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PROVINCIAL NOTICE

[No. 118 of 2012]

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

FREE STATE NATURE CONSERVATION ORDINANCE, 1969 (ORD NO. 8 OF 1969)

NORMS AND STANDARDS FOR THE KEEPING AND MANAGEMENT OF BONTBOK (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) IN THE FREE STATE

I, Motlagomang Qabathe, Member of the Executive Council responsible for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, in terms of section 38(1) of the Free State Nature Conservation Ordinance, 1969 (Act No. 8 of 1969), read with *Government Gazette* No. 32426 of 20 July 2009, have made the following policy relating to the keeping management, transport and export of Bontebok, *Damaliscus pygargus pygargus* in terms of the Schedule hereto.

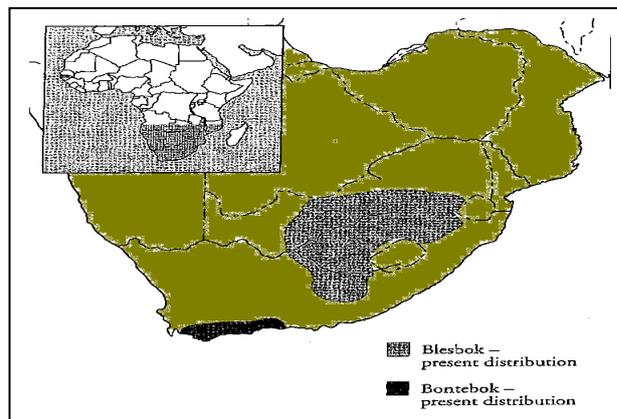
1. INTRODUCTION

The Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs acknowledges the existence and role of Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA) and their associated Bontebok Breeders Association.

Although the numbers of Bontebok are presently far higher than in the late 1800's, they are still classified as being vulnerable according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red Data Book. The Bontebok is also listed as a CITES (Convention on the International Trade In Endangered Species) Schedule II species, which means that Bontebok are not necessarily faced by extinction, but without proper control measures in place to conserve and manage these animals, this may well happen in future. Presently, also listed as a Threatened or Protected Species in terms of the Threatened or Protected Species Regulations (GNR 152 of 23 February 2007).

Historically, Bontebok were restricted to an area in the South-Western Cape between Bredasdorp and Cape Augulhas. Initially, Bontebok had a wider natural distribution range that stretched from the Bot River to Mossel Bay and inland to the Sondereind and the Langeberg mountain ranges (Bigalke, 1955). Blesbok (*Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi*) on the other hand, occur on the open grass plains of central South Africa and were historically abundant in areas of the former Eastern Cape, Orange Free State, Southern Transvaal and Natal (Smithers, 1983).

Distribution Map



Bontebok – Blesbok natural distribution areas
Africa's vanishing Wildlife – Chris & Tilde Stuart. 1996

According to the “*Threatened or Protected Species*” regulations Bontebok is classified as a protected species and a permit is required for any restricted activity involving these antelope. These activities include keeping, hunting, transporting, importing or exporting of these animals.

According to the National Biodiversity Act, (Act 10 of 2004) section 1(1), an indigenous species is classified as being “alien” if it occurs outside of its natural distribution range, or is moved to outside of its natural range through human intervention. According to section 9 of this Act, a permit is needed when an animal is translocated to an area outside of its natural distribution range.

All relevant legislation and conditions, that is applicable to this document, must be adhered to at all times, including but not limited to:

- Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004), Threatened or Protected Species Regulations (GNR.152 of 23 February 2007)
- National Environmental Management Act, (Act No. 107 of 1999) (“NEMA”)
- National Environmental Management Regulations
- Free State Nature Conservation Ordinance, 1969 as amended from time to time
- Applicable *Government Gazette* notices.

