



Edition 9

9 May 2025

Welcome to Edition 9 – 2025!

Greetings Custodians,

We're back with the 9th edition of your 2025 Custodians newsletter. Our goal is to keep you well-informed about the latest developments and activities within the professional hunting industry, helping you to offer exceptional hunting experiences to your clients.

This edition includes important updates such as the latest changes to USA visa regulations and engagements of Custodians with government and key industry stakeholders.

Additionally, it reflects our heartfelt thoughts for those affected by recent events in Niassa and provides information regarding the memorial service and opportunity to add an online memory of our dear friend and colleague Scott Talbott.

We encourage you to share any relevant information or news you may have, so that it can be shared with fellow Custodians.

Enjoy the read!

– Adri & Nonkie, Custodians Editorial Team

OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH....**Niassa, Mocambique**

Custodians extend our deepest condolences and heartfelt support to all hunting and safari operators, conservation teams, and communities of Niassa, Mocambique who have suffered unimaginable losses in the wake of the recent attacks. The grief of lives lost, and the pain of disrupted livelihoods are tragedies that touch us all, no matter how far away we may be. We pray for renewed efforts in protection for all and support for their conservation initiatives which are vital to Niassa.

Niassa - A reflection by Paul Stones

The recent assault on safari camps in the Niassa Special Reserve, Niassa, Mozambique, has resulted in much speculation and much rumour mongering. As with most media and self-proclaimed "journalists", sensationalism sells! Many reports that suggest both progress and regress are inaccurate.

Not to make light of the very serious situation, the destruction of livelihoods, the death of individuals and the overall threat to wildlife, its habitat and the communities that reside in the reserve through depleted conservation hunting funding, much of the now and the future is still an unknown quantity.

Over the next while, more information will be forthcoming, and clarity to where our hunting season will end, should be even more apparent. Currently we have had multiple cancellations and expect more, we do however, have clients that rely on our integrity moving forward.

The Niassa Safari Co / Luwire, stand in solidarity with Kambako Safaris, whose loss is unimaginable, Mariri whom too was attacked and the good men that lost their lives in both camps. To all those outfitters that operate in this region, we stand with you in what is a barbaric assault, not only from personal perspectives but on one of Africa's greatest wilderness conservation areas.

"We thank all that have called and messaged, for your support and prayers.

We will keep you posted from those who are on the ground and have a more accurate take on the situation as it evolves."

Thanks, Paul



Scott Talbott

Custodians extends our heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Scott Talbott, who passed away on the 25th of April. Scott's passing is a significant loss to the international hunting and conservation community.

We got to know Scott as the SCI Hunters & Guides & Outfitters Liaison, but he very quickly became much more than that; he became a dear friend of Custodians and our members.



Scott is a respected figure in the global wildlife and hunting community, known for his lifelong commitment to conservation and sustainable use. His legacy includes decades of public service, notably as Director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, where he championed science-based wildlife management and ethical hunting practices.

[Read the full obituary here.](#)

IMPORTANT UPDATE: CHANGES TO THE US VISA PROCESS - Effective April 24, 2025

Are you planning a trip to the US or know someone who is? Be aware that there are significant changes to the visa application process that started on April 24, 2025. These changes could impact your chances of approval and processing times.

Here's What's New, as shared with us by a travel agent:

1. DS-160 Barcode Requirement:

Your DS-160 barcode must match your appointment details. If it doesn't match, your visa appointment will be cancelled, and you will need to reschedule and pay the US\$185 fee again.

2. Mandatory Document Uploads:

You are now required to upload all supporting documents via the CEAC portal at least 72 hours before your interview. Last-minute uploads will not be accepted.

3. Stricter Screening Requirements:

Be prepared to provide:

- A travel history for the past two years
- Five years' worth of social media information (for every account you've used)
- Strong evidence of your ties to your home country

These rules apply to all visa types, including tourist and student visas (B1/B2, F, M) as well as work and immigrant visas (H, L, O, etc.).

What You Should Do:

- Submit your application personally - avoid using a third party.
- Double-check your DS-160 barcode before making your appointment.
- Do not submit multiple DS-160 forms.
- Upload your documents early to prevent delays.

WHERE WERE WE?

CIC General Assembly

CIC members from over 80 countries attended the 71st CIC General Assembly which was held in Doha recently. Delegates included heads of state delegations, conservation experts, youth leaders, journalists and policy makers.

