

**POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE  
FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN  
FLYFISHERS**

**Approved by the Executive Committee**

December 2003

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## DEFINITIONS

**Alien species:** (or organism) a) A species or organism that is not indigenous to a system;  
b) An indigenous species or organism translocated or intended to be translocated to a place outside its natural distribution range in nature, but excludes an indigenous species or organism that has extended its natural distribution range by natural means of migration or dispersal without human intervention.

**Biodiversity:** (Biological diversity) The diversity of animals, plants and other organisms, including the diversity of animals, plants or other organisms found within and between –

- (a) Ecosystems;
- (b) Habitats;
- (c) The ecological complexes of which these systems and habitats are part; and
- (d) Species.

(The National Environmental Management Act)

**Conservation:** The “wise use”, protection, safe keeping or sound management of a resource.

**Ecotourism:** Environmentally responsible travel and visits to natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and accompanying cultural features, of the past and the present) that promote conservation, have low visitor impact, and provide for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local people (IUCN – The World Conservation Union, 1997).

**Environment:** This term includes the physical, social and economic environments, and “the aggregate of surrounding objects, conditions and influences that influence the life and habits of man or any organism or collection of organisms”, as defined by the Environment Conservation Act No.73 of 1989.

The National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA) defines “environment” as “the surroundings within which humans exist and that are made up of (i) the land, water and atmosphere of the earth; (ii) micro-organisms, plant and animal life; (iii) any part or combination of (i) and (ii) and the interrelationships among and between them; and (iv) the physical, chemical, aesthetic and cultural properties and conditions of the foregoing that influence human health and well-being;” (Sect. 1(1)(xi) of NEMA.

**Invasive species:** An alien or translocated indigenous species which, after introduction, has spread unaided into untransformed ecosystems and may be responsible for causing an imbalance there.

**Naturalised species or established species:** An introduced species which has established self-sustaining populations in areas of natural or semi-natural vegetation or habitat.

## **A. PREAMBLE**

Based on the desire to advance and improve the quality of life for the people of southern Africa, with specific reference to those who practice or participate in the sport and art of fly fishing, riparian owners, communities and others who may influence the quality of the aquatic environment and aquatic fauna and flora, or who may benefit from it materially or aesthetically; FOSAF commits itself, through its members, to the fundamental values that underpin its vision, mission and objectives, and achievement of the following policies and objectives, in the pages that follow.

FOSAF is a relatively small non-governmental organization (NGO), with limited capacity and funding at its disposal. Accordingly, achievement of the objectives listed for each policy below, will of necessity be dependent on the resources available at the time.

## **B. POLICIES ON FOSAF'S VALUES**

### **B 1. The Values Upheld by FOSAF**

#### *B 1.1 Policy*

FOSAF will be responsive to the needs and welfare of its members and those who promote the interests of fly fishing in southern Africa, as a form of ecotourism<sup>1</sup>, and based on sound ecological norms and principles.

#### *B 1.2 Objectives*

In order to achieve this policy, FOSAF will:

- B 1.2.1 Be accountable for its actions (i.e. the actions and conduct of its executive and members) and be open and transparent in all its dealings;
- B 1.2.2 Promote the beneficial socio-economic involvement of local peoples, that is financially and environmentally sustainable;
- B 1.2.3 Ensure it remains true to its vision, mission, policies and objectives, and its constitution;
- B 1.2.4 Promote voluntarism and active involvement in the many facets of fly-fishing and at all levels of the organization;
- B 1.2.5 Promote mutual co-operation, collaboration and net-working with other agencies, organizations and individuals, around issues of mutual concern;
- B 1.2.6 Strive for administrative and technical excellence, including efficient and effective service provision at all times; and
- B 1.2.7 Respect the rights, culture and dignity of all people of southern Africa in the spirit of democracy, and enhancing race and gender equity, i.e. to adhere to the spirit of 'Ubuntu'<sup>2</sup>.

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1. Ecotourism is defined as environmentally responsible travel and visits to natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and accompanying cultural features, of the past and the present) that promote conservation, have low visitor impact, and provide for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local people (IUCN – The World Conservation Union, 1997).

<sup>2</sup> 'Ubuntu' in this context might be defined as good neighbourliness, respect for others and the environment and a spirit of togetherness.

## **C. POLICIES RELATING TO THE PROMOTION OF FLY FISHING**

### **C 1. Promotion of Fly Fishing**

#### *C 1.1 Policy*

FOSAF will promote the values, benefits and development of fly fishing in the interests of its members and the people of southern Africa, both as an ethical and disciplined form of angling, and as a sustainable use of the freshwater, estuarine and marine fish resources of the subcontinent, through promotion of its economic and intrinsic worth to a wide range of stakeholders, and thereby to contribute to the conservation and sound management of the aquatic environment, and the fisheries resources it supports.

