



+27 (0) 12 335 6994

+27 (0) 83 611 0467

www.wrsa.co.za

23073 GEZINA 0031

381 Booyesen Street/Booyesenstraat 381 ELOFFSDAL 0084 Pretoria

Reg No: 2006/010722/08 VAT/BTW No.: 4200 228 098



15 May 2020

## COVID-19: WRSA GUIDELINES:

### WILDLIFE CULLING OPERATIONS ON PRIVATE WILDLIFE RANCHES

### AS A PERMITTED ACTIVITY DURING CORONAVIRUS LEVEL 4 DIRECTIONS

#### 1. INTRODUCTION:

These WRSA guidelines are **guided by** the Directions (clause 4.2 below) as published by the Minister of Environmental Affairs on 14 May 2020 which provided clarity on the implementation of some activities as included in the Regulations (refer to item 4.1) to the National State of Disaster (29 April 2020).

In terms of the Directions (clause 4.2 below), **culling is permissible as a permitted activity** within Coronavirus Level 4 (NOT as an essential activity), subject to certain restrictions as listed below.

The Directions further stipulates that hunting for sport or recreational purposes, is not permissible during Level 4.

The **purpose of these guidelines** is to assist all private wildlife ranchers in South Africa with information and proposals on how to proceed with culling operations as a tool for essential wildlife management on their wildlife ranches.

Wildlife management is listed as an essential service in Annexure D of the Regulations (clause 4.1 below)

#### 2. WRSA GUIDELINES FOR WILDLIFE CULLING OPERATIONS ON PRIVATE WILDLIFE RANCHES DURING CORONAVIRUS LEVEL 4

Acknowledging the Coronavirus level 4 Directions (clause 4.2 below) and the Regulations (clause 4.1 below) AND other existing legislation, WRSA proposes the following guidelines to wildlife ranchers who consider culling operations as a Level 4 permitted activity on their wildlife ranches:

**CEO/HUB:** A Kitshoff-Botha

**President:** T Mogashoa **Adjunkpresident/Deputy President:** W vd Linde

**Direkteure/Directors:** NJ Adami, DJ Cunningham, ER Davey, AI Douglas, M Gcabo,

G Heyneke, Dr T Lesoli, JD Malan, JL Pretorius, LLS vd Walt

**Co-opted members:** Kgomotso Maphai, Pieter Ernst Jr, Rouan Nel

2.1. **Comply with all EXISTING (not COVID-19 lockdown-related) regulatory requirements** regarding the culling, slaughtering, processing and distribution of the carcasses/game meat.

Information to ensure compliance with **EXISTING (not COVID-19 lockdown-related)** Veterinary and Environmental legislation, could be obtained from:

- the State Veterinarian in your region (animal health requirements); and
- the provincial conservation officer in your area (eg Certificates of Adequate Enclosure, Exemption permits, etc).

2.2. **Consider the various available options** about who you will use to undertake the culling process:

- Either your own staff;
- Professional culling teams; and/or
- Individual persons or groups of persons

2.3. **Consider entering into agreements with the culling teams or individual persons or groups of persons who will deliver the culling service.** Such an agreement could amongst others include the number of animals to be culled, the services to be provided, prices, accommodation, compliance with legislator requirements, etc.

2.4. **Where necessary, wildlife ranchers could enter into agreements with registered game meat abattoirs** regarding the delivery to or collection of carcasses, whilst complying with all legal requirements in terms of the Meat Safety Act 40 of 2000. The registered game meat abattoirs should be able to provide wildlife ranchers with the necessary legal requirements and processes to be followed.

2.5. **Comply with the following Coronavirus Level 4 restrictions as stipulated in Section 2 of the Directions (clause 4.2 below):**

- a maximum of twelve (12) persons per culling operation (relating to shooting, recovery and slaughtering personnel);
- a maximum of three persons per vehicle; and
- persons participating in the culling operation may be provided with accommodation.

2.6. **Comply with the following Coronavirus Level 4 general provisions as stipulated in Section 2 of the Directions (clause 4.2 below):**

- Adherence to the health, safety and legal requirements as prescribed in the Regulations,

which includes maintaining social distancing and the wearing of face masks at all times when in a public place;

- A Coronavirus Level 4 *Permit To Perform Essential or Permitted Services*” (Annexure 3 of the Directions).

