

LIONS IN CAPTIVITY AND LION HUNTING IN SOUTH AFRICA – AN UPDATE

31 March 2009

A REPORT COMMISSIONED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPCAs
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1. Background.

Over the past decade South Africa has become one of the worlds' top destinations for hunters who pay large amounts of money to shoot lions, (*Panthera leo*), most which have been raised in captivity. Very few free ranging lions are hunted in South Africa.

The practice of hunting animals that have been raised in captivity has been strongly condemned, both locally and internationally, by a diverse cross-section of society ranging from animal welfare and animal rights supporters to conservation organizations and professional and amateur hunting associations.

The hunting of lions raised in captivity in South Africa, widely referred to as “canned hunting,” first attracted international attention after the 1997 broadcast of the so called “Cook report,” a British television report which showed shocking footage of lions being shot near the Kruger National Park.

The South African government has regularly stated that the practice must be stopped and the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Marthinus van Schalkwyk last year introduced regulations intended, in part, to regulate the hunting of captive raised predators. Lions were removed from the list of “large predators” after the South African Predator Breeders Association (SAPBA) announced its intention to challenge the regulations in court. SAPBA said the regulations would bring about the collapse of the industry.

The High Court in Bloemfontein is still to hand down judgment, a judgment which will have far reaching implications for the welfare of lions in South Africa (31 March 2009).

This report, commissioned by the NSPCA, is intended to provide an update on the number of lions in captivity, the number of lions hunted, and to draw attention to some of the more important issues concerning the industry which has grown considerably since the 1990s.

2. Summary.

The hunting of captive lions in South Africa has increased dramatically over the past three years despite repeated commitments by government that the industry would be brought under control and that “canned hunting” would be outlawed.

The hunting of captive bred lions is in fact at an all time high and the SAPBA estimated in January this year that about 1 050 lions were hunted in South Africa in 2008. Nearly all of these animals were raised in captivity.

This is a more than 300% increase on the 322 lions the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) says were hunted in 2006 and a 35% on their 2007 figure of 700.

DEAT itself (as of 31 March 2009) has no figures available for 2008 as the department does not keep a centralized data-base of lion hunting statistics and all information has to be collated from the provinces.

“The statistics for the 2008 hunting season are not available yet, as the period for reporting only ended 31 December 2008, and many of the officials responsible for compiling the annual reports are currently attending international hunting conventions in the USA and Europe,” Bonani Madikizela, Director of Regulation and Monitoring Services at DEAT, said on 2 February 2009 in a written response to questions submitted as part of the research for this report.

DEAT can also not say how many of the lions hunted were bred in captivity although they acknowledged that “most of the lions that were hunted have been bred in captivity, since the number of wild lions available for trophy hunting is limited.”

“However, DEAT cannot provide a breakdown of numbers of captive bred versus wild lions,” Madikizela said. “The reason is that, when reports have to be compiled on the hunting statistics, it is not required to indicate whether a hunted lion was captive bred or wild.”

DEAT said that hunters paid more than R93 million in 2007, and more than R49 million in 2006, to hunt lions. This does not include fees for accommodation, taxidermy and other costs usually incurred by hunters.

DEAT could also not provide the latest figures for the number of lions in captivity in South Africa but said that a report on the subject had been commissioned and should be completed by the end of February 2009. As at 31 March 2009 information from DEAT was that the report had not yet been received.

“The decision to make the report available rests with the Minister once the report has been received,” DEAT said in a statement. DEAT declined to name the service provider commissioned to write the report.

Although figures from other sources vary there are at least 3 500 – 4 000 lions in captivity in South Africa. In 2006 it was estimated that there were about 3 500.

The chairman of the SAPBA Carel van Heerden said in a recent interview for this report that there were “more than 3 000” lions in captivity although a SAPBA legal

representatives told the Bloemfontein High Court during the court case with the Minister of Environmental Affairs that about 4 000 lions would be affected if the industry was closed down. According to figures provided by the North West and Free State provinces there are at least 3 200 captive lions in these two provinces alone.

There are 159 breeding facilities in North West and Free State alone and 16 lion hunting farms.

The recent growth in the lion hunting industry has taken place despite Minister van Schalkwyk saying in 2007 that new legislation (formulated in terms of the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act: Threatened or Protected Species Regulations [TOPS]), would outlaw “canned hunting” and force hunters and breeders of captive predators to adhere to strict regulations.