1. DEFINITIONS

In this notice, unless the context otherwise indicates-

- (a) “**bontebok**” means the species *Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*;
- (b) “**blesbok**” means the species *Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi*;
- (c) “**CITES**” means the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;

- (d) “**DETEA**” means the Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs;
- (e) “**hybrid**” means a cross-breed between a blesbok and bontebok, and the word “hybridization” has a related meaning;
- (f) “**IUCN Red Data Book**” means International Union for Conservation of Nature;
- (g) “**Province**” means the Free State Province.

2. FENCING REQUIREMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW BONTEBOK POPULATIONS IN THE FREE STATE

Bontebok populations will only be established within the Province under the following conditions:

- 2.1 The minimum size of an enclosure for the keeping of Bontebok will be 100 hectare unless:
 - 2.1.1 Such animals are temporarily kept for purposes of translocation, adaptation and/or treatment; or
 - 2.1.2 The owner is so authorized in writing by the DETEA.
- 2.2 No Bontebok may be kept on any farm, tribal- or municipal land or any other land adjacent to and/or bordering on any of the Free State Protected Areas.
- 2.3 The fence will be a complete game proof fence of 1, 4 meters with 12 single steel wire strands of at least 2 mm in diameter. (Jackal proof or diamond mesh can be additionally added) or Veldspan or Bonnox type wire may be used. The foot of the fence must be in such a way as to restrict burrowing.
- 2.4 A double fence as per point 2.4 above will be necessary if Bontebok are kept directly adjacent to Blesbok.
- 2.5 A Certificate of Adequate Fencing issued by the DETEA is required in respect of any enclosure or camp where Bontebok is to be kept. Such certificate will be valid for a period of three years where after same must be renewed.

3. IMPORTING/EXPORTING/TRANSPORTING OF BONTEBOK INTO FROM AND WITHIN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE

The importation/exportation and transportation of Bontebok into and from the Free State will only be considered under the following conditions, unless otherwise authorized by DETEA:

- 3.1 Every individual Bontebok must undergo a DNA test. The landowner or the buyer is responsible for the costs of the DNA tests and capturing of the animals.
- 3.2 DNA samples will only be collected when officials from DETEA are present.
- 3.3 The Bontebok from which the blood samples were taken must be kept in a holding pen or boma until the results of the blood samples are available. Bontebok may not leave the source population until the DNA has shown them to be pure or as authorized by DETEA.
- 3.4 Each Bontebok sampled must be marked by means of a micro chip and/or an ear tag and/or paint numbered to distinguish which sample was collected from which Bontebok.
- 3.5 The Bontebok blood samples taken will be placed in a sealed forensic bag supplied by the DETEA official and handed to the owner to have the tests done at the approved laboratory or as authorized by a DETEA official.
- 3.6 No bontebok may be auctioned live on any auction within the Province without a certificate of purity, and being micro-chipped.
- 3.7 A certified copy of all DNA analysis done as contemplated in this notice shall be submitted to the DETEA within 48 hours of the completion thereof, and shall be accompanied by the following information:
 - The physical address of the property where the bontebok were captured and the genetic samples collected;
 - The name of the person who collected the genetic samples; and micro chipped the animals;
 - The name of the person who submitted or sent the samples for DNA analysis;
 - The name of the institution that analyzed the samples;
 - The physical address of the person and property to which the bontebok were delivered;
 - A copy of the transport permit(s) for transporting the bontebok;
 - A copy of the valid Certificate of Adequate Fencing in respect of the property where the bontebok were delivered.
- 3.8 Permits must be applied for regarding any action relating to a bontebok.

- 3.9 Due to the fact that Bontebok start lambing from the beginning of October no translocation permits will be considered after the end of September.

4. HYBRIDISATION

- 4.1 The prevention of hybridization between the bontebok and other species is of paramount importance to the DETEA and hybridization of the said sub-species will not be tolerated or allowed under any circumstances. No capture or transport permits will be considered or issued for Bontebok x Blesbok or Bontebok x Tsessebe hybrids.
- 4.2 It is the responsibility of the owner of any bontebok and/or the owner of the property on which bontebok are kept to avoid any hybridization between blesbok and bontebok.
- 4.3 Any such hybrid found or identified by any person or official of the DETEA shall be culled immediately by the owner and/or the owner of the property on which the hybrid is found, or by any official of the DETEA in the case where the owner does not want to comply.

