



True African Safaris

Trophy Import/Export

Trophy export: South Africa has sound conservation management strategies in place. As a result, there are virtually no restrictions on the export of trophies from animals that were legally harvested. The following documentation forms part of the supporting documentation in the export permit application process:

- A copy of the PH Register, signed by the client, the professional hunter and the hunting outfitter
- All hunting permits (depending on the species/province where the hunt took place): original signed by the client
- A CITES/TOPS hunting permit, if applicable: original signed by the client
- CITES import permit into foreign countries for CITES Appendix I species (if applicable)
- Nature Conservation Exemption Permit or CAE (Certificate of Adequate Enclosure)
- Transfer of hunting rights from landowner to hunting outfitter (if not hunting on own property)
- Permission to hunt from landowner/outfitter to client.

For CITES Appendix I species, the client must first apply for a CITES IMPORT permit from his local issuing authority. This permit may be obtained after the safari. On receipt of the import permit, a copy should be forwarded to the client's taxidermist/clearing agents in South Africa, in order to apply for the CITES EXPORT permit. The export permit will not be issued without a copy of the import permit.

For CITES Appendix II species, the permit application procedure is the other way round: the South African taxidermist/forwarding/dip and pack agents apply directly for the CITES EXPORT permit, after which the CITES IMPORT permit will then be issued by the client's home country.

The European Commission implemented new regulations for the importation into the European Union of lion, elephant, white rhino and hippo trophies, which came into effect on 5 February 2015, and in terms of which the client (or the clearing agent) must apply for an import permit before the consignment may be released for shipping.

- **CITES Appendixes I or II**, (only the more commonly hunted species are listed here):
 - Appendix I: leopard, black rhino, black-footed cat, Cape mountain zebra
 - Appendix II: hippo, elephant, lion, crocodile, bontebok, caracal, Hartmann zebra, white rhino, all monkeys, all baboons, blue duiker, African wild cat and red lechwe.
- **TOPS Regulations Species**, (only the more commonly hunted species are listed here):
 - Leopard, lion, Nile crocodile, oribi, common reedbuck, bontebok, black wildebeest, elephant, black rhino, white rhino, blue duiker, roan antelope, serval, suni, tsessebe, Cape mountain zebra Sharpe's grysbok, brown and spotted hyena.

Philip Oosthuizen

Tel: +27 76 731 1611

Email: philip@trueafricansafaris.co.za

Website: www.trueafricansafaris.co.za



Jessica (Admin)

Tel: +27 82 847 0001

Email: info@trueafricansafaris.co.za

bookings@trueafricansafaris.co.za



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Checklist: How to avoid USA trophy seizures and forfeitures

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- Tags (CITES I species): Must be 1) self-locking; 2) permanently attached; 3) through a hole. Ear, eye, mouth, nose, bullet holes are fine, but not around a leg above the foot. Tag number must match that on the permit. Both the tag and export permit must contain the total annual quota, as well as that for the animal, e.g. 120/150.
- Permit expiration: Examine a copy of the import permit before exporting to verify that it will not expire before arrival. Examine the export permit date to assure arrival before its expiration.
- Export permit: Examine for errors of name of permittee, and name and number of species. To be valid, the permit must be dated, signed and sealed twice, i.e. once at issuance and again at endorsement at the time of shipment. The quota year and quota on the permit and tag are the year taken, but the quota for the year of export, if different, must also be indicated.
- Validation/endorsement: Ensure that section 14 of the export permit is fully completed, i.e. all parts itemised, dated, signed and sealed by CITES or a customs officer, otherwise the permit is not complete.
- Purpose code for crafted hunting trophies: Worked, crafted or manufactured parts of hunting trophies are, once again, coded as trophies with the letter 'H'. New procedural requirements: both the export and import permits must 'contain a complete itemisation and description of all items ... in the shipment' and the crafted parts must be in the same shipment with the uncrafted parts. 50 CFR 23.74 (effective June 26, 2014).
- Valuation: Understatement of value is the cause of excessive seizures, i.e. forfeiture of \$50 000 trophies for a \$500 offense. A true representative value should be used, not understated. Pro-rated cost of acquisition (cost of the hunt) is best or the insurance value. Note: trophies are not taxed upon entry into the US, but they most certainly are seized. The exporter should use the full value from the outset, as import brokers carry it over onto the declarations. Import agents especially heed this and enter the cost of acquisition for value on the 3-177 declaration form, particularly with a problem shipment! If unsure of the value, ask the client, but don't understate it.
- In transit: Transfer through intermediate countries must be immediate, without delay. A hunter travelling with his trophy cannot layover in an intermediate country without appropriate CITES import and re-export permits from that country. Layover requires a re-export permit from the layover country.
- Post-shipment corrections: Export authorities must immediately contact and confer with the USFWS Headquarters of the Office of Law Enforcement (HQ/OLE), not local inspectors, before issuing a retrospective permit, not months later or after issuing a new permit. The Office of Law Enforcement's e-mail address is lawenforcement@fws.gov. The importing authorities must agree to the issuance of a retrospective permit beforehand. The importing agent must set corrective action in motion immediately and use cost of acquisition as market value of the trophy on the 3-177 Declaration entry form, rather than carry over as the value the export fee or some other incorrect figure from the export documents. In the case of loss of this retrospective permit, government-to-government consultation will be necessary and the replacement permits must state that they are replacements and why. 50 CFR 23.52.
- Re-shipment: Send trophies back whenever you can, otherwise they will be treated as 'contraband that is illegal to possess', without any protectable interest, the same as stolen goods or illegal drugs.
- Re-shipment import permits: When trophies are returned to the exporting country and re-shipped, new, original import permits are required because the originals are taken and marked 'cancelled'.
- Government errors: Most seizures and forfeitures arise from errors on the face of the export permit. Expect and search for all the above errors and expiration dates before shipment.

Philip Oosthuizen

Tel: +27 76 731 1611

Email: philip@trueafricansafaris.co.za

Website: www.trueafricansafaris.co.za



Jessica (Admin)

Tel: +27 82 847 0001

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bookings@trueafricansafaris.co.za



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The client, professional hunter and outfitter must complete a **Professional Hunter Register for each hunt**. The register must list all hunting permits, including exemption permits, and it is of the utmost importance that registers be completed **accurately** (with a correct physical address for the client — PO Box addresses will not be accepted; and with first and last names spelled correctly — Bill, instead of William, is unacceptable) and signed by the professional hunter, the outfitter and the client.

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