“The days of captive breeding of listed species for any purpose except science and conservation are over.” The Minister said.

Although the Minister said he was determined to clean up the predator hunting industry lions were removed from the regulations when the SAPBA challenged their implementation in the High Court. Although the original regulations were intended to come into force in June 2007 this only happened on 1 February 2008 after lions had been removed from the list of “large predators”.

This has left the door open for the continued hunting of captive bred lions, hunting that is regulated only by existing provincial rules.

The TOPS regulations initially stipulated that lions raised in captivity must be allowed to range free for two years before being hunted. The SAPBA argued that the clauses concerning lions would make it impossible for predator breeders to make a living and said that this would also have a negative impact on employment in some rural areas and deprive the local economies of significant revenue brought into the country by foreign hunters.

The SAPBA warned that many of its members had threatened to simply abandon their lions if the new regulations made hunting economically unsustainable. This would require large numbers of lions to be placed in specialized lion sanctuaries or euthanized. Animal welfare specialists say that South Africa does not have nearly enough sanctuaries to deal with the more than 3 500 lions in captivity.

Although all legal argument in the case between the SAPBA and the Minister has been heard it is not clear when the High Court in Bloemfontein will hand down judgment. Lawyers for both parties believe that the judgment will be made soon (as of 31 March 2009).

It is likely that the judgment will be appealed by one party or the other creating a further delay, anticipated to be at least a year, before regulations relating to lions can be implemented.

The issue of restricting lion breeding and “canned hunting” has been discussed by government since at least 1997 when Parliament was told by DEAT that “the development of a national policy in which the hunting of lions, amongst other things, will be addressed and has been initiated. The possibility of placing a moratorium on the establishment of new hunting and breeding facilities is being investigated. The announcement of such a moratorium is, however, subject to the consent of all nine provincial administrations. An audit of all lion hunting licenses is being undertaken with a view to identify parties guilty of unethical practices and to withdrawing their licenses.”

Animal welfare and animal rights supporters have, although they are entirely opposed to breeding of predators for hunting, repeatedly said that government must accept that the more than 3 500 lions in captivity are a fact which cannot be wished away and that the considerable welfare concerns surrounding the animals must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

In June 2006 the Sunday Independent newspaper in Johannesburg ran a story quoting animal welfare experts warning of “a looming animal welfare disaster” if the implementation of the planned TOPS regulations resulted in thousands of lions being abandoned but DEAT has still not announced what plans it has to deal with this possibility.

DEAT said earlier this month it was still awaiting the report into the lion breeding industry it had commissioned

“Since DEAT is waiting for the final report from the service provider on the scope of the lion breeding industry, information on any strategies or plans cannot be made available at the moment,” Madikizela said.

An additional matter of concern is that statistics released by DEAT, the provinces and those of the SAPBA, vary and it is sometimes difficult to establish a clear picture of the scale of the industry. Figures supplied were only corrected after they were queried. Other recent studies show this applies to record keeping on other species, such as elephants and rhinos, as well. In this instance DEAT did not agree with the statistics supplied by North West and in the case of Limpopo the province did not supply any information at all despite an official promising to do so in writing and also verbally.

The example for the number of lions hunted in 2007 is illustrative. Asked to supply figures for this report DEAT said in writing that 635 lions were hunted in 2007. This contrasted with the figure of 702 lions which DEAT told Parliament (on 22 August 2008) were hunted in 2007.

North West said, also in writing (on 12 February 2008), that 832 lions were hunted in the province in 2007. After these figures had been queried DEAT later said that the correct figure was 700 and that the North West figure had been incorrectly collated by a service provider. DEAT also said that their earlier figure of 635 had been incorrectly supplied and was the figure for North West alone. They added 65 lions had been hunted in other provinces.

It is also understood from sources within the industry that some free ranging lions on private game reserves in other provinces are “unofficially” sold to hunting operations in North West. Lions bred in Limpopo are also sold to hunters in North West.

It has also been learnt from other sources that the recent surge in the numbers of hunted lions is an indication that breeders want to “clear their stock” because they are uncertain about the future of the industry.

3. Lions hunted in South Africa:

In order to collate lion hunting figures DEAT has to contact each individual province annually, often an extremely slow process. (A similar process if followed for figures relating to elephant and rhino hunting).

