

Implementation Guideline for bow-hunting in the Western Cape Province: **December 2011**

Introduction

In terms of section 29(i) of the Western Cape Nature Conservation Ordinance, No. 19 of 1974 (“the Ordinance”), hunting a wild animal in the Western Cape Province by means of a bow and arrow is a prohibited hunting method. CapeNature, however, accepts that the bow-hunting industry is growing and there is a demand for hunting opportunities to practise this growing sport. In addition to the growth in the industry, the technological development of bow-hunting equipment has radically increased the effectiveness of bow-hunting.

Guiding Principles

Bow-hunting in the Western Cape Province is guided by the following principles, namely:

- (a) ecologically sustainable utilisation of natural resources to maintain viable populations of indigenous species and their environments;
- (b) encouraging co-operation between landowners, bow-hunters, related industries and local communities in managing the off-take of indigenous species within limits that are not detrimental to the survival of the species;
- (c) promoting the development of the competence and responsibility of bow-hunters;
- (d) promoting responsible bow-hunting; and
- (e) ensuring that this practice is realistic, implementable and understandable.

Applicability

These principles and minimum requirements are applicable to all bow-hunting on private land within the Western Cape Province. Bow-hunting is also, amongst others, subject to hunting licenses or permits, hunting seasons, daily bag limits and written permissions as stipulated in the Ordinance.

Minimum requirements for bow-hunting

- (1) The minimum requirements to hunt specific categories of wild or alien animals by means of bow and arrow are the following—
 - (a) For wild or alien animals of a small size, including gamebirds, small carnivores, hares, hyraxes and rabbits, excluding Riverine rabbit, the-
 - (i) kinetic energy should not be less than 30ft/lbs; and
 - (ii) arrow weight should not be less than 300 grains;
 - (b) For wild or alien animals of medium size, including reedbuck, impala, blesbok, warthog, bushpig, springbuck and nyala, the-
 - (i) kinetic energy should not be less than 50ft/lbs; and
 - (ii) arrow weight should not be less than 380 grains;
 - (c) For wild or alien animals of large size, including wildebeest, kudu, gemsbok, zebra, waterbuck, and hartebeest, the-
 - (i) kinetic energy should not be less than 60ft/lbs; and
 - (ii) arrow weight should not be less than 415 grains;
- (2) In addition to the requirements contemplated in sub-paragraph (1) the following conditions apply with regards to the use of mechanical broad heads:
 - (a) for species contemplated In sub-paragraphs (1)(a), (1)(b) and (1)(c), 5% additional kinetic energy is required;
 - (b) broad heads must have at least two cutting edges; and
 - (c) the minimum permitted arrow length is 50cm.

Implementation and enforcement

Only species listed in the annual hunting notice **for which section 29(i) has been suspended** may be hunted with a bow and arrow.

The following definitions apply as a guideline:

ANIMALS OF SMALL SIZE = Any animal with an adult body weight (live) of 20kg or less

ANIMALS OF MEDIUM SIZE = Any animal with an adult body weight (live) of 20kg – 100kg

ANIMALS OF LARGE SIZE = Any animal with an adult body weight (live) of 100kg and heavier