

*REVISED TOPS REGULATION: A MAJOR THREAT TO SOUTH AFRICA'S INCLUSIVE WILDLIFE ECONOMY AND CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORY*

10 February 2023 – The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (10/2004): Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) Regulations, subsequent regulations and Norms and Standards as gazetted (No 47984, 3rd of February 2023) are due for implementation as law as of 1 April 2023, despite improper public participation. These regulations will be terminally harmful to the green economy and have a dire impact on the conservation of wildlife, the constitutional rights of private ownership and the freedom of trade within the inclusive Agro-Sustainable Biodiversity Wildlife Sector.

*Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA) has already written to the Minister and Deputy Minister of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE), requesting an urgent meeting to discuss the repeal of these gazetted TOPS regulations.*

Recognising the narrow timeframe of 1 April 2023 and the detrimental consequences of the implementation of these regulations, WRSA and the Professional Hunters Association of South Africa (PHASA) with the support of the members of the Sustainable Use Coalition Southern Africa (SUCo-SA) and the Game Ranchers Forum (GRF), have instructed legal counsel to investigate the merits of an urgent interdict against the published legislation.

WRSA would like to express our sincere thanks to our members Dr Peter Oberem and Dr Gert Dry who have each contributed R10 000 to our legal fund.

In service to our loyal members, WRSA will fight for the rights of our members. We will keep members up to date with any changes related to this legislation as it affects them and encourage members to

continue with business as usual for the time being. We also request that any members who may be experiencing difficulties regarding permit applications with specific reference to TOPS, to immediately contact WRSA for assistance and support.



[WRSA Media Statement: Revised Tops Legislation 10 February 2023](#)