

HONEY BUSH TEA UPDATE

BACKGROUND

1st October 2011-Cyclopia intermedia and Cyclopia subternata protected status in the Eastern Cape

Implimented by Dedeat in Jan 2012

Everyone trading in the two species had to register with DEDEAT and get a licence to sell

Picking permits for non landowners

INDIVIDUALS REGISTERED

About 35 individuals/groups registered thus far.
Includes the four factories in the Eastern Cape
Western Cape: Mossel Bay factory
New industry to control
Management plan within 6 months

STRATEGY OF DEDEAT

Register individuals that apply to determine who is active in the industry

Gather data from the factories to evaluate the supply of honey bush tea

Identify problem areas/individuals

Gathering of other information

Register cases

WHAT DID WE FIND

Since Nov 2011- date- about 30 criminal cases

Some individuals harvest large quantities of tea illegally

False applications- did not own land

Registered individuals steal tea

Stolen tea sold under other names

Allegations of involvement of employees ECPTA, SANPARKS and CAPE PINE

Industry was more out of control than we thought
Factories bought the illegal tea-created the market
Communities have no access to tea
CDC project created expectations
Various cooperatives formed

CONTENTS OF MANAGEMENT PLANS

Map of the farm

Indication of honey bush tea distribution and the species

Yields available

Sustainable harvesting: Height, season, history of harvesting etc.

Any other important information

SUMMARY

Registered cases to be investigated

Recent case- first offender was fined R 5000 or 12 months.

Factories to explain why they proceeded to buy tea from unregistered individuals

DEDEAT is serious to protect honey bush tea/industry

Sustainable harvesting practises