



JANUARY 2008

## SHORT TERM CONSULTANCY

### DEVELOPMENT OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE ALBANY CYCAD, *ENCEPHALARTOS LATIFRONS*, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE THREATENED OR PROTECTED SPECIES REGULATIONS OF NEMBA

Consultants are invited to submit expressions of interest to undertake the work outlined in the Terms of Reference below.

#### **Introduction**

In terms of the Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) regulations of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act of 2004 (NEMBA), certain activities relating to Critically Endangered cycad species can only be carried out if they form part of a management plan approved by the Minister. One of SANBI's functions is to assist with the development of biodiversity management plans and SANBI is looking for a consultant to develop a management plan for the Albany cycad, *Encephalartos latifrons*.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### **Background & Scope of work**

*Encephalartos latifrons* is a Critically Endangered cycad that occurs only in the Albany district of the Eastern Cape in the vicinity of Bathurst. Approximately 60 plants remain, mostly on private land (except for relocated plants) and there is no natural seed set. A Population Habitat Viability Analysis (PHVA) workshop, attended by all stakeholders, was conducted in July 2006 and resulted in an agreed plan of action for the conservation of *E. latifrons*. One of the actions required by the workshop was the development of a management plan (based on the PHVA outcomes) that would form the basis for co-operative management of the species by land owners and conservation agencies, with the assistance from SANBI.

Since the PHVA was conducted, the new TOPS regulations have been published with specific requirements for Critically Endangered cycad species. Some of the actions outlined in the PHVA will now only be possible if provided for in a biodiversity management plan approved by the Minister in terms of section 43 of the Biodiversity Act. A management plan is therefore urgently required and must deal, inter alia, with at least the following issues:

1. The current status of *E. latifrons* and its continuing decline
2. The re-introduction of plants to wild sites
3. The need for artificial propagation and the roles played by land owners, conservation agencies, SANBI and other parties in this process
4. Incentives for land owners
5. Targets for the re-introduction of plants to the wild
6. Monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on the status of wild populations and re-introduced plants

The management plan needs to be adopted by the provincial conservation authorities and the consultant will be expected to facilitate this process.

### **Deliverables**

1. A management plan for *E. latifrons*, as required by section 43 of the Biodiversity Act\*. The management plan must be signed off by the relevant Provincial departments and agreed to by the forum established after the PHVA process.

\* The format for management plans should conform to the template provided by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, if available. If not available, the template will be agreed upon by the provincial conservation authorities and SANBI.

### **Timeframe**

The timeframe is negotiable but should be completed as soon as possible.

### **Qualifications and Experience**

An MSc and experience with biodiversity management or planning is essential. The consultant must also be able to work with key stakeholders in the Eastern Cape, especially land owners and the Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs.

### **Enquiries**

Enquiries relating to this TOR should be directed to Dr John Donaldson (021 799-8672, donaldson@sanbi.org)