

Date: 25 March 2013
Department of
Environmental Affairs
and Development
Planning
Directorate: CapeNature
Enquiries: Dr K Hamman
Telephone: 021-4830013

**MINISTER BREDELL
MINISTER VAN RENSBURG**

**CO-OPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PREDATOR MANAGEMENT FORUM
(WESTERN-CAPE) AND THE WESTERN CAPE NATURE CONSERVATION BOARD
TRADING AS CAPENATURE**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to obtain the support of the two MECs for the conclusion of a Co-operative Agreement between the Predator Management Forum (Western-Cape) and the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board trading as CapeNature.

1. BACKGROUND.

- 1.1 The purpose of this agreement is to allow commercial, new- and upcoming farmers and communities to manage bushpig, black-backed jackal and caracal more effectively. This agreement is based on the principles contained in the draft National Norms & Standards for the Management of Damage-Causing Animals, as published in the General Notice Nr. 1084 of the Government Gazette Nr. 33806, dated November 26, 2010. The management of any other wild animals that may cause losses in the agricultural sector will be dealt with according to CapeNature policies, and Legislation.
- 1.2 According to the above mentioned draft Norms and Standards, the definition for a damage-causing animal is:
“damage-causing animal” means a wild vertebrate animal that, when interacting with humans or interfering with human activities, and after implementation of reasonable mitigation management options, there is still substantial proof that it—

- (a) causes losses to stock or to other wild specimens;
- (b) causes damage to cultivated trees, crops, natural flora or other property;
- (c) presents a threat to human life; or
- (d) is present in such numbers that agricultural grazing is materially depleted.

1.3 This co-operative agreement will only deal with damage or losses caused by bushpig, black-backed jackal and caracal, so the definition for a damage-causing animal in terms of this agreement will be:

“damage-causing animal” means in respect of bushpig, caracal or black-backed jackal that, after implementation of reasonable mitigation management options, there is still proof that it is responsible for substantial agricultural losses.

2. HISTORY

2.1 1654: Jan Van Riebeeck’s journal for 30 March 1654 (p.221) indicates some of the problems he was having with his small livestock, from the steady losses of sheep on the mainland: “on account of the excessive wetness of the ground caused by the river; many are carried away and devoured every day by leopards, lions and jackal.”*(Skead: 205) “Despite heavy persecution by small stock farmers, over many decades, the species has persisted in most areas. It appears to have recolonised areas where it was exterminated by farmers”*(Skead: 207)

2.2 Pre-2009: The conflict between farmers and caracal and black backed jackal continues - The livestock industry is essentially self-regulated. Some farmers target biodiversity in general, stock and biodiversity losses increases. The methods allowed included: *poison, gin trap/ cage trap, public road, night shooting, artificial light, .22 rim fire rifle, semi-automatic weapon, bow and arrow and dogs, for most of this period, but some methods were systematically phased out. No limit was placed during this period on the number of predators that may be hunted.*

2.3 2009 – 2010: CapeNature initiates its permit system to manage DCAs including black backed jackal and caracal. The goal is to tighten control in the management of these animals. A three month permit is available to farmers. The permit allowed the night hunting of five jackal and five caracal per night. No permit was needed to shoot predators during daylight hours and for the use of cage traps.

2.4 During 2010 commercial farmers demanded drastic measures to control and reduce jackal and caracal numbers, reportedly responsible for unusually high stock losses. Reports to both Ministers of the Environment & Development Planning and Agriculture resulted in high-level meetings in an attempt to resolve this matter. Requests were received from organised agriculture to declare black-backed jackal and caracal as a disaster in the Western Cape Province. This among other would have led to the large-scale hunting of these two species.

The Minister for DEA&DP then decided that the responsible way to address this issue was to scientifically investigate the implementation of sustainable management options which are selective, humane, and legal and ecologically sound as a long-term solution.

2.5 During 2010 CapeNature changed the time period of DCA permits from three to six months (with the same conditions), to ease the administration burden and to assist the farmers. As previously, the renewal of this permit was subject to the submission of a detailed report on the number of stock losses and DCAs hunted during this period.

Between January 2009 and 31 May 2011, CapeNature issued a total of 357 DCA three month permits.

Between July – December 2011 CapeNature issued 400 six month permits.

2.6 **Feedback from six month permit holders**

To date, feedback has been received from 46 out of the 400 DCA permit holders on the following numbers per species hunted:

Caracal – 190

Black-backed jackal – 135

The above statistics indicate that the extremely high number of animals hunted, as often quoted by the Landmark Foundation, is unrealistic and totally out of line with what is happening in practice. Jackal and caracal are both shy and nocturnal animals and are not easy to hunt. A landowner typically does not have the time, knowledge and resources to hunt five animals per night, seven days a week, for six months - as incorrectly assumed by the Landmark Foundation. The number five was given to landowners as a way to show that CapeNature is serious about limiting the number of DCAs that may be hunted per night.

3. MOTIVATION

- 3.1 The support of this agreement by the Provincial Government will, for the interim, allow commercial, new- and upcoming farmers and communities to manage bushpig, black-backed jackal and caracal more effectively and sustainably. After a period of one year, the efficacy of this agreement will be evaluated and amended as may be required as part of an on-going monitoring process.
- 3.2 It should be kept in mind that this agreement is based on the principles contained in the draft National Norms & Standards for the Management of Damage-Causing Animals, as published in the General Notice Nr. 1084 of the Government Gazette Nr. 33806, dated November 26, 2010. Once these National Norms & Standards become effective, this agreement will fall away.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no personnel implications for the Province.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Implementation of the Protocol will be in line with the provisions of the Western Cape Nature Conservation Ordinance 19 of 1974.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

CapeNature will continue to provide advice, training and information to affected commercial farmers in terms of the management of Damage-Causing Animals referred to in the agreement.

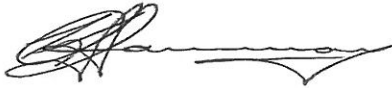
7. COMMUNICATION ACTION

The envisaged acceptance of this agreement will be communicated to all interested and affected parties through Government Gazette, media briefings, articles and posted on the relevant social media sites.

8. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that the attached Co-operative Agreement between the Predator Management Forum (Western-Cape) and the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board trading as CapeNature.be entered into to manage bushpig, black-backed jackal and caracal more effectively.

Recommendation supported / ~~not supported~~



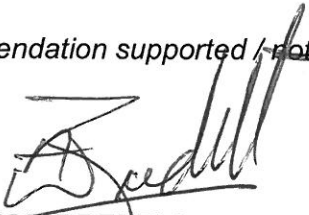
**DR KAS HAMMAN
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CAPENATURE
DATE:**

Recommendation supported / ~~not supported~~



**MR PIET VAN ZYL A.P. BARNEZ
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT (Activities)
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
DATE: 2-4-2013**

Recommendation supported / ~~not supported~~



**MEC ANTON BREDELL
MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
DATE: 11/4/2013**

Recommendation supported / ~~not supported~~



**MS JOYEN ISAACS
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DATE: 18/4/2013**

Recommendation supported / ~~not supported~~


MEC GERRIT VAN RENSBURG
MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AGRICULTURE

DATE:

18/4/13.

Recommendation supported / ~~not supported~~


MR PIET VAN ZYL A. P. BARNES
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS & DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

DATE: 2-4-2013

ACTING

Recommendation approved/not approved

 24/4/2013
DR COLIN JOHNSON
CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD, CAPENATURE

DATE: