



Confederation of Hunting Associations of SA

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Inputs to the proposed Norms & Standards

Minister

CHASA, the Confederation of Hunting Associations of South Africa, represents 19 of the 21 hunters associations in South Africa and has 14'900 members.

CHASA endorses the purpose of the national norms and standards as stated by the Minister and applauds the minister for initiating steps to establish these, firstly because we believe our current legislation to be extremely fragmented and in need of a uniform framework, and secondly because we are convinced of the strategic need for ensuring hunting that is ethical, in accordance with fair chase principles and presented in such a way that it continues to enjoy the support of the broad South African public. We understand the need for Government to harmonise our conservation management principles with international and regional protocols and agreements. We support this, but have to, however, caution against the danger of appeasement of the international animal rights lobby. Despite access to vast amounts of financial resources, they do not enjoy any significant public support and their demands are ideological and impractical in nature, do not conform to Afrikan (sic) ethos, and contain threats to scientific biodiversity management.

CHASA acknowledges the process of consultation and constructive engagement with industry that has been agreed upon on the Wildlife Industry Forum. We view the published draft documents to represent the Department's inputs to this process and present this input as similar from the industry side. In our opinion the draft documents consist of regulations and rules, and not norms and standards, and the values and principles on which they are based is unclear. **We therefore propose that public service and industry first agree upon values and principles, after which norms and standards can be drafted.** Such a process have proved very effective with the Department's drafting of the norms and standards for the management of elephant populations.

We further appeal to the Minister to let industry assist Government in the successful implementation of these Norms and Standards and the provincial legislation that will follow them, ensuring the support of the vast majority of the citizens who are mostly impacted by it.

Introduction

The World Conservation Strategy (WCS)'s principles of living resource conservation is the only blueprint in existence that ensures the survival of all living things on planet Earth. South Africa's National Conservation Strategy, together with those of the vast majority of other nations, was modelled on these principles, being:

- To maintain essential ecological processes and life support systems on which human survival and development depend.
- To preserve genetic diversity.
- To ensure the sustainable utilisation of species and ecosystems.

Hunting forms a major part of the latter principle and must therefore be managed and promoted by the custodians of conservation.

Because of a growing human population, habitat for wild animals is under threat. Land in private possession get awarded as habitat to wild animals primarily on economical basis. In order therefore to ensure habitat for wild animals, these animals must be awarded superior economic value. This is not only a factor brought about by supply and demand, but very much also a result of the regulatory environment imposed by the authorities.

The regulation of the management and hunting of these animals can however, not be left to economies alone. There is a serious need for the short term economic forces to be balanced by long term sustainability. The future of hunting, and therefore the third WCS principle, depends upon the continued support of the majority of the broad public. This can only be achieved by ensuring hunting and management conduct that is ethical and widely acceptable.

Values

1. Wild animals must be managed on population level and not species level.

Every population of a species suffer from, or enjoy, a variety of environmental "pressures" that render some populations safe and others unsafe. Safe populations of any species should be managed according to conservation management principles - which includes population reduction - and unsafe populations should be managed according to the principles of preservation management.

2. Communities and landowners that award habitat to wild animals must be rewarded.

In the case of private landowners, the awarding of habitat must be economically rewarding and their conservation efforts must be steered by using incentives, rather than regulations. Communities who award habitat to wild animals on their doorstep, must be similarly rewarded and incentivised to combat poaching. This should be done through the generation of funds from hunting.

3. A Broad public awareness and understanding of the essential role of hunting in biodiversity protection must be cultivated.

The future of the successful protection of biodiversity is dependant upon the sustainable utilisation thereof and the continuance of controlled hunting. The future of hunting (and therefore successful biodiversity protection) can only be secured in a socio-political environment where a positive image of hunting and the hunter exist. Both industry and public service has a responsibility to cultivate a broad public awareness of the need for hunting and to foster a positive image of hunting and ethical hunters.

4. Immaculate ethical hunting conduct and practices must be enforced.

Ethical conduct cannot be enforced by legislation. This can only be done through training and peer pressure within the industry. Membership of hunting associations must thus be encouraged and associations empowered to train, issue licences and self-regulate.

