoring compliance with the Standard.

CHAPTER 5 - TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND SHORT TITLE

9. Transitional Arrangements

- (1) An environmental authorisation issued prior to the coming into effect of the Standard, for an activity or activities that fall within the scope of the Standard, remains valid and subject to the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations and conditions set out in such environmental authorisation.
- (2) Where an application for environmental authorisation for an activity falling within the scope of this Standard is pending at the time of coming into effect of the Standard, such application must, despite the publication of the Standard or the coming into effect of the Standard, be dispensed with in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations and if environmental authorisation is issued for such application, such environmental authorisation remains valid and the Standard does not apply.
- (3) An application for environmental authorisation as contemplated in subparagraph (2) may be withdrawn at any time prior to a decision being made on such application.

10. Short title and commencement

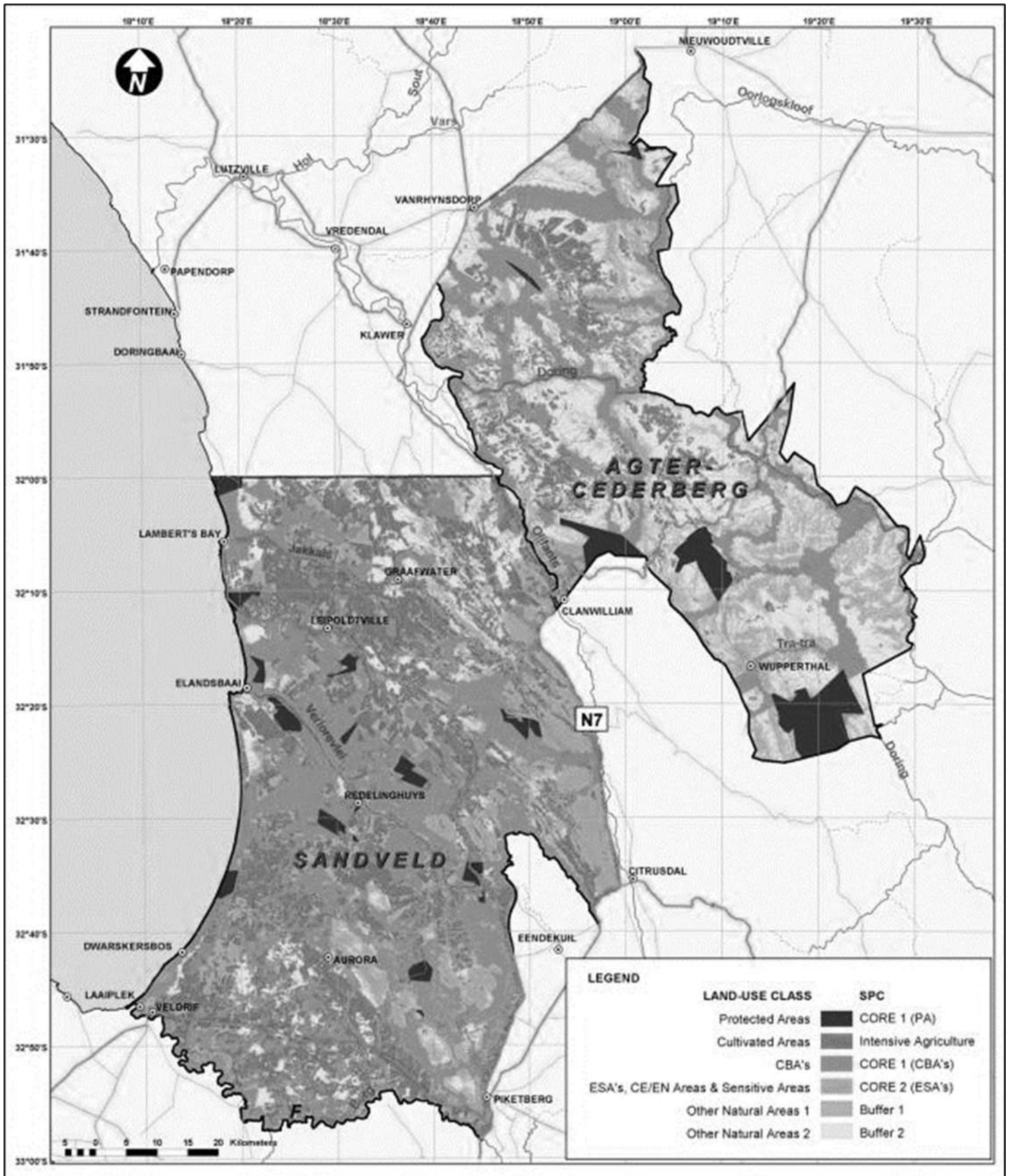
The Standard is called the Sandveld EMF Standard, 2023, and takes effect 14 days from the date of publication in the *Government Gazette*.

ANNEXURE 1 - LIST OF EXCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- 1.1 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended from time to time:
- Activity 27;
- 1.2 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014, as amended from time to time:
- Activity 15; and
- 1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014, as amended from time to time:
- Activity 12.

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**ANNEXURE 2: SANDVELD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK GEOGRAPHICAL AREA
(MAP 3.2 OF SANDVELD EMF)**



ANNEXURE 3: TABLE 3.7 OF THE SANDVELD EMF

Land use categories of the Farm-Level Management Plan	Sub-categories	Management measures
Protected areas	None	<p>Areas of a farm unit delineated as part of a protected area must be managed in accordance with the Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP) associated therewith. If the registered entity does not have authority to implement measures outlined in the PAMP, he/she/it must notify the entity with such authority of a perceived lack of implementation of the PAMP. Proof of such notification must be kept by the registered entity for a period of five years.</p>
Areas to be protected	Critical Biodiversity Areas	<p>Critical Biodiversity Areas must be managed to maintain or enhance their ecological functioning. These areas may not be altered in any way as part of the Farm-Level Management Plan, other than in order to fulfil the management measures outlined herein.</p> <p>Fire management</p> <p>The prescribed burning regime must be outlined by the specialist who conducted the groundtruthing assessment of the Farm-Level Management Plan, including the fire management map associated therewith. The CapeNature Fact Sheet: Landowner’s Guide to Fire Management¹ is available to guide specialists in regard.</p> <p>Alien vegetation management</p> <p>The prescribed alien vegetation management measures must be outlined by the specialist who conducted the groundtruthing assessment for the Farm-Level Management Planning. This should include a map of alien infestations on the farm unit and measures of eradicating such infestations. The Best Practice Guideline: alien vegetation management document², endorsed by CapeNature is available to guide specialists in this regard.</p>

¹ <https://www.capenature.co.za/uploads/files/Landowners-Guide-to-Fire-Management-Fact-Sheet-English.pdf>.

² <https://edentoaddo.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/BPG.pdf>.

		<p>Soil conservation</p> <p>Areas that have been burnt must be monitored for signs of soil erosion. If a rannel or rill is detected after periods of heavy rain, the necessary precautions must be taken to reduce the velocity of Hortonian overland flow so as to reduce its erosive potential in these areas. These early precursors to widespread soil erosion must be monitored in order to prevent the formation of gullies. If the measures outlined herein are insufficient to abate the erosion, the competent authority must be contacted for intervention.</p> <p>Carrying capacity</p> <p>Grazing of livestock will not be permitted in Critical Biodiversity Areas.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVELY</p> <p>Proponents will not be allowed to stock more than 50% of the total livestock/wildlife permitted for the Critical Biodiversity Area in terms of the Western Cape Carrying Capacity Map.</p>
	<p>Ecological Support Areas</p>	<p>Ecological Support Areas must be managed to maintain or enhance their ecological functioning. These areas may not be altered in any way as part of the Farm-Level Management Plan, other than in order to fulfil the management measures outlined herein.</p> <p>Fire management</p> <p>The prescribed burning regime must be outlined by the specialist who conducted the groundtruthing assessment of the Farm-Level Management Plan, including the fire management map associated therewith. The CapeNature Fact Sheet: Landowner’s Guide to Fire Management³ is available to guide specialists in this regard.</p> <p>Alien vegetation management</p> <p>The prescribed alien vegetation management measures must be outlined by the specialist who conducted the groundtruthing assessment for the</p>

