SANBI PROTOCOLS FOR NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDENS UNDER ADJUSTED ALERT LEVEL 3: 2 FEBRUARY 2021

1. PURPOSE
The purpose of this report is to provide information about the South African National Biodiversity Institute’s (SANBI) protocols for the operation of National Botanical Gardens under Adjusted Alert Level 3 of lockdown as per the government regulations published by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in Government Gazettes No. 44044 and No. 44045 on 29 December 2020 for the period 29 December 2020 to 15 January 2021 and Government Gazette No. 44130 on 1 February 2021.

2. RISK ASSESSMENT
SANBI has conducted an organisational COVID-19 risk assessment identifying and responding to all risks and associated mitigation measures across all areas of the operation.

3. FACILITIES PREPAREDNESS
SANBI has embarked on a range of activities to ensure the readiness of its facilities and workplaces to ensure the national botanical gardens across SANBI are ready and safe for staff to return to work, as well as to receive members of the public for limited activities. This has included:

- Consistent communication to staff on COVID-19 matters
- Appointment of COVID-19 Compliance Officer
- Deep cleaning and disinfection of its facilities
- Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (including provision of cloth face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer) to staff
- Cleaning and maintenance of ventilation systems
- Placement of physical barriers in appropriate places (including provision of face shields or visors). In process.
- Temperature screening of staff and visitors at entrances
- Training of workers in the correct use of scanners, gloves and masks
- Formation of dedicated COVID-19 Campus Committees and Facilities Champions
- Range of Standard Operating Procedures and protocols aligned to COVID-19.

As prescribed by the COVID-19 OHS Guidelines, SANBI is regularly checking on web sites of NDOH, NICD and NDOL for Occupational Health for any additional PPE requirements and recommended guidelines.
4. **OPERATION OF NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDENS TO THE PUBLIC UNDER ADJUSTED ALERT LEVEL 3**

Revised operational protocols for national botanical gardens will be effective from **2 February 2021**:

Activities permitted during adjusted level 3 are as follows:

- Gardens may open to the public from 05h45 and must close at latest 22h00 (in line with closure of restaurants);
- Curfew time (where every person is confined to his or her place of residence) is from 23h00 to 04h00;
- Walks, hikes, exercise (no organised exercise allowed);
- Picnics (social distancing required, observing all health protocols, limited to a maximum of 20 people per group, and individual groups are spaced at least 5 metres apart), no alcohol will be allowed to be brought into the garden by members of the public;
- Gardens may open to the public from 05h45 and must close at latest 22h00 (in line with closure of restaurants);
- Curfew time (where every person is confined to his or her place of residence) is from 23h00 to 04h00;
- Walks, hikes, exercise (no organised exercise allowed);
- Picnics (social distancing required, observing all health protocols, limited to a maximum of 20 people per group, and individual groups are spaced at least 5 metres apart), no alcohol will be allowed to be brought into the garden by members of the public;
- Plant sales nurseries (subject to health and social distancing protocols);
- Restaurants: subject to a maximum of 50 persons or less for indoor venues and 100 persons or less for outdoor venues and if the venue is too small to hold the prescribed number of persons observing a distance of at least one and a half metres from each other, then not more than 50 percent of the capacity of the venue may be used, subject further to strict adherence to the times of operation provided for in regulation 33(3), health protocols and social distancing measures;
- Sale of liquor by licensed premises for on-site consumption is allowed from 10h00 to 22h00;
- Restaurants in botanical gardens may remain open to the public until 22h00 if required;
- Conference, dining and entertainment facilities are subject to a limitation of a maximum of 50 persons or less for indoor venues and 100 persons or less for outdoor venues and if the venue is too small to hold 50 persons observing a distance of at least one and a half metres from each other, then not more than 50 percent of the capacity of the venue may be used;
- Daily access will be monitored, and limited if necessary, according to the carrying capacity and available space that promotes social distancing in each botanical garden;
- Wearing of a face mask is mandatory

Prohibited activities/access areas at Adjusted Alert level 3:

- The consumption of liquor in public places, except in licensed on-site consumption premises, is prohibited
- Concerts
- All social gatherings
- Events
- Access to braai facilities
- Parkruns in Harold Porter and Pretoria NBGs suspended until further notice
- Trail runs/Lunar runs suspended until further notice

