



## DFFE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON 39 NDFS OF CITES SPECIES RAISES CONCERN

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07 March 2024, Pretoria – The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) has released, on 05 March 2024, a public consultation on 39 Non-Detriment Findings (NDFS) for various species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) made by the Scientific Authority as established under section 60(1) of the Biodiversity Act. These NDFS cover a range of species including blue duiker, hippopotamus, leopard, cheetah, cycad species, various parrots, and others.

The trade in the listed species is regulated through the Threatened and Protected Species Act (TOPS) and CITES and requires careful

monitoring by the Scientific Authority to distinguish between legal and illegal activities, ultimately advising the Minister on NDFs.

Members of the public are invited to submit written scientific representations to the Scientific Authority regarding the NDFs by 04 April 2024, providing a 30-day window for public participation.

Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA) holds a strong concern that the publication may be in violation of NEMBA section 100(2)(b), which mandates public participation notices to “contain sufficient information to enable members of the public to submit meaningful representations or objections.”

In the view of WRSA, the published gazette lacks the necessary information for the public to make informed scientific representations or objections. Consequently, WRSA is seeking legal advice on this matter and is prepared to challenge the publication if deemed necessary. The organization remains committed to ensuring transparency and meaningful public engagement in matters impacting wildlife conservation.

Click here to download the [Government Gazette notice no. 50258: National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act \(10/2004\): Consultation on Non-Detriment Findings for certain Species listed in terms of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#)