³ <https://www.capenature.co.za/uploads/files/Landowners-Guide-to-Fire-Management-Fact-Sheet-English.pdf>.

		<p>Farm-Level Management Plan. This should include a map of alien infestations on the farm unit and measures of eradicating such infestations. The Best Practice Guideline: alien vegetation management document⁴, endorsed by CapeNature is available to guide specialists in this regard.</p> <p>Soil conservation</p> <p>Areas that have been burnt must be monitored for signs of soil erosion. If a runnel or rill is detected after periods of heavy rain, the necessary precautions must be taken to reduce the velocity of Hortonian overland flow so as to reduce its erosive potential in these areas. These early precursors to widespread soil erosion must be monitored in order to prevent the formation of gullies. If the measures outlined herein are insufficient to abate the erosion, the competent authority must be contacted for intervention.</p> <p>A registered entity must be cognisant of the legal implications of moving material in and out of watercourses, and must not undertake a management measure that triggers an identified activity for which authorisation has not been given.</p> <p>Carrying capacity</p> <p>A registered entity is allowed to make use of these areas for the grazing of livestock so long as the livestock units remain below the thresholds of the Western Cape Carrying Capacity Map⁵ for the vegetation type in question, and so long as such extensive agricultural practices uphold the canons of sustainable agriculture.</p>
	<p>Other Natural Areas (including areas unviable in terms of farming e.g. steep slopes, shallow bedrock, or other)</p>	<p>Other natural areas must be managed to maintain or enhance their ecological functioning. These areas may not be altered in any way as part of the Farm-Level Management Plan, other than in order to fulfil the management measures outlined herein.</p> <p>Fire management</p>

⁴ <https://edentoaddo.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/BPG.pdf>.

⁵ <https://gis.elsenburg.com/apps/cfm/>.

		<p>The prescribed burning regime must be outlined by the specialist who conducted the groundtruthing assessment of the Farm-Level Management Plan, including the fire management map associated therewith. The CapeNature Fact Sheet: Landowner’s Guide to Fire Management⁶ is available to guide specialists in this regard.</p> <p>Alien vegetation management</p> <p>The prescribed alien vegetation management measures must be outlined by the specialist who conducted the groundtruthing assessment for the farm-level planning. This should include a map of alien infestations on the farm unit and measures of eradicating such infestations. The Best Practice Guideline: alien vegetation management document⁷, endorsed by CapeNature is available to guide specialists in this regard.</p> <p>Soil conservation</p> <p>Areas that have been burnt must be monitored for signs of soil erosion. If a runnel or rill is detected after periods of heavy rain, the necessary precautions must be taken to reduce the velocity of Hortonian overland flow so as to reduce its erosive potential in these areas. These early precursors to widespread soil erosion must be monitored in order to prevent the formation of gullies. If the measures outlined herein are insufficient to abate the erosion, the competent authority must be contacted for intervention.</p> <p>A registered entity must be cognisant of the legal implications of moving material in and out of watercourses, and must not undertake a management measure that triggers a listed activity for which authorisation has not been given.</p> <p>Carrying capacity</p> <p>A registered entity is allowed to make use of these areas for the grazing of livestock so long as the</p>
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⁶ <https://www.capenature.co.za/uploads/files/Landowners-Guide-to-Fire-Management-Fact-Sheet-English.pdf>.