#### *C 1.2 Objectives*

In order to achieve this policy, FOSAF will:

- C 1.2.1 Promote fly fishing as a form of sustainable ecotourism, and provide information on the current and potential economic value, job creation and strengthening of local communities, or other benefits that may be derived, especially for previously disadvantaged and other communities in rural areas (see Policies B 1 above, and E 1 and F 1);
- C 1.2.2 Contribute to the provision of information and research on fly fishing opportunities, including existing and potential game-fish and fly fishing waters on the sub-continent (see also Policy H 1 below);
- C 1.2.3 Keep in touch with international developments in fly fishing, and contribute to the dissemination of relevant information to the fly fishing community of southern Africa;
- C 1.2.4 Collaborate with organisations such as S.A. Tourism and sister organizations in other southern African countries which promote and market tourism opportunities, in order to advance fly fishing interests throughout the sub-continent;
- C 1.2.5 Contribute to and develop programmes to promote fly fishing awareness and skills through publications, clinics and other appropriate means.

## **C 2. Promotion of the ethics of fly fishing**

### *C 2.1 Policy*

Fly fishing is one of the traditional forms of ethical sport angling. It is a primary aim of FOSAF to promote the principles of ethical angling, which include respect for and appreciation of both the prey and aquatic environment, both of which are important elements of this ethic (see also Policy B 1).

### *C 2.2 Objectives*

In order to achieve this, FOSAF will promote the following:

- C 2.2.1 The values, ethos and awareness of fly fishing as an ethical angling method, through the media, publications, and dissemination of appropriate material;
- C 2.2.2 The development of programmes that promote fly fishing and the enhancement of fly fishing skills through clinics and other appropriate means; and
- C 2.2.3 Collaboration and development of partnerships with other NGOs in South Africa and elsewhere, which have similar aims and policies.
- C 2.2.4 Retain contact with other angling organizations nationally and internationally, with particular reference to the ethics of angling.



## **D. POLICIES ON LEGAL ISSUES AND CONTROLS**

### **D 1. Legislation**

#### *D 1.1 Policy*

FOSAF recognizes that legislation (supported by effective law enforcement, as in Policy D 2 ) is essential for the protection of the fisheries of the subcontinent and their natural water-body habitats, including the wetlands, catchments, water-source areas and the estuarine, inter-tidal and littoral zones on which these habitats are dependent; including their associated fauna, flora and biological processes.

#### *D 1.2 Objectives*

In order to achieve this policy, FOSAF will:

- D 1.2.1 Promote the need for compliance with comprehensive and effective environmental and other relevant legislation, and where necessary, to contribute to the process of revision of legislation relevant to its mission;
- D 1.2.2 Identify legislation relevant to its mission, that is inadequate, and where necessary, promote the need for the revision or promulgation of new legislation; and
- D 1.2.3 Make contributions to the drafting of new legislation or revisions of legislation which are relevant to its mission.

## **D 2. Law enforcement and compliance**

### *D 2.1 Policy*

FOSAF supports the need for legislation (as in Policy D 1) and effective law enforcement measures which aim at conservation and protection of the national aquatic habitats, including water catchment areas and wetlands, river and freshwater, estuarine and marine water-body systems and their associated fauna, flora and biological processes.

### *D 2.2 Justification*

Existing legislation related to the conservation and protection of the aquatic systems, and other issues relevant to FOSAF's mission, are in many instances not adequately enforced. Present enforcement measures appear not to pay sufficient attention to pro-active strategies, such as financial and other incentives, as well as to enlist the support of committed individuals and communities to promote respect for and compliance with the law.

### *D 2.3 Objectives*

In order to achieve this policy, FOSAF will:

- D 2.3.1 Contribute to the development, and if necessary, refinement of the range of strategies, methods and opportunities to promote enforcement of existing pertinent legislation;
- D 2.3.2 Encourage its members to observe the law, i.e. comply with the law, and to set an example to others by acting responsibly;
- D 2.3.3 Communicate information on existing legislation and law enforcement methods related to the protection and use of aquatic systems to riparian owners, stakeholders and other interested parties;
- D 2.3.4 Enlist the support of committed individuals, organizations and communities to promote respect and observance of the law, to report wrong-doings or criminal actions, and to promote public education and awareness of ethical fishing methods; and
- D 2.3.5 Where possible, contribute to compliance with and enforcement of the law on issues pertinent to its mission.

## **E. POLICIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIODIVERSITY ISSUES - CONSERVATION<sup>3</sup> OF BIODIVERSITY RESOURCES, CATCHMENT AREAS, WETLANDS AND AQUATIC HABITATS**

### **E 1. Conservation of mountain catchments, wetlands and aquatic ecosystems**

#### *E 1.1 Policy*

It is a primary aim of FOSAF to promote conservation of the freshwater bodies and the associated natural ecological processes of the sub-continent which comprise a number of component systems (zones), ranging from water source areas such as upper or mountain catchments and wetlands, as well as the open water bodies such as rivers, streams or lakes, which provide habitat for the freshwater fisheries, each with different characteristics and sensitivities.

#### *E 1.2 Justification*

Conservation of these systems depends on implementation of sound land-use planning, observance and enforcement of environmental legislation, and the quality of current and past land-use methods, and hence the need for Policies E 2 to E 8.

