



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SA Jagters en Wildbewaringsvereniging SA Hunters and Game Conservation Association



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AT THE CYCAD ROUND-TABLE BETWEEN PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT.

HOSTED BY: DEA & SAHGCA

FACILITATED: Lizanne Nel (E.J.) Conservation Manager - SAHGCA

DATE: 9 June 2014

VENUE: Inyathi Park – SAHGCA

No	Item	Key Points From The Session	Actions	Responsibility
1.	Introduction and Welcome	Everybody was welcomed and introduced. It was indicated that the purpose of the discussions were to facilitate constructive discussion between the various role players involved in cycad conservation, propagation and/or trade with the aim to develop a common understanding of the challenges faced by conservation agencies and the private sector and to explore the opportunities of working together.		
2.	Conservation Status and Trends of Cycads in SA. Presentation: Wilma Lutsch/Humbu Mafumo (DEA)	The presentation highlighted the conservation status and trends of cycads in SA. STATUS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was indicated that cycads are the most threatened taxonomic group with many of the 308 species facing extinction. 27 species are endemic to SA. 30% is endangered. 12 Species in SA are critically endangered, 10 vulnerable and 3 extinct in the wild (in the last ten years). One of the biggest threats to cycads in South Africa is collection from the wild for private collections. 	Private sector should be consulted and is key in the development of the regulatory framework and conservation strategies for cycads. Documentation to be circulated. DEA need to consider outputs from the Round Table discussions for the BMP and Strategy	DEA DEA

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		<p>CONSERVATION MEASURES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because of the extinction crisis in cycads, the Scientific Authority recommended review of the conservation status, population trends and trade of cycads and its implications for decisions relating to trade. • As a result, DEA initiated the National Cycad Management Strategy & Action Plan (NCMS&AP) and the development of a National Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP). • It is critical to understand that the conservation status of species informs various legislative processes. Typically, a species' conservation status is determined using the status of the species in its natural habitat in the wild (IUCN). • Even if the number of plants in private collections may be high, it is not considered in the conservation assessment. This has significant implications for trade. • Some of the cycad species are extinct in the wild, but plants collected from the wild, do occur legally in private collections and should be considered in developing the conservation strategy for cycads. 	<p>development processes.</p> <p>Private sector participate in BMP and National Strategy development.</p> <p>Identification of wild source plants should be one of the objectives in the BMP action plan.</p>	<p>Private Sector</p> <p>DEA Sci Auth</p>
3.	CITES and the NDF Process. Presentation: Michele Pfab (Sci Auth)	<p>CITES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permits are only required for international trade. For local trade, a TOPS permit is required. • The text of the convention is binding to South Africans through the CITES REGS under NEMBA, that give effect to the implementation of CITES. • Before March 2010, there was provincial CITES legislation but it was inadequate. National Legislation for implementation of CITES was published in March 2010. • Cycads currently listed as Appendix 1 species on CITES. Relevant articles are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article III: Commercial trade in specimens of Appendix I species is not allowed. - Article VII: Specimens of Appendix I species <u>artificially propagated for commercial purposes</u> are regarded as specimens of Appendix II species. - Article IV: An export permit shall only be granted for specimens of an Appendix II species when a Scientific Authority of the State of export has advised that such export <u>will not be detrimental</u> to the survival of that species. • The Sci Auth is responsible to assess the impact of trade on wild populations and 	<p>The private sector have to assist in recovery of wild populations in order to demonstrate responsible commercial trade to the international community.</p> <p>The inclusion of cultivated parental stock in NDF assessments, especially for species extinct in the wild or critically endangered need to be considered.</p> <p>Cycad growers and nurseries should register under TOPS and CITES for</p>	<p>Private sector</p> <p>Sci Auth</p> <p>Growers</p> <p>Govt.</p>

