

## **Draft Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> Biotrade Stakeholders Forum meeting held virtually on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

### **1. Virtual Arrival**

### **2. Welcome, Apologies, Purpose of meeting and approval of draft Agenda**

The Chairperson welcomed all to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to share information on compilation of key sustainable use & conservation, ABS, economic and research & development data on 13 bio-trade species (the dashboard matrix of 13 biotrade species). Furthermore, the dashboard data has been expanded to include processes, practices and technologies for the 13 bio-trade species. The members were asked for inputs for a potential theme for the next meeting. The draft agenda was approved by the meeting: Proposer – Adrie El Mohamadi (ABioSA); Seconder – Natalie Feltman (DEFF). A list of attendees and apologies received is given in Appendix 1.

### **3. Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 04<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

The minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> BioTrade Stakeholder Forum Meeting were approved. Proposer – Wim du Toit (Secretary, SAEOPA); Seconder – Karen Swanepoel (Executive Director, SAEOPA).

### **4. Matters Arising**

None.

### **5. Background to presentations by SAEOPA**

The Senior Project Manager of the ABioSA project, Ms Adrie el Mohamadi explained that the dashboard matrix data was developed for the ABioSA project by SAEOPA around mid-2020.

A presentation was made in July 2020, as part of a roundtable exercise in which a number of stakeholders participated in, with the idea of reviewing the information and data available for the focus species, specifically around ABS, sustainable use & conservation, economic activity and research and development. As part of the roundtable, a suggestion was made to also create links between references documents that are used as supporting documents, which has been done in the meantime, although it is difficult to share the linked document folder. The question is: how to make the data and information available to as broad and wider audience as possible for stakeholders to know what is available, for example, for a specific activity with a species, “What has been done already, and where can the process be picked up from?” Additionally, suggestions are to review the processes, practices and technologies that are being implemented and used for these different species. Participants will be invited later in the meeting to give suggestions as to how to package the extensive data in to a user-friendly format, particularly for SMEs.

### **6. Presentation by SAEOPA**

6.1 Karen Swanepoel, SAEOPA Executive Director, presented the dashboard data matrix on 13 BioTrade species: Aloe ferox, Marula, Baobab, Kalahari melon, Rooibos, Buchu, Wild ginger Rose geranium, honeybush, Artemisia and 3 essential oils cluster (Lippia javanica, Cape chamomile, Helichrysum).

Aloe (Aloe ferox), Baobab (Adansonia digitata), Buchu (Agathosma spp.), Cape chamomile (Eriocephalus spp.), Imphepho (Helichrysum spp.), Marula (Sclerocarya birrea), Honeybush (Cyclopia spp.), Kalahari melon (Citrullus lanatus), Rooibos (Aspalanthus linearis), Rose geranium (Pelargonium

var Rose), Wild ginger (*Siphononclilus aethiopicus*), Umsuzwane (*Lippia javanica*) and Lanyana, Lengana, Mhlonyane, Umhlonyane, Wilde-als (*Artemisia afra*). The object was to support the ABioSA program and compile a summary document, looking at the value chains of the products, for every specie, how they can be used and aggregated in the data, that is scarce.

Factors considered for sustainable use and conservation were: availability of non-detrimental finding (NDP), biodiversity management plan (BMP), harvesting guidelines and climate change adaptation. The assessment showed that some species are well developed, but most are underdeveloped.

Factors considered for access and benefit sharing were: estimated number of biotrade/bioprospecting permits issued, IK/TK holders identified, benefit sharing agreement in place, prior informed content (PIC), material transfer agreement (MTA) and bio-cultural community protocol (BCP). The assessment showed that few species have been done and the information is lacking in general. Benefit sharing is lacking, champions are aloe ferox and rooibos, where everything is in place, we will look at what can be done to improve the situation.

Factors considered on economic production were: is the species on the national list for sustainable harvesting, is the species on the national list for cultivation, estimated number of existing producers, average estimated volumes (kg/ton p.a.), volumes of re-exports from neighboring countries, sector development plans, key regions in RSA. The assessment showed that small volumes are produced and actual production figures are not shared in general. Aloe, buchu, rooibos, geranium and honeybush are already commercialised. Baobab and marula, almost commercialised. Kalahari melon and *Lippia* has not been commercialised. *Artemesia afra* has not been commercialised, but has been used in Covid-19. All the species are not on the same level.

The research and development matrix was compiled based on IPUF and SA Botanists' information available on each species and included whether the species had been researched, (extensively, some research or limited research); distribution, hybridizing, chemical composition and properties; commercialized value add; chemistry, properties, monographs and standards. The assessment showed that although much has been done, it is not well known and not well applied in value adding. Branding is vital once volumes have been achieved and markets are secured, branding should be done based on lessons learnt from Australia. Two South African national standards are available viz., for aloe ferox and moringa. Three other national standards are in the process of being developed. SAEOPA has submitted proposal to SABS for a total of 5 essential and 5 vegetable oils national standards to be developed.

