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DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NO. 5207 **13 September 2024**

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998
(ACT NO. 107 OF 1998)

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED ADOPTION OF THE SANDVELD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK STANDARD, 2024 AND THE PROPOSED EXCLUSION OF ACTIVITIES IDENTIFIED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS LISTING NOTICES 1, 2 AND 3 OF 2014, FOR THE CLEARANCE OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND ANY ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY NECESSARY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CULTIVATION OF LAND

I, Dion Travers George, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby consult on my intention to adopt, in terms of section 24(10)(a)(i) and 24(10)(a)(ii) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), the *Sandveld Environmental Management Framework Standard, 2024,* and based on compliance with this Standard, exclude, in terms of section 24(2)(d) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) activities identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notices 1, 2 and 3 of 2014, from the requirement to obtain an environmental authorisation from the competent authority prior to commencement when undertaken in the geographical area assessed by the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework, included on the map provided as Annexure 1.

The activities which are the subject of this exclusion relate to the clearance of indigenous vegetation for the cultivation of land, where such clearance of indigenous vegetation triggers –

Activity 27 of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014;
Activity 15 of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014; or
Activity 12(i) of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014;

and any associated activity identified in Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1, 2 or 3 of 2014 necessary for the realisation of such cultivation of land, excluding the construction or expansion of dams, electricity generation or distribution and agri-industry facilities.

The Sandveld Environmental Management Framework was adopted by the Western Cape Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on 7 June 2019 as a shared vision of sustainable agriculture within the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework geographical area. The Sandveld Environmental Management Framework introduces the concept of farm-level planning which is to be implemented through the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework Standard, 2024.

The Standard identifies the measures for the management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the cultivation of land in the geographical area assessed by the Sandveld Environmental Management Framework and establishes the processes and procedures for the clearance of indigenous vegetation and other associated activities necessary for the cultivation of land, to be excluded from the requirement to obtain environmental authorisation. The Standard furthermore prescribes procedures and criteria to be used by the competent authority for the monitoring of excluded activities.

The Standard is available at the following links on the following webpages:
https://www.dffe.gov.za/projectprogrammes/environmental_management_instruments
https://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp/.

The Standard was gazetted for the first public comment period through Government Notice No. 4277 published in Government *Gazette* No. 50041 on 26 January 2024 and the Western Cape Government Provincial Gazette Extraordinary 8885 on 22 February 2024. Comments received from the consultation process have been considered and the following substantial amendment has been made which requires further consultation:

- The proposed excluded activities contemplated in Annexure 1, allowing for the exclusion of clearance of indigenous vegetation identified as activity 27 of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, activity 15 of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 and activity 12(i) of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014 have been broadened to include any associated activities which are required to realise the cultivation of land, but excluding the development or expansion of electricity generation or distribution activities, dams and agri-industry facilities.

Members of the public are invited to submit written comments or inputs, within 14 days after the publication of this Notice in the *Gazette* or the newspaper notice, whichever occurs last, to any of the following addresses:

By post to: The Director-General
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Attention: Dr D Fischer
Private Bag X447
PRETORIA
0001

By hand at: Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
ARCADIA
0083

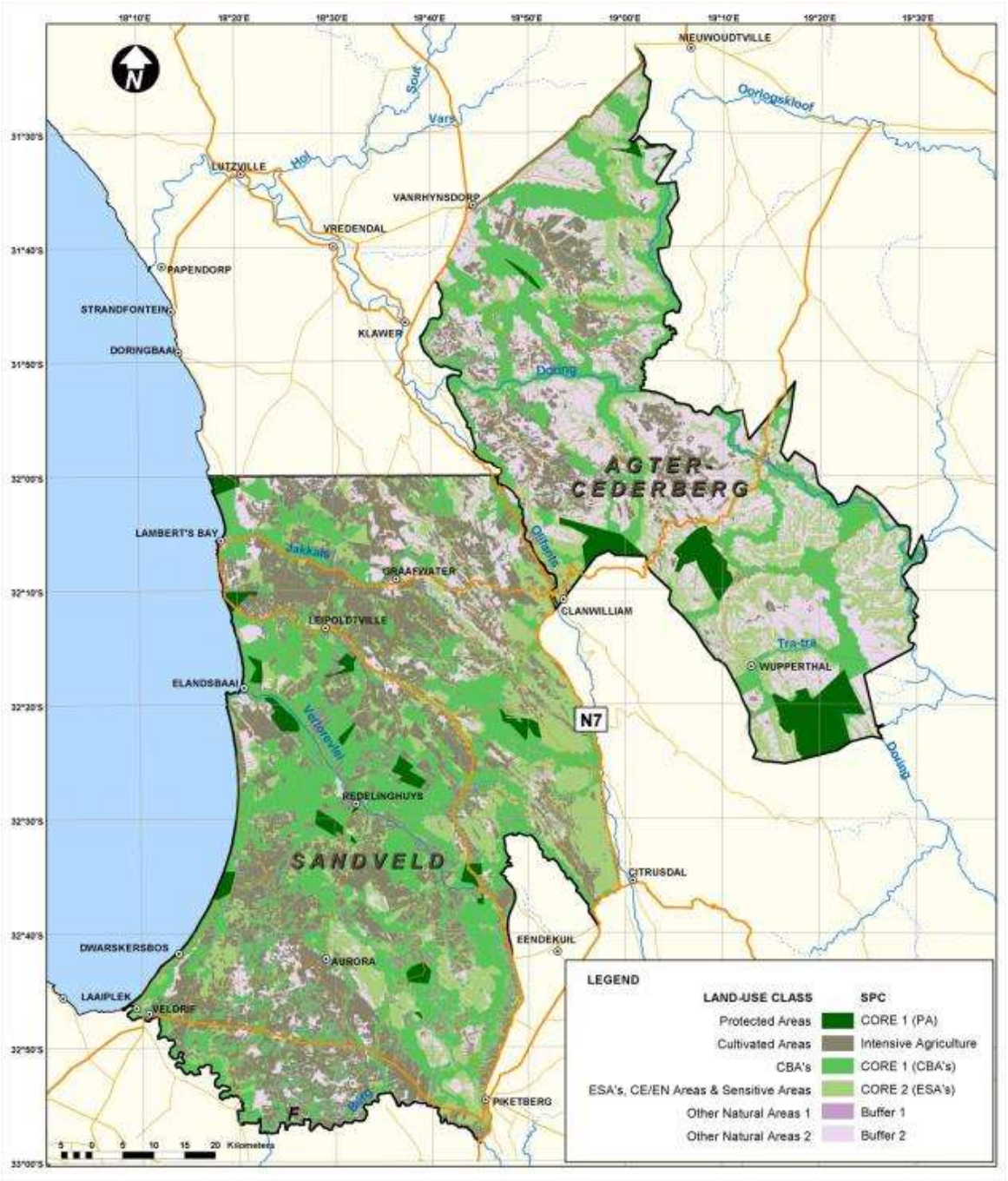
By e-mail: dfischer@dffe.gov.za

Any enquiries in connection with the notice can be directed to Dr Dee Fischer at dfischer@dffe.gov.za or (012) 399 8843. Comments or inputs received after the closing date may not be considered.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment complies with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013). Comments received and responses thereto are collated into a comments and responses report which will be made available to the public as part of the consultation process. If a commenting party has any objection to his or her name, or the name of the represented company/organisation, being made publicly available in the comments and responses report, such objection should be highlighted in bold as part of the comments submitted in response to this government notice.

DR DION TRAVERS GEORGE
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

ANNEXURE 1: SANDVELD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK GEOGRAPHICAL AREA



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