As noted the figures on lion hunting released by some provinces also do not always match those supplied by DEAT or the SAPBA.

SAPBA’s van Heerden said that approximately 1 050 lions, nearly all of which were bred in captivity, were hunted in 2008.

He said that most of these lions were hunted in North West Province but figures from that province indicate that only 435 lions were hunted there in 2008. It is unclear why there is such a large difference.

The Free State reported that 36 six lions were hunted in the province in 2008 and relatively small number of lions were hunted in the Eastern Cape. Limpopo did not provide figures.

Examples of lion hunting statistics supplied by the SAPBA, DEAT and the most significant lion hunting provinces are given below. These answers were supplied in writing by the various respondents in late January and early February 2009.

SA Predator Breeders Association:

2008 – 1 050.

2007 – 702.

DEAT:

(figures released on 2 February 2009)

2008 – no figures available yet.

2007 – 700 (Although in response to Parliamentary question No. 1442 on 22 August 2008 the Department said the figure for 2008 was 702 – Annexure 1, page 18. North West province initially said that 832 lions were hunted there in 2007 but DEAT later said this figure was inaccurate.)).

2006 – 322. (North West province says that 423 lions were hunted there in 2006 – see North West figures below and also Annexure 2, page 20).

2005 – 305.

2004 – 190.

North West Province and Free State:

Although the SAPBA says that these two provinces account for the vast majority of lions hunted in South Africa the combined figures are much lower than the SAPBA total for 2008.

North West:

Figures supplied by the North West Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment. (DACE)

2008 – 495.

2007 – 832 (This is higher than both the DEAT and the SAPBA figures)

2006 - 423 (Former MEC for Agriculture, Conservation and Environment Mandlenkosi Mayisela said in a press release on 22 February 2007 that “The province dominates the large predator hunting industry and accounts for 80% of the lions hunted in South Africa every year. In 2006 a total of 423 lions were hunted in the province.” DEAT says the correct figure is 322.)

Free State.

Figures supplied by the Free State Department of Tourism, Environmental & Economic Affairs (DTEEA).

2008 – 36

2007 – 2

Limpopo

DEAT said on 22 August 2008 that 12 lions were hunted in the province in 2007.

The province had not provided any other figures at time of publication.

Eastern Cape.

A small number of captive bred lions are hunted in this province.

KwaZulu-Natal

The province does not allow hunting of captive raised predators. DEAT said on 22 August 2008 that 2 lions were hunted in the province in 2007.

Mpumalanga.

DEAT said on 22 August 2008 that 2 lions were hunted in the province in 2007.

Western Cape

No lions are hunted in the province.

Northern Cape

No captive bred lions are known to be hunted in this province.

Gauteng

No captive lions are known to be hunted in Gauteng.

4. Number of lions held in captivity in South Africa.

DEAT could not provide figures showing the number of lions currently in captivity in South Africa,

“DEAT has appointed a Service Provider to compile a report on the captive breeding of lion in South Africa. The final report is due not later than end of February 2009. The information is thus not available to DEAT yet,” Madikizela said on 2 February 2009.

SAPBA:

The SAPBA's van Heerden estimates that there more than 3 000 lions currently in captivity in South Africa, the majority in North West Province, followed by the Free State and Limpopo with some animals being bred being raised in Eastern Cape and Gauteng.

Some facilities breed white lions. Smaller numbers of lions are kept in other provinces.

The SAPBA has about 123 members including 65 in the Free State. The majority of other members are in North West province and include predator breeders and owners of hunting farms.

Not all predator breeders are members of the SAPBA and not all lion hunting farms are members. Not all breeding farms raise lions for hunting.

North West Province:

There are 52 breeding facilities and 12 hunting facilities in the province. Hunting does not take place at the same facilities where breeding occurs. Lions have to be released at least 96 hours before being hunted.

(Lions by district)

Dr Kenneth Kaunda District - 453

Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District - 537

Ngaka Modiri Molema District -1000

Bojanala District – 256

Total – 2 246

Free State

There are 107 approved predator breeding facilities in the Free State with approximately 1000 lions. There are four approved hunting farms and each has a permit to possess 10 lions a time for hunting on 1000 hectares of land. The lions have to be released from enclosures for a period of three months before being hunted.

