



Welcome to the Custodians Newsletter – Edition 7 | 2025.

As we enter the second quarter of 2025, this newsletter is once again filled with valuable information. Whether you are working in the field, at a desk, or preparing for the upcoming busy season, we trust that this newsletter provides a moment of connection and inspiration. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Articles in this newsletter:

- Annual Conference
- Shipping of trophies: Turkish Airlines
- KZN FMD DMA Impacts on hunting
- Runway Compliance Impacting Safari Air Access
- International News: Conservation Force, DSC, SCI, IUCN
- Legislation & Regulations: CITES, DFFE, Home Affairs
- Surveys: K-9 units, Serval
- Free-lance PH's available

Welcome New Members:

We're excited to welcome **Trophy Solution Africa & Dustan Haldane** to the Custodians family!



Save-the-date: Conference

Custodians Conference & AGM
17-18 November, Goudini Spa,
Rawsonville, Western Cape



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Shipping of trophies: Turkish Airlines :

We were informed at the end of March, that Turkish Airlines no longer transport any hunting trophies to the UK.

For further information, contact your freight agents, or Custodian's South African main conference partner Badger Cargo.

Pieter Erasmus: Phone: +27 82 879 7883



TURKISH AIRLINES

IMPORTANT UPDATE: FMD Disease Management Areas in KZN Impact Hunting Trophy Movement

Custodians would like to provide clarity following recent engagements regarding the movement and export of wildlife trophies from Disease Management Areas (DMA). Please refer to paragraph 2.2.2 of the Protocol (below).

1. We have confirmed on the 9th of April with Dr Kyle from KZN, that you will be able to move trophies out of the DMA area, WITH a Red Cross Permit.

2. When doing so, we advise that you also include a copy of the protocol you have followed to ensure that the trophies have been treated according to the Protocol. This will come in handy when being stopped by the Police or other authorities.

3. Our main concern is Bullet #4 of paragraph 2.2.2 of the Protocol (see below), stipulating that trophies from the DMA's cannot be exported.

*Protocol Paragraph 2.2.2: Trophies, bones, horns, teeth and skins from game animals: Moving **OUT OF** or **WITHIN** the DMA is permitted, **provided that:***

- * Skins have been salted for 28 days, or dried.*
- * Bones, horns and teeth have been thoroughly cleaned and dried.*
- * Trophies, bones, skins, horns and teeth from game animals must be covered in an impervious plastic sheet during transportation.*
- * **No trophies, skins, horns, teeth and hides from the DMA may be exported.***
- * No hooves may be removed from the place where animals were slaughtered.*

4. In response, Custodians has engaged with SATTA and PHASA and contacted the Director: Animal Health, in Pretoria to discuss the possibility of exemption. We acknowledge that any exemption will ultimately depend on the FMD (Foot and Mouth Disease) requirements of our export partner countries, which may vary significantly.

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the specific requirements from various countries concerning trophies from FMD DMA's, we recommend that taxidermists apply for exemptions from their State Veterinarians based on the protocols they adhere to during the taxidermy process.



[View the Official Press Release](#)



[Read the Full Protocol Document](#)

Runway Compliance Alert: Impact on Safari Air Access

SATSA has issued an urgent alert regarding Regulation 139 Subpart 5, now being enforced by the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA).

This regulation requires all runways to be both licensed **and** formally approved. Without both, no aircraft (including helicopters) may legally operate there.




Several safari lodges have been affected, despite having licensed runways, due to pending final approvals. Air access to these destinations is temporarily paused not due to safety concerns, but purely due to compliance status. SATSA and Federal Air are working proactively with SACAA and stakeholders to fast-track approvals and minimise disruption.

SOUTH AFRICAN



If you are affected or want to ensure compliance:

- Contact SACAA directly to request authorisation for your runway.

