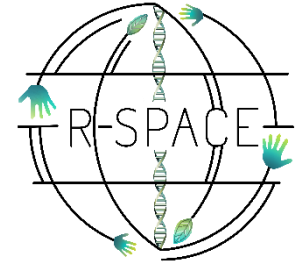


Regenerative SPACE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS PRODUCT VALUE CHAINS



1. Who is the Green Vision Group (GVG)?

The Green Vision Group (Pty) Ltd (Reg No. 2022/668474/07) constitutes a contractual relationship of co-operation and participation between the two parties involved in the value chains, from clearing invasive alien plants to the beneficiation as various products. The two partners are Regenerative SPACE Solutions (Pty) Ltd (2022/254436/07) and Proper Wood Products (Pty) Ltd (2021/496607/07).

2. What is the role of Regenerative SPACE Solutions?

R-SPACE Solutions is the commercial arm of Regenerative SPACE non-profit company and is responsible for all commercial markets and products on behalf of R-SPACE NPC. R-SPACE NPC is responsible for overall liaison between the GVG and all other relevant role players, process planning and management of all work aspects in partnership with all concerned role-players. R-SPACE is your first port of call for anything related to this project. Please feel free to contact any of the following people:

- * Carla Ackerman, Regenerative SPACE NPC Managing Director at 072 382 6712 or carla@regenerative-space.org.
- * Jan Vingerhoets, Regenerative SPACE Solutions (Pty) Ltd Managing Director at 081 033 0899 or jan@regenerativespacesolutions.com.
- * Lesley Richardson, Regenerative SPACE NPC Special Advisor at 082 329 0249 or lesley@regenerative-space.org.
- * Lana du Toit, Regenerative SPACE NPC In-field Operational Manager at 084 317 9018 or lana@regenerative-space.org.

3. What is the role of Proper Wood Products?

Proper Wood Products is responsible for markets (international and local) and product development together with R-SPACE Solutions. Together the two partners deal with all aspects related to securing

markets for a range of products from invasive alien plants, as well as capital investment in product development, machinery, and equipment.

4. Are there any other parties involved?

The Greater Overberg Fire Protection Association (goFPA) will assist by giving advice and input on priority fire risk areas and engagement with its members and other landowners. The Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative (ABI), the conservation co-ordination hub of the Overberg region, will monitor the overall project and liaise with its member organisations involved in the project. It will take the lead with the co-ordination of implementation of follow-up and rehabilitation.

5. What is expected from the landowner?

If the landowner does not have an Invasive Alien Plant Control Management Plan, she/he must be willing to work with R-SPACE and ABI to develop one. If she/he has such a plan, the landowner must be willing to work with R-SPACE and ABI to strengthen implementation of the plan, including the integration of the plan into a landscape-wide plan. The landowner must be willing to share data related to invasive alien plants with R-SPACE and to allow R-SPACE to collect such data. The landowner must be willing to have an exclusive agreement with the GVG which means no third party shall have access to the commercial use of invasive alien plants on the property and that she/he will not supply anyone else with invasive alien biomass for the duration of the agreement. However, if the landowner has existing agreements with third parties about the removal of invasive alien plants from her/his property, the GVG will explore the options of working with such third parties to the benefit of both.

6. Does the landowner get paid?

No. The landowner is not paid for invasive alien vegetation that is cleared from her/his land. The clearing and removal of invasive alien biomass are done *at no cost to the landowner*. The only cost that we expect the landowner to cover is herbicide to prevent or, at least, slow down regrowth. The landowner does not incur any labour costs associated with the work.

7. Does the landowner need to do anything once the contractor is on site?

All operational aspects are planned, coordinated and executed by the Green Vision Group, the company of which R-SPACE is a key party. By the time that the contractor is on site we would have concluded a landowner agreement outlining all aspects of the programme. The landowner has no operational role to play - other than being satisfied with work or informing us if there is a problem.