Leopards, cheetahs and other predators, including jaguars and other exotic animals. are also kept at some centres. It is illegal to hunt jaguars and other exotic predators in the Free State.

The DTEEA said that lion hunting had for a period been stopped “until farmers erected at least 1000 hectare enclosures” on farms where hunting takes place.

Limpopo

There are a number of large lion breeding facilities in the province.
Some white lions are bred in the province.

Gauteng:

There are a number of properties, some of which are members of the SAPBA, that hold lions in captivity. The Lion Park north of Johannesburg has approximately 80 lions.

Eastern Cape

There are a number of properties in the province that hold lions in captivity.
The Seaview Game and Lion Park near Port Elizabeth has about 55 lions.
Some white lions are bred here and elsewhere in the province.

Western Cape

There are a number of facilities with lions in captivity.
There are also some white lions in the province.

KwaZulu Natal.

It is not legal to breed large predators in this province.

Mpumalanga

There are no large registered lion breeding facilities in the province.

Northern Cape.

No large registered lion breeding facilities in the province..

5. Monetary value of lion breeding and hunting industry.

Lion breeders and hunters say that they generate large amounts of money, some of which is ploughed back into local economies through job creation, the purchasing of meat from local communities (to feed the lions) and tourism opportunities. The information below is not intended as definitive but rather to give an indication of the scale of the industry.

According to DEAT lion hunting generated some R97 104 200 in 2007 and R49 240 240 in 2006. These figures reflect only the species fee and DEAT have not included income generated from accommodation and taxidermy fees in this figure.

Using the hunting figures DEAT supplied for this report (2007 – 635 lions hunted and 2006 – 322 lions hunted) the fee per lion averages R152 920.

Figures provided by North West and Free State provinces vary considerably.

Werner Boing, Acting Deputy Director, Compliance, Law Enforcement and Permit Office, at Free State DTEEA said that the cost of a lion hunt in the province was between 20 000 and 34 000 Euro. (At an exchange rate of R12.38 to the Euro - 8th February 2009 - this amounts R247 600 and R420 920 respectively).

Not all lions are hunted and some are kept for their tourism value only. A six year old male lion fetches in the region of R120 000.

North West DACE said it costs about R6 500 to hunt a female lions and R25 000 to hunt a male lion. (Although these figures appear low compared to other published figures a spokesperson for the department insisted they are correct).

In February 2007 North West province's DACE said in a statement (See Annexure 2, page 20) that in the period October 2004 to September 2005 professional lion hunting brought in approximately US \$ 6 million (R42 million rand at the time) in hunting fees for the province. DACE said that North West accounted for 80% of the lions hunted in South Africa. They claimed that the industry in the province employs some 900 people and lion breeders had invested some R700 million and land and infrastructural development.

6. Monitoring of lion hunting and breeding facilities.

DEAT says that the registration of any captive breeding facility involving listed threatened or protected species (TOPS) is compulsory in terms of the TOPS regulations and that it is the responsibility of provincial authorities to monitor these facilities and issue permits.

The Department also states that in terms of the TOPS regulations it is currently not compulsory for conservation officials to be present during lion hunts.

Free State:

All lions have to be micro-chipped. An official from Free State DTEEA has to be present when the lion is hunted. The animal is checked against the microchip register which has to be completed before another permit is issued.

There have been a number of prosecutions in recent years. Last year one man was prosecuted for attempting to illegally sell seven lions. The Department can issue spot fines for keeping lions in inadequately sized enclosures but the breeders usually pay an admission of guilt fine. These is in the region of R1000 – R6000 rand.

North West

North West's DACE said that they have conducted an extensive audit of predator breeding facilities and owners were given the opportunity to "correct their facilities to comply" with the latest provincial regulations. Any irregularities were communicated to breeders.

"We are now doing the last phase of the audit which is re-inspection after gaps were identified in each farm. Clients are very cooperative and we hope to achieve 100% compliance despite a few challenges," DACE said in a written response to questions in early February. "The next step will be to hand over cases of non-compliance to our Law Enforcement Unit for further investigation and subsequently open a case with the SAPS.

The level of compliance has been increasing since we started with the exercise. We also constantly monitor the process. "

The NSPCA also has the right to inspect both breeding and hunting and facilities.

