

*Statutory Instrument No. 37 of 1987.*

**NATIONAL PARKS ACT**  
(Cap. 38:03)

**CHOBE NATIONAL PARK REGULATIONS, 1987**  
(Published on 27th March, 1987)

**ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS**

**REGULATION**

**PART I. *Preliminary***

1. Citation
2. Interpretation

**PART II. *Open Season, Entry into the National Park and Camping Sites***

3. Open season in the National Park
4. Entry into National Park
5. Designated camping sites
6. Visitors lodge or camps

**PART III. *Motor Vehicles and Aircraft***

7. Only approved vehicles may be used in the National Park

**PART IV. *Boating and Fishing within National Park***

8. Boating on National Park waters
9. Fishing in National Park waters

**PART V. *General Conduct within National Park***

10. General conduct in National Park
11. Persons in National Park to remain in camping site at night
12. Animals
13. Prohibition of arm and ammunition and other weapon

**PART VI. *Miscellaneous***

14. General powers of authorised officers
  15. Penalties
  16. Revocations
- Schedule

**PART I. *Preliminary***

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred on the Minister of Commerce and Industry by section 15 of the National Parks Act, the following Regulations are hereby made —

Citation           1. These Regulations may be cited as the Chobe National Park Regulations, 1987.

Inter-pretation   2. In these Regulations unless the context otherwise requires —  
“arm and ammunition” have the meanings assigned to them under the Arms and Ammunition Act;

“authorised officer” means the Director, his Deputy or assistant, a game officer, game scout, game guard or any person authorised in writing by the Director or his Deputy to be an authorised officer for the purposes of these Regulations;

“bream” means fish of the family Cichlidae;

“Director” means the Director of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks;

“explosives” has the meaning assigned to it in the Explosives Act;

“National Park” means the Chobe National Park referred to in paragraph 1 of the Schedule to the Act;

“night” means the period between half-past-six in the evening and half-past-six in the morning;

“other weapon” means bows, arrows, spears, traps, snares or any form of weapon or object which may be used to kill or capture animals.

## **PART II. *Open Season, Entry into National Park Sites***

**3. The National Park shall be open throughout the year:**

Provided that an authorised officer may close the whole or part of the National Park in the interest of public safety or for administrative reasons.

Open season  
in the  
National  
Park

**4. (1) No person shall enter or be within the National Park unless he is in possession of a permit obtained from an authorised officer.**

Entry into  
National  
Park

**(2) No permit shall be issued until the fees set out in the Schedule have been paid to an authorised officer, except in the case of duly authorised visits of groups of students and others engaged in field trips, or an official on Government duty, and where the issue of a free entry permit has been authorised by the Director.**

**(3) A permit shall be issued subject to such conditions as an authorised officer may see fit to attach thereto.**

**(4) The Minister may alter the fees set out in the Schedule.**

**(5) For the purposes of this regulation, no person shall enter or leave the National Park except through a point of entry or exit, declared by the Director by notice in the Gazette and identified as such by an authorised officer by notice and sign.**

**(6) Any person who contravenes any provisions of this regulation or fails to comply with any condition subject to which a permit was issued in terms of subregulation (3) shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction thereof shall be liable to the penalties prescribed by regulation 15 (1) (a).**

**5.(1) The Director may designate areas of the National Park to be set aside as designated camping sites and shall identify such areas by notice and sign.**

Designated  
camping  
sites

**(2) A permit may authorise the holder to occupy a designated camping site at night subject to such conditions as may be endorsed on the permit.**

**(3) The fee to be paid for occupying a camping site is set out in the Schedule.**

**(4) Authority in terms of subregulation (2) shall not be given to a person under the age of 16 years unless that person is accompanied by another person over the age of 16 years.**

(5) Any person who occupies a camping site at night without a permit authorising such occupation shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction thereof shall be liable to the penalties prescribed by regulation 15 (1) (a).

Visitors  
lodge  
or camps

6. (1) No person shall enter or use any services provided for the use of a lodge or camp fee-paying visitors unless such person is in possession of a valid permit for accommodation or other permit as may from time to time be prescribed by an authorised officer.

