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GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

No. 148

13 February 2009

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: BIODIVERSITY ACT, 2004 (ACT NO. 10 OF 2004)**

I, Marthinus Christoffel Johannes van Schalkwyk, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, hereby announce a national moratorium on the trade of individual rhinoceros horns and any derivatives or products of the horns within South Africa under Section 57(2) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004). The moratorium will take effect immediately and will stay in place until further notice.



MARTHINUS VAN SCHALKWYK
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 170 OF 2009

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: BIODIVERSITY ACT, 2004 (ACT NO. 10 OF 2004)

MARKING OF RHINOCEROS HORN AND HUNTING OF WHITE RHINOCEROS FOR TROPHY HUNTING PURPOSES

I, Marthinus Christoffel Johannes van Schalkwyk, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism hereby publish in terms of Section 9(1)(a) norms and standards for the marking of rhinoceros horn and the hunting of white rhinoceros for trophy hunting purposes as set out in Schedule hereto.

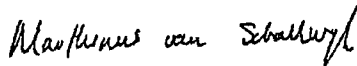
Any person who wishes to submit written representations and/or objections to the proposed norms and standards are invited to do so within 30 days of the publication of this notice. All representations and comments must be submitted in writing to the Director-General of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

By post to: The Director-General: Environmental Affairs and Tourism
Attention: Mrs. Sonja Meintjes
Private Bag X447
PRETORIA
0001

Delivered to: The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
Attention: Mrs. Sonja Meintjes
Fedsure Building
North Tower Room 1213
315 Pretorius Street
PRETORIA

By fax to: (012) 320 7026, and by e-mail to smeintjes@deal.gov.za

Any inquiries in connection with the draft regulations can be directed to Mrs. Sonja Meintjes at Tel. (012) 310-3545. Comments received after the closing date may not be considered.



MARTHINUS VAN SCHALKWYK
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

SCHEDULE

1. Marking of rhino horn

- 1.1 All live rhinos sold and transported after the commencement of these procedures that have not been micro-chipped before, whether on private or state land must be micro-chipped with one microchip in each of the horns. All individual rhino horns in private or state possession must be micro-chipped in accordance with the regulations pertaining to threatened or protected species (TOPS).
- 1.2 The circumference, inner length and outer length of all horns must be measured. In addition, all horns must be photographed. Photographs must be of a good quality for easy identification of horns. The drill shavings from the horns must be collected and stored by the relevant issuing authority, in a sealed container. The microchip number must be placed in the container, as well as attached to the outside of the container. The information of each container must be entered into a register with all the relevant details and kept in a safe. This is applicable to all horns obtained after commencement of this procedure.
- 1.3 Rhino horns originating from natural mortalities, and which is not micro-chipped, must be micro-chipped by the permit issuing authority and all relevant information as prescribed above, must be collected and stored from the date of commencement of this procedure. Such mortalities must be reported to the authority within 14 days. Micro-chipping of any rhinos or rhino horns must be done by the relevant issuing authority. The owner of the rhino horn is responsible for the costs of the microchips.
- 1.4 The above information must be kept in a provincial database and any changes resulting from translocation, export out of a province, natural mortalities, hunting etc. must be reflected in such database. The national Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) will develop the database and must keep a national database.

2. Management of the hunting of white rhino:

- 2.1 Trade in individual rhino horn and any derivatives or products of the horns are prohibited in terms of a national moratorium which has been approved by MinMec and published in Government Gazette No 21301 (Notice No. 835). Only horns that are exported as part of a hunting trophy may be exported with the necessary TOPS and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) permits.
- 2.2 All rhino hunts must be strictly controlled by means of an individual TOPS hunting permit issued by the issuing authority and must not be included on TOPS standing permits or game farm hunting permits. This will ensure that all rhino horn can be traced to the property where the hunt took place.

- 2.3 All applications for hunting of rhino received by the issuing authorities must be referred to the Directorate: Regulation and Monitoring Services at DEAT for recommendation. This will enable DEAT to compile a database for hunters and ensure that a hunter does not hunt more than one animal in different provinces per year.
 - 2.4 Rhino hunts should, where possible, take place under the supervision of a conservation official from the province concerned, subject to a permit being issued in the name of the hunter. Such official, whose contact details must be provided by the issuing authority, must be informed by the permit holder of the date and place of the hunt at least 24 hours before it takes place.
 - 2.5 Only one rhino may be hunted and exported for trophy purposes per person per year.
 - 2.6 No person will be allowed to export the horns of a rhino hunted as a trophy in personal baggage and horns may not be separated from the rest of the trophy immediately after the hunt. All parts of the trophy, including the horn must be transported to the taxidermist.
 - 2.7 The horns must be micro-chipped on the property where the hunt took place immediately after the hunt, if it is not already micro-chipped. Only an official from the issuing authority may micro-chip the horns of the hunting trophy.
 - 2.8 The professional hunting register must be completed immediately after termination of the hunt.
 - 2.9 The TOPS hunting permit must be signed by the hunter before commencement of the hunt. The owner or the manager of the game farm must sign off the permit after termination of the hunt, to confirm the success of the hunt.
 - 2.10 The hunting permit and a copy of the professional hunting register must accompany the rhino products (including the horns) which forms part of the hunting trophy, when being transported between destinations.
 - 2.11 The CITES export permit for the white rhino trophy must be endorsed by a conservation official at the port of exit prior to the export of the trophy.
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