

BEEKEEPING LEGISLATION IN SOUTH AFRICA



DALRRD: DIRECTORATE PLANT HEALTH

PRESENTER: CHARLES NENGOVHELA

DATE: 26 MARCH 2025



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& rural development

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Legislation

- Beekeeping in South Africa is currently regulated under the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No.36 of 1983) and Control Measures relating to honey-bees.
- The purpose of this Act is to provide for measures by which agricultural pests may be prevented and combated and for matters connected therewith.
- The Agricultural Pests Act also provides for:
 - ✓ Import control of honey and any other bee products (import permit)
 - ✓ National control of bee disease (prohibit movement of bees)



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Provisions of the Control Measures: Regulations R. 858 as amended...

African bees (*Apis mellifera scutellata*)



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Cape bees (*Apis mellifera capensis*)



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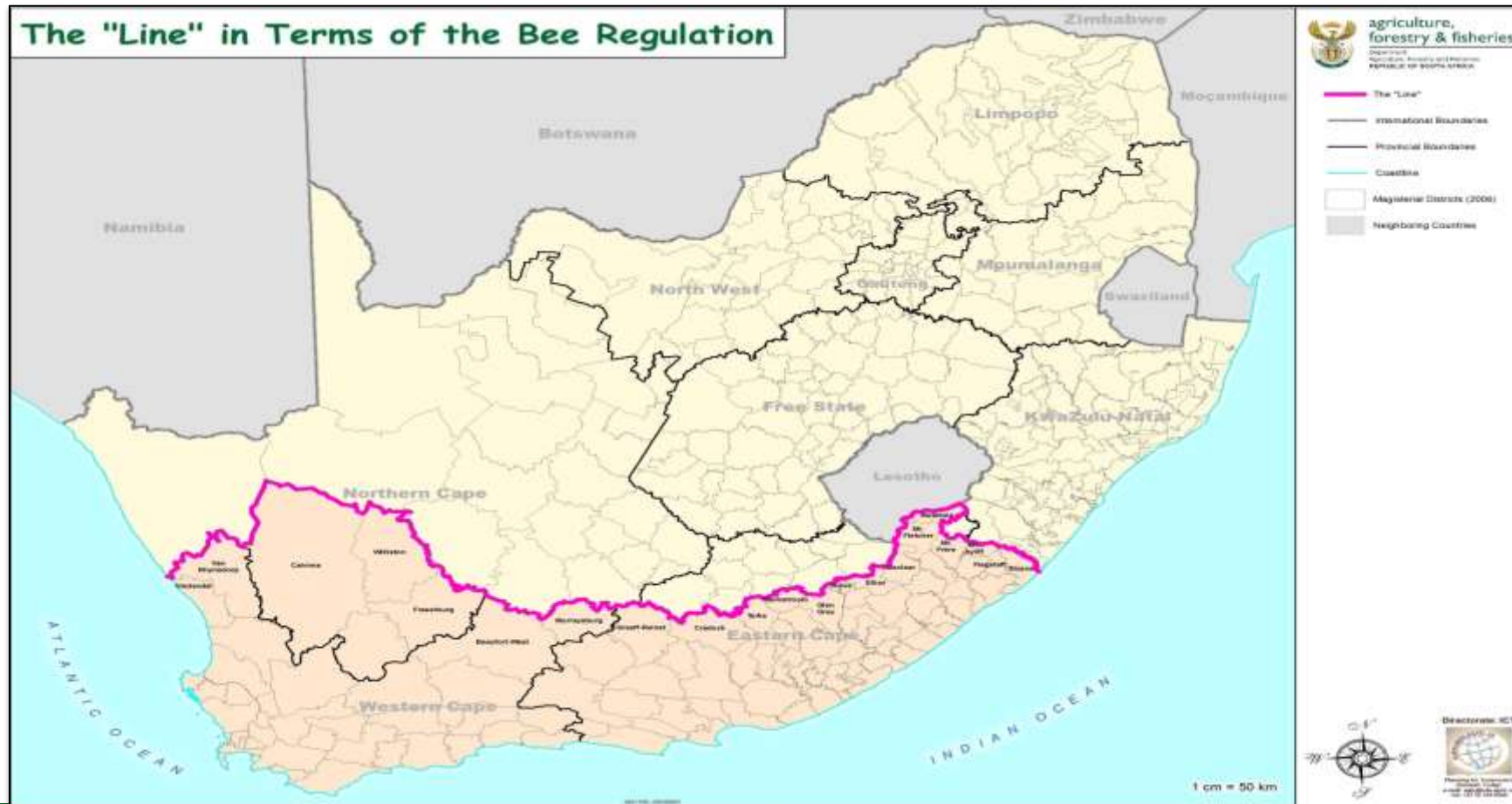


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SA BEE REGULATION MAP



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Provisions of the control measures : Government Notice R.858 Cont...

- Every beekeeper shall register with the DALRRD anytime of the year and validity of the registration will be 24 months from the date of registration
- ✓ DALRRD; DIS is currently responsible for registration
- ✓ Forms are obtainable from the DALRRD and SABIO's website
- ✓ Currently no fees are payable when you register until further notice



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Provisions of the control measures : Government Notice R.858 Cont...

- Marking of beehives
- Record keeping by beekeepers
- Inspection of colonies by beekeepers
- ❖ Notify DALRRD
- ❖ Executive officer may issues order
- Destruction of infected colonies
- Prohibition of removal of infected colonies



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Why registration?

- To manage the control of American Foul Brood (AFB) and Capensis problem
- Number of beekeepers per province/SA,
- Number of beehives or colony per province,
- Type of the business or operation.
- Research purposes.

This will assist DALRRD when conducting inspection, Auditing etc. to ensure compliance



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Other legislation affecting beekeeping

- Agricultural Product Standards Act (grading, packing and marking of honey products)
- Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act (regulate the labelling and marketing of food)
- Act 36 of 1947 (appropriate use of pesticides for the protection of bees)



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Offences and Penalties

- Failure to comply with the provision of the Control Measures is an illegal (offence) in terms of this law and offenders may be prosecuted.



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DALRRD's Role in Beekeeping Industry

- Develop, review and promulgate legislation and regulations
- Conduct surveillance of pests and diseases
- Implement and enforce relevant legislation and policies to ensures compliances
- Develop and distribute promotional and awareness materials to stakeholders
- Participate in various beekeeping forums and provide advisory services



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Way forward

- Registration by all beekeepers
- Regular visits by DALRRD inspectors
- Compliance by all beekeepers
- Awareness and education on bee legislation



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AFRICAN REGIONAL APIMONDIA SYMPOSIUM 2023, DURBAN ICC



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Consultative activities (Northern Cape)



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Consultative activities (Limpopo province)



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THE END

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**Division: Policies Norms and Standard
DALRRD, Directorate Plant Health**



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