⁷ <https://edentoaddo.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/BPG.pdf>.

		livestock units remain below the thresholds of the Western Cape Carrying Capacity Map ⁸ for the vegetation type in question, and so long as such extensive agricultural practices uphold the canons of sustainable agriculture.
Cultivated lands	Existing irrigated agriculture	<p>Land for which water use entitlement has been secured.</p> <p>Efficient water use</p> <p>Water use for irrigation must be used sparingly in order to ensure that the alteration of land immediately abutting irrigated lands is minimised as far as possible. Infrastructure necessary for the delivery of water (i.e. borehole pumps, pipes) must be monitored for leaks on an on-going basis. If a leak is detected on such infrastructure, the irrigation system must be decommissioned and the leak fixed. The infrastructure can only be re-commissioned once the leak has been fixed. Every effort must be made to ensure that the artificial introduction of water to natural areas is avoided.</p> <p>Alien and invasive vegetation management</p> <p>These areas must be closely monitored for the presence of invasive ruderal species (this includes unwanted indigenous species). Clarity regarding likely indigenous invasive species that must be managed must be provided by the specialist who conducted the groundtruthing of the Sandveld EMF when identifying areas of the farm currently infested with alien invasive species. The Best Practice Guideline: alien vegetation management document⁹, endorsed by CapeNature is available to guide specialists in this regard.</p>
	Existing dryland agriculture	<p>Alien and invasive vegetation management</p> <p>These areas must be closely monitored for the presence of invasive ruderal species (this includes unwanted indigenous species). Clarity regarding likely indigenous invasive species requiring management must be provided by the specialist who conducted the</p>

⁸ <https://gis.elsenburg.com/apps/cfm/>.

⁹ <https://edentoaddo.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/BPG.pdf>.

		<p>groundtruthing of the Sandveld EMF. This information must be accompanied by a map that identifies areas of the farm currently infested with alien invasive species. The Best Practice Guideline: alien vegetation management document¹⁰, endorsed by CapeNature is available to guide specialists in this regard.</p>
	<p>To be rehabilitated</p>	<p>In instances where existing cultivated land must no longer be cultivated, the following management measures must be undertaken to ensure that these areas do not undermine the agricultural and ecological importance of the farm unit. A farmer must consider reinstating areas of the Farm Management Map delineated under this sub-category prior to cultivating intact natural vegetation.</p> <p>Fire management</p> <p>The prescribed burning regime must be outlined by the specialist who conducted the groundtruthing assessment of the Farm-Level Management Plan, including the fire management map associated therewith. The CapeNature Fact Sheet: Landowner’s Guide to Fire Management¹¹ is available to guide specialists in this regard.</p> <p>Alien vegetation management</p> <p>The prescribed alien vegetation management measures must be outlined by the specialist who conducted the groundtruthing assessment for the Farm-Level Management Plan. This should include a map of alien infestations on the farm unit and measures of eradicating such infestations. (The Best Practice Guideline: alien vegetation management document¹², endorsed by CapeNature is available to guide specialists in this regard).</p> <p>Soil conservation</p> <p>Areas that have been burnt must be monitored for signs of soil erosion. If a runnel or rill is detected after periods of heavy rain, the necessary precautions must</p>

¹⁰ <https://edentoaddo.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/BPG.pdf>.

¹¹ <https://www.capenature.co.za/uploads/files/Landowners-Guide-to-Fire-Management-Fact-Sheet-English.pdf>.

¹² <https://edentoaddo.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/BPG.pdf>.

