



ASSESSMENT OF LION HUNTING DESTINATIONS FOR ACCREDITATION

1. THE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Authority

The Assessment Committee is a standing committee mandated and appointed by SAPA's Executive Council. It makes recommendations for approval by the SAPA Executive Council.

Composition

The Assessment Committee consists of:

- one member of the Executive Council as chair and facilitator.
- two consultants with a thorough knowledge of the wildlife industry appointed by the Executive Council; and
- An experienced professional hunter appointed by PHASA.

Functions

The functions of the Assessment Committee are:

- to consider the applicant's application and operator assessment and to decide if a formal assessment by the Assessment Committee is warranted;
- to execute a thorough on-site assessment of the applicant's lion keeping and hunting facilities and his practices based on the assessment protocol set out in the assessment score card (Appendix B);
- to convey its findings to the applicant and to provide explanations where necessary; and
- to make recommendations to the SAPA Executive Council regarding the accreditation of the applicant's lion hunting destination.

2. PROCEDURE

1. An applicant must be a **SAPA member** and the **owner of the land** where the legal lion hunting facility is situated or a **hunting outfitter** hiring the legal lion hunting facility from the landowner,
2. The lion hunting facilities owned by the applicant or where the outfitter is hiring and will be hunting, as well as the hunting procedures will be assessed.
3. An application for accreditation must be submitted, in writing, to the Chairperson of the Assessment Committee.
4. The Assessment Committee will acknowledge receipt of the application and provide the score card for evaluation by the operator (Appendix A), together with the policy document *Norms and standards for hunting captive-bred lions in SA* and SAPA's *Code of Conduct* to the applicant.
5. The applicant will assesses his/her lion hunting facility on the score card and submits the operator assessment to the Assessment Committee. The objective of the operator assessment is threefold:

- to enable the applicant to understand all the assessment criteria;
 - to gain experience in the application of the criteria to his own situation;
- to ensure full understanding of all the relevant evidence and documentation required for the formal assessment; and
 - to enable the applicant to do pro active preparation for the accreditation inspection.
6. If the applicant's operator assessment scores below 75% no formal assessment will be done. The Assessment Committee advises the applicant on areas for improvement. A second application may be submitted after the improvements have been made.
 7. If the applicant scores 75% or more:
 - the Assessment Committee will notify the applicant that a formal assessment will be done;
 - an assessment date is determined by mutual agreement between the Chairperson of the Assessment Committee and the applicant;
 - an assessment fee, to be determined by the Assessment Committee, will be charged prior to the assessment to cover travel and consulting costs;
 - the applicant will need to provide the members of the Assessment Committee with accommodation; and
 - the applicant must provide the members of the Assessment Committee with all information and documentation they may require.
 8. The Assessment Committee will visit the applicant's lion hunting facility and execute the assessment by inspecting and scoring the various criteria on the score card (Appendix B), with the applicant providing explanations when and where necessary.
 9. At least one member of the Assessment Committee accompanying the operator on an official lion hunt is an integral part of the assessment process.
 10. The Assessment Committee will deliberate on the detailed findings of the assessment in a spirit of transparency and fairness to reach a final unanimous conclusion.
 11. A minimum score of 85% is needed for an approval for accreditation.
 12. The Assessment Committee will report the outcome of the assessment to the SAPA Executive Council. In the case of an approval, they will recommend that a certificate of accreditation, valid for 5 years, but subject to annual revision, is awarded to the applicant's lion hunting destination.
 13. If the application is not approved, the applicant may re-apply for assessment after six months.
 14. The decision of the Executive Council will be conveyed to the applicant, in writing, by the Chairperson of the Assessment Committee.
 15. The decision of the Executive Council is final.
 16. The applicant may appeal the decision in a formal letter of appeal addressed to the Chairperson of the Assessment Committee stating the reason for the appeal.
 17. Once an official appeal has been lodged, it will be referred to the Executive Council for further investigation and processing.

APPENDIX A: APPLICANT'S ASSESSMENT

Name of applicant (indicate landowner or outfitter):

Name and location of lion hunting destination that accreditation is being applied for:

Assessment criteria (From SAPA's <i>Norms and Standards for hunting managed ranch lions in SA</i>)		Applicant's assessment (% against full compliance)	SAPA requirements
A2 Hunting facilities	1. Size of the hunting camp	%	Minimum provincial requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northwest: 1000 ha • Free State: 1000 ha • Eastern Cape: 2000 ha • KZN: minimum 5000 ha • Northern Cape: depends on individual application, but not less than 2000 ha SAPA recommends 2000 ha or more
	2. Positioning of the hunting camp : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance from breeding/keeping/holding camps • Presence of human environment factors 	%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 1 km away from breeding / keeping / holding camps • Preferably not adjacent to a public road. • Not in sight of human structures like buildings, power lines, towers, etc
	3. Suitability of the hunting camp: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suitability of fences • topography • availability of non-domesticated prey • availability of water • availability of roads • firebreaks 	%	Characteristics of suitability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural veld area • No cultivated land • Diversity of habitat • Sufficient non-domesticated prey available. • Water provisioned area

