



NEW RULES FOR HUNTING IN SOUTH AFRICA

SUMMARIZED VERSION BY SCI (Governmental Affairs Offices)

The summary below has been reviewed by South African officials for accuracy. These rules go into effect on 1 February 2008.

Special Restrictions on Lion and Rhino hunting – (Lion however, temporarily excluded from Large Predators list)

The hunting of captive-bred “listed large predators” (**cheetah, spotted hyaena, brown hyaena, wild dog, leopard**), **white rhinos or black rhinos is prohibited** –

- If the animal has not been released from captivity and been self-sustainable for at least 24 months (that is, it is not a “put and take” animal)
- If the animal is in a controlled environment
 - This does not include fenced land on which there is a self-sustaining population that is managed “extensively” (that is, with minimum human intervention for water, food etc.)
 - There is no minimum size for either a controlled environment, an intensive operation or an extensive operation
- If the animal is under the influence of a tranquilizer or immobilizing agent
- For a listed large predator, if it is hunted in an area adjacent to a holding facility for listed large predators
- By use of a gin (leghold) trap

Methods of hunting: All of the following are prohibited in the hunting of a listed threatened or protected species [See the list at the end of this summary], except in the case controlling damage causing animals:

- **Bow hunting** – No bow hunting of listed large predators, white rhino, black rhino, crocodile or elephant (thick skinned animals)
 - [note: in the proposed rule no bow hunting was allowed except as the provinces authorized it];
- **Handguns and other firearms** –
 - No use of automatic weapons (“a weapon, which after it has been discharged, automatically reloads and fires when the trigger thereof is pulled or held in a discharged position),
 - no use of a weapon using a rimfire .22 or smaller caliber
 - No use of shotguns, except for birds
 - No use of airguns

- **Lights** – No use of flood or spot lights, except for
 - controlling damage causing animals
 - culling
 - hunting leopards and hyenas
 - [note: the proposed rule would have allowed the use of lights for tracking a wounded animal]

- **Vehicles** – No hunting by using a motorized vehicle, except for
 - tracking an animal in an area where the hunt takes place over long ranges
 - [note: the proposed rule also provided that the animal could not shot from the vehicle except in the case of a wounded animal]
 - Controlling damage causing animals
 - Culling
 - Allowing a physically disabled (as defined by the World Health Organization) or elderly (over 65) person to hunt

- **Enclosures, drugs** -- No hunting of an animal which is tranquilized or immobilized by drugs or trapped against a fence or in a small enclosure where the animal does not have a fair chance to evade the hunter
 - [note: “small enclosure” is not defined]

- **Darting** – No darting, except by a vet or person authorized by the vet for veterinary; scientific; management or transport purposes

- **Dogs** -- No hunting with dogs, except for tracking a wounded animal or flushing, pointing and retrieving listed threatened or protected species [note: in the proposed rules this was limited to birds];

- **Bait** – No use of bait for listed threatened or protected species, except
 - dead bait for , leopards and hyaenas
 - bait for marine or aquatic species

- **Luring** –No use of sounds, smells or any other induced luring method – only for management of damage causing animals

- **Poison, traps, snares, spears,** – **No** hunting with these! Except
- for the control of damage-causing animals;
- traps for the hunting of marine or aquatic species

- **Aircraft** – No hunting by aircraft, except for
 - Tracking an animal where the hunt takes place over long ranges
 - Culling
 - Controlling damage causing animals

Additional Notes

Listed Threatened or Protected Species – The rules apply to the species listed under the Biodiversity Act of 2004 as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, or Protected. These include:

Endangered: tsessebe, black rhinoceros, mountain zebra, African wild dog, oribi;
Vulnerable: cheetah, Samango monkey, bontebok, roan antelope, suni, lion, leopard, blue duiker

Protected: white rhinoceros, black wildebeest, spotted hyaena, black-footed cat, brown hyaena, serval, elephant, Sharpe's grysbok, reedbuck, Cape fox,

Hunting permits –

- Hunting permits will be issued by provincial authorities; game farm owners can obtain permits to cover hunting on their property.
- Recognition will be given to hunters who are members of a “recognized hunting organization” however, membership is still not compulsory.
 - [note: Associations have to apply for Government Recognition after 1 February 2008 - SCI in South Africa has already applied]
- A non-South African hunter must be accompanied by a professional hunter, and the hunt must have been organized by a hunting outfitter;
- A permit-holder must have the permit in his possession during the hunt

Hunting of rhino –

- Any one client may not hunt more than one rhino and export the horns for trophy purposes per year;
- The horns must be exported with the rest of the hunting trophies and may not be exported as hand baggage;

No Sport hunting for damage causing animals -- The rule bans sport-hunting by “hunting clients” (that is, non-South Africans who are paying for a hunt) for damage causing animals.

- “Damage causing” = causes losses to livestock; damages cultivated trees or crops or other property; presents a threat to human life; or is present in such numbers that agricultural grazing is materially depleted.

Culling -- “Culling” can include management hunts on game farms.

Alien species – No permits are allowed to move “listed threatened or protected animals” (see below)

- into extensive wildlife systems outside their natural distribution range [meaning either from outside South Africa or, for South African species, outside their normal range in South Africa] only if the area the animals will be moved to is a protected area – the rest will be regulated in terms of the alien species provisions in NEMBA;
- if there is a risk of transmitting disease;
- hybridization would occur with other species in the extensive system.

Captive breeding – No captive breeding of listed large predators is allowed unless the breeder agrees in writing that the animals will not be bred, sold, supplied or exported for hunting activities that are prohibited under these rules. The same applies to the sale, supply, export, purchase or acquisition of black rhinos and white rhinos.

- An exception is allowed for listed large predators, black rhinos and white rhinos that were bred in captivity but were rehabilitated in an extensive system and have been fending for themselves in that system for at least 24 months.

Recognition of Hunting Organizations – Hunting organizations already in existence have three months, after 1 February 2008, in with to apply for “recognition” by Government. In order to obtain recognition, the organization must –

- Have a code of ethical conduct and good conduct and must enforce that code against its members
 - The code must require compliance with legislation regulating the hunting industry, along with any conditions expressed in national hunting permits;

- The code must define the criteria for the hunting of listed threatened and protected species in accordance with the fair chase principle and must require its members to hunt in compliance with those criteria
 - The code must provide for disciplinary steps, including suspension and expulsion of members.
- Report hunting violations to the South African Police Service
- Have a clear policy on broad based black economic empowerment to include persons from disadvantaged communities as members.