

custodians

2/2025

NEWS FLASH

28 JANUARY

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for the wonderful response to our first 2025 newsletter two weeks ago! Our aim is to publish at least two newsletters each month, serving as a platform to share insights with fellow Custodians, celebrate our Association's achievements, spotlight upcoming events, and keep everyone informed on the issues that matter most to our members. If you come across any interesting news related to professional hunting and/or conservation, we'd love for you to share it with us so we can include it in future editions!

We also invite all Custodians to share good-news stories with us to publish on our website. Please email it to admin@cphc-sa.co.za

We'll focus on the following in this newsletter:

- Membership
- SCI, SCIF feedback
- USFWS feedback
- Minister George's visit to SA Wildlife College
- Game Rangers Africa New: "Run for Rangers"

MEMBERSHIP

Have you paid your 2025 membership fees yet?

Please contact Nonkie at admin@cphc-sa.co.za or 081 036 1151, if you want to make a payment arrangement.

WELCOME to the following new Custodians!

Michael Fell , Roelen Ferreira , Meiring Prinsloo, Eric Swanson, Africa Sky Boutique Hotel; Chance Parker.

CONGRATULATIONS

As a way to cut back on many birthday wishes on our WhatsApp, we will from now on use the newsletter to congratulate all our members who celebrate their birthdays around the time of the newsletter being published.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL CUSTODIANS WHO HAD BIRTHDAYS DURING JANUARY:

H Enslin, M Fatji, C Fletcher, M Jaba, G Knott, H Knott, P Madonsela, M McSeveney, E Pierce, W Smulders, M Tobani, C Vauquelin, S Valiso, C van der Merwe and T Whitehead.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

M Birch, G K Bowker, Brace, R Burger, D Bursey, C Curtis, R Field, G Harding, W Jakutiwics, G Jones, G Kelly, A Kloppers, R Kroger, K Mabvula, E Malatji, I Netshianane, A Pringle, R Robertson, A Walker and A van Heerden.

IN MEMORIUM:

Our heartfelt condolences to Coenraad Vermaak Safaris and the family of one of our members, SK Nkabinde, who has passed away last year, which we only became aware of earlier this year: SK Nkabinde.

May they be Comforted during this time.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL

After a few years away, Custodians returned to the annual Safari Club International (SCI) Convention, joining the Guides & Outfitters exhibition aisle. It was a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with members, old friends, and visitors alike!



SCI FEEDBACK



Photo: Scruff and Adri had a surprise visit from SCI's previous CEO, Phil Delone



Photo: Custodians members, John Luyt, Scruff Vermaak and Charl Le Roux visited our booth

CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S FOUNDATION COCKTAIL EVENT

Our friend, member, and President/CEO of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation in the USA Jeff Crane, once again invited Adri to attend their Friday afternoon cocktail event. One of their board members and largest donors emphasized the importance of advocacy to counter misinformation spread by animal rights groups. Impressively, the event raised US\$200,000—amazing!



Custodians Presence at the Convention

This year, 25 Custodians members proudly exhibited at the Convention, showcasing their professionalism and passion for ethical hunting practices. The new Custodians table cards added a polished touch to their booths, making a fantastic impression!

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HUNTERS & GUIDES MEETING

Jacques Senekal and Adri attended the Hunters & Guides meeting alongside SCI, SCIF, and US Fish & Wildlife Services. Adri expressed gratitude to SCIF for hosting the successful and insightful African Wildlife Consultative Forum (AWCF) in South Africa last year.

LEOPARD RESEARCH SEMINAR

Adri also attended a seminar about recent leopard population research conducted in Botswana. The final report is expected to be submitted to the Botswana Government later this year.

UPDATES FROM SCI & SCIF

- **Exciting news:** SCI will soon open an office in South Africa. Details to follow!

- **SCIF Assessment Survey**

Dries Van Coller, SCIF's representative in South Africa, will soon share an Assessment Survey for distribution to Custodians members. The survey aims to gather critical insights from the industry about specific matters (details forthcoming).

Updates from US Fish & Wildlife Services (USFWS)

- **Cape Mountain Zebra Trophy Imports**

USFWS confirmed that Cape Mountain Zebra trophy imports are being reviewed on a case-by-case basis. A Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) has been received from the South African government. Members are reminded to provide all necessary information for successful permit processing, including enhancement findings.

- **Hippo**

USFWS is required to determine by July 27, 2028, whether to list hippos under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or provide evidence that listing is not warranted. It's crucial to collect and submit data on hippo populations in the meantime. We will keep Custodians members updated.

- **Giraffe**

The proposed rule to list Southern African giraffes under the ESA "by similarity of appearance" is open for public comment on the Federal Register until February 17. Members should ensure that all necessary documentation is provided to confirm that giraffes hunted were in South Africa.

- **USFWS Agency Head Appointment**

The timeline and identity of the new Director for the USFWS Agency, remain uncertain. However, USFWS assured us that permit processing is proceeding without delays.