7. Captive raised lions exported from South Africa, 2000-2007.

Lions raised in captivity are not only hunted or used as tourist attraction and live animals are also sold internationally.

According to the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna) register a total of 119 live captive raised lions were exported through South Africa in between 2000 and 2007. (Figures for 2008 were unavailable at time of writing).

Of the 119 animals traded the register shows that 62 were listed as being sent to circuses.

Captive raised lions exported from South Africa, 2000-2007.

2000	6
2001	9
2002	2
2003	5
2004	19
2005	15
2006	40
2007	23
Total	119

Captive raised lions exported from South Africa to circuses 2000 -2007.

2000	3
2001	2
2002	14
2003	10
2004	4
2005	9
2006	7
2007	14
Total	62

8. Welfare issues.

A variety of organizations, including the NSPCA, have regularly expressed their opposition to the raising of animals in captivity for hunting and called for the practice to be outlawed.

During the consultation process followed in 2005 during the formulation of the TOPS regulations various organizations noted that they believed the practice of canned hunting, irrespective of species hunted, is as unethical and directly linked to animal abuse that is unacceptable by society at large.

In addition to the perceived cruelty involved in hunting lions raised in captivity they pointed out a wide range of other welfare issues related to this practice. These included, but were not restricted, to:

- a) The quality of life of the animals while they are growing to a suitable size for shooting.
- b) The quality of life of lions kept in enclosures as tourist attractions;

- c) The fate of animals not suitable for hunting.
- d) The practice of removing cubs from their mothers while very young in order to trigger oestrous in the adult female so she can breed again as soon as possible;
- e) The use of growth stimulants and genetic manipulation to try and increase the size of captive lions;
- f) The manner in which the animals used to feed the lions are killed. Many breeders buy donkeys from local communities for this purpose or buy other unwanted animals.

Over and above these issues Advocate Alex Danzfuss, representing SAPBA, told the Bloemfontein High Court that should the industry be shut down about 4 000 lions may have, in the absence of other alternatives, to be euthanized. Should this ever be attempted it would be an enormously difficult task to ensure that humane and efficient processes are followed.

There are insufficient private sanctuaries in South Africa to deal with the large numbers of lions held in captivity and there are no state run sanctuaries. The cost of feeding, housing and veterinary care for captive lions is also high.

The NSPCA and other organizations have on numerous occasions over the past few years encouraged government to formulate plans to deal with this potential situation but it is currently not known what, if any, plans are in place. The NSPCA has expressed its concerns in writing to the Minister that the delay in implementation will give unscrupulous lion farmers the leeway to try and hunt out their “stock” during this interim period, and that canned hunting is likely to continue.

DEAT said on 2 February 2009 that the Department was awaiting its report on the captive breeding of lions in South Africa and could therefore not yet discuss any plans dealing with the issue.

“The final report is due not later than end of February 2009. The information is thus not available to DEAT yet,” Madikizela, said. “Since DEAT is waiting for the final report from the service provider on the scope of the lion breeding industry, information on any strategies or plans cannot be made available at the moment.”

9. SA Predator Breeders Association.

In an interview on 26 January 2008 the chairman of SAPBA Carel van Heerden said his organization feared that the TOPS regulations as proposed by DEAT in 2007 would result in the lion breeding and hunting industry collapsing. This would have far reaching economic consequences and result in thousands of unwanted lions being abandoned.

“The regulations could result in the collapse of the entire industry,” van Heerden said in Vryburg, North West Province. “The farmers have invested large amounts of money in land and infrastructure and they have also paid for lions and their upkeep so if the government intends expropriating their property (lions) they must pay market value.”

“If they don’t pay the farmers have said they will have to kill the animals which will be a disaster,” van Heerden said. “Some said they might also just abandon the animals which will also be a disaster. We could end up with thousands of lions no-one wants.”

Van Heerden said that his organization had challenged the regulation in the Bloemfontein High Court on the grounds that proper constitutional procedures had not been followed and that the regulations, if implemented in the original form, would deprive farmers of the right to make a living by selling or hunting lions, a business they had been allowed to conduct for many years.

The regulations require, amongst a range of other stipulations, that captive lions must be allowed to roam free and support itself for at least two years before being hunted. An advocate representing the SAPBA told the court that it would cost R260 000 in food (animals brought at auctions) for each lion over this period. This, he argued, would make the industry financially unsustainable.