(2) The holder of such valid permit shall be required to observe all conditions attached to the issue of such permit and all official notices issued by an authorised officer and placed on public display.

(3) Any person who contravenes any provision of this regulation or who fails to comply with any condition subject to which a permit was issued, or who fails to comply with such additional official requirements as may be displayed at any lodge or camp, shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction thereof shall be liable to the penalties prescribed by regulation 15 (1) (a).

(4) An authorised officer may cancel any accommodation permit or such other permit as may have been issued to a lodge or camp fee-paying visitor if, in the opinion of that authorised officer, the permit holder has failed to comply with such requirements as have been authorised and notified.

(5) Where any permit has been cancelled under subregulation (4), the authorised officer shall immediately submit a detailed covering report to the Director.

### PART III. *Motor Vehicles*

Only  
approved  
vehicles may  
be used in the  
National  
Park

7. (1) No person shall, without the permission of an authorised officer, enter the National Park except in a motor vehicle or aircraft approved by an authorised officer.

(2) An authorised officer may refuse to issue a permit or may revoke any permit so issued if the motor vehicle to be used or being used by any person, as the case may be, does not, in the opinion of that authorised officer, afford adequate protection to passengers.

(3) Where an authorised officer revokes a permit in terms of subregulation (2) such person who is in the National Park shall comply with any reasonable directions to leave the National Park as may be given to him by an authorised officer.

(4) No person shall drive or permit to be driven in the National Park a motor vehicle —

(a) which exceeds 2 250 kg in weight when unladen, or which has more than two normal rear track wheels, unless specific written authority for such use has been given by the Director and on such terms as may be specified;

(b) at night unless he is in possession of a written permission to do so issued by an authorised officer;

(c) which is not capable of four-wheel drive operation:

Provided that an authorised officer may give written permission to the driver of a vehicle with two-wheel drive operation to enter the National Park if, in the opinion of the authorised officer, such

“authorised officer” means the Director, his Deputy or assistant, a game officer, game scout, game guard or any person authorised in writing by the Director or his Deputy to be an authorised officer for the purposes of these Regulations;

“bream” means fish of the family Cichlidae;

“Director” means the Director of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks;

“explosives” has the meaning assigned to it in the Explosives Act;

“National Park” means the Chobe National Park referred to in paragraph 1 of the Schedule to the Act;

“night” means the period between half-past-six in the evening and half-past-six in the morning;

“other weapon” means bows, arrows, spears, traps, snares or any form of weapon or object which may be used to kill or capture animals.

## **PART II. *Open Season, Entry into National Park Sites***

3. The National Park shall be open throughout the year: Open season in the National Park  
 Provided that an authorised officer may close the whole or part of the National Park in the interest of public safety or for administrative reasons.
4. (1) No person shall enter or be within the National Park unless he is in possession of a permit obtained from an authorised officer. Entry into National Park  
 (2) No permit shall be issued until the fees set out in the Schedule have been paid to an authorised officer, except in the case of duly authorised visits of groups of students and others engaged in field trips, or an official on Government duty, and where the issue of a free entry permit has been authorised by the Director.  
 (3) A permit shall be issued subject to such conditions as an authorised officer may see fit to attach thereto.  
 (4) The Minister may alter the fees set out in the Schedule.  
 (5) For the purposes of this regulation, no person shall enter or leave the National Park except through a point of entry or exit, declared by the Director by notice in the Gazette and identified as such by an authorised officer by notice and sign.  
 (6) Any person who contravenes any provisions of this regulation or fails to comply with any condition subject to which a permit was issued in terms of subregulation (3) shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction thereof shall be liable to the penalties prescribed by regulation 15 (1) (a).
- 5.(1) The Director may designate areas of the National Park to be set aside as designated camping sites and shall identify such areas by notice and sign. Designated camping sites  
 (2) A permit may authorise the holder to occupy a designated camping site at night subject to such conditions as may be endorsed on the permit.  
 (3) The fee to be paid for occupying a camping site is set out in the Schedule.  
 (4) Authority in terms of subregulation (2) shall not be given to a person under the age of 16 years unless that person is accompanied by another person over the age of 16 years.

