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GENERAL NOTICES • ALGEMENE KENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**NOTICE 727 OF 2016****NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: BIODIVERSITY ACT, 2004
(ACT NO. 10 OF 2004)****DRAFT DISTRIBUTION MAPS FOR CERTAIN INDIGENOUS SPECIES**

I, Bomo Edith Edna Molewa, Minister of Environmental Affairs, hereby give notice of my intention, in terms of section 97(1)(h) read with section 100 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004), to publish distribution maps for certain indigenous species to facilitate implementation of the Threatened or Protected Species Regulations, 2007, as far as it relates to the translocation of specimens to areas that fall outside their natural distribution ranges. The distribution maps and supporting information are available on the following website addresses:

Printable maps: <http://egis.environment.gov.za>

GIS Maps: <http://mapservice.environment.gov.za/tomviewer>

Information on the purpose and application of the distribution maps is set out in the schedule hereto.

Members of the public are invited to submit, within 30 days after the publication of the notice in the *Gazette*, written scientific information to the following addresses:

By post to: The Director-General
 Department of Environmental Affairs
 Attention: Ms Makganthe Maleka
 Private Bag X447
 PRETORIA
 0001

By hand at: Environmental House, 473 Steve Biko Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083.

By e-mail: mamaleka@environment.gov.za

Any enquiries in connection with the notice can be directed to Ms Makganthe Maleka at 012 – 399 8865.

Comments received after the closing date may not be considered.



BOMO EDITH EDNA MOLEWA
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

SCHEDULE

In terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No 10 of 2004) (NEMBA), "indigenous species" is defined as *"a species that occurs, or has historically occurred, naturally in a free state in nature within the borders of the Republic, but excludes a species that has been introduced in the Republic as a result of human activity"*. Further, an alien species is defined as—

- a) *a species that is not an indigenous species; or*
- b) *an indigenous species translocated or intended to be translocated to a place outside its natural distribution range in nature, but not an indigenous species that has extended its natural distribution range by natural means of migration or dispersal without human intervention."*

Considering the above-mentioned definitions, and in order to provide certainty relating to the natural distribution ranges of indigenous species, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) embarked in a process to develop distribution maps for certain indigenous species. These distribution maps will be developed as a phased process; hence, the distribution maps available on this website involve those indigenous species that are most commonly translocated within the wildlife industry.

The translocation of indigenous species is an activity that is regulated in terms of provincial- as well as national biodiversity legislation. However, the factors considered when evaluating permit applications relating to translocation often differ between provinces. In addition, uncertainty often exists in respect of what the actual natural distribution range of a species is, which makes it difficult to determine the risk/s associated with a proposed translocation and to consider appropriate management interventions to minimise such risk/s. It is anticipated that the distribution maps will assist in addressing some of these difficulties and provide certainty relating to the natural distribution range of indigenous species. However, the purpose of the distribution maps is neither to prohibit the translocation of specimens of listed threatened or protected species to areas that fall outside their natural distribution ranges, nor to prohibit the introduction of these species in areas where they have not occurred before.

The distribution maps are applicable to the implementation of the Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) Regulations, 2007, and the Alien and Invasive Species (AIS) Regulations, 2014.

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