

DALLAS SAFARI CLUB UPDATE

Dallas Safari Club Adopts Strict Lion Hunting Policy, Industry Leaders Pledge Support

Dallas Safari Club (DSC) has a three-pronged mission: outdoor education, hunter advocacy and conservation of wildlife and wild places. As a response to pressure to uplift the African lion, DSC took the lead in establishing a strict lion policy in an effort to demonstrate the importance of sustainable use in conservation. The South African Model of Conservation, like its parent, the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, calls for sustainable use management of wildlife, not only to protect those species, but also to promote healthy populations.

More than 70 major safari operators, hunting industry leaders and top conservationists have pledged to support Dallas Safari Club's newly adopted definition, which states, "The ideal huntable male lion is at least six years of age and is not known to head a pride or be part of a coalition heading a pride with dependent cubs."

DSC believes support of this position is a way to urge hunters to self-impose harvest restrictions. Overharvest of young male lions could reduce lion populations overall, posing a real concern to the conservation and scientific management of this iconic species. Furthermore, such reductions in numbers would lead wildlife authorities to reduce quotas.

However, research shows that hunting older male lions has no negative effect on populations. Encouraging lion hunters to be more selective is a DSC conservation move being applauded by biologists and professional hunters across Africa.

"Hunting only non-pride and non-adolescent male lions should be the goal of every responsible hunter and organization with a vested interest in conserving lion populations," said DSC Executive Director Ben Carter. "We're encouraged by the broad outpouring of support that we've received since announcing the new DSC position."

Supporters are pledging to incorporate the DSC definition into their business and personal practices.

To further encourage selective hunting, DSC adopted a new club policy: "No DSC member will be eligible for any DSC recognition or trophy award unless the member's lion trophy submission is a fully mature lion as determined in the sole discretion of the DSC awards committee."

Carter said, "Responsible lion hunting, based on the latest science-based wildlife management principles, is a proven essential component of the complex policy formula that will preserve wild African lions and their habitat for future generations."

For several years, DSC has been funding scientific research on African lions. Understanding lion population dynamics is one of many projects supported by DSC grants to advance conservation, education and hunter advocacy worldwide.

Supporters for DSC Lion Policy

To date, the growing list of supporters includes Dr. Bob Speegle, Jim Shockey, Ivan Carter, Craig Boddington, Shane Mahoney (vice global chair for Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group, International Union for Conservation of Nature), and the following (in alphabetical order):

Adam Clements-Safari Trackers, Inc.
Askew and Maartens Safaris
Brooklands Hunting Safaris
Bubye Valley Conservancy
Buffalo Trails Safaris
Bvekenya Safaris
Chifuti Safaris - Safari Classics
Danny McCallum Safaris Ltd.
De Klerk Safaris
Desfontain & Jones, Ltd.
Dindingwe Safaris
DWD Worldwide Adventures
Ethiopian Rift Valley Safaris
Forever African Safaris
Game Trackers Africa/Ondjamba Safaris
Global Adventure Outfitters
Global Hunting Resources
Grant Adventures
Gras Hunting Ranch
HartzView Hunting Safaris
HHK Safaris
Hunters & Guides Africa
Hunters Namibia Safaris - Joof Lamprecht
Huntershill Safaris
Hunting Consortium

Hunting in Africa Safaris and Tours
Jan Martin McGuire - McGuire & Hines
Jofie Lamprecht Safaris
Johan Calitz Safaris
John Sharp Safaris
John X Safaris
Kevin Thomas Safaris
Kikuyu Lodge Game Reserve
Kuche Safaris
Kwalata Wilderness
Legendary Adventures, Inc.
Leithen Valley Trophy Hunts NZ & Australia
Liam Urry Safaris
Limnetzi Safaris
Mabula Pro Safaris
Madubula Safaris
Manny Fajin
Matlabas Game Hunters
Michel Mantheakis Safaris Ltd.
Mokore Safaris
Mwatisi Safaris Ltd.
Nesbitt Hunting
Numzaan Safaris
Okarumuti Game Lodge
Omalanga Safaris Namibia
Omujeve Hunting Safaris



Original Kansas Trophy Whitetails, The Paul Stones Safaris Africa
PH in Zimbabwe
Riata Hunting & Outdoors, LLC
Rosslyn Safaris
Rovuma Hunting Safaris
Royal Kafue, Ltd.
Rungwa Game Safaris
Sadaka Safaris
Safaris de Mozambique LDA
Spiral Horn Safaris
Tam Safaris
Tanzania Adventures, Inc.
Tanzania Game Trackers Safaris
Thaba Mmoyo Safaris
Trophy Hunters Africa
Tshabezi Safaris
Upmarket Safaris
Van Noordwyk Safaris
Wintershoek Johnny Vivier Safaris
YO Africa
Zambeze Delta Safaris/Game Hunters Africa
Zambezi Hunters
ZimAfrica Classic Safaris - Zimbabwe
Zindele Safaris