8. Are there any costs that the landowner has to cover?

The only cost that we expect the landowner to cover is herbicide to prevent or, at least, slow down regrowth after the invasive alien plants have been removed.

9. What is the contactor paid?

Teams are contracted for a minimum period of 12-months. *It is not seasonal or part-time work, but fulltime work for at least a year, with the almost certain prospect of renewal of contracts.* Long-term, fulltime employment is created. Contractors are currently paid R21 000 for a truckload of firewood, around 35 000 pieces. The long-term nature of contracts makes it possible for contractors to pay their teams above minimum wage. We expect contractors to agree to a minimum of R250 per day for their lowest paid workers.

10. How do I know the contractor is experienced and capable of the work at the right standard?

We work with experienced contractors. Teams get additional on-the-job training to ensure clearing work is done correctly, herbicide is correctly applied, leftover brush is stacked correctly for chipping that follows etc. In-field monitoring and oversight are done ongoingly.

11. When will work on my land start?

The day of commencement of work will be determined in consultation with landowners, as per the planning of operations of the GVG. Work cannot immediately start on all land, but work is planned to commence according to the operational *zone* within which a landowner falls as well as their location in the overall landscape of that zone – ideally work will progress on contiguous (adjoining) properties. The GVG will keep landowners up to date with overall operational progress and specific timeframes for the different zones.

The scope of work and commencement of follow-up and rehabilitation will be determined separately through discussions between the landowner and ABI. The current zones are as follows:

Zone 1	Hermanus & environs
Zone 2	Stanford & Kleinrivier valley
Zone 3	De Hoop Nature Reserve
Zone 4	Caledon & environs
Zone 5	Sandies Glen & Papiessvlei

Zone 6	Hemel & Aarde Valley
Zone 7	Napier & environs
Zone 8	Nuwejaars & Elim valley

12. How long will the contractor be on my property?

The duration of work on a specific property will be determined by the extent of alien clearing that is required, the terrain, weather conditions etc. Roll-out of work on your property will be discussed with you to ensure the least interference with farming activities. It is also in our interest that work is done without delay. We don't gain anything by overstaying our welcome but, at the same time, decades of infestation, especially in difficult-to-reach areas, are not rapidly eliminated.

13. What happens to the brushwood once you take out the firewood?

Work takes place in two phases. **Phase 1 is clearing Eucalyptus and Black wattle for firewood.** Herbicide (provided by the landowner) is applied to prevent regrowth. Leftover brush is stacked for chipping. **Phase 2 is the chipping operation.** All other invasive alien plants which cannot be used for firewood are cleared and stacked for chipping, as well as the leftover brush, branches etc. that was stacked during Phase 1. Depending on the size of the specific biomass it will either be removed from site as logs and chipped off-site, or smaller material may be chipped on-site and then removed for further processing into pellets. As the different product value chains become operational, in-field work will be streamlined and the two phases integrated, taking place in parallel.

14. Can I keep some of the product? Must I pay for it? What does it cost?

We don't work in this manner. All invasive alien clearing is done to produce wood or chips destined for productization as firewood and pellets for export. We pay for the labour and production costs; the landowner gets her/his land cleared *at no cost*, except for herbicide.

15. Will there be a bigger fire risk with any of these operations?

We are very aware of the risk of fire. We shall specifically ensure that a "no fire" policy is strictly adhered to, and that working teams are well-briefed in all aspects of fire preparedness. If at any point during operations the landowner, the FPA (whom we work closely with) or we feel that the fire risk is too high, work will be paused.

16. What about follow-up and rehabilitation?

We encourage landowners to commit to the long-term approach of follow-up clearing and rehabilitation, a long-term approach with conservation outcomes in mind. Follow-up clearing and rehabilitation work on the land shall then become part of the follow-up and rehabilitation programme of the Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative (ABI).

Should landowners choose not to partake in the recommended follow-up clearing and rehabilitation, then the onus rests on them to proceed within the framework of existing legislation dealing with land use and woodlots.
