Dear Ms Havinga

NORMS AND STANDARDS FOR THE MARKING OF RHINOCEROS AND RHINOCEROS HORN AND FOR THE HUNTING OF RHINOCEROS FOR TROPHY HUNTING PURPOSES

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) would like to bring to your attention the Norms and Standards for the marking of rhinoceros and rhinoceros horn and for the hunting of rhinoceros for trophy hunting purposes, (hereinafter referred to as the Rhino Norms and Standards). These Norms and Standards were amended and published in the Government Gazette on 21 September 2018.

According to paragraph 3(14) of the Rhino Norms and Standards (attached for ease of reference), live rhinoceros can only be micro-chipped with 10 digit microchips. In all cases where live rhino are marked, a veterinarian is needed to dart and microchip the animal and the veterinarian usually uses microchips which they have in stock. Lately, a number of veterinarians used 15 digit microchips and they indicated that they were not aware that they are required to use 10 digit chips.

We hereby request that you inform your members of this requirement in order for them to comply with the Rhino Norms and Standards. We will in future not allow anyone to use 15 digit microchips to mark rhinoceros.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Sonja Meintjes at the contact details above.

Yours sincerely

Ms Nosipho Ngcaba
Director-General
Department of Environmental Affairs
Letter signed by: Frances Craigie
Designation: Chief Director: Enforcement
Date: 2019/06/21