



Klaserie Private Nature Reserve.

RE : Sustainable utilisation, professional hunting and game sales.

The National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act recognizes the access to biological resources in protected areas for traditional, subsistence and commercial purposes: “to promote sustainable utilisation of protected areas for the benefit of people, in a manner that would preserve the ecological character of such areas.” It further states that the purpose of a protected area is to provide for the sustainable use of natural and biological resources. Excess game, is such a resource and hunting is a legitimate and accepted activity which is consistent with the sustainable management of wildlife. Well governed professional hunting, generates critically needed incentives and revenue to maintain and restore wildlife and to carry out conservation actions, including counter-poaching and environmental crime interventions. It can also return much needed income, jobs, and other important economic and social benefits to local communities.

It is often incorrectly assumed that because there are no fences between the private nature reserves and KNP that all of the animals belong to the KNP. This is not so. Vast herds of game move also from the private nature reserves into the KNP from time to time. The private nature reserves sustain and nurture significant amounts of wildlife and form an invaluable buffer and feeder zone for KNP between the national park and urban and agricultural areas with security features. The KNP benefits materially from the security and conservation operations conducted by the private nature reserves, all of which is funded through professional hunting. It is also incorrectly assumed that all of the areas within the private nature reserves lend themselves to eco-tourism. Some of the areas have insufficient densities of game and others inhospitable vegetation and terrain. Where eco-tourism is unviable other sustainable uses of the land have to be explored.

In determining off take numbers each year, the KPNR gives due regard to the population dynamics and general well-being of the particular species as well as the veld conditions. Each year the KPNR undertakes various censuses to determine the exact numbers of each species in our reserve. The other APNR reserves do the same census, at similar times and utilising the same or similar protocols and methodologies. This data, combined with various sources of research and intelligence are then utilised to guide our determination (in full transparency and debate with all our neighbours), as to which species can be professionally hunted and/or sold (via live capture) and how many.

The KPNR supports such sustainable utilisation of a valuable resource and allocates the funds generated towards the security of the reserve and its animals, and also the general maintenance and upkeep of the reserve. No income generated from professional hunting is ever returned or distributed to the members. These funds are used solely for conservation purposes in terms of the Constitution of the KPNR. In addition the KPNR supports its flagship program Eco Children NPC (www.ecochildren.co.za) annually from funds generated by professional hunting and game sales.

Chris Van der Sande
Chairman Klaserie Private Nature Reserve