 Telephone: +27 860 267 435

 E-mail: clientcare@caa.co.za

- If you work with a charter company (e.g., Federal Air) that uses your airstrip, reach out to them—they may assist with navigating the process.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

DSC Convention:

The 2026 DSC Convention will be held in Atlanta again, from the 6th – 8th of February. All information is also entailed in Rob's update here:

 [DSC CEO UPDATE](#)



We want to extend a huge thank you to Rob McCanna, CEO of DSC, and Brian Fienhold who shared updates and answered questions about the DSC Conventions 2026-2030. The meeting held on the 3rd of April, was organized by Custodians and attended by not only our members, but also a few members from other OPHAA Associations.



Conservation Force

Our association's dear friend, John Jackson, has forwarded us the Conservation Force Q-1 report, to be shared with our members. You can view the report via the link below:

[🔗 Conservation Force Q-1 Report](#)

Safari Club International

Congratulations to SCI Africa on opening their office in Irene, Pretoria, on April 9th. All queries can be directed to Mpho Tjiane at

✉: mtjiane@scifirstforhunters.org



SCI would like to determine the interest in people who would like to qualify as SCI measurers. Should you be interested, please forward your names to Nonkie so long :

✉: admin@thecustodians.co.za

Sport-Hunted Trophies Exempt from New U.S. Import Tariffs

Safari Club International has been informed that personal sport-hunted trophies shipped to the United States are exempt from the new tariffs on imported goods. More information can be obtained from the document below:

[🔗 Click Here](#)

IUCN News

New IUCN Guidelines for Rhino Conservation in Africa

The IUCN has released an updated report outlining new best-practice guidelines for rhino conservation. The framework takes a more inclusive and adaptive approach, reflecting the evolving political, social, and demographic realities across the continent. It aims to strengthen protection efforts while fostering broader stakeholder engagement in rhino range states.



A positive step forward for integrated, sustainable conservation.

BLOOD ORIGINS: - Message of appreciation:

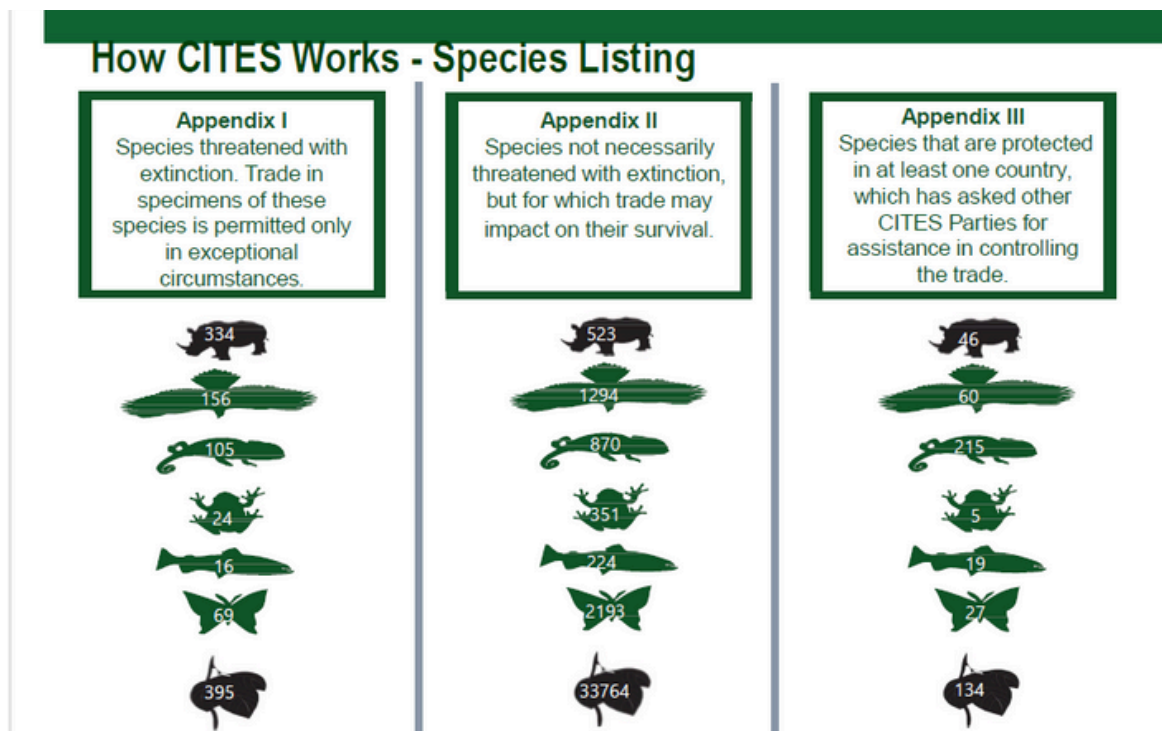
Custodians, you have been an incredible support to us and what we are doing. We are currently with Garry Kelly doing a piece on hunters' investment in Conservation and we received the news that Blood Origins is currently the top podcast in our space in the world (and #5 in the sports category - which is a combination of 15 subcategories of all sports in the US). Thank you from the bottom of my heart. We are only getting started -
Robbie Kröger