5. CITES PERMITS

- 5.1 No CITES export permits will be issued for Bontebok X Blesbok or Bontebok X Tsessebe hybrid trophies.
- 5.2 All hunted Bontebok have to be DNA tested before a CITES export permit will be issued and a micro chip has to be implanted into the horn.

6. KEEPING OF A REGISTER

The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Free State Province, will keep a register of all "pure registered" Bontebok herds in the Province.

7. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Any person, who was legally authorised to engage in a restricted activity involving any Bontebok immediately before the commencement of these Norms and Standards, must apply for the renewal of his or her permit once it has expired and has a time period of three years after expiry of present registrations to adhere to the approved Norms and Standards as per the above.

PROVINCIAL NOTICE

[No. 119 of 2012]

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

FREE STATE NATURE CONSERVATION ORDINANCE, 1969 (ORD NO. 8 OF 1969)

ACTIVITIES REGARDING LISTED LARGE PREDATORS BY LAND OWNERS, FOREIGN CLIENTS AND THE EXPORTATION OF HUNTING TROPHIES

I, Motlagomang Qabathe, Member of the Executive Council responsible for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, in terms of section 38(1) of the Free State Nature Conservation Ordinance, 1969 (Act No. 8 of 1969), read with *Government Gazette* No. 32426 of 20 July 2009, have made the following policy relating to the hunting of listed large predators by foreign clients, land owners, South African citizens as well as the exportation and transportation of such hunting trophies in terms of the Schedule hereto.

In this document unless otherwise stated a word or expression defined in the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act 10 of 2004), and the Threatened or Protected Species Regulations, R.152 and related amendments, has the same meanings.

- A. The owner of the land must adhere to the following conditions –
- (i) The area where hunting takes place must first be approved by the Department.
 - (ii) A listed large predator may not be released for hunting purposes in an area adjacent to a holding facility for large predators.
 - (iii) Hunting may only take place in an area of 1000 hectare or larger in size and this area must be fenced according to approved specifications.
 - (iv) A maximum of 10/ten listed large predators may be released within the approved 1000ha enclosure at no stage may there be more than ten listed large predators in the enclosure.
 - (v) Listed large predators must be released under the supervision of an official from this Department at least 30/thirty days before the hunt takes place.

- (vi) All listed large predators to be released must be micro-chipped and checked by an official of this Department. (Official must be in attendance when listed large predators are released and micro-chips must be provided by the owner).
 - (vii) The official mentioned on the hunting permit must be contacted 48 hours before the hunt takes place in order that he/she can ensure that they are in attendance.
 - (viii) The land owner or the owner of the listed large predator skeletons must acquire a permit from this Department to keep, sell, transport or export the skeleton.
 - (ix) All listed large predator breeders and hunting areas must be registered in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004), Threatened and Protected Species Regulations, R152.
- B. The Hunting Outfitter/ Professional Hunter must –
- (i) Apply for the hunting permits on behalf of his or her client at least fifteen days prior to the commencement of the hunt.
 - (ii) Ensure that all permits for the transport and preparation of the hunted trophy are in place.
 - (iii) Ensure that the hunted trophy is sent to a Threatened and Protected Species Regulations approved taxidermist.
- C. An official of the Department must be in attendance at every listed large predator hunt and the Department may request –
- (i) An interview with the client to verify the experience of the client to hunt dangerous game.
 - (ii) The client to undertake a shooting practice test to verify the client's readiness to hunt dangerous game.
- D. Listed large predators may not be hunted by a hunting client by means of or by the use of a bow and arrow or a dart to immobilize or tranquillise the animal.
- E. Two (2) species of game (Steenbok, Common Duiker, Warthog and Mountain Reedbuck excluded) must be available as prey species in the hunting camp at all times.
- F. No lion, while in the hunting camp, may be fed with domestic animals, poultry or any game carcasses.
- G. The death of a lion in a hunting camp must be reported to the Department within five (5) working days after the carcass has been found.