## 6.2 Q & A

- It was agreed that it is important that this information should be disseminated widely.
- The process of developing a national standard was explained briefly. SABS facilitates the process. Standards are compiled according to international requirements, according to the WTO TBT agreement, annexure 3, where all the worldwide standards bodies use the same approach as to how they compile the standards. The process is explained on [www.sabs.co.za](http://www.sabs.co.za), "the national norm for how to compile standards".
- A question was raised as to whether the original reports will be provided, and if so, how are copyright issues dealt with? The example was given of the standard on aloe ferox which needs to be purchased from SABS and the standard cannot be placed in the public domain to be accessed freely. It was clarified that the matrix was developed on an excel spreadsheet with hyperlinks. All the information and documents used are from the internet or university libraries, with no copyright issues, unlike with patents which differs. There are some patents on some of the species, which are not included in the matrix and will be addressed separately.

- For general information – the aloe ferox resource assessment has been completed.
- Pharmacopoeia is under revision.

## 7. Expansion of data on dashboard data matrix on 13 BioTrade species:

The expansion of the dashboard data matrix included adding data on part of plant harvested, processes, practices and technologies as well as possible new and innovative processes to be introduced. New technologies include centrifuging, tunnels, tissue culture, grafting, mechanization, intercropping, bush feed principle, freeze drying, precision farming and innovative green technologies. Examples of each was given.

### 7.1 Q & A session

It was noted that although ( the species name) it is red-listed as threatened with extinction, wild ginger has special provision made in both CITES and the revised, not in effect yet, TOPS regulations to enable commercialisation of products from cultivated material. Every species needs to be looked at as a single species, in relation to all the national, provincial and international legislation.

### 7.2 How do we make this information available?

There are various types of information/data that is needed to operate in the BioTrade sector. A discussion followed on what would be a good starting point. Whilst the majority of the data is in the public domain, the dashboard matrix is a good starting point. The matrix currently is in the form of an excel spread-sheet and the data should be packaged in a format that is easier to access than the spread-sheet. One idea is that each species should have their own chapter on the web-site. An annual update would be appropriate. Although one entity should be responsible for updating the web-site, there is an important role for the sector organisations to play in updating and organising the data. The Chairperson requested the meeting to provide inputs in the next 10 working days.

The discussion on how to produce a popular science publication on the status of South African indigenous natural sector, nicely illustrated, will be taken off-line.

## 8. General Feedback with other Stakeholders

8.1 SIPPO is in the final stage of arrangements for the BioFach e-special Organic Trade Fair taking place from 17-19 February 2021, the first digital rendition of BioFach. SIPPO, in line with their mandate, has been collaborating closely with their BSO partners, participating in this event with some of the organic certified companies in the Natural Ingredients sector. WESGRO is the leading BSO on this particular activity, but there is also support and collaboration from **the dtic** and TIKZN, who are all 3 partners of the SIPPO program. An in-market/physical fair in 2022 is anticipated and SIPPO will continue to support the BSO partners. South Africa has a continued presence this year at BioFach, for promoting the organic and natural ingredients sector. SIPPO will share lessons learnt and experiences at a later stage.

8.2 Ms Magdaleen van Wyk, the local coordinator for the Swiss Intellectual Property Program, which started in October 2020 for a period of 4 years was introduced. The aim of the program is to strengthen the intellectual property framework in South Africa. One of the topics is access and benefits sharing, working on various activities, planning together with GIZ, looking at what options there are. One topic in particular is to have a workshop to exchange

experiences, but open for any suggestions. Should a brochure on project become available, it will be sent to be sent to Adrie/EM for further circulation.

## **9. Way forward and next steps**

The presentations will be circulated. It was agreed that these meetings should continue.

## **10. Date of 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and 2021 meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 14:00. The next meeting will be chaired by the ABioSA project. The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting will be 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 14:00, chaired by the GQSP-SA project. A Save the Date will be sent to all members of the forum. As inputs were received from the call at the start of the meeting for suggestions of a theme or topics for the next meeting, the 2 co-ordinating projects (ABioSA and GQSP-SA) will discuss a topic with various interested parties regarding a theme.

## **11. Closure**

The active participation of the members of the Forum in the meeting was appreciated. Stakeholders were encouraged to submit topics for discussion to either of the 2 co-ordinating projects.