#### *E 1.3 Objectives*

In order to achieve this policy, FOSAF will undertake to collaborate, as appropriate, with official agencies and other environmentally-orientated NGOs, to promote the following:

- E 1.3.1 Sound planning and conservation management of water source areas including mountain catchments and wetlands, in order to optimize their hydrological and ecological functions, and draw the attention of authorities to instances of misuse of such areas when known;
- E 1.3.2 Sound management and protection of the riparian zones of rivers, including prevention of riverbank erosion, conservation of natural biodiversity, and control of the spread of alien invasive plant species, especially with private and communal landowners;
- E 1.3.3 Sound management and conservation of the in-stream (watercourse) zone by riparian owners, including conservation of indigenous aquatic biota, control of unauthorized activities such as unauthorized water abstraction, the construction of weirs or other structures, sand-winning, accumulation of garbage or litter, prevention of pollution, and control of the spread of alien aquatic animal and plant species; and
- E 1.3.4 Sustainable land-use practices which also contribute economically to the conservation of these systems.

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<sup>3</sup> "Conservation" means "wise use", protection, safe keeping or sound management.

## **E 2. Conservation of indigenous aquatic biodiversity resources**

### *E 2.1 Policy*

FOSAF is supportive of and will promote national and provincial policies and strategies for the conservation of indigenous aquatic biodiversity resources<sup>4</sup>, and in particular, will support practical and feasible measures for the conservation of threatened indigenous fish species and the aquatic systems on which they are dependent.

### *E 2.2 Justification*

FOSAF recognises that indigenous fish and aquatic biodiversity resources have important cultural, intrinsic, scientific, aesthetic, recreational, and economic heritage values, and will contribute where possible and within its capacity, to ensure that the indigenous aquatic biota and the national aquatic systems which support them are conserved in the long term, for the benefit of present and future generations.

### *E 2.3 Objectives*

In order to achieve this policy, FOSAF will undertake, and collaborate as appropriate and possible, with official organizations and other environmentally-orientated NGOs and individuals, to promote the following:

- E 2.3.1 Conservation of the national aquatic systems which provide habitat for the indigenous aquatic biodiversity resources;
- E 2.3.2 The establishment and maintenance of sanctuary areas which do not contain alien<sup>5</sup> invasive aquatic organisms for the purposes of conserving indigenous biota, and for the maintenance and management of these areas free of introduced alien species (see Policies E 1, E 4, E 5, E 6, and E 8);
- E 2.3.3 The implementation of conservation and other measures to conserve and protect such sanctuaries, including the implementation of controls to prevent the introduction of alien species into them (see also Policy E 4);
- E 2.3.4 The values and attributes of the national native fish species, especially those suitable for fly fishing, and the importance of conserving indigenous biodiversity resources; and
- E 2.3.5 Control measures that are scientifically and economically defensible to remove populations of alien invasive aquatic species which threaten indigenous biota, in specific

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4 The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act defines “biological diversity” or “biodiversity” as “the diversity of animals, plants and other organisms, including the diversity of animals, plants or other organisms found within and between –

- (a) Ecosystems;
- (b) Habitats;
- (c) The ecological complexes of which these systems and habitats are part; and
- (d) Species.

5 “Alien species or organisms” means:

- (a) A species or organism that is not indigenous to a system; or
- (b) An indigenous species or organism translocated or intended to be translocated to a place outside its natural distribution range in nature, but excludes an indigenous species or organism that has extended its natural distribution range by natural means of migration or dispersal without human intervention.

locations, by angling, electro-fishing, trapping, as well as the use of piscicides <sup>6</sup> to remove non-native biota, *provided* that the principles of Integrated Environmental Management are employed, (as in Policy E 5) and that the provisions of relevant statutes are met.

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<sup>6</sup> Fish poison.

**E 3. Maintenance and management of populations of alien fish in specific suitable locations for a variety of utilitarian purposes including those of recreation and sport angling as well as subsistence fishing, and as a tourist attraction, for the promotion of local and regional economies**

*E 3.1 Policy*

While FOSAF supports the conservation of indigenous fish and aquatic biodiversity resources as a priority, it also accepts that freshwater fisheries based on alien fish species in waters zoned for the purpose (see Policy E 6 below), and located in developed landscapes on private and communal land, have the capacity to provide a number of significant economic and other benefits.

Such fisheries should be managed on a sustainable basis, following the principles of Integrated Environmental Management (see Policy E 5 below), and in the exercise of duty of care to ensure that negative impacts on biodiversity resources and the environment<sup>7</sup>, are avoided, minimised or appropriately mitigated.

*E 3.2 Justification*

It is important that private and communal riparian owners appreciate that aquatic resources have the potential to bring a variety of substantial benefits, and that it is in their interests to conserve these. These benefits include the provision of sport angling and recreation opportunities, as a tourism attraction, for job creation, and provision of subsistence fisheries and the strengthening of local economies, especially in rural areas.

