

# SPRINGERBAAI ECO ESTATE



# GAME MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

**GAME001**

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## 1 Aim and Purpose

To ensure that the estate's game is taken care of while sustainably managing, aligning game numbers with veld condition and ensure game gene pool sustainability.

## 2 Scope

This procedure is applicable to all employees of Springerbaai. If any members come across an injured animal to contact the Superintendent or Estate Manager.

## 3 Definitions & Abbreviations

Term	Definition/Explanation
HOA	Home Owners Association
Veterinary	Croft Vet – Groot Brak – Niel or Jean
TT	Team of Trustees

## 4 Responsibilities:

Game Trustee: Give guidance where necessary and approve changes to procedure.

The Estate Manager: That this procedure is being followed by Management and implemented. Recommendation from TT Planned and executed. To ensure that the assets of the HOA is safe and protected.

Superintendent: Enforces the guidelines and procedures to ensure the game is well managed and the assets of the HOA is protected.

## 5 General

### 5.1 Contravention:

Breach of this Procedure by any employee may lead to disciplinary action.

### 5.2 Annual Game Management timeline:

Management to adhere to the Game Management time table.

#	Steps to follow	Date	Who
1	Determine Ha available for grazing	August	Management / TT for game
2	Review rainfall stats for the for the past 12	August	Management / TT for game
3	Determine grazing condition	August	Management / TT for game
4	Complete game management spreadsheet	August	Management / TT for game
5	Present findings to game management committee	September	TT for game
5	Agree on Feld caring capacity	October	TT meeting
6	Agree on Game numbers planned for year	October	TT meeting
7	Agree on purchase / sale / culling per species	October	TT meeting
8	Propose funds for approval at AGM	October	TT meeting
9	If no agreement is reached, prepare for AGM or contract a consultant	December	AGM

10	Present findings to game management committee	November	TT for game
11	Game count per specie and gender if possible	January	Management
12	Detail plan for number control to be drafted	February	Management
13	Present plan to TT and approve or rework	March	Management / TT
14	Apply for permits to against plan	April	Management
15	Execute plan after in May before Scholl holiday	May	Management / TT for game
16	Game count per specie and gender if possible	August	Management

## 6. Detailed Procedure

### 6.1 Steps in the Process

#### 6.1.1 Determine Ha available for grazing:

- Superintendent inspect veld and conducts veld conditions scores in October after majority of rainfall and refers to map to determine Ha for game grazing. The road behind the bird hide naturally divides the estate in game grazing from this road to the main gate (3/4 of 433 ha). This will allow the management team to manage veld and Rhenoster bush separately.

#### 6.1.2 Rainfall statistics:

- Management to record rainfall stats monthly in the excel spreadsheet. This is important information for the veld grazing potential calculation.

#### 6.1.3 Determine grazing condition:

- There are six counting sites scattered across the grassland where majority of the larger game graze.



- The transects are 200m each and along with two volunteers conduct a step point method on each site.
- Use the information to determine the mean ecological index for Springerbaai and indicate if veld is poor, average or good for grazing.
- This info will go into game management proposal and need to be recorded.

#### **6.1.4 Game Counts:**

- To be executed 2 x per year
- Drive count method will be the least stressful.
- Difficult to sex the game with this method.
- Utilise individuals who can identify the different species.
- Not more than 10 people (Too much stress on animals).
- Each counter should be able to see the others while walking.
- The counters must only count the game passing on their right-hand side between him/her and the next counter.
- When an animal passes on the right and then runs back on the right-hand side the animal needs to be subtracted.
- Use two-way radios.
- Stay in a single line.
- 50 – 100m apart from one another.
- All counters to assemble at the end of the count to discuss the number of game that passed on their right-hand side.
- Keep record of the game count numbers on a spreadsheet and to be distributed to relevant Trustees including a short report.

#### **6.1.5 Culling / Capture / sales:**

- Reason for culling / capture is to maintain the game population per carrying capacity,
- To ensure that the male / female ratio is in balance according to guidelines.
- Culling / Capture season is from May – August.
- Ensure no culling occurs during breeding or calving season.
- Game management proposal to be prepared and presented to TT for approval.
- Get 2 quotes for culling / capture / sales according to approved game management proposal.
- Inform a state vet to inspect and issue a permit.
- Inform the Police via a letter when culling / capture will take place.
- Inform insurance company when culling / capture takes place.
- Inform neighbours through a letter when capture / culling takes place.
- Inform contractors working on the estate that culling / capture will take place.
- Inform Home Owners who live on the estate that culling / capture will take place.
- The game being cull / captured needs to be sexed and noted for record purposes and to ensure that the professional hunter is culling / capturing the correct sex.
- Fransmanshoek Conservancy to write a detailed report on the culling /capture process
- No helicopters to be used due to the size of the property and the extensive stress on the rest of the animals.

#### **6.1.6 Introducing game on Springerbaai:**

If the approved game management proposal recommends the introduction of new species or game to manage the gene pool the following process must be followed:

- Obtain 2 x quotes from game farms approved by TT.
- Allow Fransmanshoek Conservancy to be part of the reintroduction.
- Management to inspect game before vehicle enters the premises.
- Introduce game after cull or sales process.

## 6.1.7 General procedures to follow:

### Feeding & Water

- In the dry season, add one mineral lick to the designated area once every two months.
- If necessary, add game feed to the designated areas. Can be purchased at Tuinroete Agri.
- The packaging of the feed ingredients to be filed to issue to the state vet before culling / capture.
- Inspect water troughs once a week.
- Water troughs cleaned once a week, however concrete trough once every two weeks.
- Ensure there is a constant flow of water to the troughs.
- During dry seasons that the irrigation, be turned on in the area between bird hide and blue crane dam.

### Game Health

- Inspect game at least once a week – by checking the general condition and herd sizes / count mainly of the zebra and bontebok.
- Springbok need to be observed but due to the numbers makes the counting and checking more difficult.
- Any mortalities / new born and introduction of new buck to be recorded on the spreadsheet.
- Any injuries to be recorded on the spreadsheet.
- If possible send out fresh dung species to veterinarian to be analysed for any internal parasites – on annual basis.
- When sending dung for analysing it needs to be kept cool during transport – dung to be transported in a cooler bag to the vet, this will ensure more accurate analysing.
- Important symptoms for lung worm in the bontebok, zebra and springbok to look out for is weight loss, light pigmentation or coughing.
- Observe game for any external parasites such as ticks when possible, will only be observed when an animal is sedated this will give an indication of the overall condition of the rest of the game.
- Inform vet directly if there are any concerns regarding animal health.
- Decision to be made by Superintendent and Estate Manager if a vet needs to be called out.
- Minerals for water - Afrivet product Game-min trophy (the following needs to be done: utilise two 250lt troughs and close off all the other remaining troughs to ensure they concentrate on the treated water troughs for intake of all necessary vitamins and minerals).
- Licks – to be placed during the dry season. Once every two months.

## 7 Additional documentation:

The following documentation needs to be used as part of this procedure and kept up to date with a proper document control system to ensure version control is adhere to.

#	Document	
1	Game management stock sheet	2018 v1
2	Game management working committee presentation	July 2018
3	Springerbaai rainfall 2018	July 2018
4	Game Management Proposal: purchase/sale/culling per species	
5	Detail plan for game number control	
6	Feld carry capacity and M/F ratio note for the record	