



LION HUNTING IN NIASSA NATIONAL RESERVE

Revised Lion Hunting Rules – 26th April 2006

In order to manage African lion hunting in the Niassa Reserve, SRN has established the following revised criteria and rules that should be strictly adhered to by all safari operators. These replace all previous criteria and rules concerning lion hunting and take effect from the date of this document unless otherwise indicated. The aim is to maximize trophy quality and economic returns from lion hunting in Niassa Reserve (NR), while maintaining the viability and growth of the Niassa lion population.

1. General Rules

1.1 Elected trophies:

- Only male lions may be hunted.
- Only adult males, which are a minimum of 6 years old, may be hunted as the hunting of young lions can cause severe disruption to pride structure and, if excessive, can cause a population to collapse.
- Lions may only be hunted on a minimum of an 18 day safari (effective 2007).
- As a rule no problem lions (e.g. man eaters) should be sold as trophy animals. However, should a client be in a position to hunt a problem lion (and specifically man eaters) the issue of the operator/client retaining and exporting the trophy will be assessed by SRN on a case by case basis. Furthermore, if an operator/client does shoot a problem lion this must be reported to SRN within 48 hours to allow for further investigation by the Reserve Warden or an SRN representative.

1.2 Trophy monitoring:

- For each lion on quota, a monitoring kit will be provided by SRN containing a datasheet and blood sample paper.
- For each lion trophy, the Professional Hunter is expected to take photographs (side view, front view of head and shoulder, nose and full body), and a blood sample from bullet wound while in the field.
- All questions on the datasheet must also be completed.

2 Trophy Quality Control

2.1 Responsibility: monitoring of trophy quality shall be conducted by the SRN representatives, currently K & C Begg.

2.2 Procedure: the safari operator shall notify representatives before lion trophies are removed from the Hunting Block at the end of the hunting season so that the SRN representatives can arrange a visit to collect trophy kits (photographs, blood samples and datasheets) and measure and age the skulls.

3. Assigning of Quotas:

3.1 Niassa Points System:

- Quotas will be assigned independently for each concession dependant on the age of lion trophies taken in the previous hunting season according to the Niassa Points System.
- The points system is self-regulating; it rewards ecologically sound hunting by allowing an increase in the quota to a maximum of five. Hunting of young lions under the age of six years is penalized. PH's receive no decrease in quota for not shooting a lion.

- Using this system, the off-take in each block will increase or decrease in accordance with real densities in each concession, accounting for hunting effort, anti-poaching measures (i.e. decreased illegal off-take) and natural population fluctuations (disease, drought etc.).
- The maximum of five lion for each concession is in place initially to ensure that the quota remains within 2 - 4% of the predicted adult male population. It is considered unlikely in the foreseeable future that more than five male lions of appropriate age will be available in each block. However this can be reassessed in the future.
- New concessions will be awarded an initial quota of two lions.
- If the quota is reduced to zero (i.e. only young lions are shot in the previous year), no quota is provided for the next year, but the quota will start at one lion the following year.
- Details of all trophies (datasheets, photographs of mane, teeth and nose) will be kept on file with SRN. It is recommended that a premolar be made available from each trophy so that field aging techniques can be fine-tuned over time.

3.2 Procedure:

The Niassa Points System is a three-step process:

Step 1:

At the end of each hunting season (November) each lion trophy taken is aged by SRN representatives (currently K & C Begg) based on teeth, nose colour, mane development and general body condition.

Step 2:

Points are assigned to each trophy according to the following system.

Quota	Number of Points for each trophy				
	> 6 yrs	No trophy	4-6 yrs	< 4 yrs	Incomplete info
For Quotas of 3 or more	4	3	2	-3	0
For Quotas of 2	4	3	2	0	0
For Quotas of 1	6	3	0	0	0

For each concession, points are tallied for that year, divided by 3, rounded up to next whole number up to a maximum of 5 lions and that is the quota issued for the next hunting season. See examples in Appendix 1

Step 3

SRN will endeavor to inform operators of the new quota to allow time for marketing at safari shows in January.

- 3.3 Unethical Behaviour:** in case of Safari Operations or Professional Hunters behaving unethically (according to the applicable law in Mozambique), SRN may apply more severe actions, which might include trophy confiscation or PH License confiscation or cancellation of the lease agreement with the operator.

4. Trophy Export

The standard operating procedures apply.

Appendix 1: Some examples of quotas calculated using the Niassa Points System for African Lion

Current quota	Number of lions in each age-point category					Points calculation			New Quota
	>6yrs	4 - 6 yrs	<4 yrs	No info	Not taken	Sum	Total Points	Points / 3	
For quotas of 2	4 points	2 points	0 points	0 points	3 points				
2 Lion	1	1	0	0	0	4+2	6	2	2 Lion
2 Lion	1	0	1	0	0	4+0	4	1.3	1 Lion
2 Lion	2	0	0	0	0	4+4	8	2.6	3 Lion
For quotas of 3	4 points	2 points	-3 points	0 points	3 points				
3 Lion	0	0	0	0	3	3+3+3	9	3	3 Lion
3 Lion	0	0	0	1	2	0+3+3	6	2	2 Lion
3 Lion	2	0	1	0	0	4+4-3	5	1.6	2 Lion
3 Lion	0	3	0	0	0	2+2+2	6	2	2 Lion
3 Lion	3	0	0	0	0	4+4+4	12	4	4 Lion
For quotas of 4	4 points	2 points	-3 points	0 points	3 points				
4 Lion	1	3	0	0	0	4+2+2+2	10	3.3	3 Lion
4 Lion	3	0	1	0	0	4+4+4-3	9	3	3 Lion
4 Lion	4	0	0	0	0	4+4+4+4	16	5.3	5 Lion
For quotas of 5	4 points	2 points	-3 points	0 points	3 points				
5 Lion	4	0	1	0	0	4+4+4+4-3	13	4.1	4 Lion
5 Lion	3	0	2	0	0	4+4+4-3-3	6	2	2 Lion
5 Lion	5	0	0	0	0	4+4+4+4+4	20	6.6	5 Lion
5 Lion	2	1	0	1	1	4+4+2+0+3	13	4.1	4 Lion