

# Agriculture and Environmental permits



agriculture, environmental affairs,  
rural development and land reform

Department:  
agriculture, environmental affairs,  
rural development and land reform .  
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## Does my agricultural activity trigger or require an environmental authorisation?

There are various agricultural activities that require environmental authorisations through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)<sup>1</sup> process. Depending on the footprint size (listed activities), an EIA might be needed. Some examples include commercial animal production where there is a large concentration of animals, slaughtering facilities of animals, aquaculture activities, developments inside water features, and infrastructure developments such roads, water pipelines, storm water pipes, power lines, etc.

The starting point would be to determine 1) the what and 2) the where and 3) the size of the development (hectares) and then compare it to the listed activities as per the EIA listing notices<sup>2,3,4</sup>.

If you are unsure if you need an EIA, there is assistance available from the department. An email request describing the planned develop, where the development will take place and the size can be submitted to the Impact Management Unit. The request will then be evaluated in terms the listing notices to determine if an EIA is required.

For example, if you need to clear natural areas containing indigenous vegetation for developing vineyards, grazing pastures, pivot irrigation etc. an EIA will be needed for:

1. For the clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, a Basic Assessment will be required (*Ref: Regulation 27, Listing notice 1*).
2. For the clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, a Scoping and full EIA will be required. (*Ref: Regulation 15, Listing notice 2*).
3. The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation within a geographic area, like a
  - critically endangered or endangered listed ecosystems,
  - critical biodiversity areas (CBA),a Basic Assessment will be required.  
(*Ref: Regulation 12, Listing notice 3*).

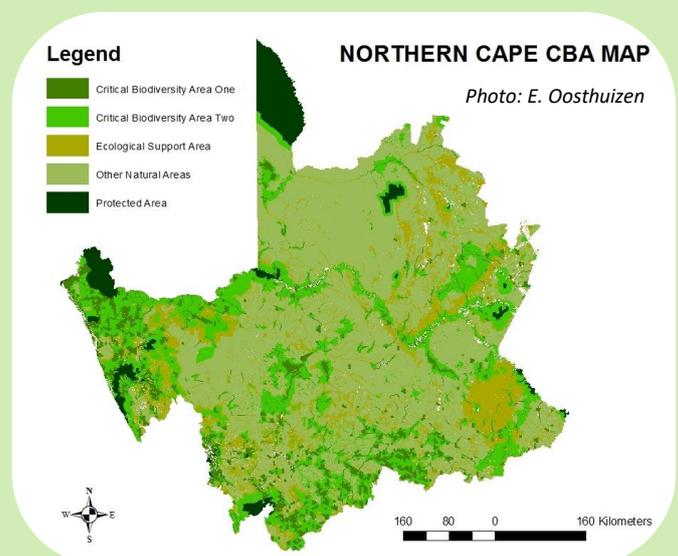
For more information on the Northern Cape Critical Biodiversity Areas (and online map)<sup>5</sup> and the Red List of Ecosystems 2021<sup>6</sup> (containing the information for critically endangered or endangered listed ecosystems), please follow the links under 'References'.



Photo: N Uys



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## Vegetation clearance / Plant and animal removal / Deforestation permits



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If you have received an environmental authorisation for your EIA, then you need to apply for removal and vegetation clearance permits to allow removal of indigenous species/plants/vegetation from Permit Administration and Forestry.

Permit Administration at the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Land Reform and Rural Development, is responsible for issuing permits for clearing indigenous vegetation and removing any affected animals or birds as per the Northern Cape Nature Conservation Act (NCNCA)<sup>7</sup> and TOPS<sup>8</sup> regulations. Various animals, birds and plants are specially protected and protected and require permits for handling/ removing/ clearing/ transport. For example you will need a permit for removing Ghaap (*Hoodia spp.*), Aloes (*Aloe spp.*), Wild olives (*Olea europaea subsp. Africana*), Vygies (*Aizoaceae spp.*), etc.



Photo: N Uys

Forestry at the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is responsible for issuing licences for the removal of National Protected Trees that are protected under the National Forest Act<sup>10</sup>. The 5 Nationally Protected Trees that occur in the Northern Cape Province are:

- Camel thorn tree / Kameeldoring (*Vachellia/ Acacia erioloba*)
- Grey camel thorn tree/ Vaalkameeldoring (*Vachellia/ Acacia haematoxylon*)
- Shepherd's tree/ Witgat (*Boscia albitrunca*)
- Black ebony tree/ Ebbehout (*Euclea pseudebenus*)
- Gariep Resin Tree/ Gariep-harpuisboom (*Ozoroa namaquensis*)



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