		<p>be taken to reduce the velocity of Hortonian overland flow so as to reduce its erosive potential in these areas. These early precursors to widespread soil erosion must be monitored in order to prevent the formation of gullies. If the measures outlined herein are insufficient to abate the erosion, the competent authority must be contacted for intervention.</p> <p>A registered entity must be cognisant of the legal implications of moving material in and out of watercourses, and must not undertake a management measure that triggers an identified activity for which authorisation has not been given.</p> <p>Carrying capacity</p> <p>A registered entity is allowed to make use of these areas for the grazing of livestock so long as the livestock units remain below the thresholds of the Western Cape Carrying Capacity Map¹³ for the vegetation type in question, and so long as such extensive agricultural practices uphold the canons of sustainable agriculture.</p>
Land to be cultivated	Proposed irrigated agriculture	<p>Land for which water use entitlement has been secured.</p> <p>Prior to cultivating lands identified for future cultivation, these areas must be managed to maintain their ecological status. This is the case in order to ensure that their ecological utility is maintained until they are cultivated, and that they do not become havens for alien vegetation infestations, soil erosion or fire hazards to surrounding ecologically important land.</p> <p>Fire management</p> <p>The prescribed burning regime must be outlined by the specialist who conducted the groundtruthing assessment of the Farm-Level Management Plan, including the fire management map associated therewith. The CapeNature Fact Sheet: Landowner's</p>

¹³ <https://gis.elsenburg.com/apps/cfm/>.

		<p>Guide to Fire Management¹⁴ is available to guide specialists in this regard.</p> <p>Alien vegetation management</p> <p>The prescribed alien vegetation management measures must be outlined by the specialist who conducted the groundtruthing assessment for the farm-level planning. This should include a map of alien infestations on the farm unit and measures of eradicating such infestations. The Best Practice Guideline: alien vegetation management document¹⁵, endorsed by CapeNature is available to guide specialists in this regard.</p> <p>Soil conservation</p> <p>Areas that have been burnt must be monitored for signs of soil erosion. If a rannel or rill is detected after periods of heavy rain, the necessary precautions must be taken to reduce the velocity of Hortonian overland flow so as to reduce its erosive potential in these areas. These early precursors to widespread soil erosion must be monitored in order to prevent the formation of gullies. If the measures outlined herein are insufficient to abate the erosion, the competent authority must be contacted for intervention.</p> <p>A registered entity must be cognisant of the legal implications of moving material in and out of watercourses, and must not undertake a management measure that triggers an identified for which authorisation has not been given.</p> <p>Carrying capacity</p> <p>A registered entity is allowed to make use of these areas for the grazing of livestock so long as the livestock units remain below the thresholds of the Western Cape Carrying Capacity Map¹⁶ for the vegetation type in question, and so long as such</p>
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¹⁴ <https://www.capenature.co.za/uploads/files/Landowners-Guide-to-Fire-Management-Fact-Sheet-English.pdf>.

¹⁵ <https://edentoaddo.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/BPG.pdf>.

¹⁶ <https://gis.elsenburg.com/apps/cfm/>.

		<p>extensive agricultural practices uphold the canons of sustainable agriculture.</p> <p>Water use</p> <p>Land to be cultivated cannot be cultivated if insufficient water rights are available for the cultivation. Note that once these areas have been cultivated, the management measures of the “cultivated lands” category will apply.</p>
	Proposed dry land agriculture	<p>Prior to cultivating lands identified for future cultivation, these areas must be managed to maintain their ecological status. This is the case in order to ensure that their ecological utility is maintained until they are cultivated, and that they do not become infested by alien or invasive species, degraded by soil erosion or constitute fire hazards to surrounding ecologically important land.</p> <p>Fire management</p> <p>The prescribed burning regime must be outlined by the specialist who conducted the groundtruthing assessment of the Farm-Level Management Plan, including the fire management map associated therewith. The CapeNature Fact Sheet: Landowner’s Guide to Fire Management¹⁷ is available to guide specialists in this regard.</p> <p>Alien vegetation management</p> <p>The prescribed alien vegetation management measures must be outlined by the specialist who conducted the groundtruthing assessment for the Farm-Level Management Plan. This should include a map of alien infestations on the farm unit and measures of eradicating such infestations. The Best Practice Guideline: alien vegetation management document¹⁸, endorsed by CapeNature is available to guide specialists in this regard.</p> <p>Soil conservation</p>

¹⁷ <https://www.capenature.co.za/uploads/files/Landowners-Guide-to-Fire-Management-Fact-Sheet-English.pdf>.

