



# Bioprospecting Commission 2

## BIOPROSPECTING COMMISSION

DATE: 26 MARCH 2024

TIME: 14:00 -16:00 PM

VENUE: BIRCHWOOD CONFERENCE CENTRE, BOKSBURG, GAUTENG PROVINCE

EVENT THEME: COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR THRIVING NATURE AND PEOPLE

### 1. INTRODUCTION

South Africa is the third most biologically diverse country in the world in terms of species richness and endemism. Conservation and sustainable utilisation of South Africa's biological diversity is thus of strategic importance in terms of provision of ecosystem goods and services, now and in the future. This wealth of biodiversity provides an important basis for socio-economic growth and development that underpins the well-being of our society.

The commercial and industrial utilisation of the indigenous biological resources in bioprospecting offers the opportunity to create additional employment in the country, as shown by several notable industries that have developed within South Africa using indigenous biological resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Bioprospecting is defined as research on, or development or application of, indigenous biological resources for commercial or industrial exploitation and includes: the systematic search, collection or gathering of such resources or making extractions from such resources; the utilisation of information regarding any traditional uses of such resources by indigenous communities; and the research on or the application, development or modification of such traditional uses for commercial exploitation; the trading in and exporting of indigenous biological resources in order to develop and produce products, such as medicines, industrial enzymes, food flavours, fragrances, cosmetics, colours, extracts and essential oils.

Although the bioprospecting and biotrade Sector has enormous potential to provide benefits to the economy, society, and human well-being, it does have its challenges. Challenges fall into specific categories for which solutions can be developed through the cooperation between a variety of role players. Cooperation means the provision of support by various role players through their mandates in a coordinated manner geared to solutions toward the sector's growth.



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The BioProducts Advancement Network of South Africa (BioPANZA) has been conceptualized to be the mechanism to establish a coordinated network to address the key challenges of the bioprospecting/biotope sector. The BioPANZA comprise of five clusters namely, The Innovation Cluster, The Sustainable Supply Cluster, The Finance Cluster, The Policy and Legislation Cluster and The Market Access Cluster. These Clusters are established according to the focus area of support to the Bioprospecting/Biotope Economy Sector and are comprised of members from government across all spheres and its entities including all other relevant business support organisations. The aim is to ensure a coordinated response to the needs of the Sector using tools, systems, applications, and models to streamline processes toward realizing growth of the Sector.

The commission is aimed toward the advancement of solutions and its implementation plans for the sector through the five clusters. The questions posed to participants for each Cluster represent the current challenges and concerns faced by the Sector. The World café method is employed to allow participants to generate ideas for solutions to these challenges. These ideas or concepts that stem from the various discussions will culminate into the action and implementation plans for each of the Clusters of BioPANZA.

BioPANZA is the means to a well-structured, integrated, formalized bioprospecting, biotope and biodiversity-based harvesting and production sector that beneficiates communities and therefore it is essential that it is given life through cluster action plans to ensure the sectors' contribution to socio-economic growth and development that underpins the well-being of our society.

**GOAL 4:** A well-structured, inclusive, integrated, and formalised bioprospecting, biotope, and biodiversity-based harvesting and production sector that beneficiates communities.

**IMPACT STATEMENT:** This will increase the GDP contribution of the bioprospecting/biotope from R1,85 billion (2020) to R11,6 billion by 2036 through local beneficiation (finished products, e.g., pharmaceutical, cosmetics and food supplements).

