

# Greater Kruger Hunting Protocol for Reserves where hunting takes place

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Writer: Compiler/s:	<b>Richard Sowry</b>
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## REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

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## DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

### *Abbreviations*

<b>APNR</b>	Associated Private Nature Reserves
<b>GK</b>	Greater Kruger
<b>JOC</b>	Joint Operational Committee of the APNR, KNP, MTPA and LEDET, established in terms of the 18 March 1996 Agreement, now reviewed in terms of the GLTFCA-Greater Kruger Cooperative Agreement (2018)
<b>KNP</b>	Kruger National Park
<b>LEDET</b>	Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
<b>MTPA</b>	Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency
<b>SCI</b>	Safari Club International

### *Definitions*

#### **issuing authority –**

- (a) in relation to a national hunting permit to hunt a nationally listed threatened or protected animal, has the meaning assigned to it in section 1 of the Biodiversity Act; or
- (b) in relation to a provincial authorisation to hunt a provincially listed animal, means an authority empowered in terms of provincial legislation to issue or grant provincial authorisations;

**APNR Joint Operational Committee:** a committee of reserve representatives appointed by the APNR Reserve(s) and the KNP Management Authority, agreeing collaboration according to “best practices” within the open protected area system

**LEDET** is the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism

**MTPA** is the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency

**“National Park”** means -

- (a) an area which was a park in terms of the National Parks Act, 1976 (Act No. 57 of 1976), immediately before the repeal of that Act by section 90(1) of this Act, and includes a park established in terms of an agreement between a local community and the Minister which has been ratified by Parliament; or
- (b) an area declared or regarded as having been declared in terms of section 20 as a national park, and includes an area declared in terms of section 20 as part of an area referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) above;

**professional hunter** means a person who is registered or recognized as a professional hunter in terms of provincial legislation;

**hunting outfitter** means any person who presents or organizes the hunting of a wild animal or an exotic animal for remuneration;

**Reserve Representative** means person employed by the Reserve to Represent the interests of the Reserve in ensuring that the Hunting Protocol and Reserve Operational Protocols are complied with.

**"provincial hunting authorisation"**, in relation to a provincially listed animal, means –

- (a) a permit, permission, consent, license, registration or other document issued in terms of provincial legislation authorising a person to hunt a provincially listed animal; or
- (b) an exemption or exclusion from a provision of provincial legislation regulating or prohibiting the hunting of a provincially listed animal

**SANParks** is South African National Parks

## **PREAMBLE**

Demands for competing land uses that are not compatible with conservation practices, make the need for viable conservation incentives more urgent. Well governed trophy hunting, generates critically needed incentives and revenue to maintain and restore wildlife as land use and to carry out conservation actions, including anti-poaching interventions. It can return much needed income, jobs, and other important economic and social benefits to local communities.

Extending conservation areas through appropriate co-operative arrangements, allows for the maintenance of ecological patterns and processes which provide greater ecological resilience and promotes the long-term persistence of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the broader landscape. However, such an approach should be interlinked with the local socio-economic context, whilst recognizing that these drivers operate at a regional and international level as well.

The National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (NEMPA Act 53 of 2003) recognizes the access to biological resources in protected areas for traditional, subsistence and commercial purposes: “to promote sustainable utilisation of protected areas for the benefit of people, in a manner that would preserve the ecological character of such areas.” Section 17 (h) further states that the purpose of a protected area is to provide for the sustainable use of natural and biological resources. Excess game, is such a resource and hunting a legitimate activity which is consistent with the sustainable management of wildlife.

Wildlife economic benefits in and adjacent to National Parks are also in line with government’s commitment towards the development of the green economy in South Africa, recognising that natural resources and ecosystem services are shared between different users. This is in line with the Buffer zone strategy of National Parks. The Vision is to integrate National Parks into local landscapes for the benefit of those living adjacent to the parks whilst maintaining the larger system’s integrity and promoting environmentally sound practices. This forms and integral part of broader multi-stakeholder co-operation which seeks to improve livelihoods, whilst improving the environmental estate through sound environmental practices and programmes. The KNP and neighbouring Conservation areas are contributing jointly towards the conservation effort, having for many years shared the Vision of a large open ecosystem with the Greater Kruger (GK).

Key guiding principles govern such integrated conservation land use approaches: ethical practices, maintaining the sustainability and integrity of systems, compliance with the legal framework and relevant protocols, transparent decision-making, accountability, and co-partnerships allowing for the fair and equitable distribution of benefits from the use of the natural resources.

## **SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION**

Certain of the Reserves do not permit hunting and do not benefit financially or otherwise from hunting activities and accordingly have not subscribed to this Protocol.