*E 3.3 Objectives*

In order to achieve this policy, FOSAF will undertake, and collaborate as appropriate and possible with official organizations, other environmentally-orientated NGOs, communities and individuals, to promote the following:

- E 3.3.1 Establishment of an effective zoning system, as outlined in Policy E 6 below; and
- E 3.3.2 The principles of sound sustainable management of freshwater fisheries, incorporating the duty of care of landowners<sup>8</sup>, to minimise negative impacts on biodiversity resources and the environment, and apply appropriate mitigatory measures (see also Policy E 4).

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<sup>7</sup> “Environment” includes the physical, social and economic environments, and “the aggregate of surrounding objects, conditions and influences that influence the life and habits of man or any organism or collection of organisms”, as defined by the Environment Conservation Act No.73 of 1989.

The National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA) defines “environment” as “the surroundings within which humans exist and that are made up of (i) the land, water and atmosphere of the earth; (ii) micro-organisms, plant and animal life; (iii) any part or combination of (i) and (ii) and the interrelationships among and between them; and (iv) the physical, chemical, aesthetic and cultural properties and conditions of the foregoing that influence human health and well-being;” (Sect. 1(1)(xi) of NEMA.

<sup>8</sup> “Duty of care relating to alien species” requires that reasonable steps to prevent or to minimise harm to indigenous biodiversity resources must be taken by land and/or riparian owners (National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act).

## **E 4. Control of the translocation of alien invasive fish and aquatic organisms.**

### *E 4.1 Policy*

FOSAF recognises that the introduction of alien species may have consequences that are detrimental to natural ecosystems, and consequently, within its limited capacity and ability, it will endeavour to participate in awareness programmes, research and studies relating to control and prevention of the introduction and translocation of undesirable alien aquatic species (see also Policy E 2 above).

### *E 4.2 Objectives*

In order to achieve this policy, FOSAF will undertake, and collaborate, as appropriate and possible, with official organizations and other environmentally-orientated NGOs, communities and individuals, to promote the following:

- E 4.2.1 Maintenance of a library of reference information and publications on the invasive alien fish species and other aquatic organisms which could impact negatively on indigenous aquatic fauna and flora, and methods of control successfully employed elsewhere, and support the maintenance of comprehensive reference libraries, housed elsewhere (such as in academic institutions);
- E 4.2.2 The need for research and studies (as in Policy H1 below);
- E 4.2.3 The dissemination of information which relates to the hazards and risks associated with uncontrolled introductions and translocation of aquatic species, and to endeavour to bring public awareness of the threats and consequences of such actions; and
- E.4.2.4 The need for legal controls to prevent indiscriminate translocation of alien or aquatic organisms.

## **E 5. Integrated Environmental Management**

### *E 5.1 Policy*

FOSAF subscribes to the principles of Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) as prescribed in the provisions and regulations of the Environmental Conservation Act No. 73 of 1989 and the principles of the National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998 and will promote the need for the use of IEM procedures, including, where appropriate, environmental impact assessments, to ensure that the environmental consequences of development proposals with the potential to impact negatively on freshwater fisheries and the aquatic environment, are understood and adequately considered by the relevant authorities with responsibility for the approval of development applications. Similarly, within its limited capacity and resources, it will promote enforcement of these procedures in instances when consideration is given to changes in land-use that have the potential for significant negative impacts on catchment areas, water source areas, wetlands and freshwater bodies, and coastal aquatic environments, and their dependent biota.

### *E 5.2 Objectives*

In order to achieve this policy, FOSAF will, as far as possible, contribute to the following:

- E 5.2.1 Promotion of the use of IEM principles and EIA procedures to assess development applications, and make representations to the relevant authorities to ensure that the appropriate procedures are instituted in all instances relevant to its mission, such as when catchment areas, wetlands, freshwater and coastal water bodies and related biota are placed at risk; and
- E 5.2.2 Contribute as an Interested and Affected Party, when appropriate to individual IEM or EIA procedures, on issues relevant to its mission; and
- E 5.2.3 Exercise an advocacy role with official and other organizations, to promote IEM principles, and the achievement of these policies and objectives.



## **E 6. Zoning of freshwater systems**

### *E 6.1 Policy*

FOSAF subscribes to the principles and need for the formulation and implementation of a classification and zoning system for freshwater systems. The purposes of such a zoning system include the need to protect the integrity of indigenous aquatic populations and associated angling opportunities where appropriate and feasible on the one hand; and the need to maintain freshwater angling and associated ecotourism opportunities based on alien fish species on the other. The zoning system will also facilitate the formulation of effective policies and regulations for the protection of freshwater fisheries of both indigenous as well as of alien species, by the use of restrictions such as bag limits, fishing methods, and closed seasons on fly fishing and other waters (see Policy F1).

