



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NOTICE TO THE PERMIT HOLDERS, PERMIT APPLICANTS AND THE GENERAL STAKEHOLDERS, UNDER THE BIOPROSPECTING, ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING AMENDMENT REGULATIONS OF 2015:

Interim measures for communication between the BABS Secretariat and the permit holders, permit applicants and the general stakeholders during the national lockdown for 21 days

As you are aware, The President of the Republic of South Africa has declared a National State of Disaster as an urgent response to the COVID-19 Global Outbreak and the necessary national containment measures which includes a National Lockdown for 21 days, effective from 26 March 2020 until 16 April 2020. This notice seeks to inform the Permit Holders, Permit Applicants and the General Stakeholders about the interim measures that have been put in place following the President's announcement:

1. The BABS Secretariat will be closed from 26 March 2020 until the 16th April 2020.
2. All permit applications scheduled for evaluation by the Bioprospecting Advisory Committee will be evaluated after the 16th April 2020.
3. All new applications for BABS permits and request for renewals received via emails during this period will be attended to via email and where necessary, through a call.
4. All requests for permit amendment received during this period will be processed after the 16th April 2020.
5. All permit applications that have been recommended to the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment for a final decision which may be finalized during this period will be processed after the

16th April 2020. However, as soon as the Minister's decision is finalised, an email notification will be sent to the permit applicant.

6. All reports that are due from the Permit Holders should be submitted after the 16th April 2020.
7. All monetary benefits received from the Permit Holders which are due to the relevant beneficiaries will be processed after the 16th April 2020.

For any enquiries, please contact the BABS Secretariat via email: Lmabadahane@environment.gov.za or Nnepfumembe@environment.gov.za.

Issued by the Bioprospecting, Access and Benefit Sharing (BABS) Secretariat

25 March 2020