The series of hunting protocols have been established which are adapted by those reserves and regions within the GK area, which hunt. All utilisation of the natural resource are governed by the underlying principles of ecological sustainability<sup>1</sup>, taking into consideration economic and social best practice. Professional (commercial) hunting is conducted in these areas with the goals of providing the income to contribute to the management of the environment in a manner in line with each reserves objectives and the best sustainable practice possible and to support social initiatives of community development as per Reserve specific programmes.

In determining off take numbers, due regard is given to the population dynamics and general well-being of the particular species. All decisions must be based on accepted techniques and methodology and be in the realm of accepted conservation practice. This will be based on recent, up to date and relevant data on the particular population. As far as possible the populations should be seen in the broader GKNP context and not merely on a farm or reserve basis. In this regard any off-take should be based on pre-approved numbers and in terms of the Management plan and approved by the JMC.

Bearing the above in mind, the protocol will be adapted as new information becomes available. All hunting must be undertaken within a responsible, professional and ethical manner.

## **SECTION 2: PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

This Protocol reflects the agreement reached between reserves practicing hunting, with SANParks-KNP, MTPA and LEDET, and in compliance with the APNR Management and/or APNR reserve specific Management plans regarding the management of hunting for Hunter Outfitters and members.

- 
- To promote the ecological integrity of the GK through sustainable hunting practices within the context of a broader Resource Use Strategy.
  - To harmonise hunting practices with other conservation-related practices within the broader integrated system.
  - To support social investment initiatives within communities as per reserve specific programmes.
  - To develop transparent co-operative arrangements and “best practice” with regard to hunting.
  - To promote good governance by reporting, monitoring and evaluating on the hunting practices.
  - To develop a shared communication strategy and protocols on ethical and sustainable hunting practices.

This protocol is subject to and subservient to the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area-Greater Kruger Cooperative Agreement(s) between KNP and the representative bodies within the APNR Reserves

## **SECTION 3: PRINCIPLES AND ETHICS**

### **3.1 Hunting within the GKNP reserves are guided through the following principles**

- Sustainability – Specific to the GK Open System  
ie. Numbers/ population size, strong healthy genetics, desirable outwards features (horn/ body size)
- Commitment to local community involvement and empowerment, contributing a percentage of proceeds to identified community development programmes
- Transparent, effective and efficient communication through appropriate governance mechanisms;
- Fair and mutually beneficial partnerships and alliances promoting trust
- Accountability
- Align with the overarching Resource Strategies of the respective Reserves, their Management and Zonation Plans.

### **3.2 Ethics**

- The obligation is acknowledged to respect animals and appreciate that they are sensitive to pain, respond to stress and may remember such experiences.

- It is acknowledged that the legitimacy of hunting animals from wild animal populations subject to compliance with the highest moral and ethical standards in recognition of a reverence for life and good sportsmanship.
- Hunting should be conducted according to set rules to ensure that the spirit of fair chase is honoured.
- A fair hunt may be defined as a competition in which the tracking and shooting skills of the hunter are pitched against the evasive abilities of the hunted.
- Professional and owner hunting must be executed on foot with only limited artificial aid.
- The hunter must preferably be physically fit and able to cope with climatic and environmental conditions.
- The animal must be within its natural habitat under free-roaming conditions and must be in a position to escape the hunter.
- An aircraft may not be used for the location of animals immediately prior to or during the hunt.
- An aircraft may however be used to locate a wounded animal if other ground based efforts have failed or on the discretion of the reserve representative.
- All precautions should be taken to ensure that the possibility of wounding an animal is limited
- The weapons and ammunition used must be adequate to ensure quick and humane kills and that the hunter and the PH must prove his/her proficiency in the use of the weapons before commencing the hunt.
- A minimum of a .375 H&H Mag is required for elephant, buffalo, lion, hippo & rhino.
- The minimum calibre approved for leopard hunting is .270 with standard ballistics of the .270 Winchester cartridge or greater.
- The minimum weight requirement for bullets for the hunting of elephant, rhino and hippo is 286 grain or heavier bullet of monolithic solid or full metal jacket construction.
- It is recommended that both PH and Reserve Representative carry larger and more powerful calibres than the minimums listed above.
- At all times only the highest levels of professional conduct should apply.
- All hunting shall be conducted in compliance with the relevant Provincial Legislation

#### **SECTION 4: LINKS TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The hunting protocol is implemented with the Management framework and philosophy of the GKNP, APNR Management Plan, relevant reserve-specific Management Plans and associated Policies and Protocols. Hunting off-takes are implemented and managed within the broader Resource Use Strategy/Protocol of the GKNP.

#### **SECTION 5:**

##### **5.1 The following guidelines must be adhered to for professional hunting:**

All hunting activities in the Reserves will be subject to the respective Reserve Warden's/management discretion, subject to this hunting protocol. All hunting clients must be under the control of a registered Hunting Outfitter or Professional Hunter - (where applicable) and be accompanied by an authorised registered Professional Hunter as well as a suitable Reserve representative.