#### **ACTIONS:**

- Develop a "virtual" institute for discovery phase bioprospecting that feeds into an inclusive Biotechnology value-chain.
- Develop and implement a well-structured, inclusive, integrated, and formalised Biotope Sector that benefits communities.
- Scale up PDI/community-based mass cultivation of indigenous plants for commercial use in large land restoration/rehabilitation and carbon sequestration programmes, with a pipeline to commercial horticulture/landscaping industries.
- Identify mechanisms, in consultation with traditional harvesters and healers, to scale cultivation of indigenous medicinal plants for sustainable use within the traditional medicine sector.
- "Crop wild relatives" identified and encouraged for genetic use and development for commercial crop production especially for small-holder farmers.
- Mainstream the informal traditional edible insect sector through formalizing scaling, and marketing natural products from sustainably harvested insects and their products.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

- To highlight the objectives of the BIOPANZA and facilitate the inclusive contribution towards its implementation framework and action plans for each of the five clusters.
- To facilitate robust solution-oriented discussions on the challenges of the Sector towards the development of an inclusive programme of action or roadmap to facilitate the implementation of Goal 4 of the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy in line with the goals of the White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity.
- To explore Bioprospecting/Biotrade Sector's contribution to addressing poverty, unemployment, and inequality.

## 3. APPROACH AND PROGRAMME

### 3.1 Approach - World Café

- The session is focused on BIOPANZA as a vehicle for addressing issues faced by the bioprospecting/biotrade sector and as an inclusive programme/approach to resolving challenges faced by the sector.
- The session will start with a presentation to paint the picture of the Bioprospecting Economy Sector and the tool/mechanism (BioPANZA) to support the growth of the Sector.
- BioPANZA has five clusters addressing specific solution categories/focus areas for the bioprospecting/biotrade sector. These include the Innovation, Market Access, Finance, Policy and Legislation and Sustainable Supply Clusters.
- Participants will discuss the questions posed for each cluster at each of the 5 tables simultaneously.
- There will be five facilitators and five scribes, one for each of the clusters. The facilitators will be stationed at their designated post to facilitate discussions.
- Participants will then rotate from one table to the other at set times (20 minutes each) until they have had a chance to provide input at each table/cluster.
- Facilitators will welcome the participants each time and provide background to previous inputs for continuity of discussions.
- Each group session will run for 20 minutes before rotating to the next.
- At the end of the session, the facilitators will provide feedback on key solutions for the programme of action for each cluster of the Biopanza.

## BIOPROSPECTING ECONOMY COMMISSION

**Fulfilling the vision for a coordinated Bioprospecting and Biotrade Economy Sector**

**Commission Convenor: Ms Skumsa Ntshanga, Chief Director: Biodiversity Management and Permitting**

**Supported by: Ms Natalie Feltman: Director: Bioprospecting Economy**

**Time: 14:00-16:00**

**Date: 26 March 2024**

Time	Item	Responsibility
3 Min	Welcoming remarks	Convenor: Ms Skumsa Ntshanga
10 Min	Presentation: Setting the scene to provoke thoughts on challenges of the Bioprospecting and Biotrade Economy Sector	Natalie Feltman
90 Min	World Café discussions: Rotation of participants to 5 tables representing BioPANZA Clusters	Facilitators and Participants
50 Min	Feedback from World Café discussions	Facilitators and Participants
30 Min	Debrief and reflections	Participants
2 Min	Closing	Convenor: Ms Skumsa Ntshanga

## WORLD CAFÉ GROUPS

### BIOPANZA FINANCE CLUSTER

**Group Facilitator: Sinah Mosehla**

**Scribe: Katedi Mantsho**

Item	Time	Topic/s for discussion	Activity/Challenge	Responsibility
1.	25 Min	<p>Sector Financial support opportunity mapping and understanding various criteria is key to accessing financial support to businesses in the sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How can access to financial support opportunities for the Sector be improved to support the Bioprospecting and Biotrade Sector more effectively?</li> </ul>	Participants will provide actions toward developing a financial support map.	Group participants



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		<p>A one-stop-shop is proposed as an efficient model to access various funding opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who should form part of this one-stop shop?</li> <li>• What can they offer?</li> <li>• What are the needs of various stakeholders in the sector?</li> <li>• How do we create the links between what is needed and what is offered?</li> </ul>	Participants will list relevant actors.	Group participants
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### BIOPANZA POLICY AND LEGISLATION CLUSTER

