



WELCOME TO EDITION 6 OF 2025

Dear Custodians,

When Nonkie and I initiated the bi-weekly Custodians newsletter at the end of last year, we were initially concerned about accumulating sufficient news to fill each edition every two weeks. Nevertheless, the newsletter has continually expanded, consistently providing ample information for every edition.

Our aim is to keep Custodians members well-informed about both Custodians activities and industry developments. If you have any pertinent information regarding the professional hunting industry, please feel free to forward it to us. In the meantime, enjoy the read and do not hesitate to contact us should you require further information on any matter. - Adri

Custodians' New Corporate Identity

Custodians has a fresh new Corporate Identity, complete with a sleek new logo! If you need it for your website, apparel, or any promotional materials, reach out to Nonkie. Let's build our brand together!

We also have new Email Addresses – Stay Connected!

Just a quick reminder to update your records with our new email addresses:

✉ Nonkie: admin@thecustodians.co.za

✉ Adri: ceo@thecustodians.co.za

✉ Craig: chairman@thecustodians.co.za



Welcome to Our New Members!

We're excited to see Custodians grow, as more industry participants join us to strengthen the industry and amplify our collective impact. A warm welcome to our newest members!



Chris Ngehenabo, Keagan Beukes, and Richard Field, we're excited to have you on board and look forward to seeing you at the conference at Goudini SPA mid-November.

April Birthdays



To all our members celebrating their birthdays in April, we wish you happiness, good health, and a fantastic year ahead.

James Bunge, Shannon Fuller, Peter Flack, John Sharp, Jannie Otto, Duncan Paul, Mark De Wet, JC Strauss, Darren Baker, Hermann Meyeridricks, Ken Whiley, Peter Kennedy, Delvin Wichman, Roche du Preez, Patric Sebola, Robin Fourie, Sarah Forsyth, Vannas Herholdt and Christopher Sprinkhuizen.

REGULATORY MATTERS

Custodians Represented at the National Wildlife Forum

Our Chair-Elect Jacques Senekal and Adri attended the first National Wildlife Forum meeting of 2025 on the 25th of March.

The forum provides an opportunity for stakeholders within the South African wildlife and hunting industry to meet with officials from the national Department of Environmental affairs, provincial nature conservation officials and occasionally representatives from other Departments on issues that overlap with Environment Affairs.



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NATIONAL LEGISLATION: FEEDBACK FROM WILDLIFE FORUM

Proposed NEMBA Bill

All comments submitted in mid-2024 have been reviewed, and the relevant branches within the Department are currently engaged in internal discussions. Once finalized, the Bill will be shared with the appropriate governmental structures for approval before being introduced to Parliament for consideration.

Revised TOPS Regulations and Species List

The document has been presented to the National Council of Provinces as stipulated under Section 146 of the National Constitution, to address any potential conflicts between the national department and provincial authorities. As a result, it has not yet been implemented.

Revised Elephant and Leopard Norms and Standards

These remain on hold until the implementation of the TOPS Regulations.

Lion Prohibition Notice

All comments on the document published in November 2024 have been reviewed. Interdepartmental discussions are set to begin in April, after which the notice will be submitted to the National Council of Provinces for approval. It is important to note that the prohibition applies only to the establishment of new facilities and does not impact existing ones.

Export quota for elephant, black rhino and leopard:

The notice was published in the government gazette at the end of last year and in newspapers early January. All comments received is currently with the Scientific Authority for review.



PROVINCIAL UPDATES FROM THE WILDLIFE FORUM MEETING

Limpopo has made remarkable progress in processing outstanding permits. From an initial backlog of 3,568 permits, they now have only 229 to go before being fully caught up! We sincerely appreciate the dedication, overtime, and additional support that has gone into this effort—this is a significant step forward for the industry.

Limpopo: A review of LEMA is planned for the next financial year.

North West: Permit applications can be submitted through the electronic NEPAS system.

The proposed North-West Biodiversity Bill is currently under review by legal advisors.

Mpumalanga: Other than for CITES (CIPS system) electronic applications, all other permit applications are still being handled manually with no electronic system in place. Mpumalanga Act 10 of 1998 remains in effect.

KwaZulu-Natal: EKZNW is busy with the development of an electronic permit system. They are also in process of finalizing a provincial Bill to replace Ordinance 15 of 1974, with public participation to follow.