With regard to hunting of the potentially dangerous species listed below it is recommended that both Professional Hunter and Reserve Representative make use of the dossiers compiled on species specific age determination and horn/ tusk estimation. All reasonable attempts will be made to adhere to the following:

## Elephant

- No elephant may be hunted from breeding herds.
- Only bull elephants may be hunted.
- The categories of elephant that may be hunted are:
  - 20-25 yrs old with a maximum tusk weight of 25 lbs per side. (Guideline maximum dimensions - 12 " at lip x 2.5 feet)
  - 25-30 yrs old with a maximum tusk weight of 30 lbs per side. (Guideline maximum dimensions - 13 " at lip x 2.5 feet)
  - 30-35 yrs old with a maximum tusk weight of 40 lbs per side. (Guideline maximum dimensions - 14.5 " at lip x 3 feet)
  - 35-40 yrs old with a maximum tusk weight of 55 lbs per side. (Guideline maximum dimensions - 16 " at lip x 3 feet)
- Each of these classes, are assigned dimension guidelines which should aid the hunting outfitter/professional hunter and reserve representative to stay within the weight/age classes.
- The elephant should be viewed from all sides before the final decision is taken.
- It is recommended that the hunters walk elephants of the approximate class on permit before shooting one in order to familiarize the client and outfitter with behaviour and anatomy of elephant in the area.
- As part of the records kept the circumference of the trunk at the lip is also required for future assistance with tusk judgment.
- Photos of the elephant when still alive is recommended
- Permit condition will state: Animal to be hunted in accordance with GKNP protocol and in accordance with the approved off-takes for each Reserve.
- In the hunting of the elephant, it is preferred that the client shoot for a 'Brain Shot' with his/her initial shot. By doing this it will be immediately apparent whether the elephant has been wounded or not.
- If the animal falls to the initial brain shot a further shot will be shot at all times to ensure that the animal is dead, either by client or PH.
- If the animal does not immediately fall to the initial brain shot the Professional Hunter and Reserve representative shall both immediately put in a heart/ lung shot and then while the wounded elephant is still visible shall continue to fire further back-up shots, either lung, brain or disabling shots, as preferred.
- Before the initial shot is taken by the client the Reserve representative shall move into a position (clear shooting lane) to enable a clear back-up shot. Only once the PH has received confirmation of this from the Reserve representative shall he advise the client to shoot when comfortable.
- If a heart/ lung shot is preferred as the initial shot by the client the PH and/or the reserve representative will fire back-up shots.
- Within a distance of 1km from the KNP/ Provincial or Reserve boundary a brain shot will be mandatory for the first shot.
- A coup de grace shot will be done at all times to conclude the hunt.

## Buffalo

- The following categories of Buffalo bulls may be hunted:-
  - **'Buffalo bull' – unlimited spread** , or **"Scrum Cap"** , no limit on Rowland Ward spread **must be a minimum of 12 years of age.**
  - **'Buffalo bull – sub 38'** , must be a minimum of 10 years old, not a scrum cap.
  - **'Buffalo bull – sub 34'** , (Rowland Ward) spread, minimum 6 years old, not a scrum cap .

- Only cows without dependant calves may be hunted.
- A back-up shot by either the Client, PH or Reserve Representative or preferably all, is recommended at all times to ensure that the animal is not lost.
- Photo portfolio should include lower front teeth.

### **Lion**

- Only male lions of 6 years and older may be hunted.
- The aging of the lion should be done according to the aging structure by Viljoen and Packer *et al.*
- Reasonable steps should be taken to gain knowledge of the males with pride affiliations and their ages. Thereby ensuring that pride males under the age of 8 years are not selected.
- Lodges and land owners within the relevant area must be consulted in this process Males should not be hunted in the presence of females.
- Lions having the outward appearance of the recessive Leucistic gene, commonly known as 'White Lions' may not be hunted.
- In line with TOPS regulations, No baiting of lion is permitted
- Lion may only be hunted during hours of daylight – ie. 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset.

### **Leopard**

- Only adult male leopard may be hunted, recommended minimum of 7 years old.
- Leopard may only be hunted during hours of daylight – ie. 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset,
- In line with TOPS regulations, baiting of leopard is permitted
- It is recommended that the lodges and land owners be consulted in this process since they have a sound working knowledge of leopard in their traversing areas.

### **White Rhino**

After consultation with rhino experts, the following were deemed to be reasonable guidelines to practically apply to white rhino hunting.

- Only adult bulls may be hunted.
- It is recommended that the individual selected be old, and or under social pressure from the younger dominant bulls.
- The bull should adhere to the following criteria:
  - The back horn length should not be less than 8 inches.
  - The SCI (Safari Club International) total score should not be less than 88.
- Animals may not be hunted in the presence of other rhinos (within sighting distance).
- All TOPS regulations related to white rhino should be adhered to.

