

## INTRODUCTION

The title of this manual gives a true reflection of its contents.

### 1. Policy.

The statutory aspects of nature conservation are contained in the Nature Conservation Ordinance, 1983 (Ordinance 12 of 1983) (hereinafter merely referred to as the "Ordinance"; unless indicated otherwise all references in this manual to a section will be a reference to a section of this Ordinance). In the interest of nature conservation certain statutory provisions regarding what is and what is not allowed, are called for. Certain discretionary powers are bestowed on the Premier of Gauteng (hereinafter merely referred to as the "Premier") enabling him or her to permit or refuse certain activities. In terms of section 4 the Premier appointed the Director: Nature Conservation, Gauteng as the head of the Directorate Nature Conservation established in terms of section 2, and determined the powers, functions and duties of the said Director and other members of the staff of the Directorate. (In this manual the said Directorate and any of its predecessors previously known as divisions will, for the sake of convenience, merely be referred to as the "Directorate" and for the same reason the said Director and any former head of the Division of Nature Conservation in the area which is presently the Province of Gauteng will merely be referred to as the "Director".)

In order to ensure that the said powers, functions and duties are exercised in an orderly and, as far as possible, uniform manner, the formulation of a policy which prescribes conduct in particular cases is essential

Policy is not a dormant, perpetual watertight provision. It is dynamic and requires frequent adaptation to changing circumstances. It need not slavishly be followed or applied, as circumstances may sometimes prohibit its application. When policy is deviated from, thorough notes should be kept indicating the reasons for such deviation.

## 2.    **Procedure**

Procedure is of the utmost importance to any subordinate official, as it informs him or her how to approach matters. In many instances there is no great difference between the concept of procedure and that of policy and they may sometimes overlap.

## 3.    **Information**

The word "information" is self-explanatory. It is especially helpful to new officials. It explains certain aspects of his or her work which is not to be found elsewhere.

The what, how and why of certain aspects are set out as far as possible in this manual which is issued to all officials. As it is exclusively confined to the activities of the Directorate it is confidential and should not be lent out and its contents should not be disclosed.

ITEM 1

not be in conflict with Item 14.

ITEM 14

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF GAME AND HYBRIDIZATION OF CERTAIN SPECIES**

1. Interbreeding among certain species of game is a well-known phenomenon. This occurs in fenced in areas where there is a lack of sufficient breeding animals of one sex. Especially if the male sex lacks sufficient female animals of its own species to satisfy its normal breeding urge. Some were together in nature before without any interbreeding taking place, but when confined to enclosures, they do interbreed.

2. The important principle which should be adhered to is that those species which were never found in Gauteng, should never be set free in this province. This does not only apply to those species that never occurred in the Republic, but also to those species that did occur elsewhere in the Republic but never in Gauteng. Here we have in mind all exotic species as well as the bontebok and Hartmann's zebra.
3. The second principle that should as far as possible be adhered to is not to take wild animals to areas where they were never previously found. The reasons for this are:
- 3.1 There are no physical obstacles such as high mountain ranges or rivers which could have prevented wild animals from roaming everywhere. Nevertheless the natural areas of distribution of almost all species are well- defined, with the result that they are not normally found outside those areas. What the factors or elements are which cause these well-defined areas of distribution, we do not know, still they certainly do exist.
- 3.2 All kinds of diseases, known and unknown, are transmitted if we ignore the natural areas of distribution. We already know about foot-and-mouth disease, east coast fever and related diseases affecting buffalo, pig pestilence and malignant catarrhal fever transmitted by game, and what about those diseases unknown to us which may constitute a threat to our game and cattle stocks.
- 3.3 The danger of hybridization is always present, even among species not belonging to the same genus. Although most of the hybrids are infertile, there are those who are fertile. They are physically and genetically stronger than one of their parents and can therefore cause damage to pure game stock. Well-known crossings are -

blesbok	-	bontebok
blesbok	-	red hartebeest
blesbok	-	tsessebe

bontebok	-	red hartebeest
bontebok	-	tsessebe
red hartebeest	-	tsessebe
black wildebeest	-	blue wildebeest
eland	-	kudu

Although we have not as yet encountered hybrids amongst zebras. It is highly likely that they will interbreed, especially since zebras are known to have crossed even with groups of tame horses.

- 3.4 Competition constitutes a grave danger to game stock, especially in the case of sensitive species which graze selectively. These species are usually scarce - or even endangered due to their preference for certain food and can hardly face any competition. Apart from the few endangered species such as sable antelopes and tsessebes which require careful treatment from us as far as competition is concerned, we have also lately encountered other problems. Farmers are too inclined to introduce to their land. This species is in direct competition with the bush-buck and can reduce the latter's pastures to such an extent that they may totally disappear from the scene.
- 3.5 Last but not least is the fact that when wild animals are introduced to unnatural areas, they are aesthetically repulsive and will always be an eyesore to civilized people. Game farmers should also take cognizance of the fact that international hunters are very particular as far as purity of stock is concerned. "Safari Club International", which represents the international trophy hunters, for instance requests us to inform them of areas where bontebok and blesbok graze together and may possibly interbreed, so that they may warn their members. The same may also apply to other crossings.
4. The present heavy demand by game farmers for white blesbok, yellow springbok and various other hues, is also a threat to wild stock. The antelope displaying such

colorfulness, specially forms of albinism, are invariably the weakest of the stock. If we pamper them and encourage their breeding, then we shall have to accept that the whole stock will weaken and will gradually degenerate.

5. The policy adopted at present is as follows:
  - 5.1 No permits for importing or distributing any exotic species or the bontebok or Hartmann's zebra are considered.
  - 5.2 Should any person apply to introduce other indigenous species to areas where they were not previously found, paragraph 3 must be spelt out clearly to such person. Should he or she persist in importing or distributing such animals, such farmer should realize fully that this Directorate will not in future provide him or her with any game. It may also happen that the conveyance of game from his or her farm to other areas at a later stage, could be limited as indicated in paragraph 5.3.
  - 5.3 No permits are considered for conveying any wildebeest from a farm where black wildebeest and blue wildebeest both occur. The same also applies to farms where blesbok and bontebok, blesbok and tsessebe, bontebok and tsessebe, as well as varicolored zebra and Hartmann's zebra are found together.
  - 5.4 No permits are granted for the distribution of only the bulls of species that may interbreed in areas where there are not already stock of the same species.
  - 5.5 Permits are not issued for conveying black wildebeest to areas falling outside their natural habitat.
  - 5.6 No permits are issued for importing or distributing game of a different hue, such as for instance whites, yellows, blacks, et cetera.

- 5.7 Before a permit is issued for conveying any wildebeest, the applicant must first submit a permit from veterinary services authorizing him or her to convey the wildebeest.

ITEM 15

**IMPORTATION FROM AND EXPORT TO OTHER PROVINCES OF LIVE WILD ANIMALS AND PLANTS**

1. If any person applies to **export live wild animals**, the application may be considered. If it is refused, the applicant is directly informed accordingly and, as far as possible, furnished with the reasons for refusal. If the application is in fact approved, the applicant must, in accordance with a mutual agreement between provinces, first submit a no-objection letter or an importation permit from the area or province to which the animals are to be taken