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**GOVERNMENT NOTICE**

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS****No. 456****27 May 2011****NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: BIODIVERSITY ACT, 2004 (ACT NO. 10 OF 2004)****NORMS AND STANDARDS FOR HUNTING METHODS IN SOUTH AFRICA**

I, Bomo Edith Edna Molewa, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, hereby issue National Norms and Standards for Hunting Methods in South Africa in terms of Section 9 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) as set out in the Schedule.

**BOMO EDITH EDNA MOLEWA****MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS****SCHEDULE****NORMS AND STANDARDS FOR HUNTING METHODS IN SOUTH AFRICA****TABLE OF CONTENTS****CHAPTER 1****INTERPRETATION, PURPOSE AND APPLICATION**

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**CHAPTER 1**  
**INTERPRETATION, PURPOSE AND APPLICATION**

**Definitions**

1. In these Norms and Standards, unless the context indicates otherwise, a word or expression defined in the Biodiversity Act has the same meaning, and—

**“alien animal”** means an animal that is not an indigenous animal and of which the natural distribution does not occur within the borders of the Republic;

**“Biodiversity Act”** means the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No.10 of 2004);

**“bow and arrow”** means an instrument consisting of a body and string designed to launch and propel an arrow;

**“falconer”** means any person who practices falconry and who holds a falconry induction accreditation;

**“falconry”** means the hunting of wild quarry by means of a trained hawk;

**“feathered game”** means any bird but excluding ostrich;

**“furred game”** means any wild mammal;

**“game birds”** means birds declared open for hunting in terms of provincial hunting proclamations;

**“handgun”** means a handheld firearm that can be operated without a shoulder mounted stock;

**“hunt”** has the meaning as defined in the TOPS Regulations;

**"hunter"** means any person who undertakes the legal restricted activity of hunting;

**"Master, A and B Grade Falconers"** means a falconer that is graded as such by the South African Falconry Association;

**"thick-skinned animal"** includes, but is not limited to, elephant, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, crocodile and buffalo;

**"passage hawk"** means a wild, free-flying hawk still in juvenile plumage;

**"provincial hunting proclamation"** means a notice in the *Provincial Gazette* which declares a period to be an open season for the hunting of certain species of wild animals;

**"Republic"** means the Republic of South Africa;

**"rifle"** means a device manufactured or designed to propel a bullet or projectile through a rifled barrel or cylinder by means of burning propellant and which is intended to be fired from the shoulder, but excludes a net gun or a dart gun;

**"TOPS Regulations"** means the Threatened or Protected Species Regulations promulgated in terms of section 97 of the Biodiversity Act and published under Government Notice No. R.152 in Gazette No. 29657 of 23 February 2007, as amended;

**"wild animal"** means a vertebrate animal of which the natural distribution occurs within the borders of the Republic, whether temporarily or permanently, but excludes a fish or any animal belonging to a domestic or stock species.

**Purpose and application**

2. (1) These national Norms and Standards aim to ensure that minimum requirements for hunting methods are standardized by providing the following specifications—

- (a) minimum bullet weights for rifle hunting;
- (b) minimum bullet weights and barrel lengths for handgun hunting;
- (c) permissible bows for bow hunting;
- (d) minimum requirements for bow hunting;
- (e) minimum requirements for falconry;
- (f) criteria to be met by gamebirds for inclusion in provincial hunting proclamations.

(2) These norms and standards apply to the hunting of all wild and alien animals.

**Guiding Principles**

3. These norms and standards are guided by the following principles—

- (a) ecologically sustainable utilization of natural resources to maintain viable populations of indigenous species and their environments;
- (b) encouraging cooperation between land owners, hunters, related industries and local communities in managing the off-take of indigenous species within limits that are not detrimental to the survival of the species;
- (c) promoting development of the competence and responsibility of users of wildlife resources;
- (d) promoting responsible hunting;
- (e) ensuring that these norms and standard are realistic, implementable and understandable.

**CHAPTER 2****MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR HUNTING METHODS****Minimum bullet weights for rifle hunting**

4. (1) The minimum bullet weights for rifle hunting for the respective categories of wild and alien animals are the following—

- (a) 2.3 g. (35 gr.) bullet for hunting—

- (i) furred game up to and including the size of a rock hyrax and all rodents; and
- (ii) feathered game;
- (b) 3.3 g. (50gr.) bullet for hunting—
  - (i) furred game larger than the species contemplated in sub-paragraph (1)(a)(i), up to and including the size of springbok; and
  - (ii) mountain reedbuck;
- (c) 6.6 g. (100gr.) bullet for hunting furred game larger than the species contemplated in sub-paragraphs (1)(b)(i) and (1)(b)(ii), up to and including the size of impala, warthog, blesbuck, common reedbuck and nyala ewes;
- (d) 8.4 g. (130gr.) bullet for hunting furred game larger than the species contemplated in sub-paragraph (1)(c), up to and including the size of black wildebeest, tsessebe, nyala bulls and hartebeest;
- (e) 9.9 g. (150gr.) bullet for hunting furred game larger than the species contemplated in sub-paragraph (1)(d), up to and including the size of blue wildebeest, kudu, gemsbuck, sable, roan and leopard;
- (f) 11 g. (175gr.) bullet for hunting furred game larger than the species contemplated in sub-paragraph (1)(e), up to and including eland, but excluding lion and buffalo;
- (g) 16.2 g. (250gr.) bullet for hunting furred game larger than the species contemplated in sub-paragraph (1)(f), up to and including lion, buffalo and giraffe; and
- (h) 19.5 g. (300gr.) bullet for hunting furred game larger than the species contemplated in sub-paragraph (1)(g), including thick-skinned animals, but excluding buffalo.

