

**COMMENT ON AN EARLY DRAFT OF THE NATIONAL STATUS REPORT ON BIOLOGICAL INVASIONS
IN SOUTH AFRICA**

As you may be aware, the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), in collaboration with the CIB DST-NRF Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology (C•I•B) at Stellenbosch University, is currently in the process of compiling South Africa's first National Status Report on Biological Invasions. This report has to be produced by October 2017, as required by regulations under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEM:BA, Act 10 of 2004). The drafting team has developed a set of indicators for use in the status report, and has, with the assistance of information provided by several additional contributors, prepared a first draft of the status report. This draft is not complete, but it contains sufficient information for any stakeholder to be able to assess the approach that has been adopted, to review the preliminary assessments of status, and to identify gaps or omissions that would need to be addressed.

We would therefore like to provide all stakeholders with an opportunity to review progress at this stage, with a view to gaining inputs on the structure of the report, the validity of preliminary assessments, and the identification of additional information that could improve the report. We must stress that this draft is not complete, but in the interest of including wide inputs and of meeting tight deadlines, we are sending this version out for review now. After the review, we will revise the report and submit that revision for further expert review before going to print in early September.

You are invited to provide comments on any part of the report, but we expect that most stakeholders who do wish to comment will confine their comments to a section or sections of the report where they have personal interests or professional expertise. A table of contents is included at the start of the draft report for guidance; in addition, each chapter is preceded by a 1 – 2 page summary that can provide a rapid overview of the contents.

The draft report can be accessed in the click-through [link](#). The entire document is available as a pdf, with page numbers and line numbers. **If you wish to provide comments or other inputs, please indicate clearly the page and line numbers to which your comments and/or inputs are directed.** All comments and inputs should be sent to Ms Monica Nguta (invasives@sanbi)

[.org.za](#) and invasives.sanbi@gmail.com) **by no later than 26 May 2017**. Due to tight deadlines, we will unfortunately not be able to accommodate late submissions.

We look forward to your participation in this important exercise. If you have any queries relating to the above, please feel free to contact either Prof. Brian van Wilgen (bvanwilgen@sun.ac.za) or Prof. John Wilson (jrwilson@sun.ac.za)

(Full link: <http://www.sanbi.org/sites/default/files/documents/documents/national-status-report-biological-invasion-south-africa-draft-1-comment.pdf>)