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		<p>make a Non Detriment Finding (NDF). It is a science based risk assessment, done using the CITES NDF checklist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the current NDF assessments, only specimens in the wild were considered and cultivated parental stock was not considered. (<i>Cultivated parental stock is a plant deliberately removed from the wild to be cultivated. Re-identification of the cultivated parental stock and seed of the parental stock can be done to increase the number of a species in the wild.</i>) Currently there are however no nurseries in SA registered with CITES secretariat to be assessed for international trade. So even if a nursery is cultivating cycads, they are not able to sell them locally if they are not registered under TOPS, or internationally, if they are not registered under CITES. Based on the EU findings, cycads cannot be exported to the EU because according to them, our trade is detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild. Artificial propagated specimens and seedlings, less than 15 cm and dwarfs less than 7cm can be exported as per Appendix IA. This however does not apply to the EU trade ban. Some countries also don't use the exemption in Article 7. They can have stricter domestic measures. A CITES permit can only be issued for plants that have been legally obtained. If a member of the public has a plant under a valid permit, it is deemed legal, irrespective of whether or not it was collected from the wild. If a permit acquired before TOPS (pre-2007) can be presented to show that the plant was legally obtained from the province it is regarded as legally obtained. Any grower can register with TOPS and CITES but there are requirements and criteria that need to be adhered to. 	<p>local and international trade respectively.</p> <p>Government has to really apply their mind before issuing a permit for wild specimens as that legalizes the plant. Focus needed on wild specimens.</p> <p>A letter needs to be written to Japan who currently refuses import of Appendix 1A specimens due to a misunderstanding.</p>	DEA
4.	<p>Legal interventions to date involving cycads. Presentation: Sonja Meintjes (DEA)</p>	<p>TOPS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycads are listed on TOPS to regulate local trade. No person may possess a cycad without a permit. Trade (import/ export/ sell / buy) in all wild and CE and E cycad species are prohibited unless if there is provision for that in an approved Biodiversity Management Plan for the species. For V and P species, restrictions linked to size. <p>Amendment of 27 February 2009 - Any person who immediately before the</p>	<p>Clarification is needed on permitting of hybrids.</p> <p>Deregulation on propagated plants to be considered to focus resources on wild plants.</p>	DEA DEA and provinces

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		<p><i>commencement of TOPS legally carried out restricted activities involving wild specimens of cycad species, or legally traded with artificially propagated specimens of CE and E species, may continue to do so until such a date as determined by the Minister by notice in the Gazette. This amendment effectively postponed the implementation of a BMP as a prerequisite for trade.</i></p> <p>PROHIBITIONS: restricted activities for <u>listed threatened or protected</u> <i>Encephalartos</i> species.</p> <p>Notice #1 - In terms of Section 57(2) of NEMBA - 14 May 2012:</p> <p>(1) Restricted activities involving <u>wild specimens</u>, unless if required for conservation or enforcement purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Collect, pluck, uproot, destroy; b) Export from the Republic of South Africa, sell, trade, buy; c) Receive, give, donate, accept, acquire, dispose; d) Import into the Republic of South Africa, convey, move, translocate; e) Possess, exercise physical control (except where permits have been issued, prior to the publication of this notice, for plants that form part of legally obtained parental stock). <p>(2) Restricted activities involving <u>artificially propagated specimens</u>: Export from RSA of specimens with a stem diameter of more than 15 cm, except for the following dwarf species the limit is 7cm.</p> <p>Notice #2: Restricting trade for 5 years or until recovery targets in Biodiversity Management Plans are achieved, on all for species with a stem diameter of more than 15 cm, except <i>E. cerinus</i> and <i>E. cupidus</i> where the limit is 7cm, <u>do not currently apply.</u></p> <p>NEMBA: Amendment to include an enabling provision relating to amnesty is receiving attention.</p>		
5.	<p>Cycad conservation challenges for provincial conservation agencies. Presentation: Tommy Steyn (MTPA)</p>	<p>CHALLENGES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critically small populations left in the wild for only some species. • Male /Female ratios and age class distorted. • Increased and continuous poaching of wild plants – also limiting potential re-introductions. 		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited or no access to parental wild plants for conservation propagation programs. • Limited resources in government to fulfill mandate – conservation and regulation. • Skeptical land owners and poor cooperation between role players. <p>SUCCESS FACTORS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation success is only achieved when cycads survive in their natural habitat • Well managed protected areas are key to survival • No longer possible to save all forms, rather focus on the species • Partnerships between government, growers and landowners • Effective legislation in support of wild specimens with active prosecution of illegal activities • Gene banks, propagation of productive ex-situ colonies (with stud books) and meta-population management critical • Development of a conservation mentality 		
6.	<p>Private sector perspective on cycad conservation and trade. Presentation: Japie Steenkamp (Private)</p>	<p>BURNING POINTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation and permits do not focus on conserving wild specimens but regulate plants in collections of which most are propagated or hybrids – should be focussed on wild specimens • Need certification/stud books for pure wild specimens • Collaboration is currently not productive – need real effective partnerships to improve conservation status of wild populations and improve legal trade • Utilize the willingness, knowledge and parental stock of cycad owners • We must raise public awareness on cycad conservation and the extinction crisis • A committee needs to be established to flag priority issues for the ministers attention and to coordinate collaboration in improving conservation status of wild specimens and legal trade • Participation of private sector in the National Strategy and BMP is critical 		
7.	<p>Solutions for productive cooperation. Facilitated: Lizanne Nel (SAHGCA)</p>	<p>CYCAD CONSERVATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Improve the conservation status of wild cycads</u> to show responsible trade is not impacting negative on wild populations. • <u>Wild specimens and pure parental stock in collections to be marked, certified and</u> 	<p>Circulate notes to all role players. Report to the office of the</p>	Lizanne Nel