### **Black Rhino**

Hunting of black rhino is prohibited

### **Hippo**

Only adult or past-prime hippo bulls be considered for hunting. Fully-grown, adult males are usually easily recognised by their bigger heads and relatively thicker necks. Such individuals generally also have clear scars as a result of regular or occasional territorial conflicts.

- No Hippo should be hunted out of a breeding group
- Hippo may be hunted while in a water body.
- Hippo bulls that show clear signs of territorial disputes should be selected.

## 5.2 Hunting Applications, Approvals and Permitting

- A game census should be conducted annually in the Reserve and this together with the results of on-going ecological monitoring will inform the hunting allocation.
- The proposed sustainable resource/ (hunting) allocations, once formulated at reserve level, are then discussed and debated and if necessary, revised, at a meeting of the reserve Wardens, two independent wildlife management consultants, the provincial authorities and the KNP, with final approval through the JMC.
- In the spirit of good co-operative governance and in line with the protocol, the hunting allocation and the ecological report is then discussed at a JMC, where the final quotas are approved. The KNP then confirms or revise the hunting allocation in consultation with the Warden Representative of the Reserve and through the JMC, and within the Co-operative agreement(s) between KNP and the Reserve entities. The hunting allocation is confirmed at the beginning of each new hunting season. Overall quotas will not be increased for those reserves that hunt as a result of certain APNR members opting not to participate and take up any portion of the quota.
- Once satisfied with the recommendation from the JMC and on receiving a written confirmation from the KNP, the issuing authorities (LEDET and the MTPA in the case of KNP) will give the final approval of the hunting allocation. Since these are open systems straddling both Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces, the total hunting quota is submitted as one quota to both the MTPA and LEDET, who then monitors off-takes against the total quota.
- The issuing authority will engage with the reserve warden on additional conditions that may be required, before the permits are issued.
- Ecological off take quotas may be revised in April each year, taking into account the previous rainfall season, and the need to adjust off takes for ecological management needs.
- The hunting permit must be forwarded to the applicant and copies forwarded to the relevant reserve manager.
- No species that is not on the agreed quota or permit may be hunted
- In the event of an outfitter and/or hunter not complying with the permit conditions, the penalty normally associated with such a contravention will be imposed as per provincial legislative framework.

## 5.3 Wounded Animals

- The Wardens of the Reserves where hunting is practice, and the neighbouring KNP Section Ranger are to communicate with one another regarding hunting parties in the Reserve and conflicting activities in the Kruger National Park and non-hunting Reserves.
- If an animal is wounded on a hunt and seems to be heading towards the KNP/ Reserve border the Reserve representative on the hunt must contact the neighbouring Section Ranger/ Warden in the KNP or the non- hunting Reserve Warden as required, and the MTPA/LEDET and inform him/her of the situation.
- Should the animal cross over into the KNP the hunt stops at the boundary and the KNP Section ranger must be summoned to do the follow-up. The animal may not be pursued into the KNP. Should the animal cross over into a non-hunting Reserve, the Warden of the Non hunting Reserve will decide on the course of action.
- The KNP Section ranger, at his/her discretion, may invite the Reserve representative and/or a tracker to accompany him (without a firearm). The hunter can be invited, BUT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO SHOOT THE WOUNDED ANIMAL, or carry a firearm. This invitation is at the discretion of the Section Ranger.

- The KNP Section ranger will be in charge of the follow-up and destroy the animal with or without the Reserve representative/hunter or anybody else being present.
- Any expenses such as helicopter time etc will be for the account of the Outfitter/Hunter, if such is required to locate a wounded animal.
- In the event that a wounded animal crosses into the KNP, the KNP Section Ranger and the Reserve manager will investigate the incident and submit a detailed report to KNP management.

#### **5.4 General Protocols to be adhered to following the hunt**

- At the end of each hunt the reserve representative must compile a Hunting Report stating the species, sex and number of animals hunted as per permit issued. Report on wounded animals, if any, and any incident that has occurred during that particular hunt must be reported.
- This report must be submitted to the Hunting portfolio committee of the joint management forum.
- Hunting report submitted by the Hunting Portfolio committee/reserve representatives during May, following the hunting season.
- Reserves and the Hunting Portfolio committee must submitted an annual report must be submitted to the first JMC following the post-hunting off-take committee (July).

