



Confederation of Hunting Associations of SA
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National Norms and Standards for Hunting

The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism has published, for public information and comments, draft regulations for hunting as well as the listing of threatened and protected species. The regulation of hunting is a provincial responsibility, but these regulations will function as a framework within which provincial legislation will then be composed.

1. Purpose

The stated purpose of the regulations is:

- to regulate hunting in a uniform way across the country
- to ensure the conservation of species and fulfil our international biodiversity management obligations
- to ensure that hunting is ethical and in accordance with fair chase principles
- to eliminate those aspects of sustainable utilisation that has stained our reputation in recent years
- to close the loopholes that have allowed “illegal trade and immoral activities like canned hunting” to continue.

2. Content

2.1 Listed animals

Threatened and protected species are divided into

- nationally listed animals
- provincially listed animals and
- unlisted animals.

Unlisted animals will apparently still be hunted within the current system which include the concepts of provincial proclamations, hunting licences, farms with adequate enclosure, ect. The hunting of nationally and provincially listed animals will be subject to the obtaining of a **permit** to hunt a particular species. These permits will only be issued to hunters who are members of a recognised hunting association (unless accompanied

by a professional hunter). This association must be registered with the provincial authority, must enforce a code of ethical conduct and must have a BEE policy.

No permit will be issued for the hunting of 'canned' or 'put and take' animals.

Nationally listed animals include Tsessebe, Rhino, Mountain zebra, Oribi, Bontebok, Roan, Suni, Reedbuck, Duiker, Black Wildebeest, the big cats as well as Jackal and Caracal.

There is currently confusion as to what constitutes provincially listed animals and contradicting viewpoints have emanated from national and provincial authorities.

2.2 Prohibited hunting methods

Hunters may not kill animals in an inhumane way; i.e.

- suffering must be minimised and
- it must be reconcilable with the "prevailing norms of society against cruelty to animals".

Hunting with dogs is prohibited, except for tracking wounded animals or for pointing and retrieving birds. Other prohibited methods are luring (by bait or sound), the use of spot lights and hunting in small enclosures. Hunting from vehicles is prohibited, except for finding animals over long ranges or for following up wounded animals.

Bow hunting will be permitted, but by provincially appropriate legislation.

2.3 Protected areas

Hunting in National Parks, Provincial Reserves and other protected areas will not be allowed, unless

- the land is privately owned or
- a local community claims historic hunting rights on that land.

Provision will be made however for "culling by officials and designated persons".

Hunting on private land bordering protected areas (where there is no fence between them) will only be allowed under contract with the management authority.

2.4 Damage causing animals

Listed damage causing animals may not be hunted. If it has escaped from a protected area, it has to be culled by the management authority.

2.5 Breeding and translocation

A system of permits and registration will also be applicable to the captive breeding (including sanctuaries and zoos), trade and transport of listed animals. No large predator, originating from such a facility, may be hunted unless it has been rehabilitated (and fending for itself) for two years.

Translocation of animals will also not be allowed to areas “outside the natural distribution range of that animal species”. No definition of the latter has been established yet.

2.6 SANBI

The South African National Biodiversity Institute is responsible for the scientific determination of yearly off-take numbers. For this purpose they will maintain a data base of hunting for all species, a process to which hunting associations are compelled to contribute.

2.7 A national body of hunting associations

An umbrella body of hunting associations is to be recognised as the national association of hunting organizations. This association will be required to:

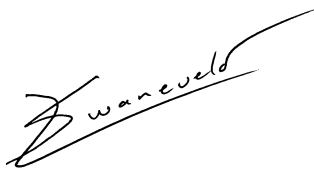
- represent all hunters on a national basis
- enforce ethical hunting
- set curriculums for hunter training.

3. Opportunity

We, as the hunting industry, should not limit ourselves to merely influence these regulations. Instead we must utilise this opportunity to design and map out an ideal future system that will secure hunting’s future. The requirements for such a system would include

- that it cultivates a broad public awareness of the need for hunting in a successful system of biodiversity protection
- that the image of hunting and the hunter are ensured continued public support
- that the hunting industry enforces immaculate ethical conduct through training, peer pressure and self policing
- that hunting associations are statutorily represented and assured input on national as well as provincial level
- that the industry generate funds that go directly toward conservation efforts as well as the rewarding of landowners and communities that award habitat to wild animals

Regards



Ludolph Swanevelder
Chair: CHASA

