Information required for importation of alien and listed invasive species which must accompany the application for a for import permit

RISK ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

(1) A risk assessment must consider-
   (a) information regarding the relevant species, including-
      i) the taxonomy of the species, including its class, order, family, scientific name if known, genus, scientific synonyms and common names of the species;
      ii) the originating environment of the species, including climate, extent of geographic range and trends;
      iii) persistence attributes of the species, including reproductive potential, mode of reproduction, dispersal mechanisms and undesirable traits;
      iv) invasive tendencies of the species elsewhere and of close taxonomic relatives in and elsewhere;
      v) the history of domestic propagation or cultivation of the species, introductions and the extent of naturalisation in South Africa and elsewhere;
      vi) nutritional or dietary requirements of the species and, where applicable, whether it has a specialist or generalist diet;
      vii) the ability of the species to create significant change in an ecosystem; and
      viii) the potential to hybridise with other species and to produce fertile hybrids; and

   (b) information regarding the restricted activity in respect of which the permit is sought, including-
      i) the nature of the restricted activity;
      ii) the reason for the restricted activity;
      iii) the location where the restricted activity is to be carried out;
      iv) the number and, where applicable, the gender of the specimens of the species involved; and
      v) the intended destination of the specimens, if they are to be translocated; and

   (c) information regarding the receiving environment, including-
      i) climate match;
      ii) habitat;
      iii) disturbance regimes;
      iv) the presence of natural enemies, predators and competitors; and
      v) the presence of potentially reproductive compatible species.
(2) A risk assessment carried out in terms of sub-regulation (1) must identify-
   (a) the probability that the species will naturalise in the area in which the restricted activity is to be carried out or in any other area elsewhere in the Republic;
   (b) the possible impact of the species on the biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources of-
      (i) the area in which the restricted activity is to be carried out; and
      (ii) in any other area elsewhere in the Republic;
   (c) the risks of the specimen serving as a vector through which specimens of other alien species may be introduced;
   (d) the risks of the method by which a specimen is to be introduced or the restricted activity carried out serving as a pathway through which specimens of other alien species may be introduced; and
   (e) any measures proposed in order to manage the risks.

3. Based on the information in sub-regulations (1) and (2), a risk assessment must consider-
   (a) the likelihood of the risks being realised;
   (b) the severity of the risks and consequences of the realisation of the risks for other species, habitats and ecosystems;
   (c) the potential costs associated with the control of the species to minimise harm to biodiversity; and
   (d) options for minimising the potential risks.

PLEASE NOTE
Risk assessment facilitator
   (1) A risk assessment contemplated in sections 65(2) and 71(2) of the Act must be undertaken by an environmental assessment practitioner.
   (2) An environmental assessment practitioner contemplated in sub-regulation (1) must-
      (a) be independent;
      (b) have knowledge of the Act, these regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed application;
      (c) have expertise in biodiversity matters;
      (d) have expertise in conducting risk assessments;
      (e) consult at least one relevant expert; and
      (f) be in compliance with any requirements of the Natural Scientific Professions Act, 2003 (Act No. 27 of 2003).
(4) The applicant must take all reasonable steps to verify whether the environmental assessment practitioner complies with sub-regulation (3).

**Risk assessment report**

(1) A risk assessment report must contain the following details:

(a) The personal details and qualifications of the risk assessment practitioner carrying out the risk assessment;

(b) the personal details and qualifications of the expert consulted as required in regulation 15(3)(e);

(c) the risk of invasion as a result of the issuing of the permit;

(d) key economic, social and ecological considerations that will guide a decision on whether or not to issue a permit;

(e) any risk management measures that must be applied;

(f) a recommendation on whether or not a permit should be issued; and

(g) any conditions or control measures that should apply if a permit is to be issued.

(2) A risk assessment report prepared in terms of sub-regulation (1) may be submitted by the issuing authority to the Institute for scientific review.

(3) The applicant will be responsible for the cost associated with the review.