	<p>4. Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality accommodation • lodge area in relation to hunting area • skinning facilities • proficiency of trophy skinners • cold room facilities • hunting vehicles • warning signs • safes 	%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 3-star accommodation. • Accommodation not on or near the hunting area • Well equipped, reliable hunting vehicle • Clean and high quality skinning and cold room facilities • Experienced and skilled skinners
Sub-total		%	

<p>B2 Keeping for hunting (determines the human imprinting of the lions)</p>	<p>1. Keeping practices to minimize human imprinting</p>	%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum interaction with the human environment • No hand rearing • General “hands off” management techniques with regard to feeding, husbandry, medical care and environmental enrichment • Release management without tranquilizers.
	<p>2. Size and topography of keeping camps</p>	%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large keeping camps • Diversity of habitat • Enough bush, tree and rock cover
	<p>3. Physical condition of lions</p>	%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A suitable body condition (not under or over weight) • No “pot-bellied” lions to be offered for hunting
Sub-total		%	

D1 Permits	1. Documents for inspection (All documents, permits and registers required by law)	%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exemption permit • TOPS registration and permit • Transport and release permits of the previous two years to be audited by AC • The hunting register to be audited by AC
D2 Marking	2. Recording and identification system is compulsory	%	Register to support the recording and identification system
Sub-total		%	

E1 Marketing message	1. Marketing material reflects an authentic African hunt: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 day lion hunt within a wider hunting context • no “catalogue marketing” • no personification • no misrepresentation of facts • no fencing and/or other human structures visible on marketing material 	%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing material to be available for inspection • If marketing is done by outfitters the marketing material of the outfitters to be available for inspection
E2 Minimum disclosures in marketing material	1. That a managed ranch lion will be hunted 2. That it will be a walk-and-stalk hunt 3. That special arrangements may be made for disabled hunters 4. The topography of the hunting area 5. Facilities and infrastructure of the hunting venue	%	Check realities on hunting destination against claims on marketing material
Sub-total		%	

F1 Authenticity of the hunt	1. Feedback from clients commenting on the authenticity of the hunting experience	%	Feedback from clients to be available for inspection
F2 Requirements of an authentic African hunt	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Written contract with the client stipulating all vital aspects of the hunt 2. Time frame of the hunt: Enough time to ensure a fair chase walk-and-stalk hunt 3. Briefing the client before the hunt 4. Emergency procedures: what happens when things go wrong? 	%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal hunting contracts with clients are compulsory. Must be available for inspection • A formal declaration of indemnity on behalf of the applicant. To be available for inspection. • The required 7 day time frame for the hunt must be adhered to. • Emergency procedures must be communicated to the client.
F3 Hunting practices specifically prohibited	<p>Compliance with all prohibitions stipulated in the TOPS regulations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using a vehicle to hunt • using sound and scent to track • using artificial light • using bait • using dogs • using bow and arrow • using air craft • using radio/cell phone “trackers” • shooting from hides 	%	<p>Applicant to explain hunting procedure, especially with regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of vehicles • use of radio/cell phone trackers • bow hunting • shooting from hides

F4 Outfitters and PH's	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The applicant is primarily and finally responsible for the authenticity and quality of the hunt 2. This responsibility may not be delegated to outfitters 3. Applicant must have formal agreements with all outfitters operating on his land to ensure compliance to the terms of his accreditation 4. Applicant must have formal selection criteria for outfitters and PH's to ensure compliance with the terms of his accreditation 	%	If the applicant is not the outfitter, there must be an explicit agreement with the outfitter that he will operate within the terms of the SAPA accreditation. Agreement to be available for inspection.
Sub-total		%	

Total	%
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Applicant Name

Signature

Date

APPENDIX B: Assessment Committee's assessment

Name of applicant (indicate landowner or outfitter):

Name and location of lion hunting destination applied for accreditation:

Short description of the main features of the lion hunting destination:

Date of Assessment:

	Assessment criteria (From SAPA's <i>Norms and Standards for hunting ranch lions in SA</i>)	SAPA's requirements	AC's (%)	Explanation of SAPA's assessment
A2 Hunting facilities	1. Size of the hunting camp	Minimum provincial requirements: • Northwest: 1000 ha • Free State: 1000 ha • Eastern Cape: 2000 ha • KZN: minimum 5000 ha • Northern Cape: depends on individual application, but not less than 2000 ha SAPA recommends 2000 ha or more	%	

