



## forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road · Arcadia · PRETORIA  
Tel (+27 86) 111 2468

**Ref: African Biotrade Festival 2024**  
**Enquiries:** Ms Natalie Feltman  
**Tel:** 082 653 2713 **Email:** [NFeltman@dff.gov.za](mailto:Nfeltman@dff.gov.za)

Dear Valued stakeholder,

### **RE: CANCELLATION OF THE SECOND AFRICAN BIOTRADE FESTIVAL**

It is with regret that the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) announces that the African Biotrade Festival (ABF) envisaged for 2024 is cancelled, however please note that The Organic & Natural Product Expo will continue at the Sandton Convention Centre from 12 to 14 September, with free entry for those who were planning to attend the ABF. This only refers to entrance and not for granting exhibition rights.

Please be assured that there remain considerable opportunities for Natural Ingredient businesses, growers, communities and sector organisations to keep expanding the potential of our African biodiversity. One such opportunity already is that the O&N Expo has offered a 20% discount on space for companies who exhibited at last year's ABF.

In other developments, we were thrilled to see the progress made in the Sceletium, Buchu, Honeybush, Rooibos and Baobab sectors when their associations presented to the Bioprospecting Forum this week (22 July 2024).

DFFE remains committed to the development of this Sector and will continue to provide support as appropriate in a coordinated fashion alongside all "Friends of Biotrade".

The department sincerely apologises for any inconvenience caused and wish to thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Should you wish to correspond further on this matter, enquiries may be directed to the responsible official as outlined in the enquiry section above or Ms. Katedi Mantsho, Biodiversity Officer, Cell: 066 488 4700 or email: [KMantsho@dff.gov.za](mailto:KMantsho@dff.gov.za).

Yours sincerely

**Ms Nomfundo Tshabalala**  
**Director-General**  
**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**  
**Letter signed by: Ms. Natalie Feltman**  
**Designation: Director: Bioprospecting Economy**  
**Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation**  
**Date: 24 July 2024**

