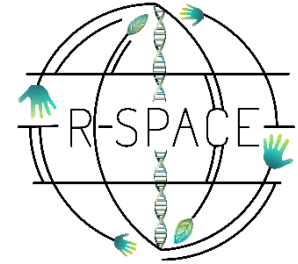


# Regenerative SPACE

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS PRODUCT VALUE CHAINS



### 1. What is the role of Regenerative SPACE?

Two arms of Regenerative SPACE (R-SPACE) are involved. R-SPACE NPC (non-profit company) is responsible for engaging with landowners to secure invasive alien biomass for clearing, and later follow-up and rehabilitation. R-SPACE Solutions (Pty) Ltd is responsible for product development and market engagement.

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](mailto:carla@regenerative-space.org).
- \* Jan Vingerhoets, Regenerative SPACE Solutions (Pty) Ltd Managing Director at 081 033 0899 or [jan@regenerativespacesolutions.com](mailto:jan@regenerativespacesolutions.com).
- \* Lesley Richardson, Regenerative SPACE NPC Special Advisor at 082 329 0249 or [lesley@regenerative-space.org](mailto:lesley@regenerative-space.org).
- \* Lana du Toit, Regenerative SPACE NPC In-field Operational Manager at 084 317 9018 or [lane@regenerative-space.org](mailto:lane@regenerative-space.org).

### 2. Are there any other parties involved?

The Greater Overberg Fire Protection Association (goFPA) assists 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, monitors the overall project and liaises with its member organisations involved in the project. It will take the lead with the co-ordination of implementation of follow-up and rehabilitation.

Proper Wood Products currently only focus on firewood from Eucalyptus and Black Wattle for export to the UK.

### 3. 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 R-SPACE 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, R-SPACE will explore the options of working with such third parties to the benefit of both.

### 4. 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.

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

All operational aspects are planned, coordinated and executed by R-SPACE. 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.

### 6. Are there any costs that the landowner must 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.

### 7. What is the team doing the work paid?

R-SPACE works exclusively with Earth Matters (Pty) Ltd as our permanent contractor. *It is not seasonal or part-time work, but fulltime work ensuring long-term employment for a team of 22 people.* Workers in the five different team categories are paid as follows:

- Team supervisor: R295 per day
- Tractor driver: R305 per day

- Lead chainsaw operator: R330 per day
- Chainsaw operators: R305 per day
- Field assistants: R270 per day
- Quality controller: R270 per day

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

The team of Earth Matters (Pty) Ltd is a very experienced team under the leadership of Lana du Toit, offering 20 years' experience. The team gets 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.

## 9. 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 R-SPACE. 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. R-SPACE keeps 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

### 10. 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.

Our work is currently focused in Napier Mountain Conservancy and surrounding areas. Suitable Pine is cleared for pole production. The rest of the invasive alien biomass is cleared and, depending on the size of the specific biomass, it is either removed from site as logs and chipped off-site, or smaller material is chipped on-site and then removed for further processing. Suitable logs are transported to the depot in Napier where it is processed into planks for pallets and crates, or extruded logs. Herbicide (provided by the landowner) is applied to prevent regrowth.

### 11. Can I keep some of the product?

We don't usually do that, but if you have a specific request, please discuss it with us.

### 12. 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.

### 13. 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.*

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