

HUNTING COMMITTEE REPORT – 2023

Compiled by: Chris Jennings

The hunting activity in 2023 increased noticeably from that of 2022, mainly due to the relaxation of COVID regulations and restrictions. The substantial early season rainfall that KZN received made hunting in many areas challenging as hunters had to contend with long grass and thick brush well into the season. However, the vegetation and animals benefited from the rainfall and both are in a very healthy condition.

For interest and information – revenue collected on behalf of the provincial treasury for hunting licences issued from the office during the year totalled R20 343.00 (R17 882.00 in 2022). This indicates that hunters are ensuring that in the majority of cases they have the required hunting licences for the game animals they personally intend to hunt.

Hunting Destinations Sourced:

Ezemvelo KZNWL - IThala; Ntinini; Phongolo Nature Reserve

Ebuwahlanga/Kameelkop

Northington

Tonevale

Gariep Eco Reserve

Pongola Game Reserve

H & H Game Farm

Tanglethorn Estate

Baynesfield Pigeon Shoot

Administration of Hunting Opportunities:

Ezemvelo Phongolo Nature Reserve – All 9 hunts (5 auction hunts and 4 concessionaire hunts) took place this year. The Association received a quota of 120 animals and all animals were allocated to the various hunt packages. On behalf of the Association and members who hunted at PNR this year, I extend my sincere gratitude to member Dave da Silva who very generously loaned us a 40KVA generator which enabled the hunting operation to proceed despite the ESKOM load shedding schedule for the area. Ezemvelo supplied diesel for the generator, for which we are grateful.

I am pleased to report that, with the co-operation of Ezemvelo KZNWL management, a further successful bow hunt (walk and stalk) took place in the Controlled Hunting Area this year. Following further discussions regarding this, we are confident that this will lead to additional bow hunting opportunities being offered to our members in EKZNWL controlled areas.

For interest, a Leopard has been seen regularly in the vicinity of the hunting camp and one fortunate group of hunters sighted a Leopard in the camp during daytime.

Ebuwahlanga/Kameelkop – this hunting destination continues to be popular and as in previous years was well attended by our members. A quota of 337 animals were offered to the various hunt groups and 145 animals have been harvested.

Northington Estate – We received a late season quota (12 Black WB; 20 Blesbuck and 5 Zebra) for this hunting destination and hopefully next year we will receive a larger quota well before the start of the season, which will give members more time to plan their hunting calendars.

Tanglethorn Estate – We received a request from the owners of this estate to assist with the culling of various game animals due to the increase in their population. The culling method that was requested was archery equipment due to the animals living in close proximity to houses on the estate. The following species were offered to members who are registered bow hunters with the Association: Blesbuck; Impala; Nyala and Zebra. The majority of animals offered to the members were taken up and harvested as requested.

Should anyone have hunting/culling opportunities available please contact the office. The Association is able to administer the hunting opportunity on behalf of the land owner, making it a mutually beneficial arrangement for all.