

# CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR MANAGING ALIEN AND INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN FORESTRY INDUSTRY

In South Africa there is comprehensive legislation surrounding the control or eradication of alien and invasive species (AIS) listed in regulations under the Biodiversity Act.

Many national and local programmes have been set up to control them. Plantation forestry grows a number of listed alien and invasive plants that are included in the AIS regulations.

While all landowners are legally responsible for controlling the AIS on their own land, this Code of Good Practice proposes that plantation forest landowners voluntarily assist in the control of AIS that occur on adjoining property/s in collaboration with neighbours, non-governmental organisations and government programmes such as Working for Water (WfW).



PLANTATION FORESTRY OWNERS AND MANAGERS ARE THEREFORE ENCOURAGED TO:

## 1 CONTROL

the establishment and spread of AIS on their land by:

- Identifying AIS growing on their land;
- Developing effective AIS control plans;
- Setting aside appropriate budgets to control AIS; and
- Monitoring the effectiveness and success of control measures being undertaken.

## 2 DECREASE

the risk of AIS by:

- Investigating growing less invasive tree species/hybrids/clones or varieties;
- Managing the land by practising sound grazing, burning and other forms of management in unplanted area;
- Investigating appropriate bio-control of AIS; and/or
- Promoting the use of AIS as a fuel source, building material or for other uses such as arts and crafts.

## 3 WORK WITH STAKEHOLDERS

- In partnership with adjoining landowners.
- In collaboration with government, provincial or municipal AIS control programmes, such as the Working on Fire and WfW.
- Through the establishment of small business operations within communities to assist in the control of AIS.

ALIEN AND INVASIVE SPECIES ARE A THREAT TO BOTH THE WATER RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY IN SOUTH AFRICA.



They displace indigenous terrestrial biodiversity and transform natural habitats.



They disrupt natural ecological processes and structures.



They use more water than the natural vegetation they replace.



They reduce the economic potential of grazing and crop land.



They may have negative impacts on South Africa's scenic values.

### DEFINITION

**Code:** a set of conventions or principles governing behaviour or activity in a particular sphere. (*Concise Oxford Dictionary*)