#### **5.4 General Protocols to be observed**

- It is understood by all parties that the protocol is necessary to regulate the species and number of individuals hunted and that the proposed take-off quotas are based on an annual aerial wildlife census
- Communication between the reserve representative and the appropriate KNP Section Ranger is essential to communicate the whereabouts of hunting parties in the reserves particularly when they are in close proximity to the KNP and/or when animals are wounded and crosses the KNP boundary.
- Advertisements placed by hunting outfitters applying for permits to hunt in these reserves must be screened to ensure that they do not advertise hunting in the KNP.
- Health and safety of guests and landowners to be ensured in all hunting regions.
- It is the Reserves responsibility to ensure that the Hunting Client has signed the Protocol prior to the onset of the hunt

#### **5.5 General Protocols Applicable to the province of Mpumalanga**

##### **Hunting Permit Applications**

1. All applications shall be submitted by the dedicated relevant reserve representative
2. All applications to be submitted at least 10 working days prior to commencement of the hunt
3. All required documentation constitutes a complete application
4. Required documentation:
  - a. Completed application form
  - b. Copy of the clients passport
  - c. Copy of the agreement between the hunting outfitter and the client
  - d. Copy of the transfer of hunting rights
  - e. Proof of payment of fee (Permit fee + Admin fee)

##### **Remuneration Agreement**

Required information contained in the Remuneration Agreement in terms of the relevant Regulations:

- i) the name and permanent postal address of the client;
- ii) the name and business address of the hunting outfitter;

- iii) the name and business address of the professional hunter who will escort the client;
- iv) the address to which trophies are to be sent;
- v) particulars of the species and sex of the wild animals offered for hunting;
- vi) the duration of the hunt and
- vii) the hunting outfitter and his or her client shall sign the original document.

### **Transfer of Hunting Rights**

The hunting rights shall be transferred from the owner by means of a document containing:

- i) the owners name and residential address
- ii) the registered name, number and area of his or her land;
- iii) the name and residential address of the person to whom the hunting rights are transferred;
- iv) particulars of the species, number and sex of the wild animals in respect of which the hunting rights are transferred;
- v) the date on which and period for which the hunting rights are transferred;
- vi) the owners signature and the date thereof and
- vii) the signature of the person to whom the hunting rights are transferred and the date thereof.

## **SECTION 6: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **6.1 Reserve Representative**

- The reserves representative should be appropriately qualified and experienced, and fulfil the following criteria:
  - Legally competent with the appropriate firearm (SAPS) Competency certificate.
  - The individual should have at least 5 years Professional Working Experience as a Game Ranger, FGASA DG Guide or Professional Hunter that includes the pursuit of Dangerous Game.
  - The Reserve Representative must have passed the “Reserve Representation for Hunting Course”. If the Representative has not represented a reserve on a hunt in 3 years then they are required to re-qualify.
  - Must have a good working knowledge of the reserve including roads, camps, boundaries and other infrastructure
  - It is the reserves prerogative to elect the reserve representative.
  - The reserve representative will be responsible for judging the age of the animal and will advise on what they believe the tusk/ horn dimensions to be . The estimated age and dimensions will be recorded by the Reserve Representative prior to the taking of the animal.
  - The accountability of a selected animal lies with the Professional Hunter.
  - The animal can only be shot with consent from the reserve representative.
  - It is the Reserve Representatives responsibility to ensure that all the necessary information of the hunt is recorded and filed appropriately. The records shall include the permit, the category of the animal to be hunted, good photographic evidence to be able to assist with judgement and assessment of the animals age and horn/ tusk judgement, as well as aiding better decision making going forward. An example of this record is available for inspection. This report must be concluded within 30 days of the hunt taking place.
  - The Reserve Representative shall be subject to corrective measures in the case of repeated errors in application of the protocol.

## **6.2 Photographic Evidence Required to be collected by Reserve Representative for internal auditing purposes**

- Photos should be taken in field before skinning and processing starts (unless stipulated otherwise)
- Where possible photos included when alive

### **Elephant**

- Tip of Trunk (with tape measure for circumference)
- Tusk at lip (with tape measure for circumference)
- Tusk Length (with tape measure along outside length tip to lip)
- Shoulder height (with tape measure for height)
- Soles of front and back feet
- Tail Including hair
- Whole Elephant as it lies from front and sides
- Pictures of the both ears, removed and lying face up on a flat surface.
- Dried and clean lower Jaw bone (for ageing)

### **Buffalo**

- Horns and face, including ears from Front
- Horns and face, including ears from above
- Horns and face, including ears from side
- Side view of body
- Close-up of the front incisor teeth from the front (with the lower lip pulled down)

### **Hippo**

- Front view of whole animal
- Side view of whole animal
- Front and side view of head
- Teeth with mouth held open