Adri represented Custodians, as part of the South African CIC Delegation at the GA, under the theme Mediation – a concept that resonates deeply with hunters as stewards of nature and as intermediaries in policy, land management and public dialogue. Full details of presentations and panel discussions can be obtained [here](#):



Special Note:

The CIC German Delegation commissioned a study recently about international hunting. You can access this very informative document [HERE](#) [International Hunting and Sustainability – A Scientific Evaluation] or the full report [HERE](#).

Custodians attended SABHSSA's Inaugural Hunting Clinic

As emphasized in our annual reports over the past few years, collaboration with stakeholders is one of Custodians' key priorities. Therefore, when we were invited to attend SABHSSA's inaugural hunting clinic at the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) early May, Nonkie and Shadow-EXCO member Sarah Ripley Forsyth were registered as paying delegates to attend. Other than Nonkie and Sarah, delegates included both professional and aspiring hunters and community leaders.



Nonkie and Sarah greatly appreciated the opportunity to engage in practical activities, such as tracking and spoor identification, guided by the distinguished Mr. Pieter Nel from the SAWC. They were involved in field training, firearm safety exercises, and discussions on legislation, sustainable harvesting techniques, and industry development. Overall, they were particularly encouraged by the active participation of attendees in discussions, which demonstrated a commitment to diversifying the professional hunting sector.



Custodians participating in the Biodiversity Economy Game Meat Mega Hub workshop:

Adri attended the workshop held in Pretoria on the 5th of May. The objective of the workshop, organized by the service provider SUSTENTO, was to develop a feasibility study and business plan for establishing a game meat mega hub in South Africa.

The workshop featured a SWOT and Risk analysis intended to create a formalized system/network that will facilitate connectivity and link established compliant game meat markets (both formal and informal) with consumers at local, regional, and international levels, thereby enabling them to access game meat. We anticipate the feasibility studies for the various biodiversity economy sectors to be available by August this year.



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Custodians Conference & AGM

📅 Save the Date! Custodians Annual Conference & AGM 2025 – Goudini Spa, Western Cape
📅 17–18 November 2025

Custodians invites you to their Annual Conference, AGM and GALA 2025, taking place at the scenic Goudini Spa, just outside Rawsonville in the Western Cape winelands.

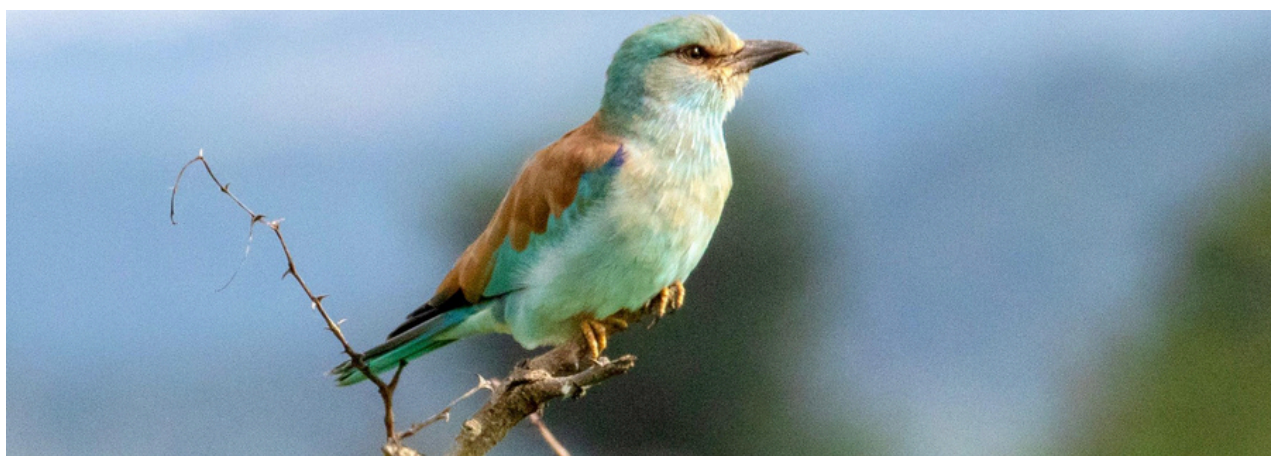
We'll explore how to elevate South Africa's global hunting profile, protect our conservation legacy, and promote ethical, sustainable use of our natural resources.

Expect a powerful mix of:

- ✓ Industry presentations
- ✓ Networking with members, partners, and government guests



Further programme and booking details to follow soon. For now, save the dates and begin your travel planning



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