Eastern Cape: All permits are being issued within 21 working days and there is no backlog on permit applications. Regulations are being developed, following the finalization of the Environmental Act last year.



Western Cape: The CIPS online system is used for CITES applications. A new Bill was published in 2021, with most sections which came into effect in 2022. Work on drafting regulations is ongoing.

Gauteng: Other than for CITES (CIPS) electronic applications, all other permit applications are still being handled manually with no electronic system. A new department is expected to be announced at the start of the province's financial year, after which a review of the current Bill should take place. Until then, the old ordinance remains in effect.

Northern Cape and Free State was not present at the meeting.

Free State: Please be advised that the Free State permit office is temporarily closed due to compliance issues identified by the Department of Labour. For PH exams, manual permit applications, or J534 fines, please contact:

☎ Leepile Garekoe: 079 951 0200

☎ Nomasomi Tshingo: 066 487 2786

🔊 Important Notice: Online System Downtime (28-30 March) 🔊

We've been notified that the Limpopo Online system, as well as the CITES (CIPS) system will be down for the entire weekend, whilst SETA will be conducting a CFI Disaster Recovery (DR) Test.

CITES

The Department has begun preparations to finalize submissions and positions for the CITES CoP, scheduled to take place in Uzbekistan at the end of November. Custodians will participate in the first stakeholder meeting with the Department and the Scientific Authority on April 1st. **For those curious about the process of submitting proposals to CITES, the following information may be of interest:**

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2025/038

Geneva, 20 March 2025

CONCERNING:

CHECKLIST FOR THE PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE APPENDICES

1. The Secretariat developed a checklist for Parties as a resource to support them in the preparation of proposals to amend the Appendices. The checklist is intended as guidance to assist Parties by consolidating key provisions in the text of the Convention and relevant Resolutions and explain the process involved in preparing, submitting and presenting proposals for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.
2. The Secretariat invites Parties to share comments or proposed refinements to the checklist with the Secretariat by email with subject line "Checklist for the preparation of amendment proposals" to info@cites.org and copy thea.carroll@cites.org by **30 April 2025**.
3. The Secretariat furthermore developed an online course that focuses on the provisions in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II* and will pilot a testing phase in due course. Parties are invited to inform the Secretariat if they are interested in participating in the testing phase. Expressions of interest can be shared with the Secretariat by email with subject line "Amendment of Appendices online course test phase" to info@cites.org and copy thea.carroll@cites.org by **30 April 2025**.

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)



Amendment of Appendices I and II

Checklist for Parties

This checklist serves as a reminder of the necessary steps to take in order to prepare and submit an amendment proposal for CITES Appendices I and II in accordance with Article XV of the Convention. It is necessary to submit a proposal* in order to:

- Include a species in Appendix I or II (including for reasons of look-alike problems)
- Transfer a species from one Appendix to the other
- Remove a species from the Appendices
- Amend an annotation to a current listing, including an export quota previously approved by the CoP

*Proposals to amend the Appendices should include section A on proposal, section B on proponent and Section C on supporting statement as shown in [Annex 6 of Res. Conf. 9.24 \(Rev. CoP17\)](#)

Prior to submission

To see the relevant Resolution / reference, click on the image

NOTE: CoP recommends that the Scientific Authority should gather and analyse information on the biological status of species affected by trade to assist in the preparation of proposals necessary to amend the Appendices.



Res. Conf. 10.3 on
Designation and role of Scientific Authorities



Conduct an initial assessment taking into consideration the provisions in **Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II**. Is the candidate species likely to meet the criteria for inclusion, transfer or removal from the Appendices?



Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on
Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II

If not, a proposal is not needed.

If so, develop a draft proposal by gathering all relevant published and unpublished sources of information (scientific, trade and socio-economic), and following the template in **Annex 6 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)**.

Noting that other considerations include:

- amending an annotation to a species included in the Appendices;
- amending an export quota previously agreed by the CoP; and
- certain nomenclature changes (consult the nomenclature specialist and the Secretariat for guidance)



Consult the relevant nomenclature specialist to ensure correct scientific nomenclature is used and propose a nomenclatural reference, if the current standard nomenclatural reference does not cover the species.