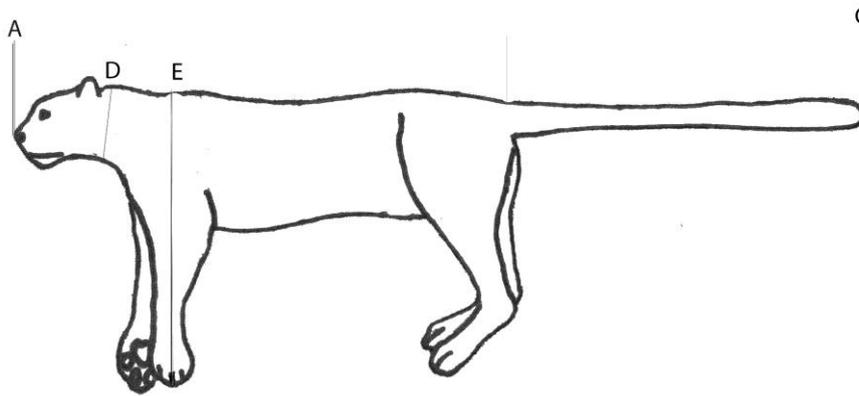
### **White Rhino**

- Front view of whole animal
- Side view of whole animal
- Front and side view of head (including horns)
- Photos of both ears from Front (showing ear notching)

### **Lion & Leopard**

The following body measurements should be taken for every Leopard and Lion trophy before the animal is skinned:

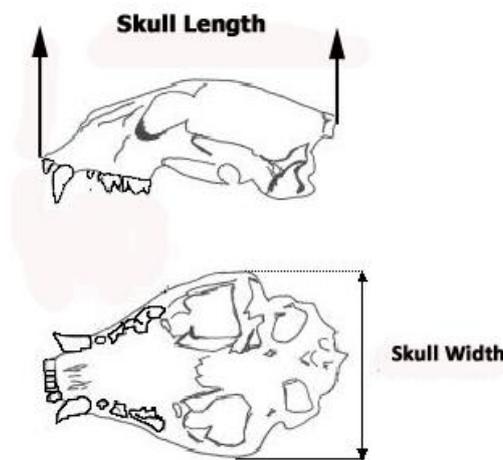
- Body length (cm, tip of nose to tip of tail; Measurement A–C)
- Shoulder height (cm, tip of scapula to end of forepaw; Measurement E)
- Neck circumference (cm, immediately behind the ear; Measurement D)



**Figure 1:** Body measurements to be taken for each trophy before skinning.

The following skull measurements should be taken once the skull has been cleaned.

- a) Skull length (mm, greatest length of skull, measured as a straight line between pegs)
- b) Skull width (mm, greatest width measured across zygomatic arches)



**Figure 2:** Measurements of skull length and width to be taken for each trophy.

The skull width and height are routinely measured to provide an SCI rating (width + height in inches); however, the SCI rating on its own is of limited use - the individual metrics in mm are needed to estimate age.

## Photographs

### Body

Photographs of individual leopard trophies showing body size and condition, nose pigmentation, the hindquarters, and tooth wear must be provided for every Lion or Leopard. Five photographs are required. Photographs must be from the side (body and neck; B a and b) and front (face, nose, and hindquarters; B c, d and e). Nose pictures are best taken with the macro-function setting (which is a feature on most digital cameras) to prevent blurring.



**B a:** Side view showing the entire body with hunter directly behind for scale. Useful for assessing body size and condition.



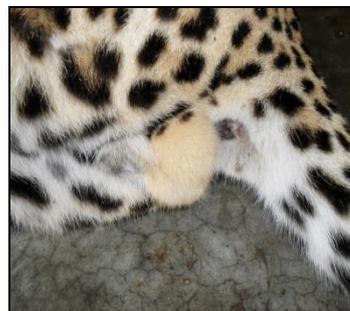
**B b:** Side view of the head and shoulders. Useful for assessing neck circumference and the presence or absence of a dewlap.



**B c:** Frontal view of the face clearly showing the condition of ears and facial scarring.



**B d:** Close up of the nose. These pictures are often blurred if the macro setting is not used. They must be accompanied by a high resolution full face photograph (2c) as a backup.



**B e:** View of the hindquarters clearly showing the presence or absence of a scrotum.

Photographs required from professional hunters/operators to assess body size and condition, neck circumference, hindquarters, and nose pigmentation for all leopard trophies.

### **Tooth wear**

Four photographs are required



Lower jaw showing all the teeth and chipping of the enamel ridge on the back of the canines.



Upper jaw showing all the teeth and chipping of the enamel ridge on the back of the canines.



Side view of the lower jaw showing the canine and wear on cusps of molars and premolars.



Wide shot of all the teeth showing wear on the canines, broken teeth, and teeth colouration.

Images of showing the photographs required from all lion and leopard trophies.