(5) Any person who occupies a camping site at night without a permit authorising such occupation shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction thereof shall be liable to the penalties prescribed by regulation 15 (1) (a).

Visitors  
lodge  
or camps

6. (1) No person shall enter or use any services provided for the use of a lodge or camp fee-paying visitors unless such person is in possession of a valid permit for accommodation or other permit as may from time to time be prescribed by an authorised officer.

(2) The holder of such valid permit shall be required to observe all conditions attached to the issue of such permit and all official notices issued by an authorised officer and placed on public display.

(3) Any person who contravenes any provision of this regulation or who fails to comply with any condition subject to which a permit was issued, or who fails to comply with such additional official requirements as may be displayed at any lodge or camp, shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction thereof shall be liable to the penalties prescribed by regulation 15 (1) (a).

(4) An authorised officer may cancel any accommodation permit or such other permit as may have been issued to a lodge or camp fee-paying visitor if, in the opinion of that authorised officer, the permit holder has failed to comply with such requirements as have been authorised and notified.

(5) Where any permit has been cancelled under subregulation (4), the authorised officer shall immediately submit a detailed covering report to the Director.

### PART III. *Motor Vehicles*

Only  
approved  
vehicles may  
be used in the  
National  
Park

7. (1) No person shall, without the permission of an authorised officer, enter the National Park except in a motor vehicle or aircraft approved by an authorised officer.

(2) An authorised officer may refuse to issue a permit or may revoke any permit so issued if the motor vehicle to be used or being used by any person, as the case may be, does not, in the opinion of that authorised officer, afford adequate protection to passengers.

(3) Where an authorised officer revokes a permit in terms of subregulation (2) such person who is in the National Park shall comply with any reasonable directions to leave the National Park as may be given to him by an authorised officer.

(4) No person shall drive or permit to be driven in the National Park a motor vehicle —

(a) which exceeds 2 250 kg in weight when unladen, or which has more than two normal rear track wheels, unless specific written authority for such use has been given by the Director and on such terms as may be specified;

(b) at night unless he is in possession of a written permission to do so issued by an authorised officer;

(c) which is not capable of four-wheel drive operation:

Provided that an authorised officer may give written permission to the driver of a vehicle with two-wheel drive operation to enter the National Park if, in the opinion of the authorised officer, such

vehicle is of a type and carries on it such equipment as will allow it to be driven without undue risk or consequence to any person on it, and without undue damage to any track, road or installation in the National Park.

(5) No person shall disembark from a motor vehicle in the National Park within sight of an elephant, lion, buffalo, rhinoceros, hippopotamus or leopard.

(6) A permit shall not be issued for a motor vehicle or an aircraft to enter the National Park until the fee set out in the Schedule has been paid to an authorised officer.

(7) An aircraft shall not, except at the time of landing and take-off, fly less than 300 metres in height above the surface area of the National Park.

(8) No person using a motor vehicle or aircraft shall cause or allow such vehicle or aircraft to approach any animal in such manner as to disturb such animal.

(9) Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of subregulations (1), (4), (5), (7) or (8), or who fails to comply with any directions given to him under the provisions of subregulation (3) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to the penalties prescribed in regulation 15 (1) (a).

#### **PART IV. *Boating and fishing within National Park***

8.(1) No person shall enter the National Park by boat or use a boat on the National Park waters unless he is in possession of a permit obtained from an authorised officer.

Boating on  
National  
Park waters

(2) No permit shall be issued until the fee set out in the Schedule has been paid to an authorised officer except where a free entry permit has been authorised by the Director.

(3) No person using a boat on the waters of the National Park shall cause or allow such boat —

(a) to approach any animal drinking or bathing in such waters in such a manner or so closely as to disturb such animal; or

(b) to be driven at a speed faster than five knots.

(4) An authorised officer may designate points in the National Park which shall serve as points of embarkation and disembarkation, and shall identify such points by sign and notice.

(5) No person shall go ashore or moor or leave any boat at any place in the National Park other than at a mooring place designated by an authorised officer in terms of subregulation (4).

(6) No person shall, without the written permission of an authorised officer use a boat on the waters of the National Park at night.

(7) An authorised officer may determine which portion or portions of the waters of the National Park shall be open to boats, and shall identify such portion or portions by sign and notice.