Res. Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature*



Identify what **specimens**, or parts and derivatives, are found in international trade.

If needed/required, include an appropriate reference or substantive annotation.



Res. Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18) on
Use of annotations in Appendices I and II



Test the proposal against the biological and trade criteria in Annexes 1 and 2 of **Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)** and ensure there are no avoidable gaps in information.

The **CITES trade database** provides international trade data for species included in the Appendices and could be referenced.

If trade data is lacking, consider if an Appendix III listing could assist in collecting some data.

The proposal should refer to both legal and illegal trade, when relevant.

Consider a precautionary approach in cases of uncertainty.

Consider the guidance in the Resolution relating to **special cases** and **precautionary measures**.



Paragraph 2 and Annex 4 of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)



Annex 3 and 4 of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)

For plants, consider the definition of specimens in Article 1 of the Convention and keep the section on "Regarding hybrids" from **Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18)** in mind

Annexes 1 and 2 should be read with Annex 5 (Definitions, explanations and guidelines). Note that Annex 5 includes a footnote relating to the application of decline for commercially exploited aquatic species.

- ☐ Engage rural communities in territories under the Party's jurisdiction, in national processes when preparing proposals to amend the Appendices.
- ☐ Consult with range States and incorporate their comments before submission.
 - Keep records of these consultations and include in the proposal.
- ☐ Consult relevant international agreements or organisations where necessary. For marine species, national fisheries agencies and inter-governmental bodies can be sources of scientific data and advice to inform a proposal.
- ☐ Include identification information and sheets to the extent possible.
- ☐ Finalize the proposal based on the template in **Annex 6 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)**. – [note that proposals should normally be limited to 12 pages (exclusive of references cited). If the proposal is longer than 12 pages, the proponent should provide translations into the working languages of the Convention.]



Res. Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES and livelihoods*



Res. Conf. 8.21 (Rev. CoP16) on *Consultation with range States on proposals to amend Appendices I and II*



Annex 6 of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)



Res. Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for tree species*



Res. Conf. 19.4 on *Materials for the identification of CITES-listed species*

The Annex to this resolution includes information relating to what should be considered in developing ID materials

Submitting the proposal

- ☐ Submit the proposal on time (at least 150 days before CoP)¹ – **NOTE:** Designated CITES Management Authority (MA) or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must submit the proposal.
- ☐ Where two or more Parties are jointly submitting an amendment proposal or any other document, each Party proposing the amendment must provide a letter of submission signed by the CITES MA or Minister of Foreign Affairs and submit it to the Secretariat (e-mail and hard copy) before the deadline to be recorded as a proponent for the amendment proposal.



Res. Conf. 18.6 on *Designation and role of Management Authorities*

The proposal and letter of submission must be submitted to the CITES Secretariat online (info@cites.org) and in hard copy*.

Following submission

- ☐ Take note of the Secretariat's assessment and other independent assessments on the proposal and respond to feedback, weaknesses / gaps in the proposal and implementation challenges found ahead of the CoP.
- ☐ Once submitted, the scope of the proposal cannot be broadened, only narrowed.
- ☐ Prepare to introduce the proposal at the CoP.
- ☐ Note that at CoP, any Party can propose to reduce the scope of your proposal.
- ☐ The representative of the Party that submitted the proposal may, at any time, withdraw the proposal or amend it to reduce its scope or to make it more precise.
- ☐ Note that if a proposal is not adopted by consensus and is subject to a vote, a 2/3 voting majority is required for a proposal to be adopted at CoP.

The proponent can provide this in writing to the Secretariat in advance of the CoP

It is important to know the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties: **RoP of CoP**

NOTE: Once a proposal has been withdrawn after the deadline for submission or at the CoP, it may not be re-submitted at the meeting.

This checklist is intended to assist Parties to prepare their amendment proposals. It is not intended to replace, nor fully reflect the Convention or the applicable resolutions. Always refer to the Convention and Resolutions for recommendations and guidance.

¹ The deadline for submission is 330 days before the CoP if the Party wishes the Secretariat to consult with other range States on its behalf; or in the case of an amendment proposal made under the provisions of Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) on *Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II*).

TOURISM

SATSA Statement on SA-US Diplomatic Tensions

SATSA acknowledges recent diplomatic tensions between South Africa and the United States, which may have raised concerns among travellers. As tourism professionals, it's their responsibility to provide fact-based reassurance.