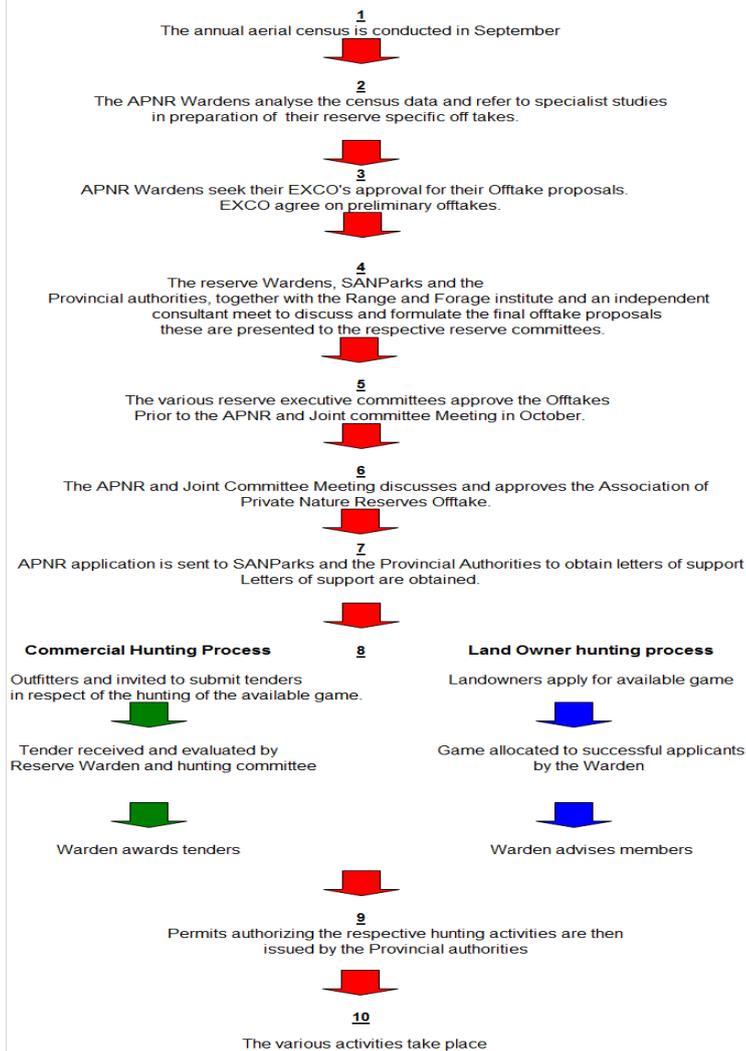
#### **Additional photographs - Trail camera pictures:**

Many hunters now place trail cameras at baits to assess trophy quality prior to setting a blind. Photographs taken by trail cameras can be used by researchers to identify individuals in an area, estimate the relative abundance and vulnerability of different age cohorts in a population, and assess hunter selectivity. Ensure the date and time information is set correctly on cameras. Record the number of cameras that are deployed each day, the number of days that each camera is deployed, and the location (GPS position in decimal degrees) where cameras are deployed.

#### **6.3 Decision making w.r.t the hunting quota**

- Warden off-take committee discuss the proposed hunting off-takes;
- Approval in writing at Reserve level through the relevant APNR Reserve management structure;
- Consultation and agreement in writing at the Joint Operational cluster level (with Cooperative Agreement partner); -
- The APNR JOC is responsible for approving the final recommended annual hunting off-take quota;
- The APNR Reserve management representative will sign the Protocol, as per Cooperative Agreement;
- The JOC will consult with the KNP, MTPA and LEDET within the spirit of the Co-operative agreement, for their recommendations;
- The recommendation/ support from KNP, MTPA and LEDET must be obtained in writing;
- The MTPA and LEDET as issuing authorities will issue the permits once the JOC have submitted their recommendation in writing, including the supporting letter by KNP, and their own recommendations;
- The MTPA and LEDET will inform the JOC, including KNP, in writing what the final approved quotas are;
- Post hunting off-take records will be presented to the JMC to inform future off-take quotas, and within the consideration of the broader Resource use/Animal off-take context.

**Flow chart illustrating the APNR Resource Utilization permit acquisition process.**



## SECTION 7: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

### 7.1 General

- This protocol will be discussed by the Warden or his representative and agreed upon before commencement of the hunt with the professional hunter and his client, furthermore this protocol will be signed by professional hunter and his client prior to the commencement of the hunt.
- This protocol will be attached to all tender documents as well as landowner permits.
- It is imperative that the hunt be conducted as professionally and clinically as possible.
- It is thus incumbent upon the Warden or his representative to ensure that the professional hunter back his client up and if in the Warden or his representative's assessment, this still isn't adequate to ensure a swift death, he will immediately endeavour to destroy the animal himself.
- Due cognisance will be taken of owner and lodge sensitivities to hunting and the hunt will be conducted in a way which has the least impact upon these vital components the Reserves.
- Communication between management and landowner (calling on and informing him of their presence on his property) and management and the lodges (informing them of the hunt beforehand and of the potential impact it may have on their operation if it so develops; by radio during the hunt) is vital to the sustainability of professional hunting in our Reserves.

