**FREE STATE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

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 **REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SMALL BUSINESS, SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE WITH REGARD TO THE NORMS AND STANDARDS FOR THE TROPHY HUNTING OF LEOPARD IN SOUTH AFRICA**

**13 October 2020**

**REPORT PROFILE**

**Title of Report:** Report of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, Economic Development, Small Business, Sports, Arts and Culture with regard to consultations conducted on norms and standards for the trophy hunting of leopard in South Africa

**Status of Report:** For submission to the Office of the Speaker and tabling in the Free State Legislature.

**Responsible Committee:** Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, Economic Development, Small Business, Sports, Arts and Culture.

**Chairperson and Members of the Portfolio Committee:**

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**RADEBE, J**

**CHAIRPERSON**

**TO THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE FREE STATE LEGISLATURE**

The Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, Economic Development, Small Business, Sports Arts and Culture herewith submits the report and recommendations with regard to:

Consultations that were conducted in compliance and commitment to section 118 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, which enjoins the Legislature to facilitate public involvement in the legislative and other processes of the legislature and its committees as well as to conduct its business in an open manner and hold its sittings and those of its committees in public.

The Portfolio Committee extends its acknowledgement to the following stakeholders: Hon. Members for their active participation during the process of consideration of the norms and standards. All stakeholders for their inputs and effective participation during consultations.

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Report for tabling in the Legislature on: 13 October 2020

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

The norms and standards for the Trophy Hunting of Leopards in South Africa were referred to the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Economic Development, Small Business, Sport, Arts and Culture Portfolio Committee for consideration and report back by Speaker of Free State Legislature.

**2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE BILLS**

**NORMS AND STANDARDS FOR THE TROPHY HUNTING OF LEOPARD IN SOUTH AFRICA**

The purpose of these norms and standards is to manage the hunting of leopard for trophy hunting purposes in order to reduce the impact thereof on the stability of the leopard population and to ensure that trophy hunting is carried out in a sustainable manner. For the purpose of these norms and standards a leopard hunting quota refers to an off-take quota and does not refer to the export quota applicable in terms of CITES for the export of a hunting client's leopard hunting trophy, The provisions of these norms and standards must be applied alongside the provisions of—

 (a) The tops regulations on, and the cites regulation

* 1. any other applicable norms and standard assistant in terms of section 9 of the Biodiversity Act; and
	2. any other applicable biodiversity legislation.

The provisions of these norms and standards apply to the hunting of African leopard (Panthem paMus pardus) for trophy hunting purposes, regardless of whether— the hunt takes place on privately-owned land or state land: or the hunter is a local hunter or a hunång dient.

**3.** **PROCEDURE OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE**

Inputs of Norms and Standards for the Trophy Hunting of leopards in South Africa were sourced through the office of the Speaker to the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development. The committee also extended the invitation to relevant Departments to make inputs

**NORMS AND STANDARDS** **FOR THE TROPHY HUNTING OF LEOPARD IN SOUTH AFRICA**

1. **OVERVIEW OF THE INPUTS ON THE REPORT**

**General views of the Committee**

There is a need for effective and efficient public education before publication of the norms an standards. The chairperson and members of the Committee must be afforded an opportunity to participate during consultation processes. Brief community members about challenges and opportunities of the Act and also simplify the technicality of the Act.

1. Irrefutable body of scientific evidence was used in relation to leopard population, which informed the off-take quota.

2. Support basic norm of harvesting males seven years or older, which is a conservative approach that has minimal impact on population persistence, by this age, males have held tenure for long enough to allow at least one litter to reach independence which is sufficient to maintain population stability.

3. With precautionary measures that hunting is restricted to Leopard Hunting Zone (LHZ) where trend indicate that populations are stable or increasing.

4. The only concern is monitoring to ensure compliance in case the female leopard or under age male leopards is hunted in Leopard Hunting Zone (LHZ)

5. The lack of compliance of hunters or lack of capacity of provincial authority to consistently monitor wildlife is worry some. Unless the issue is addressed trophy hunting of leopards, can compromise the populations.

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee recommendations:

* 1. The Committee request that inputs on the report be considered by the house.
	2. The Committee vote in favour of the Norms and Standards for the trophy hunting of leopard in South Africa.