South Africa remains a welcoming destination for all visitors, including those from the U.S. Our tourism industry continues to operate as usual, offering unforgettable experiences across Southern Africa.



To assist in addressing concerns, SATSA has prepared guidelines, including a Q&A and a general response statement. Let's continue sharing accurate information to keep travel confidence high.

[Template for reactive communications to clients and stakeholders](#)

**Q&A guide for addressing concerns about US-SA relations****Is it safe for Americans to travel to South Africa given recent political tensions?**

Yes. Political disputes between governments do not generally affect the day-to-day experience of travellers in South Africa. Millions of international tourists, including Americans, visit our country each year. The United States is South Africa's largest inbound tourist market, welcoming 372,362 overseas visitors in 2024.

Major tourism hubs continue operating as usual with no significant impact on the visitor experience.

Has Donald Trump's administration imposed any travel restrictions on South Africans or American visitors?

No. While the US administration has proposed restrictions for some African nations, South Africa is not on this list. Travel between South Africa and the USA continues

uninterrupted. Monitor official sources like the US State Department for updates, but no changes currently impact tourism.

Will I face difficulties entering or exiting South Africa as an American?

No. Entry requirements for US citizens remain unchanged. Americans can visit South Africa for up to 90 days without a visa, and customs and immigration procedures continue to function normally. There are no additional restrictions for American travellers.

What if new travel restrictions are announced during my visit?

Any significant policy changes affecting international travel typically include advance notice and implementation periods. Even in the unlikely event of new restrictions, travellers already in the country would normally be allowed to complete their visits. SATSA members remain up-to-date with all regulations and would provide immediate assistance and information if any changes occurred.

What about President Trump's comments calling South Africa "a bad place to be right now"?

Statements from political figures often reflect broader geopolitical considerations rather than the everyday experiences of travellers. Like any country, South Africa has areas where caution is advisable and others that are generally safe. Popular tourist destinations maintain high safety standards, and millions of visitors travel here each year without incident. As with any international trip, exercising awareness and taking sensible precautions is important. SATSA-accredited tour operators can provide local expertise and guidance to help travellers make informed decisions about their itineraries.

Will I face hostility as an American tourist because of these diplomatic issues?

Tourism plays a vital role in our economy and society—South Africans are known for their warmth towards guests from all over the world regardless of politics back home.

Is there an increased risk of protests or unrest due to these tensions?

South Africa, like many democracies worldwide, has a history of public demonstrations as a means of civic engagement. While protests do occur, they are typically localised. Major tourist areas and travel routes are generally unaffected, but visitors should stay informed, follow local advice, and remain aware of their surroundings. SATSA-accredited members monitor the situation closely and can provide guidance to help travellers navigate any potential disruptions.

US Consular services continue to operate normally in South Africa. The US maintains consulates in Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban, as well as an embassy in to provide services to US citizens.

Release 1/1 on 26 March 2025

INTERNATIONAL



CIC

The South African CIC Country Delegation has been revitalized, and Custodians is proud to be a part of it. As part of the delegation, Adri will represent our Association at the CIC General Assembly in Doha at the end of April.

The General Assembly will focus on mediation as a strategy for resolving

conservation conflicts across borders and interests.

Discussions will explore how mediation can balance the needs of diverse stakeholders—including local communities, wildlife managers, and policymakers—to foster effective, cooperative conservation efforts with lasting impacts on biodiversity.

Another key theme is green diplomacy, emphasizing international collaboration to achieve sustainability goals. Discussions will highlight the importance of cross-border alliances in combating biodiversity loss, protecting migratory species, and promoting sustainable wildlife use.

Dallas Safari Club:

DSC CEO Rob McCanna has announced the new dates for the 2026 DSC Convention, which will take place at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta from February 6 to February 8, 2026. He has also shared the convention dates through 2030, along with other exciting updates in his DSC CEO Update.

[READ HERE](#)



Message from Scott Talbott, SCI

We remain in close contact with our dear friend Scott Talbot, the Hunters & Guides Liaison at SCI. Scott has asked us to share his heartfelt gratitude with all our members who have kept him in their thoughts during this challenging time.