**LEGISLATION & REGULATIONS****CITES**

Adri attended the CITES Consultation on April 1st, where presentations were delivered by stakeholders who have submitted proposals to be reviewed by the Scientific Authority and DFFE for potential submission at the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP) in Uzbekistan at the end of November.

Interesting information:

The following graphic illustrates how CITES species listing works:



DFFE Transformation Committee Meeting

Adri represented Custodians at the virtual DFFE Biodiversity Sector Transformation Committee meeting on March 31st. The committee was established to ensure inclusive participation and representation of stakeholders in conservation and sustainable use of South Africa's biodiversity. We will update you on future developments.



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Biodiversity Economy Mega-Hubs:

Nonkie attended the North West "Biodiversity Beneficiation Mega Hub" Workshop in Rustenburg on the 3rd of April to participate and share our views. This was the first of nine workshops to be held by the appointed service providers across all nine provinces. The initiative of creating Mega Hubs aligns with the NBES (National

Biodiversity Economy Strategy), which aims to establish strong partnerships between protected areas, local communities, and industry players to promote sustainable economic growth. The service providers will consider all suggestions made during the workshop to determine the next steps. We will keep you updated.



HOME AFFAIRS Extends Visa Deadline for Foreign Nationals

April 3, 2025 – Industry & Government News

Good news for foreign nationals in South Africa! The Department of Home Affairs has extended the validity of temporary visas to 30 September 2025 for those with pending waiver applications, long-term visa requests, or appeals.

This extension applies to individuals who entered South Africa lawfully and submitted their applications through VFS Global with verifiable receipts.

Please note:

- Non-visa-exempt applicants leaving and re-entering South Africa must apply for a visitor's visa.
- The extension does not apply to permanent residence applicants.

For full details, [read the full report here.](#)



home affairs

Department:
Home Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SURVEYS

Request for Data: IUCN Red List Assessment for the Serval (*Leptailurus serval*)

As part of the ongoing process to update the IUCN Global Red List Assessment for the Serval, Professor Lourens Swanepoel—Lead Assessor for the IUCN Serval Assessment—has issued a formal request for data contributions from relevant stakeholders, conservation practitioners, researchers, and landowners.

To ensure an accurate and comprehensive assessment, the following categories of information are requested:

- **Presence Records**

Verified sightings, camera trap data, or field survey results indicating Serval distribution and habitat use.

- **Mortality Data**

Records relating to roadkill incidents, human-wildlife conflict, or disease-related mortalities.

- **Legal Trade Records**

Documentation regarding the issuance of permits for live trade, hunting, or the skin trade.

- **Illegal Use**

Reports involving confiscations, poaching incidents, or observations of Servals within the illegal pet trade.

Deadline for data submissions: 30 June 2025

All contributions will support the accuracy and integrity of the Red List update, providing critical insights into the status and conservation needs of the species across its range.