Van Heerden said that lion breeders were faced with a business dilemma.

“It’s a catch 22...the farmers and hunters want to proceed with their businesses that they have been running for years but now can’t make proper plans because the new regulations may make it impossible to run their businesses profitably,” He said. “Our members are sitting waiting to hear how to proceed. I have had members who are in the US trying to sell hunts calling me every day to find out what is happening with the court case. The uncertainty is killing everyone.”

“Things are not looking good. The economic climate and financial stagnation worldwide is also going to have an impact on the industry,” he added. “Last years figures show an increase because people wanted to try and sell hunts while they could. It is definitely not going to be the same this year.”

He conceded that there were “bad elements” within the industry but said that most members were eager to be seen as a respectable part of the hunting industry in South Africa.

“We know that some people in the industry take chances. At the bottom end of the scale you might get guys who buy a lion, put it on some land and then jump in a bakkie and go and hunt it on a Saturday afternoon. Then they say the lion crossed the border from Botswana or something like that,” he said. “We want to eliminate that bad element. We want to be given the authority to issue permits so that we can closely monitor the industry.”

“If they (government) give us that authority we can help ensure that the industry is well regulated and properly monitored, that enclosures are the right size and that the animals are properly cared for,” he added. “We want to make sure that the industry is seen as a

respectable part of the hunting industry in South Africa. Our members like hunting but not unethical hunting.”

Van Heerden said that his organization believed that lion breeders and hunter had been unfairly singled out.

“All other hunting in South Africa is also done in a controlled environment. Lion hunting is no different. Why be selective?” he asked. “Show me a farmer who doesn’t feed his rhino. Show me farmer who doesn’t supply extra food to his antelope, particularly in winter.”

“The government must either be in support of hunting or it must not. The government can’t support of hunting on certain issues and not others,” he said. “How come the hunting organizations oppose us? It is all political maneuvering with some of them trying to win the support of government. Many of our members are members of PHASA (Professional Hunters Association of South Africa) and if they (PHASA) were to be honest in their claims that they don’t support the breeding of predators for hunting they should expel these members.

“Because lion hunting is a sensitive political issue it has been given a bad name...we hear all these references to “canned hunting” of lions but all hunting in South Africa is takes place under controlled circumstances,” he said. “The situation regarding controlled hunting should have been resolved long ago. We think they should have made a decision as long three years ago.”

Van Heerden said SAPBA has requested many meetings with the Minister.

“We really want to discuss the practical implications of suggested regulations. The matter must be resolved and if the Minister himself does not get involved I don’t see how we can proceed,” van Heerden said. “We seldom hear anything from the Minister of DEAT on the issue so we don’t know what their plans are [to deal with captive lions] after the court case decision is announced.”

10. Hunting Associations.

A number of hunting associations have repeatedly expressed their opposition their opposition to “canned hunting”.

CHASA (The Confederation of National Hunters Associations of South Africa), which represents 19 of 21 hunting associations in South Africa states in its policy on “canned hunting” that “responsible hunters totally reject the shooting of canned lions, and also reject the “hunting” of any other species under similar circumstances.”

CHASA adds that “When we then reject the shooting of canned lion, we must not overreact and reject all forms of lion hunting. Game conservationists acknowledge that

sustainable utilisation and game management require fenced areas, and this must apply to lions as well. But lion hunts in these areas must then be conducted according to ethical norms which comply with the requirements of fair chase, and in suitable habitat where the lion is self-sufficient.”

PHASA is also strongly opposed to canned hunting in any form.

Former president of PHASA Steward Dorrington said in a 2006 article that “To this end PHASA has taken a very strong stand against the hunting of captive bred lions and we reject the hunting of any captive bred large predator under any condition. We don’t want canned lions! It discredits hunting and it serves no conservation purpose!”

Although most hunting associations and organizations have publicly stated their opposition to “canned hunting” professional hunters are present during most lion hunts in South Africa and DEAT has confirmed the vast majority of the animals shot have been raised in captivity.

11. Annexures

Annexure 1

Ref: 02/1/5/2

**MINISTER
QUESTION NO. 1442 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

A draft reply to Mr G R Morgan (DA) to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**Ms. Nosipho Ngcaba
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1442

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 24 of 2008

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 22 August 2008

Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

What was the actual number of species hunted according to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) permit system in each province in 2007?