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		<p><u>captured in a “studbook”.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A propagation initiative is required</u>, using wild plants and those in collections to establish ex-situ productive colonies of CE and E species. A meta-population management plan is required as part of the process. To be addressed in the BMP. • <u>A re-introduction program</u> needs to be initiated once risks to wild plants have been reduced to acceptable levels. <p>TRADE & REGULATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal cycad trade can contribute to the Biodiversity Economy. • <u>Promote legal trade of propagated plants and free up resources for conservation of wild cycads.</u> There is overregulation on plants in collections of which most are propagated or hybrids. Strategic regulation is needed, focussed on protecting wild specimens. Hybrids should not need a permit. • <u>Streamline process for compliance.</u> The permitting processes in different provinces are very challenging for private sector, including import and export issues – DEA need to facilitate streamlining the process, including registration of nurseries under TOPS/CITES. • <u>Provide incentives for compliance.</u> Growers that are registered could be considered differently when it comes to trade restrictions. This would act as an incentive for registration. DEA may need to relook the prohibition notice for registered nurseries. • <u>NDF process to consider wild collected plants in collections in a sensible manner.</u> <p>GOVERNANCE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Productive partnership should be facilitated to achieve objectives of all role players.</u> Both government and private sector has a responsibility to conserve our wild cycad heritage. • <u>Private sector can achieve a lot through collaboration and do not need to wait for government.</u> • Cycad trade and conservation issues should be tabled on the <u>Wildlife Forum.</u> • <u>Private Sector should participate actively in the BMP process and development of the National Cycad Strategy.</u> • <u>An integrated Cycad Working Group is needed</u> to facilitate ongoing technical cooperation on issues identified. It is proposed that the following 	<p>minister on deliberations. Report to the Wildlife Forum.</p>	

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		Institutions/divisions participate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cycad Society - Cycad Commercial Growers Association - DEA - TOPS and CITES - DEA - Biodiversity conservation - DEA - Law enforcement and permitting - Provinces - Scientific Authority / SANBI - SANA - SAHGCA 		
8	Way forward.	SAHGCA undertook to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate notes to all role players. • Draft a media release on the outcomes of the round table discussion and the extinction crisis. • Draft a letter to minister to notify her of the concerns that industry has and how they would like DEA to work with the private sector to ensure that conservation and responsible trade can co-exist. • Report to the Wildlife Forum and request permanent participation of organizations representing cycad interest groups. <p>ALL OTHER ROLE PLAYERS: Agreed to facilitate and participate in constructive partnerships to improve conservation of wild cycads and legal trade.</p>		