(8) Any person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes any provision of this regulation shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction thereof shall be liable to the penalties prescribed by regulation 15 (1) (a).

Fishing in  
National  
Park waters

9. (1) No person shall catch fish within the National Park except under and in accordance with a permit issued by an authorised officer and on payment of the fee prescribed in the Schedule.

(2) An authorised officer may designate points in the National Park to be set aside as designated fishing points, and shall identify such points by notice and sign.

(3) No person shall fish within the National Park except at a designated fishing point.

(4) No person shall fish by any means other than with rod and line.

(5) No person shall be permitted to catch and retain in excess of 10 bream per day.

(6) Any person, who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes any provision of this regulation shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction thereof shall be liable to the penalties prescribed by regulation 15 (1) (a).

#### PART V. *General conduct within the National Park*

General  
conduct in  
National  
Park

10. (1) No person shall remove from the National Park or destroy any flora, avifauna or fauna, or in any way disturb or molest any living thing, except with the written permission of the Director.

(2) No person shall leave any refuse of any kind within the National Park except in bins provided at lodges and camping sites.

(3) No person shall, without the written permission of an authorised officer, light a fire in the National Park except at a designated camping site.

(4) No person shall leave a fire unextinguished or leave any material capable of causing a fire, or cause a bush-fire, within the National Park.

(5) No person shall drive any vehicle or cause any vehicle to be driven anywhere in the National Park at a speed exceeding 40 km per hour.

(6) No person shall cause any damage to objects of geological, ethnological, historical, archaeological or of other scientific interest within the National Park or, without the written permission of an authorised officer, remove any object from the National Park.

(7) No person shall, without the written permission of an authorised officer, introduce any wild or domestic animal into the National Park or permit any domestic animal to stray into the National Park, or introduce any vegetation into the National Park, except where lawfully introduced, or remove from the National Park any animal or vegetation.

(8) No person shall except with the written permission of the Director cut, damage or destroy any tree or other vegetation in the National Park, with the exception that dead wood may be collected for camping purposes only.

(9) No unauthorised person shall destroy or deface any object, whether animate or inanimate, in the National Park.

(10) No person shall erect any building or structure within the National Park without the written permission of the Director.

(11) An authorised officer may direct the offender to remove any building or structure erected in contravention of subregulation (10), or may himself cause to be removed any building or structure, without compensation being payable.

(12) Any person who contravenes any provision of subregulations (1) to (10) inclusive, or fails to comply with directions given under subregulation (11), shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction thereof shall be liable to the penalties prescribed by regulation 15 (1) (b).

11. (1) No person shall, without the written permission of an authorised officer, remain in the National Park at night unless he is in a designated camping site or lodge and in possession of a valid camping permit.

Persons in National Park to remain in Camping site at night

(2) Any person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with the provisions of subregulation (1) shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction thereof shall be liable to the penalties prescribed by regulation 15 (1) (b).

12. (1) No unauthorised person shall interfere in any way with, or feed or provide food for, any animal in the National Park.

Animals

(2) Any person who contravenes any provisions of this regulation shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction thereof shall be liable to the penalties prescribed by regulation 15 (1) (b).

13. (1) Subject to the provisions of subregulation (2), no person shall convey into, or be in possession of within, the National Park any arm, ammunition, explosive, trap or poison or any other weapon capable of use in the killing or capture of any animal.

Prohibition of arm and ammunition and other weapon

(2) An authorised officer may, on payment of the fee set out in the Schedule, endorse on a permit authority to introduce into the National Park an arm and ammunition:

Provided that before any arm is so introduced an authorised officer shall attach a seal to it or its container in such a manner that the arm cannot be loaded or the container opened without breaking the seal.

(3) Where an arm is introduced into the National Park in terms of subregulation (2) and the seal attached thereto is broken, the person in possession of the arm shall, before or immediately after leaving the National Park, deliver the arm to an authorised officer and report to him the circumstances under which the seal was broken.

(4) Any person who contravenes any provision of subregulations (1) and (3) shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction thereof shall be liable to the penalties prescribed by regulation 15 (1) (b) and (c) respectively.