**Appendix 1 List of attendance and apologies**

Surname(s)	First Name(s)	Organisation	E-mail	Signature
El Mohamadi	Adrie	ABioSA: GIZ	<a href="mailto:adrie.elmohamadi@giz.de">adrie.elmohamadi@giz.de</a>	Attended
Sehona	Serole	ABioSA: GIZ	<a href="mailto:serole.sehona@giz.de">serole.sehona@giz.de</a>	Attended
Lombard	Cyril	GIZ/ABS Project Advisor	<a href="mailto:newbotanical@hotmail.com">newbotanical@hotmail.com</a>	Attended
Ntutela	Dr Siya	AfricaBio	<a href="mailto:Siya@africabio.com">Siya@africabio.com</a>	Apology
Matthews	Kgomotso	Conservation	<a href="mailto:kmatthews@conservation.org">kmatthews@conservation.org</a>	Apology
	Bridget	Coschem	<a href="mailto:bridget@coschem.co.za">bridget@coschem.co.za</a>	Apology
Kotzé	Lara	CSIR: BIDC	<a href="mailto:LKotze@csir.co.za">LKotze@csir.co.za</a>	Apology
Ndzotoyi	Phatheka	CSIR	<a href="mailto:PNdzotoyi@csir.co.za">PNdzotoyi@csir.co.za</a>	Apology
Wadiwala	Ebrahim	CSIR	<a href="mailto:EWadiwala@csir.co.za">EWadiwala@csir.co.za</a>	Apology
Pimentel	Adelia	CTFA	<a href="mailto:adelia@ctfa.co.za">adelia@ctfa.co.za</a>	Attended
Manduna	Idah	CUT	<a href="mailto:imanduna@cut.ac.za">imanduna@cut.ac.za</a>	Attended
Mojapelo	Moloko	DAFF	<a href="mailto:MolokoMo@daff.gov.za">MolokoMo@daff.gov.za</a>	Attended
Langazane	Phindile	DEA	<a href="mailto:PLangazane@environment.gov.za">PLangazane@environment.gov.za</a>	Attended
Feltman	Natalie	DEA	<a href="mailto:Nfeltman@environment.gov.za">Nfeltman@environment.gov.za</a>	Attended
Moila	Tebogo	the dtic	<a href="mailto:TMoila@thedtic.gov.za">TMoila@thedtic.gov.za</a>	Apology
Makhosazana	Princess-Ann Mayekiso	the dtic	<a href="mailto:&lt;MMayekiso@thedtic.gov.za">MMayekiso@thedtic.gov.za</a>	Attended
Mosehla	Sinah	the dtic	<a href="mailto:SMosehla@thedtic.gov.za">SMosehla@thedtic.gov.za</a>	Attended
Bekker	Anja	FNB	<a href="mailto:anja.bekker@fnb.co.za">anja.bekker@fnb.co.za</a>	Apology
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du Toit	Wim	SAEOPA	<a href="mailto:secsaeopa@gmail.com">secsaeopa@gmail.com</a>	Attended
Crouch	Neil	SANBI	<a href="mailto:N.Crouch@sanbi.org.za">N.Crouch@sanbi.org.za</a>	Attended
Mudombi	Shakespear	SECO	<a href="mailto:shakespear.mudombi@eda.admin.ch">shakespear.mudombi@eda.admin.ch</a>	Apology
Thema	Kgaladi	SEDA	<a href="mailto:kthema@seda.org.za">kthema@seda.org.za</a>	Attended
Staphorst	Ronell	SEDA	<a href="mailto:RStaphorst@seda.org.za">RStaphorst@seda.org.za</a>	Attended
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Kruger	Sandra	SKAA	<a href="mailto:sandra@skaa.co.za">sandra@skaa.co.za</a>	Attended
Swart	Marthane	SKAA	marthane@skaa.co.za	Apology
Reyneke	Anna	SIPPO	Anna.reyneke@sippo.co.za	Attended
van Wyk	Magdaleen	Swiss Intellectual Property Program	<a href="mailto:magdaleen.vanwyk@ipi-projectpartners.ch">magdaleen.vanwyk@ipi-projectpartners.ch</a>	Attended
Nquma	Tandokazi	TIA	Tandokazi.Nquma@tia.org.za	Apology
Moonsamy	Senisha	TIA	Senisha.Moonsamy@tia.org.za	Apology
Chetty	Blaine	TIKZN	blaine@tikzn.co.za	Apology
Tau	Vincent	TUT	TauVR@tut.ac.za	Apology
Meintjies	Elsie	UNIDO: GQSP	<a href="mailto:E.MEINTJIES@unido.org">E.MEINTJIES@unido.org</a>	Attended
le Roux	Carmel	UNIDO: GQSP	C.LEROUX@unido.org	Attended
Matsabisa	Motlalepula	University of Free State	<a href="mailto:MatsabisaMG@ufs.ac.za">MatsabisaMG@ufs.ac.za</a>	Attended
Aremu	Ola dapo	University of North West	Oladapo.Aremu@nwu.ac.za	Attended

## Appendix 2 SAEOPA presentation - forwarded to members separately

## Appendix 3 Action list

No.	Agenda item no.	Action	Responsible	Due date
1.	7.2 How do we make this information available – design of web-site presentation	Members to give inputs	All	10 working days from date of meeting – 01 March 2021

No.	Agenda item no.	Action	Responsible	Due date
2.	7.2 produce a popular science publication on the status of South African indigenous natural sector, nicely illustrated	Off-line discussion with Mr Cyril Lombard		