(2) When hunting thick-skinned animals the bullet must be of full metal jacket or monolithic solid construction.

#### **Minimum bullet weights and barrel length for handgun hunting**

5. (1) The minimum bullet weights for handgun hunting for the respective categories of wild and alien animals are the following—
- (a) 2.3 g. (35 gr.) for hunting—
    - (i) furred game up to and including the size of a rock hyrax and all rodents; and
    - (ii) feathered game;

- (b) 9.9 g. (150 gr.) for furred game larger than the species contemplated in sub-paragraph (1)(a)(i) up to and including the size of blue wildebeest, kudu, gemsbuck, sable, roan and leopard;
  - (c) 16.2 g. (250 gr.) for hunting furred game larger than the species contemplated in sub-paragraph (1)(b) up to and including lion, buffalo and giraffe; and
  - (d) 19.5 g. (300gr.) for hunting furred game larger than the species contemplated in sub-paragraph (1)(c) up to and including elephant, rhinoceros and hippopotamus.
- (2) The minimum barrel length of any permissible handgun is 100 mm.

#### **Permissible bows for bow hunting**

6. The following are acceptable types of bows for bow hunting—
- (a) longbow;
  - (b) recurve bow; and
  - (c) compound bow.

#### **Minimum requirements for bow hunting**

7. (1) The minimum requirements to hunt specific categories of wild or alien animals by means of bow and arrow are the following—
- (a) For wild or alien animals of a small size, including gamebirds, small carnivores, hares, hyraxes, rabbits and pygmy antelope, the—
    - (i) kinetic energy should not be less than 30ft/lbs; and
    - (ii) arrow weight should not be less than 300 grains;
  - (b) For wild or alien animals of medium size, including reedbuck, impala, blesbuck, warthog, bushpig, springbuck and nyala, the—
    - (i) kinetic energy should not be less than 50ft/lbs; and
    - (ii) arrow weight should not be less than 380 grains;
  - (c) For wild or alien animals of large size, including wildebeest, kudu, gemsbuck, zebra, waterbuck, sable and hartebeest, the—
    - (i) kinetic energy should not be less than 60ft/lbs; and
    - (ii) arrow weight should not be less than 415 grains;
  - (d) Cape buffalo, the—

- (i) kinetic energy should not be less than 80ft/lbs; and
- (ii) arrow weight should not be less than 750 grains; and
- (e) Giraffe, the—
  - (i) kinetic energy should not be less than 90ft/lbs; and
  - (ii) arrow weight should not be less than 750 grains.

(2) In addition to the requirements contemplated in sub-paragraph (1) the following conditions apply with regards to the use of mechanical broad heads—

- (a) for species contemplated in sub-paragraphs (1)(a), (1)(b) and (1)(c), 5% additional kinetic energy is required;
- (b) broad heads must have at least two cutting edges; and
- (c) the minimum permitted arrow length is 50cm.

#### **Falconry**

8. (1) Minimum requirements for falconers—
- (a) only Master, A and B Grade Falconers should be authorized by the issuing authority to trap wild birds of prey;
  - (b) wild-caught birds of prey should be released back into the wild in good condition when they are no longer used for the purpose of falconry or included in a breeding programme in consultation with the issuing authority;
  - (c) captive-bred indigenous birds of prey that are no longer required may be kept in captivity for breeding purposes, released into the wild, or passed onto another registered falconer approved or nominated by their club;
  - (d) alien birds of prey may not be released into the wild;
  - (e) all birds of prey kept in captivity must be individually marked with a tamper-proof ring bearing a unique number;
  - (f) the breeder must maintain a record of all breeding birds of prey in his / her possession and their off-spring; and
  - (g) the record should include one feather from each bird, including both parents and off-spring.
- (5) Passage hawks may be captured throughout the year.

- (6) Adult birds of prey may not be captured from the wild.

**Inclusion of game birds in provincial hunting proclamations**

9. Game birds must meet all of the following criteria for consideration to be included in the provincial hunting proclamation—

- (a) the species belongs to one of the traditional gamebird groups of guinea fowl, francolins, partridges, doves and pigeons, ducks and geese, quail, sand grouse and snipe;
- (b) the species has a high reproductive potential;
- (c) the species is common to abundant in at least in one or more biomes;
- (d) the population status of the species is stable or increasing in abundance or distribution; and
- (e) the species is edible for human consumption.

**Short title and commencement**

10. These norms and standards are called the National Norms and Standards for Hunting Methods in South Africa, 2011, and take effect on a date determined by the Minister in the Gazette.