¹⁸ <https://edentoaddo.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/BPG.pdf>.

		<p>Areas that have been burnt must be monitored for signs of soil erosion. If a runnel or rill is detected after periods of heavy rain, the necessary precautions must be taken to reduce the velocity of Hortonian overland flow so as to reduce its erosive potential in these areas. These early precursors to widespread soil erosion must be monitored in order to prevent the formation of gullies. If the measures outlined herein are insufficient to abate the erosion, the competent authority must be contacted for intervention.</p> <p>A registered entity must be cognisant of the legal implications of moving material in and out of watercourses, and must not undertake a management measure that triggers an identified activity for which authorisation has not been given.</p> <p>Carrying capacity</p> <p>A registered entity is allowed to make use of these areas for the grazing of livestock so long as the livestock units remain below the thresholds of the Western Cape Carrying Capacity Map¹⁹ for the vegetation type in question, and so long as such extensive agricultural practices uphold the canons of sustainable agriculture.</p>
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¹⁹ <https://gis.elsenburg.com/apps/cfm/>.

ANNEXURE 4: MINIMUM ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR A FARM-LEVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Farm-Level Management Plan must, as a minimum, include environmental management measures to meet the following outcomes on the farm unit:

- (a)* Effective management of alien and invasive species;
- (b)* Effective management of waste material;
- (c)* Effective management of veld fires;
- (d)* Effective management of erosion;
- (e)* Effective management and mitigation of dust;
- (f)* Efficient and effective use of water;
- (g)* Prevention and minimisation of the contamination of surface and ground water;
- (h)* Prevention of the contamination of the 'areas to be protected' by chemical inputs such as fertilisers and pesticides;
- (i)* Rehabilitation of areas identified by a botanist;
- (j)* Environmental awareness of all employees, to assist with the implementation of the Standard, as well as measures set out in the Farm-Level Management Plan;
- (k)* Consultation with CapeNature for the purposes of conducting a search and rescue of indigenous vegetation, before the clearance thereof;
- (l)* Safeguarding the "areas to be protected" on the farm unit from actions associated with the clearance of indigenous vegetation in the "areas to be cultivated"; and
- (m)* Effective management of "areas to be protected" in accordance with Annexure 3: Table 3.7 of the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework.

ANNEXURE 5: REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION FORM A REQUEST TO BE REGISTERED AND INTENT TO COMPLY WITH THE SANDVELD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (SANDVELD EMF) STANDARD	
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Date Registration Form Received	
Outcome of Evaluation of the Registration Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected
	If rejected, reasons for rejection:
Registration Number	

Kindly note that:

1. All fields must be completed in full; submission of incomplete information will result in automatic rejection.
2. Declaration of whether the registration is a first or a re-submission.
3. This form must be used in all instances to request registration or re-registration in terms of the Sandveld EMF Standard.
4. This form is current as of the date of commencement of the Sandveld EMF Standard, as indicated in the *Government Gazette*. It is the responsibility of the proponent to ascertain whether subsequent version of the form have been published or produced by the competent authority.
5. The required information must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The size of the space provided is not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. It is in the form of a table that will expand itself as each space is filled with typing.

6. The use of “not applicable” in the form must be done with circumspection. Where it is used in respect of material information that is required by the competent authority for assessing the registration, this will result in the rejection of the registration as provided for in the Sandveld EMF Standard.
7. Unless protected by law, all information contained in, and attached to this registration, will become public information on receipt by the competent authority. Upon request, any interested and affected party should be provided with the information contained in and attached to this registration form.
8. An original copy (1) of this form must be submitted to the Department. The competent authority will also accept online submissions as and when the system comes into effect. All information submitted on the hard copy must be duplicated on the soft copy as a PDF document provided to the competent authority on a CD. The electronic copy on a CD must be accompanied with a shapefile.