	<p>2. Positioning of the hunting camp :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance from breeding/keeping/holding camps • Presence of human environment factors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 1 km away from breeding/keeping/holding camps • Preferably not adjacent to a public road. • Preferably not in sight of human structures like buildings, power lines, towers, etc 	%	
	<p>3. Suitability of the hunting camp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suitability of fences • topography • availability of non-domesticated prey • availability of water • availability of roads • firebreaks 	<p>Characteristics of suitability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural veld area. • No cultivated land • Diversity of habitat • Sufficient non-domesticated prey available. • Water provisioned area 	%	
	<p>4. Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality accommodation • lodge area in relation to hunting area • skinning facilities • proficiency of trophy skinners • cold room facilities • hunting vehicles • warning signs • safes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 3 star accommodation • Accommodation not on or near the hunting area • Well equipped, reliable hunting vehicle • Clean and high quality skinning and cold room facilities • Experienced and skilled skinners 	%	
Sub-total			%	

B2 Keeping for hunting (determines the human imprinting of the lions)	1. Keeping practices to minimize human imprinting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum interaction with the human environment • No hand rearing • General “hands off” management techniques with regard to feeding, husbandry, medical care and environmental enrichment • Release management without tranquilizers. 	%	
	2. Size and topography of keeping camps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large keeping camps • Diversity of habitat • Enough bush, tree and rock cover 	%	
	3. Physical condition of lions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A suitable body condition (not under or over weight) • No “pot-bellied” lions to be offered for hunting 	%	
Sub-total			%	

D1 Permits	1. Documents for inspection (All documents, permits and registers required by law)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exemption permit • TOPS registration and permit • Transport and release permits of the previous two years to be audited by AC • The hunting register to be audited by AC 	%	
D2 Identification	2. Recording and identification system is compulsory	Register to support the recording and identification system	%	
Sub-total			%	

<p>E1 Marketing message</p>	<p>1. Marketing material reflects an authentic African hunt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 day lion hunt within a wider hunting context • no “catalogue marketing” • no personification • no misrepresentation of facts • no fencing and/or other human structures visible on marketing material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing material to be available for inspection. • If marketing is done by outfitters the marketing material of the outfitters to be available for inspection 	<p>%</p>	
<p>E2 Minimum disclosures in marketing material</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a managed ranch lion will be hunted 2. That it will be a walk-and-stalk hunt. 3. Special arrangements for disabled hunters. 4. The topography of the hunting area. 5. Facilities and infrastructure of the hunting venue 	<p>Check realities on hunting destination against claims on marketing material</p>	<p>%</p>	
<p>Sub-total</p>			<p>%</p>	

F1 Authenticity of the hunt	1. Feedback from clients commenting on the authenticity of the hunting experience	Feedback from clients to be available for inspection	%	
F2 Requirements of an authentic African hunt	2. Written contract with the client stipulating all vital aspects of the hunt 3. Time frame of the hunt: Enough time to ensure a fair chase walk-and-stalk hunt 4. Briefing the client before the hunt 5. Emergency procedures: what happens when things go wrong?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal hunting contracts with clients are compulsory. Must be available for inspection • A formal declaration of indemnity on behalf of the applicant. To be available for inspection. • The required 7 day time frame for the hunt must be adhered to. • Emergency procedures must be communicated to the client. 	%	
F3 Hunting practices specifically prohibited	6. Compliance with all prohibitions stipulated in the TOPS regulations, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using a vehicle to hunt • using sound and scent to track • using artificial light <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using bait • using dogs • using bow and arrow • using air craft • using radio/cell phone “trackers” • hunting from hides 	Applicant to explain hunting procedure, especially with regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of vehicles • use of radio/cell phone trackers • bow hunting • shooting from hides 	%	

F4 Outfitters and PH's	<p>7. The applicant is primarily and finally responsible for the authenticity and quality of the hunt</p> <p>8. This responsibility may not be delegated to outfitters</p> <p>9. Applicant must have formal agreements with all outfitters operating on his land to ensure compliance with the terms of his accreditation</p> <p>10. Applicant must have formal selection criteria for outfitters and PH's to ensure compliance with the terms of his accreditation</p>	<p>If the applicant is not the outfitter, there must be an explicit agreement with the outfitter that he will operate within the terms of the SAPA accreditation. Agreement to be available for inspection.</p>	%	
Sub-total			%	

A	%
B	%
C	%
D	%
E	%
F	%
Total	%

Recommend: Approved		Recommend: Not Approved	
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Assessment Committee Chairperson Name

Signature

Date

Accreditation Committee recommendations:

Accreditation Committee:

Date of Presentation: _____

Pieter JJS Potgieter (Chair)

Deon Swart (Consultant)

Carla van der Vyver (Consultant)

Stan Burger (PHASA)

Executive Council outcomes:

Approved		Revision	
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Date: _____

Reference: _____