



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X4390, Cape Town, 8001. Department of Environmental Affairs (Issuing Authority Sub-directorate), 14 Loop Street, Cape Town, 8001. Tel (+ 27 21) 441 2748. E-mail AISpermit@environment.gov.za

### **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 nd 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.



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### **(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).



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(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.