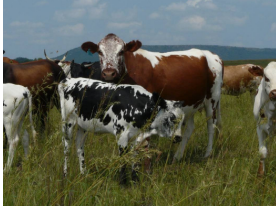


**THE NATIONAL VELD AND FORAGE POLICY  
AS A KEY COMPONENT OF A BROADER APPROACH  
TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL  
AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES IN SOUTH AFRICA**



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**National Livestock Development strategy (LDS)**

This strategy has been endorsed at the highest level and the enabling environment of the LDS includes key components directly linked to the sustainable use of veld and forage resources (Policy/ Legal and regulatory framework and research and development)

**Sustainable use of natural resources - Policy / Legal /  
Regulatory Framework**

A Functional and economically sustainable Veld and Forage Improvement scheme linked to the implementation of the National Grazing strategy

A Functional and economically sustainable National vegetation database and plant genetic resource centers to support the conservation and use of indigenous and adapted forage cultivars

Early warning and decision support system for managing the climatic impact and risk on livestock production linked to a holistic drought management plan to reduce risk of environmental degradation

**Sustainable use of natural resources – Research and  
development**

- Research and Development for Pastoral risk management and decision support to increase livestock productivity within biomes
- Veld monitoring and management and functional decision support system for managing climatic impact and risk to livestock production within biomes
- New and alternative forage crops and production practices to reduce risk of environmental degradation, high livestock mortality and droughts

**The Draft policy made provisions for :**

**A National Range and Forage Programme and scheme that will include ways to promote more sustainable use of communally grazed range and forage resources**

**Range and Forage Working Group**

**Revised Norms and Standards, and guidelines (for Range and forage assessment, grazing capacity, etc)**

**Biome development centres of excellence**

**National Rangeland Monitoring and Improvement Program**

Managed by the Agricultural Research Council – Range and Forage Institute (ARC-RFI) from 2006 to 2011.

Currently under review to see if it can be formalised as a long term National program along similar lines to the National Livestock Improvement Schemes that have been Established in terms of the Animal Improvement Act, 1998 ( Act 62 of 1998).

### The review has shown that

It is not possible to establish a grassland scheme in terms of the animal Improvement legislation

Veld and Forages should be a component of a broader National Policy for the Sustainable use of Natural Agricultural resources – using the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No 43 of 1983) as a framework

CARA makes provision for the establishment of conservation schemes (Section 8) and it may be possible to establish a National Rangeland (Veld) Monitoring and Improvement Scheme under this legislation

This would link to the relevant national livestock improvement schemes that deal with veld – based animal production.

### Decision – to integrate the existing draft into a broader policy for the sustainable use of natural agricultural resources

By integrating the existing draft veld and Forage policy with a broader document on the sustainable use of natural agricultural resources, key components such as early warning systems and regular veld monitoring using all available technology

(Including remote sensing) will create a more effective enabling environment for climate smart animal agriculture.

### Climate smart animal agriculture

Farming systems based on sound animal and veld husbandry principles that take current and projected climatic and vegetation conditions into consideration to ensure long term sustainability.

This includes:

Farming with indigenous, locally developed and locally adapted breeds and species capable of surviving and producing under conditions such as higher temperatures, less rainfall, an increase in animal diseases and parasites and changes in the natural vegetation.

THANK YOU