### *E 6.2 Objectives*

In order to achieve this policy, FOSAF will undertake the following:

- E 6.2.1 Collaborate with provincial nature conservation or other appropriate official authorities and NGOs, to promote the need for and development of classification and zoning systems for freshwater bodies that will make provision for the following:
  - The delineation of specific stretches of water for the protection of indigenous freshwater fish or aquatic species, in which future stocking of alien species will be prohibited;
  - The delineation of specific stretches of water that will be managed for the provision of sport or food angling, especially for fly fishing opportunities utilizing alien species; and
  - Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the zoning system, especially in respect of the conservation and protection of indigenous aquatic fauna, and possible needs to revise the system.
- E.6.2.2 Promote the need for, and development of, policies to control catch limits, closed seasons and angling methods, and to contribute to their development and implementation.
- E 6.2.3 Promote the need for the control of the distribution and spread of alien invasive aquatic biota in freshwater bodies, as in Policy E 4.

## **E 7. Maintenance of minimum stream-flow**

### *E 7.1 Policy*

FOSAF recognizes the necessity of maintaining stream-flow in the stream and river systems at optimal levels (the biological reserve) for the long-term survival of the natural biota in specific streams and rivers, and within its limited capacity and resources, will participate in activities which lead to the determination and protection of minimum stream-flow levels in streams and rivers, and support official policies and measures to achieve this, in terms of the National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998).

### *E 7.2 Justification*

Natural communities of wetlands and riverine environments require minimum levels of stream-flow for their maintenance and long term survival. Certain land-use practices, such as water abstraction for agricultural purposes, may exert profoundly negative impacts on stream-flow levels, particularly in dry-flow periods and in droughts, and during such periods, it is critically important to ensure that minimum stream-flow levels are maintained, and not reduced. Official measures to maintain the ecological reserve need public support.

### *E 7.3 Objectives*

In order to achieve this policy, FOSAF will undertake, and collaborate, as appropriate and possible, with official agencies and other environmentally-orientated NGOs, to promote the following:

- E 7.3.1 Awareness of the effects of water abstraction on the aquatic environment and its dependent biota (and consequently on freshwater angling interests), with particular reference to poorly-managed (and wasteful) abstraction systems;
- E 7.3.2 The establishment of minimum flow requirements in river and stream systems for the conservation of aquatic biota; and
- E 7.3.3 The formulation of national and provincial policies, strategies and regulations for conservation of the river and stream systems of the sub-continent, to which it will attempt to make meaningful contributions.

## **E 8. Water quality standards**

### *E 8.1 Policy*

FOSAF recognizes the necessity of maintaining water quality standards in stream and river systems at optimal levels, for the long-term survival of the natural biota, and within its limited capacity and resources, participate in activities which lead to the maintenance of such standards.

### *E 8.2 Justification*

Since most game fish occur naturally and thrive best in natural habitats with water quality of high quality (i.e. with low levels of suspended and dissolved solids and other pollutants), it is important that the quality of water of the streams and rivers of the principal freshwater fisheries be maintained at appropriate high levels in the long term. Pollution and poor land-use practices form one of the principal threats to the status of river systems, by contributing to deteriorating water quality, which negatively affect populations of fish and aquatic organisms, and consequently the quality of the angling available.

### *E 8.3 Objectives*

In order to achieve this policy, FOSAF will undertake, and collaborate, as appropriate, with official agencies and other environmentally-orientated NGOs, to promote the following:

- E 8.3.1 The need for a land ethic and sound land-use practices, and support, where possible and appropriate, official organizations and other NGOs with similar aims.
- E 8.3.2 Awareness of and support for the maintenance of the highest attainable levels of water quality in the environments in which fly fishing is practiced, to conserve the aquatic biota and to provide optimal fly fishing opportunities;
- E 8.3.3 Encouragement of sound agricultural practices, and efforts to minimise pollution of river systems from fertiliser residues and animal wastes;
- E 8.3.4 Contribute when opportunities present themselves, to the setting and revision of water quality standards, and to promote the need to combat all forms of pollution; and
- E 8.3.5 Contribute to the formulation of national and provincial policies, strategies and regulations for conservation of the national river systems.

## **F. POLICIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF INLAND FISHERIES**

### **F 1. Promotion of the need for a new authority to administer inland fisheries**

#### *F1.1 Policy*

FOSAF subscribes to the view that the function of administration of the national freshwater fisheries should reside with an official agency which has the professional expertise and competence to oversee and achieve all facets of conservation, management, and sustainable use of this important resource. The fisheries (and the aquatic environments which support them), in so far as these constitute land-uses outside of protected areas, should be managed sustainably on a multiple-use commercial and subsistence basis, as appropriate, utilizing both indigenous and alien fish species. FOSAF will make submissions and lobby for the re-organization of one or more existing official bodies or the establishment of a new body focused on sustainable resource utilization and management to achieve this. The new or re-organized body should preferably reside under, or should itself be, a national competence.

#### *F 1.2 Justification*

Responsibility for the administration and legal protection of the freshwater fisheries has historically, in terms of previous legislation, resided with the provincial nature conservation authorities. These competencies are undergoing change as a result of a variety of factors. There is a growing perception, both inside and outside the organisations, that they are not necessarily the most appropriate and competent agencies to undertake the functions of administration, legal protection, promotion of, sustainable land-use management, and conservation of fishery and fishery-related resources.