- Daily hunting cut off times will be at the discretion of the Warden or the Reserve representative accompanying the hunt.
- Collared animals may not be hunted unless authorized by Reserve Management, if in principle agreed by the APNR JOC committee.
- All hunted animals should be covered with a canvas when transported to slaughtering facilities.
- Price-fixing, insider trading and syndication of hunts are prohibited.

## **7.2 Pre-hunting off-takes**

Wardens/ Representatives from the Reserve will present the following during the Hunting Committee meeting and JMC to inform the annual hunting off-take quotas:

- Annual census numbers (and demographics, where available) for the Reserves, and KNP for the adjacent land use zone (as feasible).
- The previous season's off-take reports (including demographics, where feasible) – hunting and other off-takes.
- Other records/observation reports as relevant, which might influence the final decision-making.
- Further ecological data and report(s) to inform total off-takes, such as vegetation, rainfall and water point data.

## **7.3 Post-hunting off-takes**

Wardens/ Representatives from the Reserve will present the following to Hunting Portfolio Committee and JMC following the hunting off-takes:

- Reserve hunting report (number of animals, demographics, photo records, permit numbers)
- Incident reports
- Social-investment reports (community beneficiation)
- Financial audit reports: priorities to conservation, security, community beneficiation, other
- Record keeping as per electronic Hunting data management system

## **7.4 Offtakes and Incident Review committee**

- The Off-takes Committee shall meet to review incidents related to non-compliance of the hunting protocol and make recommendations regarding corrective measures to be taken.
- Each APNR Reserve , SANParks, MTPA and LEDET elect 1 Warden / Reserve Representative to stand on this peer review process.
- The Off-take committee can agree to obtain expert inputs.

## **7.5 Penalties to Outfitter for Non-compliance to protocol**

Recommendation is to standardize this, this shall be added in due course prior to the date that the protocol is applicable.

## **SECTION 8: OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **8.1 Hunting outfitters**

Due to the sensitivity towards the hunting industry, the Reserves will only do business with reputable outfitter companies and take effort to ensure that outfitter companies are not involved in illegal or

unethical activities associated with the hunting industry. The following steps should be taken to ensure this:

- Hunting outfitters that align themselves with the Sustainable, Ethical and Social principles highlighted in this protocol, & are in good standing with the Provincial Conservation authorities will be favoured during the tender process.
- Individual reserves should get clearance from Authorities on every outfitter company before tenders are awarded.
- The outfitter must be registered with the relevant province.
- The outfitter remains responsible towards the client in terms of horn/ tusk size.

## **8.2 Important note**

The Reserves that share a common boundary with the Kruger National Park and a concession has been granted by the KNP with regard to the reserves utilising the KNP boundary road during hunting operations as this road falls within the KNP. Any reserve misusing this concession runs the risk of foregoing this privilege. In line with the above the following must be adhered to:

- The boundary road is only to be used for traversing from one point to another and for locating tracks. No hunting is to take place from the boundary.
- All weapons are to be bagged and out of view when traversing this road.

## **SECTION 9: BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS AND HUNTING ALLOCATIONS BETWEEN RESERVES**

The Reserves which hunt and/or third parties will carry the costs of the hunting off-takes and associated activities.

The guiding principles and criteria to inform hunting allocation between reserves, are:

- Proportional size of Reserve (hectares).
- Demographics of animals.
- Census done at the relevant time of year
- Specialist studies to address species specific concerns
- Specialist reports with recommendations for offtakes
- Further ecological data and report(s) to inform total off-takes, such as vegetation, rainfall and water point data.
- Post season off-takes report for the reserve.

## **SECTION 10: PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

### **Public Statements**

This protocol is used by the hunting Reserves of the GK and in order to protect the non-hunting areas, may not advertise as hunting in the APNR, GK.

It must be made clear that any and all hunting issues are the responsibility of the hunting Reserves and not the APNR as such. Accordingly the name of the APNR cannot be used in any public statement on or marketing of hunting.

**SECTION 11: ARBITRATION**

Any dispute or difference of any kind whatsoever between the signatories that relates to, arises out of, or is in connection with the GK Hunting Protocol, may be referred by any Party to and finally settled by arbitration. The Parties shall appoint a single arbitrator under the Rules of the Arbitration Foundation of South Africa (the "Rules"). Each of the Parties agrees to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of that arbitrator. The venue of arbitration shall be Johannesburg, South Africa. The arbitration shall be governed by and conducted in accordance with the Rules, and the rules of procedure not expressly provided for by the Rules shall be determined by the arbitrator according to the laws of South Africa, whether mandatory or not. The language of the arbitration shall be English.

**Signed in acceptance of the outlined conditions presented above on :**

this..... day of ..... 20.....

Professional hunter / outfitter .....  
(Print name and sign)

Client .....  
(Print name and sign)

Reserve representative .....  
(Print name and sign)

Witness (2) .....  
(Print name and sign)