An example is attached to this document and can be issued by amongst others, the owner of the property where the culling will take place and the employer of the person who will be carrying out the activity.

(More detailed information is available in the Directions, which can be obtained from the WRSA website).

WRSA provides WRSA branded-permits, supported by a membership confirmation letters, to all paid-up WRSA members.

- Compliance with any existing applicable legislation in terms of the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, eg Certificates of Adequate Enclosure / Exemption Permits.

### 3. **WRSA DISCLAIMER**

By providing the guidelines, WRSA does not take responsibility for any private wildlife ranchers, culling teams and/or individuals contravening the law.

It will be the responsibility of the private wildlife rancher and persons undertaking the culling, to ensure that they are informed of all legal requirements from the state veterinarian and nature conservation department in their area.

The opinions expressed are in good faith and while every care has been taken in preparing this guideline document, WRSA makes no representations and gives no warranties of whatever nature in respect of the guidelines, including but not limited to the accuracy or completeness of any information, facts and/or opinions contained therein. WRSA, its affiliates, the directors, and employees cannot be held liable for the use of and reliance of the opinions contained in these guidelines. Members are encouraged to take all possible precautions to protect themselves and their employees from the coronavirus and to ensure that they comply with the law. It must be noted that these Directions (clause 4.2 below) and Regulations (clause 4.1 below) only pertain to Coronavirus Level 4. Directions and Regulations are being amended regularly and therefore this information is subject to change.

### 4. **NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS AND RELEVANT DIRECTIONS AS ISSUED BY THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES & THE ENVIRONMENT:**

4.1. WRSA acknowledges the **Regulations** issued by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in terms of section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act 2002 (Act 57 of 2002) and published on 29 April 2020 in Government Notice No R.480 of

Government Gazette No. 43258

4.1.1. The Regulations are available on the WRSA website: [www.wrsa.co.za](http://www.wrsa.co.za)

4.1.2. Table 1 of the Regulations lists the industries and activities for which persons will be allowed to perform work outside of home and to travel to and from work under Alert Level 4, subject to, amongst others, strict health protocols and social distancing rules.

4.1.3. Part A1 of Table 1, dealing with Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry & Fishing, includes hunting as such an activity.

4.2. WRSA further acknowledges the **Directions** as issued by the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment on 14 May 2020, in terms of regulation 4(1) of the above Regulations.

4.2.1. The Directions are available on the WRSA website: <https://www.wrsa.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/20200514-National-Gazette-No-43323-of-14-May-2020-Volume-659.pdf>

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Attachment: Template: Permit to Perform Essential Services/Activities or Permitted Services/Activities for the Biodiversity Sector

*(Note: WRSA will provide WRSA branded-permits, supported by a membership confirmation letter, to all paid-up WRSA members. Please request it from Ms Nonkie Kunene: [info@wrsa.co.za](mailto:info@wrsa.co.za)).*

**YOUR COMPANY HEADING OR LETTERHEAD****PERMIT TO PERFORM ESSENTIAL SERVICES ACTIVITIES OR PERMITTED ACTIVITIES FOR THE  
BIODIVERSITYT SECTOR****(In terms of Regulations 16(2)(b) and Regulations 28(4))**ESSENTIAL SERVICES/ACTIVITY  PERMITTED SERVICES/ACTIVITY 

*The person to whom this permit is issued, must at all times present a form of identification together with this permit. If no identification is presented, the person to whom the permit is issued will have to return to his or her place of residence.*

I, with the below-mentioned details:

Surname				
Full name				
ID number				
Contact details	Cell Nr	Tel nr (w)	Tel nr (h)	Email address
Physical address / description of locality where service/activity will take place				
Capacity in which the permit is issued				

Hereby certifies that the below-mentioned person is performing the following services/carrying out the following activity:

WITH THE PROVINCE  ACROSS PROVINCIAL BORDERS 

Surname	
Full names	
ID number	
Place of residence	

Date for which permit is valid \_\_\_\_\_ or period \_\_\_\_\_

Signed at \_\_\_\_\_ on this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of person/institution  
issuing permit\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the holder  
of the permit

Official stamp, or name, of company / institution
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