

# ANNEXURE 11

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## *POLICY FOR THE DONATION OF GAME FROM PROTECTED AREAS IN THE NORTH WEST PARKS AND TOURISM BOARD*

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### **Introduction**

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As a conservation organization, the North West Parks and Tourism Board is committed to contribute to the conservation of rare and endangered animals. Part of this commitment entails the establishment or supplementation of viable founder population of rare and endangered animals in other protected areas whether it's privately or state owned protected areas. The Board wishes to be recognized as a significant contributor to the establishment of new and founder populations of various species of wildlife, particularly Rare and Endangered Species within Southern Africa.

The Board also supports the principle of sustainable use and views it as a key component of the conservation, specific in developing countries. The wildlife industry has grown tremendously over the past few decades, and is still growing and providing new economic opportunities. It is also recognized that land redistribution as a result of previous inequalities also provides opportunities for emerging game farmers, specifically previously disadvantaged individuals, and the Board sees an opportunity to contribute to transformation of the game industry through the assistance and where necessary provision of founding stock of game in line with national policy and legislation. In this regard the Board could become a key role-player in the wildlife industry, specifically in the North West Province.

One of the Board's primary mandates is also to contribute to tourism development in the province. The establishment of significant tourist products is largely based on provision of quality game viewing experience, and in this regard the Board can also play a role in assisting emerging tourist products to provide quality founder stock.

The Board also has game populations which may for one or other reason be growing out of proportion with the available habitat or other resources, i.e. certain predator species, and elephant. To manage these populations it may be necessary to reduce numbers from time to time, and since culling or transfers to other parks in the province are not always a feasible option, it donating them to a willing landowner should be considered as an option, provided certain standards are met, and any commercial gain is in line with nationally accepted standards and national legislation and policy

The Board also wishes to contribute towards global wildlife education and understanding in recognized Wildlife Sanctuaries and Zoos both nationally and internationally

Now therefore, the Board will donate various species of wildlife to communities and recognized institutions and emerging game farmers within the communities, to other conservation bodies both nationally and internationally and to recognized Wildlife Sanctuaries and Zoos throughout the world.

national objectives are achieved before animals are exported for conservation projects outside South Africa.

The Board will require a thorough habitat assessment to be done for rare and endangered species, as well as high value species for conservation projects outside South Africa. The Board needs to ensure national and international conservation standards are met when animals are considered for such projects. Also, the necessary capacity to manage these species effectively needs to be verified.

When such donation have been agreed upon by both parties, an agreement need to be drawn up in which the conditions agreed to are outlined. Capture, transport and release will be done by qualified operators. Regular progress reports need to be submitted to the Board, and the Board can insist on reversing the agreement where gross negligence of the agreement is evident. The Board will as far as possible support and assist the recipient organization with advice and management support where necessary.

#### Local state land, including SANParks and other provincial conservation agencies

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The Board's first commitment will be towards national conservation projects, and specifically those run by our sister departments, including SANParks, North West Province and other provincial conservation authorities. The Board also had requests for game from game reserves managed by local municipalities, as well as other state departments, i.e. National Intelligence Agency. For state conservation agencies, a thorough habitat assessment need to be undertaken by a qualified ecologist employed by the recipient organization, or if not available, an assessment can be done by Ecological services Division, or an independent private ecologist paid for by the recipient organization. The detail required in the assessment report will depend on the types of species involved. Rare and endangered species such as Black rhino, sable antelope, roan antelope, high value species such as white rhino and buffalo and politically and emotionally sensitive species such as predators and elephants will require detail assessments, whereas basic assessments will suffice for general plains. Where other government bodies such as local municipalities, other state departments require game for introductions, a thorough habitat assessment can be done by the Ecological services Division of the Board, with recommendations to the Chief Conservation Officer.

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To address these inadequacies responsibly, the Board will offer excess game to prospective landowners in an open and transparent approach. Potential landowners will be screened for:

- Landownership
- Management capacity, both in terms of resources, as well as knowledge and experience
- Management objectives
- Broader Conservation objectives
- Broader social objectives and benefits
- Size of the area and ability to support viable populations

The prospective landowner must provide a detailed management plan for the reserve/game farm. Aspects to be considered in such a plan include:

- Management objectives and goals
- Management constraints and how it will be dealt with
- Application of available resources to achieve objectives
- Management interventions to achieve objectives
- Business plan

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### Donation of carcasses

The Board also receives from time to time requests for game meat for functions such as funerals, inaugurations, lunches, school functions, fund raisings, etc. These requests will usually be from communities adjacent to parks and is usually in the form of a request for one or two carcasses.

