

Lead Task Team

Sub-committee of the National Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Working Group

Terms of Reference

Version 1.2, adopted by the NWPPWG on 24 July 2019, edited 23 October 2019

1. Acronyms

DEFF	Department of Environment, Forestry & Fisheries
LTT	Lead Task Team
NWPPWG	National Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Working Group

2. Background

The National Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Working Group (NWPPWG) has been established to manage the risk of poisoning of wildlife in South Africa. Lead has been demonstrated across the world, including in South Africa, to be a significant environmental contaminant and risk to people, and potentially to the persistence of certain species of wildlife. While there are strict health and safety regulations to minimise human exposure to lead, there is a general lack of appreciation of the risks to the environment, and few management guidelines, policies or legal instruments in place or being implemented to minimise environmental exposure. Given the complexity and urgency of the issue the National Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Working Group has established the Lead Task Team (LTT) to provide evidence-based recommendations and to assist in addressing this issue.

3. Objectives of the Lead Task Team

- Oversee process to *develop quantitative, measurable targets* consistent with achieving the Vision of 'ensuring that wildlife in South Africa is not harmed by exposure to lead'.
- Develop *an action plan* towards achieving the mission and objectives, where the Mission of the Lead Task Team is to:

- Make recommendations and support implementation of processes within government, the wildlife sector and other relevant stakeholders towards achieving the vision that wildlife in South Africa is not harmed by exposure to lead.
- Identify and describe potential *sources and risks of lead to wildlife*, and *identify potential interventions*, including:
 - Review relevant literature and approaches/processes; and
 - Maintain a bibliography of publications.
- Identify information gaps and *develop research priorities*, and *coordinate a scientifically-robust research process, supported by stakeholders, to undertake necessary research*, including:
 - Determining background and target threshold lead exposure levels; and
 - Investigating viable alternatives to existing sources of lead.
- Provide *policy and management guidelines for government, industry and landowners for avoiding or minimising the exposure of wildlife to lead, and that will ultimately lead to acceptable exposure in line with the vision and targets*.
 - Synthesise research findings into easily understandable products; and
 - Coordinate a process to disseminate findings.
- *Active engagement with affected parties* to understand their position and/or concerns regarding lead.
- Monitoring of lead in wildlife and the environment; including:
 - Develop appropriate indicators and a national lead monitoring framework;
 - Drive the process to establish a pre-intervention baseline;
 - Facilitate and assist with implementation;
 - Report on monitoring activities and results;
 - Promote collation and synthesis of relevant data;
 - Assist in the sourcing of funding to undertake the required monitoring; and
 - Produce and encourage implementation of data collection and metadata standards.
- *Monitor and report on activities, processes and progress* relating to lead in wildlife to the NWPPWG.
- *Provide assistance to DEFF with reporting* in relation to reporting obligations under international treaties and agreements in relation to lead.

4. Membership

Initial membership shall be nominated by the NWPPWG.

Membership shall be determined by consensus of the group based on need and available expertise but should include a mix of organisational representatives and those with a specific interest and/or expertise in the issue, but must include as a minimum one representative from DEFF, a provincial conservation agency, hunting industry, fishing industry, academia, and an environmental NGO.

DEFF will provide official letter appointing members to the LTT and provide the ToR and confidentiality agreement.

Membership shall only be effective once DEFF receives (1) a letter accepting the terms of the appointment, and (2) the signed confidentiality agreement.

Only officially appointed members will be allowed to attend meetings, unless by specific invitation of the chairperson to present or address a specific issue.

5. Governance

The LTT is a sub-committee of the NWPPWG.

The members of the LTT will elect a chairman through a majority vote.

Preference is for the chairman to be a government (National or Provincial) representative.

The chairman must be appointed by DEFF to the NWPPWG.

The chairman or, if the chairman is not available, the nominated representative will report on progress and issues to the NWPPWG, and will report back to the LTT on relevant matters from the NWPPWG.

The LTT may establish and manage sub-groups to tackle specific issues.

The LTT and members will operate in accordance with the following Principles:

- Any recommendations or activities will be based on, and guided by, appropriate evidence within the framework of the Precautionary Principle as defined in the National Environmental Management Act.
 - The source of evidence for any guidelines or recommendations will always be explicitly stated.
- Potential unintended consequences of recommendations or activities must be considered and minimised or otherwise explicitly noted.
- An inclusive process of consultation will take place in all activities.
- The group will be conscious to avoid polarisation with emphasis on learning from mistaken approaches elsewhere¹.
 - The LTT must develop and implement a proper communication and stakeholder interaction strategy that is part of overall strategy; and
 - Best practice guidelines should be created on how engagement should take place.

¹ International experience has shown that adopting the wrong approach or even the wrong language can significantly delay implementation of corrective actions

- Given the sensitivities of some of the issues to be discussed the meetings will be held according to the Chatham House Rule (<https://www.chathamhouse.org/chatham-house-rule>). When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.
- While the mission is restricted to South Africa, noting the potential scale of the issue, the intention is to ensure that products and approaches have a larger sphere of influence, applicable to at least southern Africa if not the whole of Africa.
- There will be a strong focus on finding viable ways of translating scientific findings into layman's terms, and sharing information in ways that are effective in promoting behavioural change.
- Ensure that there is proper identification (mapping) of stakeholders.

6. Term of Appointment

The chair may serve for a maximum of two consecutive years.

The term of ordinary members is unlimited but subject to review and reappointment every three years.

The LTT may by majority vote and with the concurrent endorsement of the chairman recommend to DEFF to rescind membership of any appointed member of the LTT if that member consistently fails to attend meetings, consistently fails to deliver on agreed deliverables and/or fails to live up to the principles or conditions as outlined in the ToR.

7. Modus Operandi

DEFF will provide funding for teas and meals unless another organisation can sponsor these costs.

All travel and other costs associated with participation in the LTT will be borne by the representative or their organisation.

The secretariat function will be provided by one of the organisations represented on the LTT.

There will be at least three meetings per year.

8. Conditions

Membership of the Lead Task Team is subjected to following conditions:

- (1) must have been nominated by organisation or appointment must be endorsed by organisation;
- (2) must commit to incorporating attendance and actions into annual work programmes/performance contracts and budget;
- (3) must have, or create, sufficient time to attend at least three meetings per year;
- (4) must have resources to attend meetings and implement actions;
- (5) must be prepared to sign a confidentiality agreement if required;

- (6) must be prepared to constructively and objectively contribute to discussions and actions with respect to achievement of the Mission of the LTT; and
- (7) must agree to respect and protect the confidentiality of discussions as defined in the Chatham House Rule.

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