By far the greatest extent of the national river systems and the freshwater fisheries resources occur outside the protected areas that are administered by the nature conservation agencies. The freshwater fishery resources are thus predominantly located in the developed landscapes on state, private and communal land, which are primarily managed for commercial and subsistence agriculture but also for a range of other land uses. By definition, therefore, nature conservation can never be the primary land-use in these developed landscapes, although, as indicated in Policies E1, E5 and elsewhere, appropriate attention should be given to the conservation of indigenous aquatic species, especially those that are threatened.

The freshwater bodies outside the protected areas may be considered a form of developed landscape, in that they have been modified in various ways, either to meet the needs of landowners, or else by their activities. Riparian owners in these landscapes have the right to manage the fisheries to their advantage, subject to the principles of responsible stewardship and duty of care for indigenous aquatic biota, as required under the provisions of the National Environmental Management Act, in the same way that landowners manage the terrestrial systems in their ownership by means of alien livestock and crops, in conjunction, where appropriate, with indigenous fauna and flora.

FOSAF subscribes to the view that pure nature conservation principles are inappropriate for the management of these resources, just as they would be for the management of the terrestrial

systems on state, private and communal land. Similarly, nature conservation agencies are, in the normal course of events, merely one of a range of interested and affected parties involved with land-uses outside of protected areas. FOSAF therefore believes that sound sustainable land-use management and development principles, administered by a suitably competent authority with expertise in the management of developed aquatic habitats and fish resources, should prevail. (See also Policy F5.) It is possible, as indicated above, that existing bodies such as the provincial nature conservation agencies, could be allocated a revised or additional mandate for these purposes.

### **F 1.3 Objectives**

In order to achieve this policy, FOSAF will undertake to collaborate as appropriate, with official organizations and other environmentally orientated NGOs, communities and individuals, to promote the following:

- F 1.3.1 Preparation of representations to senior politicians and administrators, to establish a new competent organization responsible for the administration of inland fisheries;
- F 1.3.2 Motivation for the development of appropriate legislation for the protection of fisheries, and promotion of sustainable land-use management and development of such resources; and
- F 1.3.3 The provision of assistance, where possible, in the implementation and monitoring of protective legislation for the freshwater fisheries, and promotion of sustainable land-use, management and development of the resources.

## **F 2. Development and management of sport fisheries**

### *F 2.1 Policy*

FOSAF intends taking positive proactive actions to contribute whenever possible and where appropriate, to the development of fisheries, and to support the development of community-based ecotourism initiatives.

### *F2.2 Justification*

The fly fishing opportunities available throughout the sub-continent are greater than has previously been appreciated. A number of hitherto less well-known freshwater, estuarine and marine fish species have been found to hold great promise as game-fish. Similarly, the waters which provide habitat for these game-fish have not previously been considered as significant fly fishing venues.

FOSAF believes that these venues could be developed into sustainable local community-based ecotourism ventures, to significantly benefit communities in whose areas they occur, as a form of reconstruction and development of local economies. However, the communities involved are frequently underprivileged, and lack the knowledge and expertise to develop and manage the fisheries, or to host visiting anglers. In many instances, the aquatic systems in which the game-fish occur are deteriorating as a result of poor land-use practices, or the lack of management expertise. There is a parallel lack of knowledge and expertise in the management of the fisheries themselves, and in the development or management of ecotourism facilities.

### *F 2.3 Objectives*

In order to achieve this policy, FOSAF will undertake within its limited capacity and resources, to collaborate, as appropriate, with official agencies and other environmentally and tourism-orientated NGOs, to promote the following:

- F 2.3.1 Knowledge and information on the availability of hitherto unknown or lesser-known fly fishing opportunities, and the presence of all species with the potential for flyfishing;
- F 2.3.2 The establishment of sustainable community-based initiatives in areas with unrealized fly fishing opportunities;
- F 2.3.3 The promotion of private sector initiatives related to fly fishing opportunities;
- F 2.3.4 The economic and other benefits of fly fishing, as a form of ecotourism, to official organizations and NGOs and rural communities;
- F 2.3.5 The provision, where possible, of appropriate expertise for the development of new fisheries;
- F 2.3.6 Maintenance of a list of competent consultants with expertise in the management and development of quality fisheries.

### **F 3. Open and closed seasons**

#### *F 3.1 Policy*

FOSAF subscribes to the need to maintain specified closed seasons for both indigenous and alien game-fish, in order to protect the fisheries during critical periods such as when spawning is taking place, or when fish are vulnerable for other reasons. It similarly subscribes to the need for specified open seasons when the fish are not at risk, and when angling at sustainable levels may be permitted.

#### *F 3.2 Objectives*

In order to achieve this policy, FOSAF will undertake the following:

- F 3.2.1 Contribute to the debates on the need for open and closed seasons, and the benefits to be derived from the implementation of such as policy for the recognized fly fishing species of the sub-continent; and
- F3.2.2 Make submissions as appropriate and contribute to the formulation of new policies and controls based on legislation, as necessary.

