**18 May 2022

ACDP Parliament
Budget Vote 32: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Speech by ACDP Deputy President, Wayne Thring MP**

**ACDP MP says if DFFE fails to implement fiscal discipline, cost effectiveness, and management of its resources we will suffer great loss**

“Honourable House Chairperson,

The ACDP asserts that South Africa is a blessed nation. Together with our human resource, we are blessed with an abundance of mineral wealth. We have a coastline of 2800 km, presided over by two great oceanic systems: a powerful Mozambique current on one side of the continent and the Benguela current on the other. This Department is the custodian of South Africa’s indigenous, woodlands and plantation forest resources which covers over 50 million hectares.

What we must not allow, is for a blessing to become a curse. The late world renown leader, Dr Myles Munroe, taught that when God created the earth, the rain was held back because there was no one to manage it. He further eloquently stated that what we fail to manage, we will lose.

The ACDP wishes to make it abundantly clear, that if this Department fails to implement fiscal discipline and cost effectiveness for the common good of all South African citizens, and fails to manage our State resources effectively, we will suffer loss.

The Department is mandated to give effect to the right of citizens to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being, and to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations. Even though the budget has been decreased by R1.221 billion to R8.716 billion, this mandate must be respected and taken seriously. Accounting officers must be held accountable and failed audits, resulting in irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure should never be normalised. Were necessary, consequence management must follow.

The ACDP welcomes the increased budgetary allocation for the Regulatory Compliance and Sector Monitoring, responsible for enforcement, compliance, and coordination.

We must protect our oceans and coastlands and not allow them to become looting and toxic waste dumping grounds for foreign nations.

We must preserve all our forests, for in so doing, we protect our biodiversity.

We must protect our air quality and not allow uncontrolled cloud seeding and weather control experiments over our skies and neither should industries be allowed to spew their toxic waste into our rivers and oceans.

Remember, you will lose what you do not manage. Over the last 28 years, under the ruling party, much has been lost, which now needs to be regained.

I thank you.”