#### PART VI. *Miscellaneous*

14. (1) Any person who —

(a) contravenes or attempts to contravene any of the provisions of these Regulations or any other law; or  
(b) behaves in such a manner as to create or cause a nuisance or acts in any way detrimental to the interests of the National park, shall comply with any reasonable direction, including a direction to leave the National Park, as may be given by an authorised officer.

General powers of authorised officers

(2) Any authorised officer may refuse to issue a permit to enter the National Park to any person or group of persons, who he has reason to believe may not or has not complied with these Regulations, or for any other fit and proper reason, for the effective running of the National Park.

(3) Any person who is ordered to leave the National Park under subregulation (1) shall not be entitled to any refund of fees paid in terms of these Regulations.

(4) Any person who fails to comply with any directions given to him under the provisions of subregulation (1) shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction thereof shall be liable to the penalties prescribed in regulation 15 (1) (b).

(5) Any person who is aggrieved by the refusal of an authorised officer to issue him with a permit to enter the National Park, or who has been directed to leave the National Park under subregulation (1), may appeal in writing against such decision or direction to the Director, whose decision in the matter shall be final.

#### Penalties

15. (1) Subject to the provisions of subregulations (2) and (3), any person convicted of an offence under these Regulations in respect of which it is provided that he shall be liable to the penalties —

- (a) prescribed by this paragraph, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding P50 or in default of payment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month;
- (b) prescribed by this paragraph, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding P100 or in default of payment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month;
- (c) prescribed by this paragraph, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding P200 or in default of payment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.

(2) In the case of first offenders convicted under these Regulations, a minimum fine of half the prescribed fine shall be obligatory.

(3) In the case of subsequent offences, a minimum fine of not less than two thirds of the prescribed fine shall be obligatory.

(4) When any person is convicted under the provisions of these Regulations the court may order that any vehicle, aircraft, boat, animal, trap, poison, arm, ammunition or explosive used in connexion with the commission of the offence shall be forfeited to the State:

Provided that if the Minister is satisfied that such vehicle, aircraft, boat, animal, trap, poison, arm, ammunition or explosive is not the property of the person convicted, and that the owner did not know it was being used for an illegal purpose, or was unable to prevent its use by the person convicted, he may, if he considers it equitable and expedient to do so, order the return thereof to the owner.

(5) Any thing forfeited to the State under the provisions of this regulation shall be disposed of as the Minister may direct.

#### Revocations G.N. 49 of 1968 (Cap.38:03 (sub.leg))

16. The following enactments are hereby revoked —

- (a) Chobe Game Reserve Regulations, 1963;
- (b) Chobe National Park (Fees) Regulations.

**SCHEDULE**  
(regs. 4(2), 5(3), 7(6), 8(2), 9(1) and 13(2))

**FEES**

1. Fees payable on entry:

	Citizen/Resident P	Non/Resident P
(a) For each person driving a motor vehicle	1,50 per day 4,00 per week 10,00 per year	5,00 per day 10,00 per week 25,00 per year
(b) Other persons of 16 years of age and over	1,00 per day 2,00 per week 10,00 per year	5,00 per day 10,00 per week 25,00 per year
(c) Children under 16 years and over four years of age	50t per day 1,00 per week 5,00 per year	1,00 per day 3,00 per week 12,00 per year
(d) Children of 4 years and under	Free	Free
2. Camping fees:		
(a) Persons of 16 years of age and over	80t per day	2,00 per day
(b) Children under 16 years and over four years of age	50t per day	1,00 per day
(c) Children under four years and under	Free	Free
3. Aircraft entrance fee	5,00	5,00
4. Motor Vehicle entrance fee	1,00	1,00
5. Excess vehicle weight fee, for every 450 kg or part thereof in excess of 2 250 kg unladen weight	5,00	5,00
6. Boat entrance fee	1,00	1,00
7. Fishing fee	1,00 per day	1,00 per day
8. Introduction of arm	2,00	2,00
9. Guide hire fee	1,00 per day	5,00 per day

MADE this 17th day of March, 1987.

M.P.K. NWAKO,  
*Minister of Commerce and Industry.*

L2/7/146