## **F 4. Catch and release**

### *F 4.1 Policy*

FOSAF respects the rights of individuals and organizations to decide for themselves whether or not they wish to follow a personal policy of catch and release (CAR) of fish caught by them. Whether a personal choice or the mandatory policy of the riparian owner, FOSAF supports the use of techniques for release of fish that will minimize stress to them, and optimize its chances of survival.

### *F 4.2 Justification*

FOSAF considers the practice of CAR to be an integral part of the ethical forms of angling that it promotes.

### *F 4.3 Objectives*

In order to achieve this policy, FOSAF will undertake the following:

- F 4.3.1 Promote the practice of CAR in the most humane manner; and
- F 4.3.2 Promote the benefits of CAR, especially for the conservation of indigenous fish species.



## **F 5. Professional guiding**

### *F.5.1 Policy*

FOSAF acknowledges the recreational and commercial importance of fly fishing in southern Africa, and that the primary function of the organisation is to promote the sport and the interests of all fly fishers on the subcontinent. While professional guiding does not form a core component of FOSAF's mission and objectives, it accepts that professional guiding has a significant role to play in the promotion of the interests of fly fishing, and as such, it will provide moral and other support for the development of excellence in professional fly fishing guiding in southern Africa.

### *F.5.2 Objectives*

In order to achieve this objective, FOSAF will undertake the following:

- F.5.2.1 Support other credible organizations that seek to promote professionalism in guiding best practices, and peer review thereof.

## **G. CREATION OF AWARENESS, LIAISON WITH OFFICIAL AND OTHER NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE MEDIA**

### **G 1 Awareness creation, liaison with other organizations and the media**

#### *G 1.1 Policy*

FOSAF believes that there is a need to create wider awareness of the values and benefits of fly fishing, and its vision, mission, policies and objectives. There is a parallel need to liaise by both formal and informal means with official organizations and NGOs, as well as the media, to ensure that the values and aims of this organization are understood, and the benefits that these will bring to the people of the individual countries of the sub-continent.

#### *G 1.2 Objectives*

In order to achieve this policy, FOSAF will, when appropriate and necessary, exercise an advocacy role, to achieve the following:

- G 1.2.1 Ensure that awareness and an effective liaison programme will be put in place, through accepted communication measures;
- G 1.2.2 Publish a wide range of material on fly fishing and its benefits, through its own publications, and through the media;
- G 1.2.3 Promote awareness of environmental issues, especially those that have the potential to impact negatively on the interests of fly fishing; and
- G 1.2.4 Develop and disseminate position papers on issues relevant to its mission.

## **H. RESEARCH**

### **H 1 Development of research programmes**

#### *H 1.1 Policy*

FOSAF will endeavour to gain understanding of the state of and status of the national freshwater and coastal fisheries resource through identifying gaps in existing knowledge, and promoting the need for research to fill knowledge gaps, and where appropriate and possible to sponsor management-orientated and other research, to provide information and knowledge on which to base conservation strategies and actions.

#### *H 1.2 Justification*

Research is essential to contribute to achievement of FOSAF's vision, mission, policies and objectives. The organization and fly fishing in general will benefit from research carried out independently elsewhere. However, it will also be necessary for FOSAF to commission research in specific areas to this end, or to support research undertaken by other organizations or institutions.

#### *H 1.3 Objectives*

In order to achieve this policy, FOSAF will, within the limits of its capacity and resources, undertake the following:

- H 1.3.1 Establish a list of universities and research organizations which conduct research on fisheries and related subjects, and maintain lists of reports of previous research, and of topics and reports of current research projects;
- H 1.3.2 Maintain a prioritised list of research topics that are pertinent to its aims that it will support or sponsor, when funds are available;
- H 1.3.3 Allocate funds, when possible, to support research; and
- H 1.3.4 Maintain a bibliography and a library of relevant publications.

## **I. GOVERNANCE POLICY FRAMEWORK AND OBJECTIVES**

### **I 1 FOSAF Governance Policies**

FOSAF will:

- I 1.1 Ensure that it has in place a clear vision, mission, policy and objectives, and will adhere to these;
- I 1.2 Ensure that a formal procedure is in place for amendment of its vision, mission, policies and objectives, when so required by circumstance;
- I 1.3 Specify the frequency of its official meetings, the quorums that will pertain, and the role and powers of its office bearers;
- I 1.4 Develop and uphold a policy that prohibits direct or indirect conflict of interests by members of its Executive Committee, Chapter Committees, employees and volunteers;
- I 1.5 Ensure that members of its Executive Committee, Chapter Committees and staff recuse themselves from decisions where they have, or are perceived to have, a vested interest;
- I 1.6 Ensure that the Executive Committee approves the annual budget, appoints independent auditors and receives audited statements;
- I 1.7 Ensure that the Executive Committee understands and is responsible for over-all policy-making and accepts responsibility for governance of all aspects of the organization;
- I 1.8 Develop a code of conduct for its members and the observance of its policies and objectives;
- I 1.9 Within the constraints of finance and practicalities, ensure that the governance structure reflects as far as possible the race and gender composition of South African society and the various target constituencies with which it deals, with regard to both their composition and geographic spread; and
- I 1.10 Promote and strongly support the entry and inclusion of previously disadvantaged individuals and handicapped persons into all levels of the organization, as well as to encourage greater representation within fly fishing of women and young people.