GOOD NEWS STORIES:

[Click here](#) to listen to Robbie Kroger's amazing story about how Custodians member Pieter Erasmus from Badger Cargo, helped him to trace his "lost rifle".

From 1:17:50 onwards.

LOCAL NEWS

Minister Gains First-Hand Insight into Ranger Life and PH Life at SAWC.

South African Wildlife College

Minister of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment, Dr. Dion George, recently swapped his suit for boots during an intensive two-week ranger training course at the Southern African Wildlife College, Greater Kruger National Park. From tracking and navigation to rifle-range practice, the Minister got a taste of the challenging and dangerous work our rangers and PH's face daily. "I've always respected our rangers, but after this experience, my admiration has grown tenfold," said Dr. George.

He called poaching "economic sabotage" and pledged to crack down on offenders while advocating for better resources and support for our wildlife protectors. Dr. George also encouraged everyone to visit our national parks, saying, "Every visit makes a real difference!"

SAWC CEO Theresa Sowry sat down with the Minister for an exclusive interview about his ranger training experience.

Watch here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zkwC7gGVhRg>



Photo: Theresa Sowry and
Min Deon George

LEGISLATION

A Reminder of the extended closing date (6 February) for comments on the proposed announcement of quotas for black rhino, leopard and elephant.

[Website link](#)

Being a member of the national wildlife forum, where the wildlife and hunting industry meets with national and provincial departments, we've been notified that the Department was requested to arrange a joint meeting be held between the Wildlife Forum and the Wildlife Well-being Forum on the 19th of February 2025. We will provide feedback after the meeting



NEWS FROM GRAA:

Run for Rangers

Run for Rangers is a Premium Adventure event that raises funds for Game Rangers in South Africa. It was born out of a deep admiration for the courage and sacrifice of Africa's wildlife protectors. Founded by Harry Bailey, who was inspired by the fearless rangers on the frontlines of the fight against poaching, the event started with Harry's personal journey in 2022 at the age of 18, when he took on a gruelling 100km run over two days.

What began as a personal challenge has evolved into a powerful event that immerses participants in Africa's rugged wilderness while fostering meaningful connections with the rangers who risk their lives daily to safeguard endangered species. Run for Rangers is a testament to the incredible impact today's youth can have when they are driven by passion and purpose. This event proves that young people, when motivated by a meaningful cause, can achieve remarkable things and make a lasting difference.

[Please click here to learn more](#)

WHY BECOME A CUSTODIANS MEMBER

The Custodians of Professional Hunting and Conservation - South Africa (Custodians) is a respected professional hunting community that promotes biodiversity, supports livelihoods, and upholds the values of South Africa's Constitution. Here's why you should be part of it:

1. NATIONAL VOICE

- Representing professional hunters and outfitters across South Africa.
- Strong relationships with the Department of Environmental Affairs and key industry bodies like IPPHC and the Wildlife Forum.
- Membership in SATSA, TBCSA, and GRAA keeps us connected to tourism and conservation developments nationally and internationally.



2. Annual Conference

- Our biggest event of the year, featuring industry-leading speakers, debates, and networking.
- Engage with PHs, HOs, government officials, and experts from around the globe.
- Members can nominate, vote, and even join the executive committee, shaping the future of Custodians.
- Participate in policy discussions and awards programs to celebrate industry excellence.



3. Resources & Publications

- Access key industry info, policy statements, and updates through our website and members' WhatsApp group.
- Advertise your business on our website.
- Stay informed with our bi-monthly newsletter.



4. Section 16A Benefits

- Accredited to award “Professional Hunter Status” under Section 16A of the Firearms Control Act, enabling members to license firearms as professional hunters.
- Assistance with firearm license endorsements and renewals.

For more details, visit www.cphc-sa.co.za/section-16-a or contact us at admin@cphc-sa.co.za / +27 81 036 1151



5. TOYOTA

Custodians' members in good standing purchasing any of these vehicles, will qualify for the Toyota-SA special discount OVER AND ABOVE the dealer discount, even if the dealer's discount would be more than the minimum dealer discount.

6. Exclusive SATIB/EVAC 911

Custodians' members and their field staff now enjoy peace of mind with SATIB/EVAC 911's emergency medical evacuation insurance. This partnership covers incidents both in camp and on the hunt, with access to the SATIB24 Crisis Call service.

Key benefits include:

- Emergency evacuation and repatriation
- Medical emergencies
- Accidental death and disability cover
- Income protection for disability
- Search and rescue services

This partnership underscores Custodians' dedication to the safety and well-being of members and their teams in the field.



7. Badger Cargo Partnership

Support conservation with every permit application!

Badger Cargo handles interprovincial transport and export permits for Custodians members. Here's how you contribute to the Custodians Conservation Fund:

- Full Service: Badger Cargo manages your export and permits—R500 goes to the fund.
- Permit Only: Badger handles permits while another agent manages export—R500 still goes to the fund.