5. Adequate stakeholder engagement must be ensured.

One national and nine provincial consultative forums must be institutionalised, comprising of the relevant conservation authority and NGO, community, hunting and game ranching organisations that endorse the World Conservation Strategy's principles.

Definitions

1. Define "ethical hunting" as hunting conduct that
 - obeys legislation,
 - complies with the principles of fair chase,
 - causes minimal suffering for the hunted animal, and
 - conforms to broadly accepted norms of respect for nature and fellow man.
2. Define "fair chase" as pursuit of a free ranging animal or enclosed ranging animal possessed of the natural behavioural inclination to escape from the hunter and be fully free to do so. The hunted animal should exist as a naturally interacting individual of a wild sustainable population, located in an area that meets both the spatial and temporal requirements of the population of which that individual is a member.
3. Define "hunt" as to lie in wait or pursue an animal and intentionally take its life in an ethical way.
4. Define "hound" as to pursue, lie in wait, lure, capture, trap or kill an animal by means, method or device that does not conform to the definition of ethical hunting.
5. Define "recreational hunters" as persons who hunts for either meat (biltong) or a trophy.
6. Define "professional hunters" as persons who guide hunting clients and who are recognised as such in terms of legislation.

Principles

1. In official communication w.r.t. these norms and standards, give credit to the role of game farmers in awarding habitat to wild animals, credit to the role of hunting in giving economic value to game, and credit to the vast majority of hunters who commit themselves to immaculate ethical conduct. Differentiate between the words hunt, hunting and hunter representing the ethical version on the one hand, and hound, hounding and hounder on the other, representing the version that fail to conform to the defined principles of ethical conduct.

2. Differentiate recreational hunters into 'occasional hunters' and 'dedicated hunters', in a similar way as is done by the Firearms Control Act, i.e.

- have national associations, national bodies, and / or the member associations of national bodies accredited with DEAT and
- allow accredited associations to award 'dedicated hunter' status for hunting purposes to active and trained members.

3. Approve a national master hunter training course, bow hunting course, handgun hunting course and muzzle loader hunting course and allow accredited associations to award master hunter, bow hunter, handgun hunter and muzzle loader hunter status to dedicated members.

4. Differentiate management areas into:

- protected areas,
- private land with certificates of adequate enclosure, granted such per species, and
- open private land.

Entrust the sole management thereof and all off-take decisions to:

- in the case of protected areas, the relevant management authority,
- in the case of private land with certificates of adequate enclosure, the land owner, and
- in the case of open private land, the provincial conservation authority.

5. Differentiate animal species into:

- nationally listed animals, comprising of animals whose populations are unsafe throughout the country or animals in need of special national protection,
- provincially listed animals, comprising of animals that are in need of local protection, and
- unlisted animals, comprising animals that are locally abundant.

6. Direct that:

- unlisted animals be hunted by all hunters,
- listed animals be hunted only by dedicated hunters or hunters guided by professional hunters, and
- animals in protected areas be hunted only by master hunters or professional hunters.

7. Direct that hunting by bow, handgun or muzzle loader be allowed only by dedicated hunters who have been awarded bow hunter, handgun hunter or muzzle loader hunter status respectively.

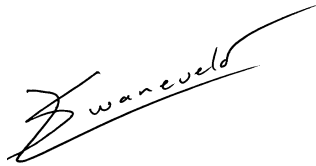
8. Institute a national yearly hunting licence, sold and administered by accredited hunting associations, for all hunting. This licence has to indicate whether the hunter is an 'occasional hunter' or 'dedicated hunter', and in case of the latter whether the hunter is qualified to hunt by bow, handgun or muzzle loader. Direct that the issuing association be

responsible for the submitting of returns to SANBI and empower the association to enforce input by the hunter for this purpose.

9. Establish a national trust fund with the national Wildlife Industry Forum as trustee, funded by the income of national hunting licences and a levy on the fees of hunting in protected areas, with beneficiaries:

- communities that award habitat to wild animals,
- BEE, bursaries and training in the wildlife industry,
- special conservation projects and
- projects aimed at cultivating a public understanding and support for the need for animal population control and ethical hunting.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Swanevelder", with a stylized flourish above the name.

Ludolph Swanevelder
National Chair: **CHASA**

