



environment & tourism

Department:
Environmental Affairs and Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

National norms and standards for
management of elephants

**PRESENTATION TO PARLIAMENTARY
PORTFOLIO AND SELECT COMMITTEE
14 August 2007**

National norms and standards for management of elephants

DEAT constituted a Task Team established consisting of representatives of elephant Provinces.

The basis that the task team used in drafting the norms and standards is emanating from the following:

- EMOA (Elephant Management Owner's association) Report
- SANParks report*
- Meeting of Regional (SADC) Experts*
- Experience of other South African parks authorities*



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At the MinMEC of 7 December 2006 a policy statement relating to the management of elephant populations in South Africa was adopted. The approved policy statement and the draft document developed by the Task Team was submitted to a legal drafter for finalising the document. Based on these two documents the published draft norms and standards the addresses the following issues:

1. Elephant populations are managed in the Republic in a way that –
 - promotes broader biodiversity and social goals and are socially, politically economically and ecologically sustainable
 - ensures the long term survival of the elephant population within the ecosystem in which it occurs;
 - does not disrupt the ecological integrity of the ecosystems in which the elephant population occurs;
 - secures the ability of the elephant population to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations of people;



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2. The management of elephant populations is regulated in a way that-

- is uniform across the country
- takes into account the SA's international obligations in terms of international agreements on biodiversity management binding on the Republic; and in accordance with national policies on biodiversity management and sustainable development.

3. The norms and standards apply to all protected areas and private land on which elephants occur.



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4. The management of land on which elephants occur are subject to the drafting of a management plan. In the case of protected areas the contents is prescribed in the Protected Areas Act and in the case of private land the draft norms and standards provides for the minimum factors that need to be included.
5. The issue of population control is dealt with by way of providing different options which include both lethal and non-lethal options. The draft norms and standards prescribes the different options such as translocation and contraception



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6. The draft norms and standards deals with the management of elephants by using subsections and prescribing, where appropriate ways in which private owners and protected area managers must deal with this issue.
7. The management of land on which elephants occur are subject to the drafting of a management plan. In the case of protected areas the contents is prescribed in the Protected Areas Act and in the case of private land the draft norms and standards provides for the minimum factors that need to be included.



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8. In dealing with translocation the document also addresses the conditions , including the social structure of the population, under which translocation can take place and the conditions where the animals can be kept.
9. The issue of lethal population control, culling is addressed and the conditions applicable to the use of this option is prescribed.
10. The draft document also deals with the control of elephants through hunting and the control of damage causing and vagrant animals and prescribes a number of prohibited hunting methods. This includes amongst others luring of an animal, the use of traps or pits but does allow the use of listed prohibited hunting methods for the control of damage causing animals.



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11. The document also deals with the establishment of new populations and highlights the factors, such as availability of adequate water, shelter and the sources of animals to be used for the establishment of new populations.
12. The draft norms and standards deals with the various aspects of permitting the possession and keeping of elephants and specifies the factors that need to be taken into account by the issuing authority when considering the application for a permit and also highlights the role and responsibility of the private owner protected area manager.



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The draft national norms and standards for the management of elephant populations in South Africa were developed in terms of section 9 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEMBA) and published on March 2, 2007 for public comment in terms of section 100 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) (Act 10 of 2004) in Government Gazette number 29674.



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National norms and standards for management of elephants: Progress

- 80 submissions, some running to as many as 50 pages, were received in response to an invitation by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism for public comment on the Draft Norms and Standards (DN&S).
- The Task Team that consisting of representatives of the DEAT, SANParks, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape and Northwest, met on 14 and 19 June 2007 to assess the comments.



Summary of Issues Raised

- The current permitting process is time consuming and due to capacity problems in the provinces, the issuances of permits are always delayed and in some instances permits are not issued at all.
- Concerns were raised that the very specific requirements relating to fencing and husbandry will inhibit the industry and will limit the potential growth of the industry due to the costs and the too stringent requirements.
- The capacity of government to enforce these norms and standards and the TOPS regulations was questioned.
- The current draft norms and standards discourage private land owners due to the stringent requirements.



Summary of Issues Raised Cont...

- Provision should be made for a transitional period and authorities must inform applicants that these provisions will influence their activities when it comes into effect.
- Specific questions were asked about the process and especially whether the stakeholders will be consulted on amendments made before it is published for implementation.
- Clarification was requested whether the provincial authorities have the mandate to establish stricter measures.



Where we currently are now:
challenges/outstanding issues...

- Regulation of ethics around handling eg back safaris DEAT vis a vis DoA and NSPA.
- Protocol for culling as a last resort
- Finalisation of document
- Way forward: submission for approval & state law advisor vetting process and promulgation.



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