1442. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

ANSWERS:

The table indicates the actual number of animals listed in the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) hunted by foreign clients in each province in 2007. Data for the Eastern Cape (EC) was not available at time of compilation.

Common Name	Scientific Name	NC	WC	FS	LP	GP	MP	KZN	EC	NW	Total per species
Aardwolf	<i>Proteles cristatus</i>	4									4
Baboon	<i>Papio hamadryas</i>	12	1	15	88	3	12	8			69
Barbary Sheep	<i>Ammotragus lervia</i>	26									26
Bontebok	<i>Damaliscus dorcas dorcas</i>	59	5	17							81
Caracal	<i>Felis caracal</i>	33		40	14	2	2	4		5	100
Civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>			2	19						21
Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>				3		5	1		34	43
Elephant	<i>Loxodonta Africana</i>				12		6	4		5	27
Hippo	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>				8		26	3		19	56
Lechwe	<i>Kobus leche</i>	60		64			16			23	163
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>				10		4	1		5	20
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>			52	9		2	2		637	702
Mongoose Yellow	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>	15									15
Common Name	Scientific Name	NC	WC	FS	LP	GP	MP	KZN	EC	NW	Total per species
Monkey Vervet	<i>Chlorocebus aethiops</i>	30 8	1	3	43		5	10			370
Oryx Arabian	<i>Oryx leucoryx</i>	2									2
Oryx Scimitar Horned	<i>Oryx dammah</i>	17		6							23
Rhino Black	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>									1	1
Rhino	<i>Ceratotherium</i>	12		18	25	4	19			78	156

White	<i>simum</i>										
Serval	<i>Leptailurus serval</i>				1		16				17
Sitatunga	<i>Tragelaphus spekei</i>	2		22							24
Tsessebe	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>	11		7		2	5			1	26
Wild cat African	<i>Felis lybica</i>	7		13	18						38
Zebra Hartmann	<i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>	25		11	7						43
Total animals hunted											2140

Annexure 2

North West predator game farmers not happy with the new regulation for lion hunting

20 February 2007

Mafikeng-North West MEC for Agriculture, Conservation and Environment Mandlenkosi Merisel held a meeting with lion farmers from across the province this afternoon over the newly published national regulations on threatened and protected species promulgated by the national Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Marthinus van Schalkwyk.

The new national regulations, to take effect on 1 June 2007, require that a lion be free to roam for 24 months on a farm before it can be hunted. In contrast, the regulations of the North West province currently require the animal to be free roaming for only 96 hours. "It is the feeling of my lion farming stakeholders that the extended time frame required by the new national regulations will almost certainly kill their industry. I have some sympathy with their perspective on the matter and hope to engage the national Minister rigorously on this matter," said Mayisela.

The North West province places great socio-economic value on professional lion hunting. **The province dominates the large predator hunting industry and accounts for 80% of the lions hunted in South Africa every year. In 2006, a total of 423 lions were hunted in the province.** Large predator hunting is also a significant revenue earner. In the period October 2004 to September 2005 professional lion hunting brought in 6 million US dollars (+R42 m) in hunting fees for the province.

The province has a population of 1 700 lions in captivity, worth an estimated 85 million rand, with over 900 employees and infrastructure and land investments of over 700 million rands. Communities such as Ganyesa in the Bophirima district make significant living by supplying donkeys to the lion farmers.

Expressing the general views of the lion farmers, Carel van Heerden, chairperson of the South African Predator Breeders Association, said the new regulations will most certainly shut down the industry. He said the farmers are all shocked at the stiffness of the regulations as they stand. He explained that it is an expensive exercise to keep a single lion, and having to wait for 24 months before a hunt can take place, will make predator breeding for hunting purpose unviable, resulting in massive loss of jobs and income for farmers and workers alike.

MEC Mayisela believes the industry is already well managed in his province. To keep lions, predator game farmers are required to obtain permits, have electrified perimeter fencing of hunting and lion keeping areas, have large, well-fenced enclosures and large tracks of land for the roaming of animals. They also have to obtain permits to hunt animals and transport the animals.

"Our attitude as a province and as the industry is not to prevent the national Minister from regulating, but what we hope for is to have an opportunity to engage the Minister on the inevitable impact of these regulations on the industry should they remain as they are," said MEC Mayisela.

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