



TOUR OPERATORS

PHOTO- AND HUNTING SAFARIS

FOTO- OG JAGTSAFARIER

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Dear Sirs,

You have asked for submissions reg. lion, rhino, elephant and leopard management. As so far as the latter 3 species of big game, these all occur naturally in many South African hunting reserves and national parks, breeding and feeding naturally, and it would only be beneficial to harvest acceptable numbers, as long as it remains sustainable. Such hunting should be subjected to strict licensing and controls, and if managed correctly, it will indeed be beneficial to all 3 species. I will thus submit only a request to strictly control lion hunting, as most of the permits given to killing of lions, do not relate to any natural populations, but are merely the shooting of captive-bred animals, that have never had a chance to breed or feed naturally. This in essence means that it cannot really be called hunting, but merely a killing, and it has raised the ire of not only international conservation and animal protection organizations, but indeed also a large number of overseas hunting organizations.

My background is being a registered hunting outfitter and professional hunter for 40 years in South Africa, but also being deeply involved in the promoting of general tourism from Scandinavia to South Africa.

SHOOTING OF CANNED (CAPTIVE-BRED LIONS)

The first organisation to publicly criticise and question the practice was the **NORDIC SAFARI CLUB (NSK)**, which as early as 2008 wrote to **PHASA** (Professional Hunters Association of South Africa) and informed them that the killing of canned lions was increasingly giving trophy hunters in Scandinavia a bad reputation, and NSK asked PHASA for their views on the matter, and what they were going to do about it, to counteract the criticism. The reply was very vague, and for the following 5 years NSK engaged regularly with PHASA, but failing their action, NSK decided to ban ALL South African lion trophies from their record book, as well as placing a ban on advertising and any editorial comment on the shooting of lions in South Africa. They went so far as to do a total reprint of their magazine, when their editor by fault had included an article on lion shooting in South Africa. These bans are still in force, as NSK feels that it is not in the interest of the hunting community to promote or advertise the practise in any form. Through their affiliation with SCI (Safari Club International) they have worked hard to enforce ethical rules in this organisation as well, but to date the enforcement within SCI has been limited, and canned lion shooting is still being promoted and advertised in the SCI magazine.

Later they have been joined by the following hunting organisations in criticizing the practice of canned lion shooting:

DSC (Dallas Safari Club)

CIC (International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation)

FACE (European Federation for Hunting and Conservation)

In other words, some of the worlds most influential hunting organisations have publicly expressed their criticism of canned lion shooting in South Africa, so it can no longer be claimed that the international hunting community condones the practice.

Domestically, some of the leading figures in South African hunting have similarly voiced their opposition, particularly so the author Peter Flack, who has spoken out against canned lion shooting and many other unethical practices in the South African hunting industry. Whilst the lion breeding in South Africa may have contributed with many jobs and incomes for the unscrupulous operators, it has also caused immense damage to the reputation of our local hunting. This is a great pity, as most of the work done by game farmers and private nature reserves over the past 40 years have made us famous in the field of game conservation and management, but when the editor of leading German hunting magazine JAGEN WELTWEIT writes that “**PHASA puts money before morals**”, you know that we have a serious problem.

A couple of years ago a group of concerned professional hunters and outfitters broke away from PHASA and created a new professional hunting organisation with much stricter ethical rules, and a total ban on the participation in the shooting of canned lions. I became a member of **CPHSA (Custodians of Professional Hunting in South Africa)**, and support their opposition to canned lion shooting and other unethical practices.

LION FARMING - A DUBIOUS INDUSTRY

Permitting general lion hunting in South Africa and the subsequent export of lion trophies would really only benefit the unethical outfitters offering canned lion shooting, as there are only a handful of naturally occurring lion trophies available in reserves bordering the Kruger National Park. Whilst several operators have established small pro-forma lion populations in fenced areas, none of these are big enough to produce a significant number of trophy lions, and few are left to feed and breed naturally. It can be automatically assumed that these reserves are being continuously fed with captive-bred lions during the hunting season, which explains why some of these lion reserves can produce a large number of trophy lions each hunting season. The theatre and cunning lies that go into convincing hapless clients that they are participating in a real fair-chase hunt are unlimited, and many have been filmed and documented by organisations such as Blood Lions. Some hunters, especially hunters from the USA and Russia, will willingly partake in unethical practises, but most European hunters were originally duped into believing that they were on a real hunt. After finding out about the background of this industry, many have been left severely embarrassed.

In order to protect our international reputation as a leading conservation nation, issuing of licenses and export permits for lion trophies should thus be restricted to those areas where lions live a natural life, breeding and feeding without human interference. Only such lions could be considered worthy hunting trophies. Numbers should be restricted to ensure that no additional captive-bred animals are brought into the area.

Kind regards,
JENSEN SAFARIS,

Holger Krogsgaard Jensen

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