

# Animal Improvement Act – Game Farming



agriculture,  
forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## PURPOSE OF ACT NO 62

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- **To provide for breeding, identification and utilisation of genetically superior animals in order to improve the production and performance of animals in the interest of the republic and to provide for matters connected therewith.**

## DEFINITION WILDLIFE RANCHING/FARMING

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Wildlife ranching/game farming is defined as the management of game in a sizable game fenced system, with human intervention in the form of:

- the provision of water;
- the supplementation of food in periods of drought;
- the control of parasites; and
- the provision of health care.

# POSITIONING THE GAME FARMING AS AN AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY

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- Approximately 23,3% of all agricultural land in South Africa has a high production potential.
- Much of our agricultural land is semi-arid and marginal (not suitable for other agricultural activities) with 20 million ha under private game farming.
- Wildlife is more adapted to SA's harsh climatic conditions than livestock.

## WILDLIFE - GAME FARMING LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE

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- Game farming was recognized as an agricultural activity by the former Department of Agricultural Development in 1987.
- Game meat is recognized as agricultural product in terms of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, 1996 (Act No. 47 of 1996).
- A number of government departments administer legislation that have a indirect and direct impact on the sector:
  - As such, uncertainty still exists as to where the sector belong – Some are accepted as agriculture commodities (Ostrich & Crocodile), while some in DEA or DAFF or in transitions

## SOME IMPORTANT WILDLIFE LEGISLATION

LEGISLATION	ISSUES	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT
Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act 43 of 1983)	Agricultural Resources Management	DAFF
Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act 35 of 1984)	Health control, imports and of animals	DAFF
Animals Protection Act, 1962 (Act No. 71 of 1962)	Housing, transport, capture, care	DAFF
Animal Improvement Act, 1998 (Act No. 62 of 1998)	Breed evaluation and improvement	DAFF
Animal Identification Act, 2002 (Act No. 6 of 2002)	Legal identification marks	DAFF
Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, 1996 (Act No. 47 of 1996)	Marketing	DAFF
Meat Safety Act (Act No 40 of 2000)	Hygiene & safety of meat	DAFF
National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004)		DEA
National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998)		DEA

## ANIMAL IMPROVEMENT ACT – GAME FARMING

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In 2016 DAFF added twelve wildlife species to the list of Game animals regulated to under Animal Improvement Act, 1998 (Act No. 62 of 1998) (AIA) Game farming production.

Wildlife Producers Association (WPA) , Registering was also registered in terms of AIA to represent game breeders societies:

- to ensure Genetic Purity and sustainable utilization;
- do research on feeding and nutrition;
- define and measure traits of economic importance; and
- study regulatory gaps on game as for food production.

## DEFINITION AND TERMS

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- **Challenge** – General term referring to things that (imbued) – inspire or permeate with a feeling or quality, with a sense of difficulty and victory.
- **Breeding** – Reproduction of offspring.
- **Production** – The act of making products (goods and services).

## DEFINITIONS AND TERMS

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- **'animal'** means a kind of animal or an animal of a specified breed of such kind of animal which has in terms of section 2 been declared as an animal for the purposes of this Act;
- **'animal improvement'** means the scientifically based identification of genetically superior animals by means of the integrated registration and genetic information system or in a manner approved by the registrar and the discerning use thereof to improve the production or performance ability of the animal population in the interest of the Republic; and
- **'registering authority'** means an animal breeders' society or a group of animal breeders' societies which is registered as such in terms of section 8 (7) (a) (ii).

# IMPORTATION OF ANIMALS AND GENETIC MATERIALS

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- **Article 16 (4) b**
  - the authorisation referred to in paragraph (a) shall be subject to the prescribed conditions or, in so far as it is not contrary to the conditions or the provisions of this Act, such conditions as may be determined by the registrar.
- ✓ ***Genetic impact assessment***
- 'breed' means a population of animals which produces progeny possessing a high degree of genetic stability as evidenced by identifiable uniformity in breed standards and performance;
  - The study should be undertaken by a reputable animal scientist or group of animal scientists or animal science institution (University. Research institutions) as approved by the Registrar for Animal Improvement.

## IMPORTATION OF GENETIC MATERIAL

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- The application is sent to the registrar via the Breed Society and WPA for recommendation.
  - Once processed at the registrar's office, written approval is sent to Animal Health to issue an import permit.
  - It is important to note that the ANIMAL Improvement approval does not exempt the applicant from any animal health provisions.
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# EXPORTATION OF ANIMALS AND GENETIC MATERIAL OF LANDRACE

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- **Article 17**

- (1) No person shall export from the Republic an animal or genetic material of a landrace unless such exportation has been authorised by the registrar in writing.
- Why not all animals per importation (Article 16)?

## CONCLUSION:

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- There is a need for sessions with game breeders/species societies and registering authorities where ideas are shared about the following:
  - Interpretation and clarification of the Act.
  - Role of breeders/species societies and registering authorities.
  - Rules regarding importation and exportation of livestock and related genetic material.