**Group Facilitator: Natalie Feltman**

**Scribe: Ntambudzeni Nephumembe**

Item	Time	Topic/s for discussion	Activity/Challenge	Responsibility
2.	25 mins	<p>ABS (Access and Benefit Sharing) compliance is a legal requirement for Bioprospecting and Biotrade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can compliance be encouraged?</li> <li>• What type of support is needed most by various stakeholders, i.e., Industry, TK (Traditional Knowledge) holders, Researchers, Harvesters?</li> </ul>	Participants will consider the development of Knowledge products and awareness tools.	Group participants.
		<p>Consider expanding the scope of bioprospecting to include edible insects, crop wild relatives, etc.?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the opportunities and limitations for including these?</li> </ul>	Participants to share views on expanding the scope of Bioprospecting – amending the definition of Bioprospecting in NEMBA (National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act) and BABS (Bioprospecting, Access, and Benefit Sharing).	Group participants



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## BIOPANZA MARKET ACCESS CLUSTER

Group Facilitator: Cyril Lombard

Scribe: Thembisile Zimu

Item	Time	Topic/s for discussion	Activity/Challenge	Responsibility
3.	20 mins	<p>The Bioprospecting Sector is faced with a variety of trade barriers which stifles the growth of the Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are current trade barriers (both nationally and internationally)?</li> <li>• What should be prioritised?</li> <li>• Consider a model/structure/arrangement to approach a potential solution to the prioritised challenges.</li> <li>• Who is needed to implement the solutions?</li> </ul>	Participants will consider solutions to trade barriers across the spectrum of SMMEs (Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises).	Group participants
		<p>For South Africa's natural ingredients Sector to thrive, it is important to align South Africa's standards with the standards of countries with major markets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can we level the playing field for all relevant players?</li> <li>• What can be controlled to ensure inclusivity?</li> </ul>	Participants will list challenges toward finding (providing clear steps/actions/amendments) solutions.	Group participants

## BIOPANZA SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CLUSTER

Group Facilitator: Tembisa Jordaan

Scribe: Mukonazwothe Netshiluvhi

Item	Time	Topic/s for discussion	Activity/Challenge	Responsibility
4.	20 mins	Ensuring a sustainable supply is key to responding to the demand (both national and international) for South African Indigenous Biological resources.	Participants will propose solutions to cooperatively increase sector supply of indigenous species.	Group participants



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How can the Sector work together in the pre-competitive space to support the demand for Indigenous Biological resources.</li> </ul>		
		<p>The use of crop wild relatives could be potential alternatives should a resource be depleted locally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where applicable, should the sector start to consider research on crop wild relatives as alternatives?</li> <li>What type of programmes could be set up to do so?</li> </ul>	Participants will share ideas on sustainability and consider alternative species using crop wild relatives.	Group participants

**BIOPANZA INNOVATION CLUSTER**

**Group Facilitator: Sechaba Baretseng**

**Scribe: Viwe Mqulo**

Item	Time	Topic/s for discussion	Activity/Challenge	Responsibility
5.	20 mins	<p>As a mega-Biodiverse country with efficient research and development infrastructure, South Africa has immense potential to successfully manufacture natural ingredient products through uptake of technologies from research outputs to the private sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How can the uptake of these technologies be facilitated both locally and internationally?</li> <li>What are the tools to better understand international market trends?</li> <li>How can we better align research and</li> </ul>	Participants would propose ideas for establishing a Discovery Phase Hub	Group participants



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		<p>development with these trends to ensure uptake?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are the barriers for uptake of innovations into product development?</li></ul>		
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#### 4. OUTCOME OF THE SESSION

Co-created draft BioPANZA Cluster implementation plans toward achieving Goal 4 of NBES (National Biodiversity Economy Strategy).

#### 5. TARGET AUDIENCE

- Bioprospecting Entrepreneurs and Associations
- National and Provincial Departments
- Business Support Organisations
- Academia
- Research Institutions
- Traditional Leaders
- Traditional Health Practitioners
- CPAs
- Communities
- Public Entities

#### Enquiries:

Ms Natalie Feltman

Tel: 012 399 8917

Cell: 082 653 2713



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