

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

No. 978

20 August 2004

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: BIODIVERSITY ACT (ACT NO. 10 OF 2004):
INVITATION TO INTERESTED SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENS AND REGISTERED SOUTH
AFRICAN INSTITUTIONS TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM**

1. Experts, interested members of the public and relevant South African organisations are hereby invited to apply for registration with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) for the purpose of consultation regarding:
 - (1) The listing of threatened and protected species (Chapter 4) and;
 - (2) alien and invasive species (Chapter 5) in terms of the Biodiversity Act.

2. In order to comply with section 24 of the Constitution, national legislation is required to regulate the sustainable use of biological resources. The recently promulgated National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004) provides for the consolidation of different pieces of biodiversity legislation. The provisions of the Act further seek to avoid duplication of functions and promote integrated governance.

Chapter 4 of the Act makes provision for the listing of species that are threatened or in need of protection, to ensure their survival in the wild, while Chapter 5 provides for the management of alien and invasive species through the control of their introduction and spread, as well as the control and eradication of those already established. The Act compels the Minister to follow a public consultative process before publishing lists of threatened or protected species and lists of alien and invasive species.

Recognising the need for consultation to develop and approve these lists before publication in the Government Gazette, a process to expedite the development and approval of these lists was developed by the department.

3. To ensure that all the relevant stakeholders are consulted and to streamline the consultation process, interested stakeholders are invited to register in one of the following identified categories;
 - **Expert;**
 - **institutional stakeholders (relevant organisations) or;**
 - **individual stakeholders.**

Individual members of the public, experts or relevant organisations may apply to register either for the purpose of consultation regarding:

- (1) The listing of threatened and protected species and/or;
- (2) the listing of alien and invasive species.


4. A database of stakeholders will be developed and maintained by the department and will be used for consultation purposes during the species listing developmental process.
5. Scientific and technical expertise relating to threatened and protected species and alien and invasive species will be sourced from experts registered on the stakeholder database. Experts will be invited to form part of *ad hoc* expert groups to assist in the listing of various taxonomic groups or other categories of species. For example, there may be *ad hoc* expert groups set up on (a) developing categories, criteria and scope for the listing of species, (b) birds, (c) mammals, (d) plants, (e) marine and freshwater species, (f) reptiles and amphibians, (g) insects, etcetera.
6. Draft lists will be circulated to all the registered stakeholders on the departmental database for comment and input.

7. The department will make provision to accommodate individuals, relevant organisations and experts to register throughout the duration of the species listing processes.
8. An application may be made by completing the attached application form and which must be submitted to:

The Director-General
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
Private Bag X447
PRETORIA
0001

For Attention: Dr Gert Willemse

9. Enquiries should be directed to -Dr Pieter Botha Tel. (012) 310 3575, e-mail: pbotha@deat.gov.za or Dr Gert Willemse Tel. (012) 310 3836, e-mail: gwillemse@deat.gov.za, or fax number (012) 320 7026.
10. Closing date for applications: 15 September 2004.



MARTHINUS VAN SCHALKWYK
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Contact details

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

Register as:

Individual

Organisation

Expert