## **I 2. Accountability Policies**

FOSAF will:

- I 2.1 Develop mechanisms that will enable all its stakeholders to be involved in planning programmes that directly affects them;
- I 2.2 Provide opportunities for regular evaluation and updating of programmes that include stakeholder and community inputs;
- I 2.3 Hold an Annual General Meeting with full open and accurate disclosure of relevant information concerning goals, programmes, finance and governance;
- I 2.4 Hold regular strategic planning sessions to which relevant office bearers, members, staff and other interested and affected persons with appropriate competence, will be invited; and
- I 2.5 Make available to members, through its chapters, details of decisions taken and indications of the basis on which these were taken.

### **I 3. Management Policies**

FOSAF will:

- I 3.1 Periodically reassess and review its vision, mission, objectives and policies in the light of changing circumstances and the needs of its constituents;
- I 3.2 Critically analyse its own practices and organizational culture, and implement whatever changes may be necessary to create a culture of creativity, diversity, responsibility and respect that recognises all cultural groups as equal partners in the development of the organization;
- I 3.3 Develop clear, well-defined written policies and procedures for achievement of its vision, mission, objectives and policies for guidance of members, staff and volunteers;
- I 3.4 Ensure that its policies adheres to relevant labour and other legislation, and will protect its rights as employer, and those of its employees;
- I 3.5 Establish and maintain disciplinary and grievance procedures with clear lines of authority and accountability.
- I 3.6 Have clear and transparent procedures for employing new staff, and disengaging existing staff;
- I 3.7 Have clear staff development policies to empower all staff and volunteers to increase their skills to enable them to move to greater levels of responsibility; and
- I 3.8 Encourage management to adopt interactive leadership styles and an ‘open door’ policy to facilitate good communication between staff and itself.

#### **I 4. Financial Management Policies**

FOSAF will:

- I 4.1 Comply with accepted business accounting and auditing practices, including voucher and authorization processes;
- I 4.2 Establish and maintain appropriate financial systems, and employ qualified persons to administer and manage these systems;
- I 4.3 Conduct annual audits, as appropriate;
- I 4.4 Develop a policy on the receipt of outside honoraria and/or remuneration, in order to avoid duplicate or inappropriate payments;
- I 4.5 Set up mechanisms for purchasing goods and services that are free from the vested interests of the FOSAF Executive, Chapter Committee members, or ordinary members, and which are cost effective;
- I 4.6 Prepare realistic project or organizational budgets, then monitor and adhere to them - in instances where changes become necessary, appropriate consultations will be undertaken and amendments recorded;
- I 4.7 Formally and publicly charge members for any attempt or actual fraud, theft or misappropriation.
- I 4.8 Ensure, whenever possible, diversification of its funding base;
- I 4.9 Minimise fundraising and administrative as far as possible;
- I 4.10 Ensure that funds are allocated and employed for their intended purpose; and
- I 4.11 Provide clear and transparent accounting of its resources to its members.

## **I 5. Resources Management Policies**

FOSAF will:

- I 5.1 Develop and maintain internal procedures and control mechanisms and to implement these to ensure proper use of its assets, and to clearly separate organizational from private uses;
- I 5.2 Develop and implement mechanisms to monitor the use of staff time; and
- I 5.3 Conduct periodic cost-benefit analyses of projects, and review the allocation of resources in the light of these.



## **J. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

### **J 1 Establishment of an Environmental Committee**

#### *J 1.1 Policy*

FOSAF has established an advisory committee, known as the Environmental Committee, which consists of members with relevant experience and expertise, to advise it on environmental issues. The Environmental Committee has the following functions:

#### *J 1.2 Objectives and Functions*

- J 1.2.1 To co-ordinate action on environmental and scientific issues which are, or may potentially be of relevance to FOSAF;
- J 1.2.2 To provide advice and recommendations on technical environmental and scientific issues, to chapter chairpersons and to EXCO;
- J 1.2.3 To draw the attention of chapter chairpersons and EXCO on environmental and scientific issues, which it is considered, may require attention;
- J 1.2.4 To liaise with official and non-governmental organizations as necessary or when requested, to provide technical or scientific perspectives and opinions, on issues relevant to fly fishing in southern Africa; and
- J 1.2.5 To establish and retain links and exchange viewpoints with international fly fishing organizations, on technical environmental or scientific issues of relevance to fly fishing on the sub-continent.

#### *J 1.3 Membership*

Members will be nominated by chapter chairpersons, and appointed by EXCO. The co-ordinator will be appointed by EXCO.

#### *J.1.4 Communication and reporting*

- J 1.4.1 Communication between members will normally be by e-mail.
- J 1.4.2 The committee is expected to issue periodic reports, and to communicate with chapter chairpersons and the President, as necessary.
- J 1.4.3 The co-ordinator will submit an annual report to EXCO on its activities and achievements.

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