The Board aims to maintain good relations with communities neighboring our parks, and will each request will be considered in its own merit. As a general policy, the Board will support such requests within the following provisions:

- Only general plains game will be considered, i.e. Blue wildebeest, Impala, Blesbok, Springbok
- Preference should be given to extralimital species as determined by the Ecological Management Committee of each reserve
- No rare and endangered game, or small game i.e. duiker, steenbok, klipspringer, etc. should be considered
- Neighboring communities are generally described as villages or small towns within a radius of 50km from the reserve. This should be used as a guideline, although not limited to this only.

## Levels of authority

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The following levels of approval will be applied:

Level	Authority
<b>Board of Directors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Live game with a total value of more than R1million (using standard fees )</li><li>• High value species</li><li>• Rare and endangered species</li></ul>
<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Live game with a total value of less than R1million (using standard fees)</li></ul>
<b>Chief Conservation Officer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Live game with a value of less than R250 000</li></ul>
<b>Manager: Protected Area Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carcasses of general plains game</li></ul>

## Conclusion

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This policy aims to provide a framework for decision making. The policy aims to address all the different assortments of requests we have received or have been involved with to date. However it is recognized that in a changing political and policy landscape, where conservation regulations are being debated and developed, issues may change or that new policy or legislation may require us to review and/or refine this policy from time to time.

## Background

The Board has received numerous applications for donation of game. Some of these involved the donation of high value species – buffalo, sable antelope, rhino –for breeding projects and other normal plains game for a game farm or for setting up tourist projects.

In terms of the loaning of game as intended through the Mafisa system, the Board has not yet pursued such a project. The Makapalalo Buffalo breeding project near Boshhoek, a partnership between the North West Parks & Tourism Board, Makapalalo Game Breeding Farm (Pty) Limited, the Barolong Boo Maitetso Communal Property Association and the Barolong Boo Ratlou Boo Mariba Local Community is the first of its kind to be pursued. According to this, the Board will loan 30 buffalo to the project, and the progeny will be divided amongst the 4 partners at the end of the 10 year period. The progeny will be used to set up buffalo breeding projects for the two community property associations.

In the late 1990's, the Board went into partnership with Mr. Hannes du Preez, a game farmer from Thabazimbi to breed up buffalo on his property. Twenty buffalo – 10 belonging to the Board and another 10 bought by Mr. du Preez from the Board – were translocated to his farm. The project lasted 5 years and after the period, the animals were subdivided on a 50/50 basis between him and the Board and 29 buffalo were returned to Pilanesberg. This represented a nett population growth of approximately 20-25% per year. Mr. Du Preez was responsible for the management of the animals.

The Board has also received other requests for game on loan, or for donations. There were requests from individual farmers, as well as from communities, other CPA's and even municipalities. A number of these are recent request and still need to be considered by the Board. Game sales and hunting is a very important source of income, and any donations will have an impact on our income generations ability. These requests will therefore have to be considered within a broader strategic framework, which includes our social responsibilities concerning rural development, but also future game stocks and income generation abilities.

## Issues to be considered

Drawing communities into the game industry and allowing them to share in the benefits from the sustainable management of game is an important strategy in promoting wildlife orientating land use. The wildlife industry is in a very strong growth phase and it becoming a very attractive farming option.

An important issue to be considered is the Board's objectives in terms of promoting the wildlife industry as a form of land use amongst communities. Government has several programs through the DEDECT and other departments (i.e. DTI) to promote different agricultural programs, including game farming. Opportunity and prospects in existing government programs should be explored.

A specific issue is the level of support the Board is prepared to render to a new entrant into the industry. This does not only include the provision of live stock, but also management support, technical support, financial support, etc. It is also important to explore the support other government department can provide in this regard

## **Conclusion**

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This serves to give an initial impression of how we could approach the Mafisa system in the Board. It has potential in assist the Board to achieve some of its social obligations, as well as expanding land under some sort of wildlife use. Through promoting sustainable wildlife utilization amongst communities, making them realized that game could be an asset, which can produce benefits in a variety of ways, we will also promote conservation.