



**Call for Expression of Interest:
Firewood from invasive alien plants to UK retail market**

The Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative (ABI) has a green economic opportunity for interested parties in the Overberg. The aim of the ABI Green economy is to facilitate sustainable development without degrading the environment, while focussing attention on the reduction of environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

A green supply chain that will export firewood from invasive alien plants to the UK retail market is currently explored. A large feedstock (upwards of 240 tons a month) will be established to meet requirements throughout the year. Suppliers of wood will feed into this feedstock.

A business model aimed at offering wins to landowners, independent wood cutters, the environment and commercial partners is being developed.

The preliminary specs for potential suppliers of wood into the feedstock include the following:

- Wood must be from Eucalyptus species and Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*).
- It must be cut, dried and packed in 7.5kg bags (about 12 pieces of wood per bag).
- It must be dry with a moisture content of below 20%.

Potential suppliers will have to comply with minimum labour and environmental standards that will be monitored by ABI, and will be required to work with us to achieve this.

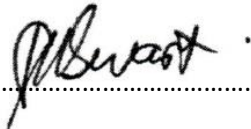
This supply chain will be linked to other existing projects to ensure maximum synergy and desirable long-term environmental results. It may, therefore, also offer participating parties other green product opportunities.

To express your interest in participating in this opportunity please email Carla Ackerman, the ABI Green Economy Theme Leader before 31 August 2020, on green@agulhasbiodiversity.co.za

You can also contact Carla on 072 382 6712

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Approved:  Cornie Swart, Chair, ABI Committee