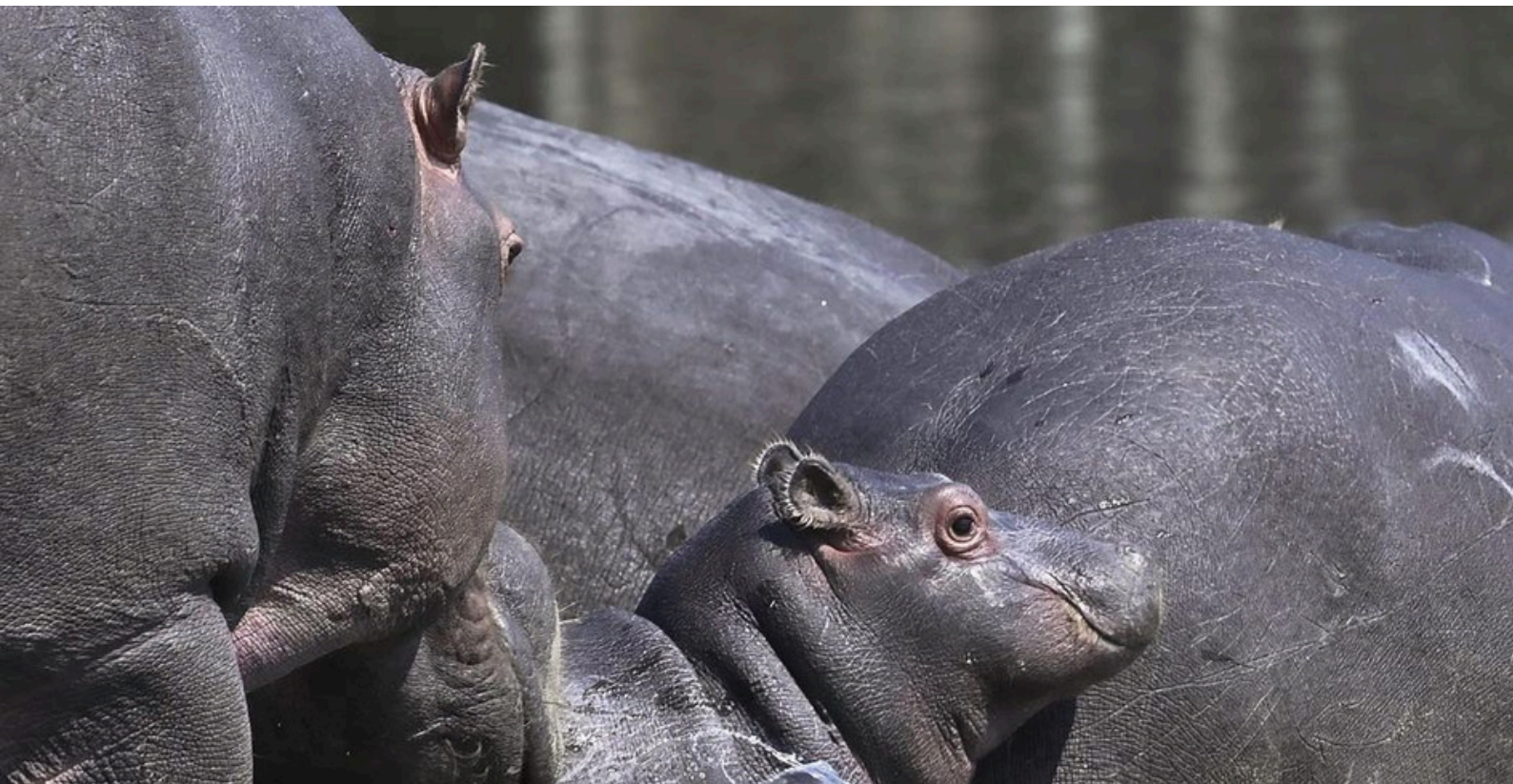
Permit fees are charged at cost, ensuring every contribution makes a difference!



8. MEMBER RESOURCES

- Stay Updated: Get the latest on wildlife notices, legislation and events.
- Show Support: Assistance available at national and international shows.
- Registers: Access approved PH and taxidermy registers.
- Permits Made Easy: Badger Cargo assist with assistance with provincial applications and renewals.
- Apprenticeships Program: Assistance with hands-on experience for aspiring PHs.

Please encourage your counter professional hunters, field members and hunting outfitters to Join Custodians today and help shape the future of professional hunting and conservation.



SAVE THE DATE AND CALENDER

CUSTODIANS AGM – 17 & 18 NOVEMBER 2025

PH REGISTERS

CONTACT NONKIE
ADMIN@CPHC-SA.CO.ZA
TO ORDER YOUR NEW PH
REGISTER.

WE NOW HAVE
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AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE
AND IN NEWSLETTERS.
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FOR MORE INFO!