[Access the full request and submission details here](#)

For any questions or to submit data directly, please contact Professor Lourens Swanepoel at lourens.swanepoel@nwu.ac.za.

Your support in contributing to this important conservation initiative is sincerely appreciated.

CUSTODIANS FREELANCE PH'S AVAILABLE**Dangerous Game Professional Hunter**

I'm an experienced and fully licensed dangerous game Professional Hunter based in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga, South Africa, with years of experience guiding both Plains Game and dangerous game hunts.

My experience spans over 20 years of exposure in the field, with extensive hunting and guiding in both Zimbabwe and South Africa alongside some of the most prestigious operators in the industry. I take great pride in offering clients an all-encompassing safari experience, building lifetime memories through my passion for nature and ethical fair-chase hunting, while delivering a truly professional safari adventure.

Please feel free to contact me regarding my availability when planning your clients' next South African hunting adventure.

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

Licensed Professional Hunter with "Unrestricted Dangerous Game" status

- LP; MP; KZN; EC; NC
- NW – currently in the process of securing
 - Code B Driver's License with PrDp for client transport
 - First Aid: Level 2
 - Game Ranger – qualified & practiced
 - Nature Tourist Guide – MP registered

EQUIPMENT & LOGISTICS

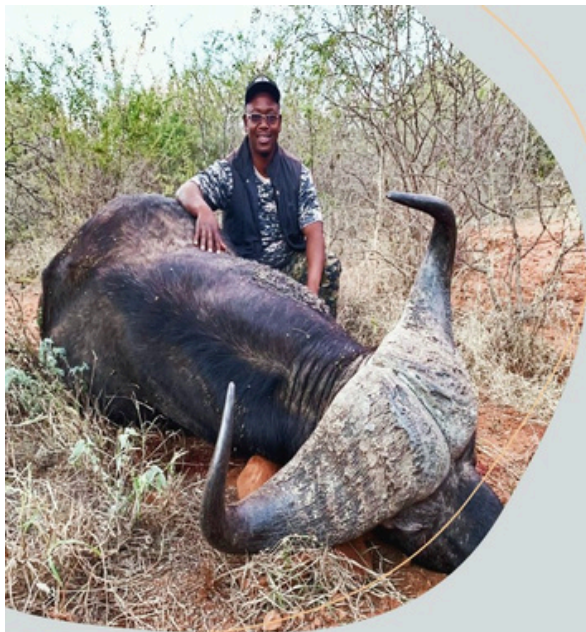
- Own double cab pickup
- Small & medium calibre rifles available for hire

William J. Jardine

Mobile: +27(0)72 520 6149

Email: ahs.hunt@vodamail.co.za





Makena Ngoato

BIRDS & DANGEROUS GAME PH

- ❖ NW - NW58080/12/2024
- ❖ LP - 202305000003152
- ❖ MP - MTPA/PH/2656
- ❖ KZN - 1505/2023
- ❖ SCI OFFICIAL MEASURER # 9077719
- ❖ PDP LICENSE
- ❖ OWN VEHICLE, RIFLES & TRACKER

084 473 2263 / info@melodisafaris.co.za

Freelance Professional Hunter

Thinus van Staden

* Licenced in Limpopo province

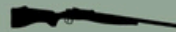
Services available:
March till
November 2025



SERVICES INCLUDE



- ▶ Rifle Hunting
- ▶ Bow Hunting
- ▶ Expert with international clients
- ▶ Firearms available
- ▶ Expert in tracking and horn length judgement



Work with me
I walk the extra mile

100%
Satisfaction

Phone No
Whatsapp 079 618 7579



Email:



thinusvanstaden0@gmail.com

We once again want to thank our 2024 sponsors and donors



CONFERENCE PARTNERS & MAIN SPONSORS



DIAMOND



GOLD



SILVER SPONSORS



Hildegard Du Plessis



Gerhard Damm



RUPERT BROWN & LINDSAY FAMILY



2024 SUPPORTERS

