

NEW RULES FOR HUNTING IN SOUTH AFRICA

SCI Department of Governmental Affairs

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The government of South Africa has published new rules governing hunting in that country. This summary has been reviewed by South African officials for accuracy. These rules go into effect on June 1, 2007.

Special Restrictions on Lion and Rhino hunting –

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

- If the animal has not been on the property for at least 24 months (that is, it is not a “put and take” animal)
- If the animal is in a controlled environment (= an enclosure that prevents the animal from escaping, that facilitates intensive human intervention for feeding, shelter and health care, and that facilitates intensive breeding or propagation)
 - 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 [except in drought conditions], parasite control or health care)
 - There is no minimum size for either a controlled environment, an intensive operation or an extensive operation
- If the animal has been drugged with 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 [“holding facility” is not defined]
- 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

- [note: the proposed rule stated that only a rifle or a handgun specifically designed for hunting purposes could be used]
- **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 lions, leopards and hyenas
 - bait for 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, air guns** – No hunting with these
- **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;

Vulnerable: cheetah, bontebok, roan antelope, suni, lion, leopard, blue duiker;

Protected: caracal, white rhinoceros, black wildebeest, spotted hyaena, black-footed cat, brown hyaena, porcupine, serval, Sharpe's grysbok, reedbuck, common duiker, 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;
 - [note: SCI in South Africa will apply for such recognition]
- A non-South African hunter must be accompanied by a professional hunter;
- A permit-holder must have the permit in his possession during the hunt

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.

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

- into extensive 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 in with to apply for recognition. In order to gain 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.