



## AGRICULTURE, AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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### Office of the Head of Department

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### DEADLINE FOR INDIGENOUS CYCAD REGISTRATION IN GAUTENG

The Public should take note that the Regulations pertaining to Threatened or Protected Species (“TOPS”) issued in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 came into force and effect on 1 February 2008. In terms of TOPS, anyone in possession of an indigenous cycad without the necessary **TOPS possession permit** will be in contravention of the Act and TOPS and guilty of a criminal offence. **Kindly note that the TOPS possession permit is required in addition to any existing documentation in anyone’s possession relating to a cycad.**

In order to provide the Public with an opportunity to apply for the necessary **TOPS possession permits**, the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) will accept applications for such **TOPS possession permits** for a period of 12 **(twelve) months from date of this press release.**

Applications must be submitted on the relevant form, available on request from the Permits Office (011) 355-1207/355-1202. It should include the following information:

- A layout map of the garden showing the location of all plants (all plants in the garden must be clearly marked). Any changes or amendments in the garden or map must be clearly indicated on the day of the physical inspection.
- A list of identified and numbered plants according to garden layout plan, with size measurements.
- Size measurements: diameter and height of all adult plants. (The diameter is across the widest part of the visible stem; the height is from the ground to the first crown leaves are). No leafless plants will be identified for permit purposes.
- Only plants with stem diameter above 15cm need to be measured. The rest of the plants will be indicated as seedlings on the possession permit.

Kindly note that payments in respect of the **TOPS possession permits** can be electronically deposited into the bank account, and the proof of payment must be attached to the application form.