



AVCRT NEWSLETTER 2 OF 2015

REVISED AVCRT TERMS OF REFERENCE

At a recent AVCRT meeting held on 16 July 2015 in Cape Town, a few amendments were effected on the existing AVCRT Terms of References (ToRs). The AVCRT was created as a platform to address industry concerns and constraints. The amendments were made on the ToRs to broaden the AVCRT scope to accommodate Operation Phakhisa and other initiatives. The AVCRT will carry out any other role and responsibility which may be assigned to it through consultation between the government and the aquaculture industry. It will also serve as an implementing vehicle for the deliverables of the marketing work-stream under the Operation Phakisa project.

REVISED OPERATION PHAKHISA ACTION PLAN

The Operation Phakisa unit has met with officials from DAFF: Marketing in May to discuss marketing initiatives 7 and 8. Aquaculture information will be included in the marketing information system (MIS). The industry must guide the Directorate Marketing on what kind of information, format and the frequency of the information they need before the aquaculture functionality can be created in the Market Information Systems (MIS). A business plan for AquaSA will be developed by a team comprising the aquaculture industry and government.

PROGRESS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF OPERATION PHAKHISA PROJECTS

In terms of Operation Phakisa Aquaculture implementation plan, progress in the implementation of projects is at 37%. Initiative 6, which is talking to the development of capacity at DAFF, is doing better at 60%. The initiatives were reduced from 8 to 7 because some of the projects were merged. R305 Million was committed and 379 new jobs were created under ADEP. There were 24 projects on Operation Phakisa and marketing initiative projects are at 35%. Public Works lease agreements will be

for 9 years and 11 months. Lease agreements and rights will be aligned. Operation Phakisa projects will be prioritised when lease agreements are allocated. Some projects were still facing challenges such as lack of market access and investment while some were still waiting for EIA approvals, access to land and disease issues.

Operation Phakisa initiative projects were presented to potential investors in the United Kingdom. Project coordinators/owners must send pictures when they report and these pictures will be shown to potential investors. Some of the projects will be presented to China and Iran investors. There are buyers in Iran interested in buying 500 tons of tilapia from South Africa on a monthly basis. Iran will also serve as a middle man for other countries.

UPDATE ON AQUACULTURE BILL

DAFF has engaged external stakeholders on the Aquaculture Draft Bill Document in March 2015 at AIF in Bloemfontein. Northern Cape province was the only province which was not visited. There was poor attendance by role players during consultations with the provinces. Comments from the meeting were consolidated into the draft Bill document. Before the Bill is approved by Cabinet, developers must conduct an initial assessment (cost-benefit analysis). The analysis must also identify the risks and risk mitigation as well as costs and benefits associated with developing the new Bill. Final initial assessment study must be attached as Annexure when the Bill is submitted to the cabinet. DPME assisted with completing the template and it will be forwarded to the stakeholders before the next formal consultations. The draft bill was finalised but it was not ready to be circulated to stakeholders. There is an Ocean Bill which was developed by the Department of Environment and the DAFF will be commenting on it.

IMPLEMENTATION OF BROAD BASED BEE CODES IN ADEP

The new BBBEE codes have been implemented from 1 May 2015 and the dti was busy making presentations to the industries to avoid confusion. The new codes address Direct Empowerment, Human Resource Empowerment, Indirect Empowerment, Enterprise Development and Socio-economic Development. There is a need to survey the industry to establish the BBBEE compliance level. A one page questionnaire will be sent to ADEP participants and the industry is encouraged to respond to the questionnaire.

RESUSCITATION OF WORKING GROUPS

Previous working groups collapsed mainly due to lack of funding. Two working groups will be resuscitated. The first group will focus on concluding AquaSA business plan. The group will be facilitated by Ms Moodley and Mr Smit. The representative from the Aquaculture industry will be

discussed in the meeting that will be taking place on 16 July 2015. The draft business plan will be prepared and discussed at the upcoming AASA conference.

The second working group will focus of Market Research and Intelligence. This group will be facilitated by Mr Nakana and Ms Geswindt. MFASSA will represent the industry on the Working Group because they already have an interest in marketing issues. The industry will nominate people from MFFASA, Trout and Abalone to sit on this Working Group. Industry experts can be invited to assist AVCRT Working Groups.

REGULATIONS FOR AQUACULTURE

Members of the AVCRT felt that there was no consultation between the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and the Aquaculture industry before the finalisation of the EIA regulations. Aquaculture is listed specifically but other agricultural activities are not specifically listed and all other activities like water discharge triggers a basic assessment. The feeling is that there is no need to list aquaculture specifically in the regulation because there were already generic listed activities that will affect the aquaculture sector. The new EIA regulations will be presented at the Aquaculture conference as there will be a broader industry representation and audience.

RECORD OF DECISIONS

The following decisions were agreed upon during the meeting on the 16th July 2015:

- DAFF will write a letter to DEA Chief Director to request a meeting to discuss and seek clarity on the new EAI regulations.
- Two working groups will be resuscitated. The first group will focus on concluding AquaSA business plan. The second working group will focus of Market Research and Intelligence.
- The Marketing Directorate will bear logistics costs, travelling, accommodation and catering for the Working Groups.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flyers for Aquaculture Conference, which will be held in Polokwane from 27 September to 02 October 2015, were out and more information can be downloaded from the AASA website.

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