SECTION A: DETAILS OF THE PROPONENT		
All notifications pertaining to the request for registration project will be sent using the information provided in this section of the form.		
Name of individual/company (including trading name)		
Contact Person		
Passport / Identity Document (ID Number)		
Company Registration Number		
Physical Address		
Postal address		
Email Address		
Phone No.		
Registration Status	First Submission	YES / NO
	Resubmission	YES / NO

SECTION A: DETAILS OF THE PROPONENT

All notifications pertaining to the request for registration project will be sent using the information provided in this section of the form.

	If Resubmission, then provide the previous Reference number	
INFORMATION OF LANDOWNER OR PERSON IN CONTROL OF THE FARM UNIT (if the proponent is not the owner or person in control of the land)		
Name of individual / company		
Contact Person		
Passport / Identity Document (ID Number)		
Company Registration Number		
Postal address		
Email Address		
Phone No.		

SECTION B: FARM UNIT INFORMATION (please complete this section separately for each cadastral unit)**IDENTIFICATION OF CADASTRAL UNIT**

Farm number			
Zoning			
Physical Address			
Municipality within which the farm unit is located			
SG21 Code			
GPS Coordinates (central point)			
Latitude	°	'	"
Longitude	°	'	"

SECTION C: DESCRIPTION

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SECTION D: EXCLUDED ACTIVITIES

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Record of Water Use Entitlements available for the proposed cultivation

YES

NO

(Please attach)

SECTION E: LOCALITY MAP

1. A **locality map** must be attached to this form.

The scale of the locality map must be at least 1:10 000 and must be indicated on the map.

The map must indicate the following:

(a) a north arrow; and

(b) a legend explaining the symbols used in the map.

ANNEXURE 6: DECLARATIONS

6.1. DECLARATION BY THE PROPONENT

I, _____ hereby declare that I have read the completed registration form (with the relevant attachments) and hereby confirm that the information provided is to the best of my knowledge true and correct.

I declare that I have not commenced with the project as described in the Registration Form (Annexure 5) and the Farm-Level Management Plan and will not commence until a registration number has been received as contemplated in the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework (Sandveld EMF) Standard.

Furthermore, I declare that I am fully aware of my responsibilities in terms of the Sandveld EMF Standard in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and failure to comply with these requirements may constitute an offence.

I declare that I will manage the farm unit in accordance with the Farm-Level Management Plan, which includes the Farm Use Map, the Farm Management Map and Management measures.

Proponent _____

Designation _____

Signature _____

Date _____ Place _____

Commissioner of Oaths _____

Designation _____

Signature _____

Date _____ Place _____

Commissioner of Oaths Stamp

6.2. DECLARATION BY THE LANDOWNER OR PERSON IN CONTROL OF THAT FARM UNIT

NB: (Only if the landowner is different from the Proponent)

I, _____ declare that I –

- Am, aware of the excluded activity / activities to take place or taking place on my property
- Consented to this/ these excluded activity / activities taking / to take place on my property.

Owner of the property (Name and Surname) _____

Designation _____

Signature _____

Date _____ Place _____

Commissioner of Oaths _____

Designation _____

Signature _____

Date _____ Place _____

6.3. DECLARATION OF EAP / SPECIALIST AND UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH OR AFFIRMATION

Declaration of EAP / SPECIALIST

I, _____, declare that –

- I act as the independent environmental assessment practitioner / specialist in the Standard registration process;
- I have expertise in conducting environmental impact assessments / specialist assessments, including knowledge of the Act, the Sandveld EMF Standard, the Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998) the *Sandveld EMF Standard*, the Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I have performed the work relating to the Standard registration process in an objective manner;
- I have taken into account, to the extent possible; the requirements of the *Sandveld EMF Standard*, matters listed in Regulation 13 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) when preparing the Standard registration process; and the reports relating to the Standard registration process;
- I have disclosed to the Proponent all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing the Standard registration process; and the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself to support the registration process, unless access to that information is protected by law, in which case, I have indicated that such information exists and will be provided to the competent authority as part of the registration process; and
- I have performed all obligations as expected from an environmental assessment practitioner / specialist in terms of the *Sandveld EMF Standard* and the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

