

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES**NO. 1209****11 DECEMBER 2015**

ANIMAL DISEASES ACT, 1984
(ACT No 35 OF 1984)

Extension of public consultation period on the Draft Veterinary Procedural Notice for Buffalo Disease Risk Management in South Africa or “Buffalo VPN” under Section 20 and Section 20A of the regulations to the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No 35 of 84)

I, Senzeni Zokwana, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries hereby

- (a) invite all interested institutions, organisations and individuals to submit written comments on the draft Buffalo VPN, and to do so on or before 31 January 2016 to the following address:

The Director
Directorate: Animal Health
Department of Agriculture
Private Bag X138
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Fax: +2712 329 7529
E-mail: PetuniaM@daff.gov.za
G29 Delpen Building
Riveira
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- (b) inform all that the draft Buffalo VPN can be obtained from the Director: Animal Health or alternatively can be accessed on the DAFF website <http://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Animal-Health/information/dahpolicy>

MR. SENZENI ZOKWANA

Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

**NOTICE FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIOD:
DRAFT VETERINARY PROCEDURAL NOTICE FOR BUFFALO DISEASE RISK
MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA ALSO KNOWN AS DRAFT "BUFFALO VPN"**

African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) are part of Africa's big five and important not only ecologically but also for eco tourism, photography and hunting. Unfortunately, buffalo play a major role in the maintenance and transmission of Foot and mouth disease and Corridor disease in South Africa, with buffalo populations in certain areas of the country being permanently infected with (carriers of) one or both diseases. Buffalo are also susceptible to tuberculosis and brucellosis; both of which are zoonotic, that is pose a human health risk, and may be potentially infectious to cattle.

Risk factors for disease spread include the presence or movement of diseased buffalo, close contact between diseased buffalo and other animals, and the presence of certain tick species in the case of Corridor Disease.

For this reason the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 84) and Regulations prescribes specific control measures for the keeping and movement of all buffalo, particularly with regard to Corridor Disease and Foot and Mouth Disease .

The current Disease Risk Management Directive for Buffalo in South Africa serves as a guide on how to apply the legal prescripts for moving and keeping buffalo in South Africa however, this document is outdated and has been comprehensively redrafted. The new version of the draft Veterinary Procedural Notice for Buffalo Disease Risk Management in South Africa is hereby presented for consultation before implementation.

This notice serves to extend and the public comment period on the Veterinary Procedural Notice for Buffalo Disease Risk Management in South Africa to 31 January 2016. A copy of the Veterinary Procedural Notice for Buffalo Disease Risk Management in South Africa may be obtained on request from the Director: Animal Health or alternately can be accessed on the DAFF website.

Comments on the Veterinary Procedural Notice for Buffalo Disease Risk Management in South Africa must be addressed in writing, before the end of the consultation period to the Director: Animal Health