



BRIEFING OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES: WILDLIFE WELFARE FORUM

19 April 2022



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

Department
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



PURPOSE

To brief the Portfolio Committee on Environment, Forestry and Fisheries on the Wildlife Welfare Forum



Introduction

- **The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment appointed a High-Level Panel (HLP) to review policies, legislation and practices related to the management, breeding, hunting, trade and handling of elephant, lion, leopard and rhinoceros.**
- **Welfare and the humane and responsible treatment of wildlife was one of the key areas in respect of which the HLP has made recommendations.**



HLP RECOMMENDATION AND PROGRESS

Taking a One Welfare approach, the Minister should immediately initiate a process to engage with welfare and well-being issues across the sector, with a view to including elements within the conservation and sustainable use policy for the sector

ACTIVITY	PROGRESS
<p>The Minister to engage with DALRRD to clarify overlapping mandates for welfare and well-being, and the role of the NSPCA with the aim to rationalise legislation where appropriate and develop standard operating procedures to provide clear guidance to government and the wildlife sector on roles and responsibilities;</p>	<p>One of the objectives for NEMBA has been amended to provide for the use of indigenous biological resources in a manner that is ecologically sustainable, including taking into account the well-being of any animal biological resource involved</p> <p>MOU concluded with DALRRD technical discussion on implementation ongoing.</p>
<p>Consider delegation of powers for welfare inspections to a broader group of suitably qualified people, similar to the approach of EMIs to support compliance and enforcement in the welfare;</p>	<p>NEMA makes provision for inspection for compliance monitoring only by organs of state and not non-state organisations.</p> <p>Broadening this, will require legislative amendments.</p>

HLP RECOMMENDATION AND PROGRESS

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ACTIVITY

Develop minimum norms and standards for welfare within all aspects of the sector relating to the five iconic species.

Explore an integrated wildlife welfare unit to address institutional arrangements in terms of responsibility for welfare, and to address poor cooperation between industry, rescue groups, welfare organisations and welfare inspectors

PROGRESS

Well-being standards will be included in the broader norms and standards for the 5 species in 2022/2023 FY

In the process of establishing the **Welfare forum**



Wildlife Welfare Forum

- **The DFFE hosted the inception meeting of the Wildlife Welfare Forum on 28 February 2022**
- **Key stakeholders invited to attend the inception meeting included:**
 - **The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development;**
 - **national and provincial conservation authorities and entities,**
 - **the NSPCA**
 - **South African-based welfare organisations**
 - **South African-based organisations representing rehabilitation facilities and sanctuaries**
- **Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Wildlife Welfare Forum were prepared by the DFFE and discussed during the inception meeting.**



Wildlife Welfare Forum

- **The TOR intend to set out the following key areas in respect of the Wildlife Welfare Forum:**
 - **Purpose, objectives and functions**
 - **Values and principles**
 - **Composition/ membership**
 - **Operational procedures, including frequency of meetings**
 - **Reporting and accountability**
- **A Code of Conduct has also been developed which will be an Appendix to the TORs to be signed by eligible prospective members**
- **Participants were invited to submit written comments on the draft TOR and Code of Conduct.**
- **The draft TOR have been revised based on comments received, and will be discussed for finalisation during the follow-up meeting.**



Wildlife Welfare Forum

- **Once finalised, the TOR will be submitted for approval by the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.**
- **Two key areas requiring further discussion and agreement by members of the Wildlife Forum relate to the scope and name of the Forum.**
- **The follow-up meeting will be scheduled for April/ May 2022.**



THANK YOU!

Thank You



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