Specified activities allowed and prohibited in all national botanical gardens under Adjusted Alert Level 3. At all times social distancing will be monitored and health protocols applied, as per government regulations; **tourism monitors will assist in monitoring social distancing and health protocol compliance**:

- **Free State NBG, Bloemfontein, Free State Province:**
  Allowed: walks/hiking, restaurant open, children’s play area
  Prohibited: use of braai area, lapa
Garden’s maximum carrying capacity under Adjusted alert level 3: 500

- **Hantam NBG, Nieuwoudtville, Northern Cape:**
  Allowed: walks/hiking
  Garden’s maximum carrying capacity under Adjusted alert level 3: 500

- **Harold Porter NBG, Betty’s Bay, Western Cape:**
  Allowed: walks/hiking, restaurant services, access to Leopard’s Kloof, use of conference venues for business purposes (and aligned with restrictions on public gatherings), guided tours (limited to 10 people per group, social distancing enforced), all beaches and rivers, inclusive of all recreational facilities at these places, are open to the public
  Prohibited: Parkrun
  Garden’s maximum carrying capacity under Adjusted alert level 3: 350

- **Karoo Desert NBG, Worcester, Western Cape:**
  Allowed: walks/hiking, restaurant open
  Garden’s maximum carrying capacity under Adjusted alert level 3: 250

- **Kirstenbosch NBG, Cape Town, Western Cape:**
  Allowed: walks/hiking, restaurant, tearoom, coffee shop and retail shops open to visitors, conferences and meetings (and aligned with restrictions on public gatherings), children’s play area, guided tours (maximum of 10 guests, with appropriate health protocols and social distancing enforced), Boot Camp (maximum 20 people, social distanced)
  Prohibited: public events
  Garden’s maximum carrying capacity under Adjusted alert level 3: 3,000

- **KwaZulu-Natal NBG, Pietermaritzburg, KZN:**
  Allowed: walks/hiking, exercise, Acrobranch Adventure Park, Farmers Market (maximum 100 at any given time), children’s play area
  Prohibited: use of braai stands
  Garden’s maximum carrying capacity under Adjusted alert level 3: 1,500

- **Kwelera NBG, East London, Eastern Cape:**
  All beaches and rivers, inclusive of all recreational facilities at these places, are open to the public

- **Lowveld NBG, Mbombela, Mpumalanga:**
  Allowed: walks/hikes, restaurant open, children’s play area, organised exercise (e.g. yoga), Boot Camp (maximum 20 people, social distanced)
  Prohibited: concerts, events
  Garden’s maximum carrying capacity under Adjusted alert level 3: 1,500

- **Pretoria NBG, Pretoria, Gauteng:**
  Allowed: walks/hikes, exercise, restaurant open for sit-down meals, conferences and meetings for business purposes (and aligned with restrictions on public gatherings), Adventure Boot Camp for Women
  Prohibited: braai area, Parkrun, public events, social gatherings
  Garden’s maximum carrying capacity under Adjusted alert level 3: 2,000

- **Thohoyandou BG, Thohoyandou, Limpopo Province:**
  Allowed: walks/hikes, exercise
  Prohibited: social gatherings of more than 20 per group
  Garden’s maximum carrying capacity under Adjusted alert level 3: 250

- **Walter Sisulu NBG, Roodepoort/Mogale City, Gauteng:**
  Allowed: walks/hikes, restaurant open, trackless train (Eagle Express), conferences and meetings (aligned with restrictions on public gatherings), children’s play area, outdoor gym equipment, Sisulu Circle (bust and water feature)
  Prohibited: concerts, social gatherings
  Garden’s maximum carrying capacity under Adjusted alert level 3: 2,500
The following health protocols will be implemented:

- No mask, no entry
- Physical barriers provided at gates and reception areas
- Online bookings will be encouraged, where feasible
- Temperature screening
- Hand sanitising: garden users are encouraged to carry their own sanitisers
- Designated public ablutions will be made available and cleaned regularly throughout the day
- Gate hours for public access to botanical gardens will be strictly adhered to: Garden’s normal opening times to closure by 22h00 (if required)
- Daily visitor numbers will be monitored, and daily monitoring patrols done by designated personnel to ensure social distancing is observed and restrictions are complied with
- Restaurants, plants sales nurseries and shops will be open for operations, aligned with published sectoral guidelines

Updated: 2 February 2021