- H. The fence of the hunting camp must be in good condition and the electrified strands must be effective and in working condition at all times. If not, the Department may withdraw the Standing Permit and Registration Certificate, regarding restricted activities where large predators (Lion) are involved, of the permit holder.
- I. Listed large predators may not be hunted by luring the predators by means of bait sounds, smells or any other induced luring method.
- J. No listed large predator may be hunted from a vehicle, except in the case where the hunter is physically disabled. The hunter in this case must hand in proof of his physical disability by means of a written report completed by his medical practitioner.

PROVINCIAL NOTICE

[No. 120 of 2012]

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

FREE STATE NATURE CONSERVATION ORDINANCE, 1969 (ORD NO. 8 OF 1969)

ACTIVITIES REGARDING WHITE AND BLACK RHINOCEROS

I, Motlagomang Qabathe, Member of the Executive Council responsible for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, in terms of section 38(1) of the Free State Nature Conservation Ordinance, 1969 (Act No. 8 of 1969), read with *Government Gazette* No. 32426 of 20 July 2009, have approved the following policy on the hunting of white and black rhinoceros by clients and the exportation of such hunting trophies as set out in the Schedule hereto.

- A. The MEC may set annual provincial quotas for the hunting of white rhinoceros in the Free State Province.
- B. The Hunting Outfitter must –
 - (i) apply for the hunting permits on behalf of his or her client at least one month prior to the commencement of the hunt;
 - (ii) submit to the Department, together with the permit application, a written and signed *Curriculum Vitae* of the client indicating the hunter's experience in the hunting of large or dangerous game.
- C. The Department may request –
 - (i) an interview with the client to verify the experience of the client to hunt large or dangerous game;
 - (ii) the client to undertake a shooting practice test to verify the client's readiness and competency to hunt large or dangerous game.
- D. Only personal sport hunted trophies of these species will be allowed for exportation to foreign countries.
- E. For the purposes of this notice a hunting trophy for white and black rhino consist of either a full mount or shoulder mount in the case of a prepared hunting trophy or in the case of the exportation of the raw products of the full skin, skull and horns, feet and tail of such hunted white or black rhinoceros;

- F. The minimum parts of a hunted trophy which may be exported after DNA has been taken are –
- (i) In the case of a prepared trophy, the shoulder-mount with the original micro-chipped horns;
 - (ii) In the case of a raw trophy, the original horns together with the cape.
- G. Rhino hunts will take place under the supervision of a conservation official, preferably an environment management inspector who will take DNA samples.
- H. A person will only be permitted to hunt 1/one white rhino within a period of 12/twelve calendar months.
- I. It is prohibited to hunt a rhino cow with a calf.
- J. When hunted by a foreign hunter, all parts of a rhino trophy, including the horns, after the necessary treatment at a Threatened or Protected Species Regulations (TOPS) registered taxidermist, must be consigned to a freight agent for export purposes. A TOPS permit is additionally needed for the transport of a rhino trophy to the taxidermist and if the meat is to be removed a TOPS permit for this action is required.
- K. Only 1/one white rhino may be hunted on a specific farm per day.
- L. Anyone wanting to keep any rhino must firstly:
- Apply for a permit where after an ecologist from DETEA will do an ecological assessment and make such recommendations as may be applicable.
 - The owner wanting to keep rhino will be required to hand in proof of security measures which are in place in order to protect the animals.
 - Permits for any action regarding rhino are applicable.
 - Officials from the DETEA Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement must be in attendance at any action involving rhino. The appropriate official must be notified 48 Hours before any action takes place.
 - Any rhino mortalities must be reported to the appropriate official of the DETEA Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Directorate within 12 hours of the mortality.
 - All live rhino must be micro chipped with one chip in each horn and one in the body and all micro chip numbers must to be included on any permit applications made to the Department.
 - DNA samples must be taken of all rhino by officials of the Department.