

Supplementary material to:

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Appendix 1: South African legislation and policy of relevance to biodiversity conservation

| Title | Description |
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| <i>Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (No. 43 of 1983)</i> | To conserve the natural agricultural resources of the Republic of South Africa by, amongst other things, maintaining the production potential of the land, combating and preventing erosion, and control of invasive species in rural and urban areas. |
| <i>Draft Sustainable Utilisation of Agricultural Resources Bill 2003</i> | Draft legislation that will replace the <i>Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (No. 43 of 1983)</i> . |
| <i>Environmental Conservation Act (No. 73 of 1989)</i> | Provides for the Environmental Impact Assessment regulations (promulgated in 1997), which seek to ensure sustainable development in both urban and rural contexts. |
| <i>Marine Living Resources Act (No. 18 of 1998)</i> | To provide for the conservation of the marine ecosystem, the long-term sustainable utilisation of marine living resources and the orderly access to exploitation, utilisation and protection of certain marine living resources; and for these purposes to provide for the exercise of control over marine living resources in a fair and equitable manner to the benefit of all the citizens of South Africa. |
| <i>Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (No. 28 of 2002)</i> | To provide for the equitable access to and sustainable development of the nation's mineral and petroleum resources. |
| <i>Mountain Catchment Areas Act (No. 63 of 1970)</i> | To provide for the establishment of community led fire protection committees and preparation of fire protection plans. |

| Title | Description |
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| <i>National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998)</i> | Principles include amongst others (1) that disturbance of ecosystems and loss of biological diversity are to be avoided, or, where they cannot be altogether avoided, are minimised and remedied; and, (2) that sensitive, vulnerable, highly dynamic or stressed ecosystems require specific management and planning, especially where they are subject to significant human resource usage and development pressure. |
| <i>National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (No. 10 of 2004)</i> | This Act is one of the most substantial legislative tools for environmental governance. It provides the framework, norms, and standards for the conservation, sustainable use, and equitable benefit-sharing of South Africa's biological resources. |
| <i>National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (No. 57 of 2003)</i> | To provide for the protection and conservation of ecologically viable areas representative of South Africa's biological diversity and its natural landscapes and seascapes. |
| <i>National Veld and Forest Fire Act (No. 101 of 1998)</i> | Imposes a duty on landowners to prepare and maintain necessary firebreaks free of inflammable material so as to reasonably prevent or allow control of veld fires. |
| <i>National Forests Act (No. 84 of 1998)</i> | Protects indigenous forests and woodlands as well as specified tree species. |
| <i>Nature Conservation Ordinance (No. 19 of 1974)</i> | This ordinance is read in conjunction with the <i>Western Cape Nature Conservation Board Act (1998)</i> and the <i>Western Cape Nature Conservation Laws Amendment Act (2000)</i> . Applicable in both the Western and Eastern Cape regions, the ordinance aims to protect the natural (indigenous) flora and fauna at the provincial level. |
| <i>National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999)</i> | To promote an integrated and interactive system for natural heritage resource management and good governance at all levels. |
| <i>National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998)</i> | This Act is revolutionary in its broad approach to biodiversity conservation, in protecting aquatic ecosystems in order to ensure ecologically sustainable development and use of the water resource. Activities which impact negatively on wetlands, such as draining or cultivating them, or allowing livestock to graze on them, are now controlled by this Act and in most cases will require licensing. |
| <i>Protected Areas Act (No. 57 of 2003 and No. 31 of 2004)</i> | The <i>Protected Areas Act</i> came into force on 1 November 2004. The initial <i>Protected Areas Act (No. 57 of 2003)</i> was amended (<i>No. 31 of 2004</i>) to make provision for national parks and marine protected areas. In essence, these Acts provide for the protection and management of ecologically viable areas that represent South Africa's biological diversity and natural landscapes and seascapes. |
| <i>Sea Shore Act (1935)</i> | To provide for various uses of the area between the high water mark and low water mark, and the conditions under which these uses may apply. |

| Title | Description |
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| <i>South African Constitution (Act 108 of 1996)</i> | The Constitution contains the overriding laws of the South African state, and binds the nation to a range of democratic, social and environmental bounds. Under this Act, national, provincial and local governments are obliged to introduce legislation and other measures to prevent ecological degradation; promote conservation; and secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources, while promoting justifiable economic and social development. |
| <i>Western Cape Nature Conservation Laws Amendment Act, 2000</i> | Legislation pertaining to Western Cape conservation, including nature reserves, miscellaneous conservation, animal protection, freshwater fish, flora, and hunting. |
| White Paper for sustainable coastal development in South Africa | Aims to achieve sustainable coastal development through an integrated coastal management approach. It serves as a directive and guideline for the development and management of the South African coast. |
| World Heritage Convention – UNESCO | Guidelines for operations within proclaimed World Heritage areas. |