Disclosure of vested Interest (delete whichever is not applicable)

- I do not have any vested interest (either business, financial, personal or other) in the proposed activity proceeding other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Standard;
- I have a vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding, such vested interest being:

Signature of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner / Specialist

Name of Company

Date

Undertaking under Oath or Affirmation

I, _____, swear under oath / affirm that all the information submitted or to be submitted for the purposes of this registration is true and correct.

Signature of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner / Specialist

Name of Company

Date

Signature of the Commissioner of Oaths

Date

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ANNEXURE 7: COMPLIANCE REPORTING STATEMENT

The compliance reporting statement reports on compliance during the implementation of the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework (Sandveld EMF) Standard.

A compliance reporting statement must be completed and submitted by the proponent annually to confirm continued compliance with the implementation of the Sandveld EMF Standard (as required by the Sandveld EMF Standard).

DETAILS OF PERSON COMPILING THE COMPLIANCE REPORTING STATEMENT			
Name:			Title:
Company:			
Qualifications and Experience:			
Passport		Identity Document	No.
Physical Address:		Postal Address:	
Email Address:			
Phone No.:		Fax No.:	
I, _____, hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information in this compliance reporting statement is true and correct.			
Signed this _____ day of _____, 20_____ at _____			
Signature: _____			

Environmental aspect	Yes / No / Not applicable	Comments
The farm unit is managed in accordance with the Sandveld EMF Standard.		

Environmental aspect	Yes / No / Not applicable	Comments
The farm unit is managed in accordance with the management measures as required by the Sandveld EMF Standard.		
Land has only been cultivated in areas identified as “areas already cultivated” and “areas to be cultivated” on the Farm Use Map.		
No indigenous vegetation has been cleared in areas identified as “areas to be protected” and “protected areas” on the Farm Use Map.		
The proponent notified the Department seven days prior to commencement of an excluded activity as required by the Sandveld EMF Standard.		
<p>Method statements as per the Farm-Level Management Plan have been produced and are available on site to ensure the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Effective management of alien and invasive species; (b) Effective management of waste material; (c) Effective the management of veld fires; (d) Prevention and minimisation of the contamination of surface and ground water; 		

Environmental aspect	Yes / No / Not applicable	Comments
<p>(e) Prevention of the contamination of the ‘areas to be protected’ by chemical inputs such as fertilisers and pesticides;</p> <p>(f) Efficient and effective use of water;</p> <p>(g) Rehabilitation of areas identified by a botanist;</p> <p>(h) Prevention and minimisation of erosion;</p> <p>(i) Management and mitigation of dust;</p> <p>(j) Environmental awareness of all employees, to assist with the implementation of the Sandveld EMF Standard, as well as measures set out in the MP;</p> <p>(k) Effective management of “areas to be protected” in accordance with Annexure 3: Table 3.7 of the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework.</p> <p>(l) Safeguarding the “areas to be protected” on the farm unit from actions associated with the clearance of indigenous vegetation in the “areas to be cultivated”; and</p> <p>(m) Consultation with CapeNature for the purposes of conducting a search and rescue of indigenous vegetation, before the clearance thereof.</p>		

Environmental aspect	Yes / No / Not applicable	Comments
The Farm-Level Management Plan, method statements and confirmation of registration letter are available on the farm at all times and are available upon request.		
The proponent has undertaken farming operations consistent with the water use entitlement in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998).		

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