



**MINISTER
WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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Ref. MCE92580

Ms M Fourie
Executive Director: Centre for Environmental Rights
8A Sussex Road
OBSERVATORY
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Dear Ms Fourie

**ENQUIRY ABOUT THE DECLARATION OF THREATENED ECOSYSTEMS IN TERMS OF THE
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: BIODIVERSITY ACT, 2004**

Your letter (Ref: CER3.1/MF) dated 29 September 2010 to the former Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs has reference.

Subsequent to the publication of the draft list of threatened ecosystems in Government Gazette No 32689 in 2009, an additional process of consultation was followed during which a wide range of national departments whose activities may have an impact on these listed ecosystems, were also consulted.

In terms of this consultation process, Transnet requested a meeting with the Department to discuss its future infrastructure expansion plans and the implications for listed threatened ecosystems. This meeting took place on 14 October 2010 and the issues raised by Transnet have been addressed. The internal process to finalise the publication of the list has resumed and it is envisaged that the list will be published before the end of the financial year.

Yours sincerely

**MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

DATE: 2010/11/22