He has since returned home to Wyoming and now visits the chemotherapy centre for treatment every two weeks. Scott firmly believes that our prayers have helped and will continue to support him through this journey. He sends his love and appreciation to all Custodians members.



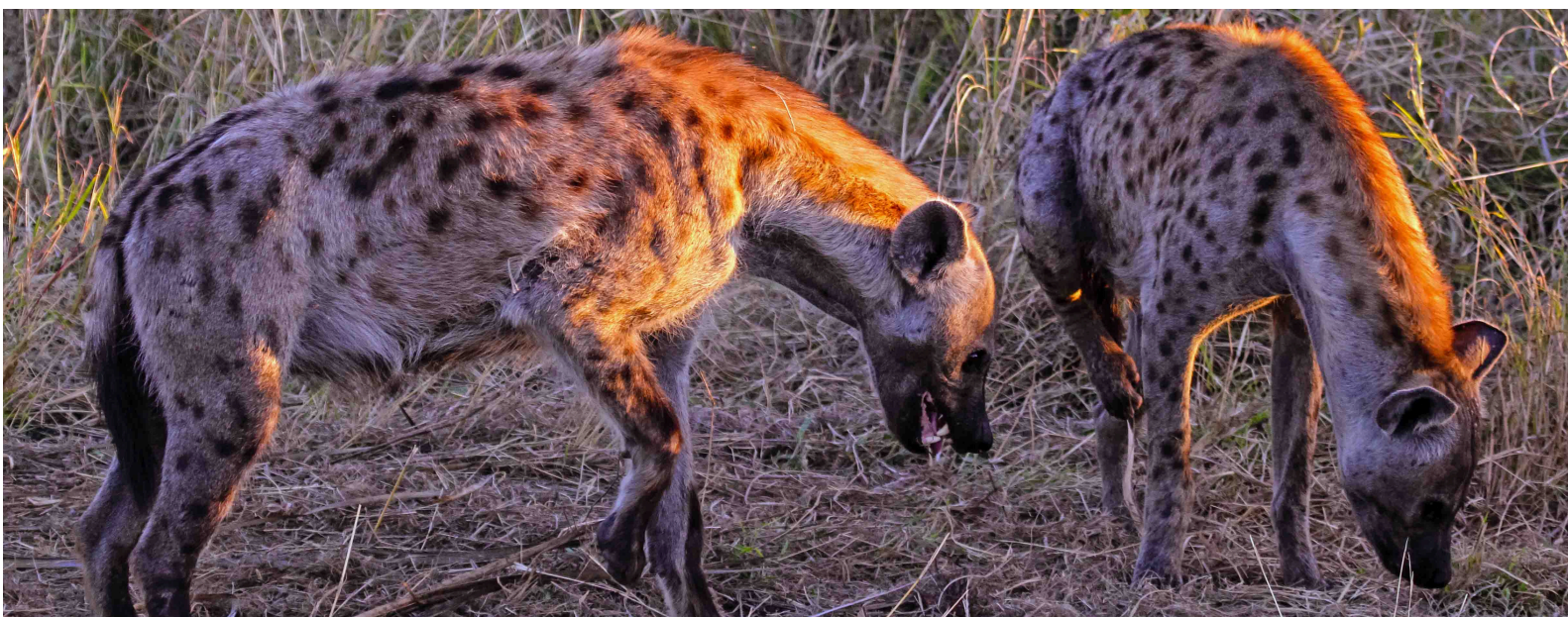
Namibia Introduces E-Visa & Visa on Arrival from 1 April 2025

Namibia is launching an E-Visa and Visa on Arrival (VoA) system for travelers from 33 countries, including the USA, UK, Canada, and Australia, starting 1 April 2025. This initiative simplifies entry, allowing visitors to apply online or obtain a visa at designated border posts and airports.

Key Details:

- ◆ E-Visa: Apply online in advance.
- ◆ Visa on Arrival: Available at major entry points.
- ◆ Fees: NAD 1,600 (USD 90) for non-Africans; NAD 1,200 (USD 70) for African nationals.
- ◆ Requirements: Valid passport, proof of accommodation, travel insurance, and financial means.

[**CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS**](#)



Save the Date

Custodians

Conference, AGM & Gala Dinner

17-18 November 2025

Goudini Spa, Rawsonville

Western Cape

