

custodians



We're excited to bring you the latest updates, activities, and opportunities that will keep you informed and engaged.

Highlights of this newsletter:

- Tourism News: The proposed Electronic Travel System for tourists visiting South Africa, and the Trusted Tourist Operators Scheme, allowing travelers from India and China to submit group visa applications via trusted agents. ***This is fantastic news for our members marketing South Africa as a preferred hunting destination!***
- Job Opportunities & Availability: Members can now share their vacancies or availability for positions.
- Welcoming 7 new members to the Association, since our previous newsletter two weeks ago.

Reminder: Please send us your Good-News hunting and conservation stories to publish on our website, currently being revamped.

2025 Membership Fees:

THANKS to all members who have renewed their Custodians membership for 2025. You should all have received your membership confirmation letters by now. If you did not, please urgently contact Nonkie.



For those with outstanding memberships: We kindly remind you to renew as soon as possible, to ensure continued access to industry representation, updates, and networking opportunities.

Please contact Nonkie if you want to make payment arrangements.



We are delighted to welcome the following new *Custodians*:

- Africa Sky Boutique Hotel;
- Antony Scheepers;
- Chantal Kloppers;
- Craig Brown;
- Lindelani Mdlolo;
- Shannon Fuller; and
- Sandy Mount Reserve.

We trust that you will have a wonderful experience and feel right at home with the Custodians family!

C U S T O D I A N S A P P R E N T I C E S H I P P R O G R A M



I qualified as a PH.... Now what?

Experiencing the enthusiasm and spark of a newly qualified professional hunter is always exhilarating. Their excitement about qualifying, their passion for hunting, wildlife, and the great outdoors, along with their dreams of building a career in professional hunting, is almost contagious! Sadly however, many times they are also unsure where to start their new career.

That's where the Custodians apprenticeship program comes in.

Designed to provide newly qualified professional hunters with hands-on experience in the field, this program offers a unique opportunity to work alongside seasoned professionals, gaining real-world experience in all aspects of professional hunting.

The duration of each apprenticeship is determined by the participating outfitter, ensuring a tailor-made learning experience.

WHAT? ^{TO} EXPECT

- ✓ Assisting and learning from experienced PHs in the field
- ✓ Hosting and entertaining clients on safari
- ✓ Tracking and understanding game behaviour
- ✓ Camp management and operational duties
- ✓ Maintaining hunting vehicles and equipment
- ✓ Accompanying PHs on dangerous game hunts

We invite Custodians Outfitters to partner with us in this initiative by offering young, aspiring PHs the chance to develop their skills under your guidance. Your mentorship will play a crucial role in shaping the future of our industry.

Interested PHs and Outfitters please contact Nonkie at admin@cphc-sa.co.za

LEGISLATION

Draft National Elephant Heritage Strategy – Call for Comments

The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment, Dr. George, has published the Draft National Elephant Heritage Strategy ([Government Gazette No. 52004, Notice No. 5787](#)) for public comment.

The document was shared with Custodians members via WhatsApp. We have been informed that the closing date for submissions is the 2nd of March.

The Department will be hosting a virtual session to present and engage with stakeholders on the draft Strategy on the 21st of February from 11:00 – 13:00.

If you're interested in attending, please let Adri know so she can forward you the link.

Custodians members can also email their comments to us for consideration to be included in our official submission. This strategy outlines a national vision for elephant conservation and management, guiding policies such as the Elephant Norms and Standards, National Elephant Research Strategy, and reserve-level management plans.

CITES COP20 Invitation to submit proposals

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) called for stakeholder proposals ahead of the 20th CITES CoP taking place in Uzbekistan from 24 November to 5 December 2025.

Proposed amendments to CITES Appendices I and II could have lasting impacts on sustainable use and conservation. Please submit any proposals you might have, to Adri by 1 March 2025 at ceo@cphc-sa.co.za

Leopard Consultative Forum

Custodians serves on this forum and have participated in two workshops on national level last year. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), also hosted various stakeholder consultations through-out the country during 2024.

The Department recently provided us with the consolidated stakeholder consultation report and expressed their appreciation for the support that was given during the stakeholder consultations towards the development of the conservation tools for leopard, cheetah and lion.

[CLICK HERE TO READ](#)

**CITES STANDING COMMITTEE**

The CITES Standing Committee recently met in Geneva, Switzerland.

We are awaiting a report from our international colleagues (CIC, SUO, Conservation Force, etc.), to share with members in our industry, in our next newsletter.

C U S T O D I A N S L E G A L A I D F U N D

Our organization regularly submits comments on proposed legislation, most recently on the export quotas. Last year, we also made substantial comments to the draft NEMBA Bill. Given the complexity of the Bill and its potential impact on the hunting and wildlife sector, we enlisted the expertise of an environmental lawyer to assist in drafting our submission. Additionally, we provided members with a template for individual submissions.

While Custodians always prioritizes open communication and collaboration with government departments, the EXCO has identified the need to establish a Legal Aid Fund. This fund will enable us to take or support legal action if no alternative measures exist to protect the future of our industry.

We appeal to our members to contribute to this fund so that we are prepared should legal intervention become necessary. Please complete the donation form attached to your email to make your contribution.

T O U R I S M N E W S**SA tourism industry bets on new travel initiative to unlock a wave of tourists from China, India**

The Trusted Tour Operator Scheme (TTOS) is now live, allowing travellers from India and China to submit group visa applications via trusted agents.

Home Affairs Minister Leon Schreiber expects this to boost tourism from these markets. [Read more here.](#)

South African tourism businesses are hopeful that the appointment of the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme (TTOS) will result in the surge of international tourists from India and China, two of the world's most populated countries, as the scheme accelerates the visa applications process.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#) about the TTOS.

Proposed electronic travel system to boost tourism:

In his speech on Thursday, 6 February 2025, President Cyril Ramaphosa said South Africa will introduce an ETA system this year. TBCSA CEO Tshifhiwa Tshivhengwa and other industry leaders shared their views on this development. [Read more here.](#)

G20 preparations & free grading for accommodation providers

Ahead of the G20 meetings, the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa is offering free grading for accommodation establishments this February. In support of this campaign, TOMSA is calling on all graded tourism establishments to register to collect the tourism levy and stand a chance to win R40,000 in marketing support. [Details here.](#)

J O B O P P O R T U N I T I E S & A V A I L A B I L I T Y

Attention Custodians Outfitters & PHs

Contact Nonkie to take advantage of the opportunity to list your vacancies or availability notices in this newsletter.

Please note that our association does not vet or endorse applicants or employers. We provide this platform solely to connect individuals. We take no responsibility for the accuracy, reliability, or legitimacy of the job opportunities or the individuals applying. Participants are encouraged to perform their own due diligence before entering into any agreements or engagements.

Freelance Professional Hunter

Licenced in Limpopo province

Services available:
March till November 2025



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- Bow Hunting
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NW - NW58080/12/2024
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MP - MTPA/PH/2656
KZN - 1505/2023

PDP LICENSE | OWN HUNTING VEHICLE | RIFLES | TRACKER

OUTFITTERS CAN REACH OUT TO THE TWO PH'S DIRECTLY FOR FULL CVS AND REFERENCES

WE NOW HAVE ADVERTISEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CUSTODIANS MEMBERS AVAILABLE IN NEWSLETTERS

CONTACT NONKIE ADMIN@CPHC-SA.CO.ZA FOR MORE INFO!

PH REGISTERS

CONTACT NONKIE
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(currently under construction)