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Dear Custodians members,

As we transition into the core of winter, we are pleased to provide you with more updates in this newsletter, Edition 11 of 2025. Our bi-weekly newsletter continues to serve as a valuable platform for connecting and sharing information with Custodians.

This issue includes highlights from recent Custodians engagement and collaboration efforts, North-West hunting opportunities, a member's good news story, international news, a SCIF survey regarding poaching, and another excerpt from our Constitution, enabling our members to get to know our Association better.

As always—your stories matter! If you're working on something exciting, impactful, or even just unusual, send it through. We'd love to feature it in an upcoming edition. Thanks for walking this path with us.

Regards, Adri & Nonkie Custodians Editorial Team



Adam Davies as the newest member of Custodians!

🎉 June Birthdays – Celebrating Our Custodians! 🎉

We'd like to wish a very Happy Birthday to our members celebrating in June! Adam Davies, Johann Calitz, Brett Parker, John Luyt, Xola Krafa, Clayton Comins, Siphiwe Fakude, Lasborn Mdletshe, Martin Neuper, Kallie Botes, and Sibusiso Madonsela.

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YOUR PHOTO COULD SHINE ON OUR OFFICIAL CUSTODIANS CONFERENCE BACKDROP!

As we're sure you already know, our stunning new Custodians logo was inspired by the magic of South Africa's blue skies and breathtaking sunsets. Now, we want to bring that beauty to life—through **your** lens!

We're calling on all Custodians to submit their most dazzling sky or sunset photos for a chance to be featured on our official Custodians banner, which will also serve as a backdrop during our upcoming Conference. An expert photographer will select the winning image that best captures the spirit we're after.

Think your shot has what it takes? Send your **high-resolution photo via WeTransfer** to Nonkie at **admin@thecustodians.co.za** —and don't forget to confirm with her on WhatsApp to make sure it's safely received.

Let's light up the conference backdrop with your brilliance! **Closing date: 20 July 2025**

CUSTODIANS ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION:

PROVINCIAL:

Custodians recently joined SECSICOM (Eastern Cape Safari Industry Committee). Antony Scheepers and Adri attended our first meeting on the 3rd of June, where the following points were discussed:

- Leopard Scoping Research: Although being an agenda item, it could not be discussed as the responsible persons were not present. However, concern about low participation rate (36 people).
- Eastern Cape CAE Amendments: We have requested the chairman to forward us the information for distribution to our members, as comments are due by end of July.
- **Permit Issuance Delay:** Concern was raised about apparent delays in Conservancy permits, including opportunistic species. We were informed that a departmental meeting held was scheduled for the 4th of June to address this issue.
- Buffalo Hunting Permit: SECSICOM is still awaiting the outcome from IPPHC (Inter-Provincial Professional Hunting Committee) decision regarding the acknowledgement of a buffalo course presented by two school directors, with the aim to provide for Non-Restricted PH certificates for buffalo hunting specifically.



Adri, Tim (chair), Meghan (secretary) and Antony at SECSISOM

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SECSICOM 3 JUNE (cont.....)

- Blue Duiker Assessment Procedures: It was reported that Industry did not support the proposed procedures and that the department still awaits a counter-proposal from industry. We will follow up to obtain the background.
- **Bontebok Protocol:** Current protocol remains.

- **Multi-Stakeholder Meeting: Scheduled** for July 30th regarding Greater Addo Mega living Landscape project. We will forward the information.
- AIS (Alien & Invasive Species) Requirements: There will be a fee increase. There are also specific requirements for Conservancies that want to introduce AIS onto their properties

Morth West -2025 Hunting & Culling Opportunities Now Open!

The North West Parks and Tourism Board is inviting bids for an exciting selection of biltong, trophy, and culling hunting packages across several of its renowned reserves. All operations must be completed by 31 August 2025, and bids close at 11:00 on 10 June 2025. This is a unique opportunity for outfitters, hunters, and professional culling teams to participate in sustainable wildlife management.

Download the full Hunting & Culling Packages Bid Document (PDF)

For permit details, Click here

SA WILDLIFE COLLEGE

Nonkie and Adri recently spent two days with Theresa Sowry and her team at SA Wildlife College to strengthen the working relationship between the two institutions. One of the initiatives resulting from these discussions was to reinstate the opportunity for Custodians members to participate in a 3-day SAWC Dangerous Game Course. It is important to note that this course will <u>not</u> contribute to the 60-day experience required to obtain your Dangerous Game PH Permit. However, all members who have previously attended the course can attest to its value in improving your skills as a professional hunter!

SAWC: Dangerous Game Course

The SAWC available dates will be during July and November and we need to identify three consecutive days, for a minimum of eight and maximum of ten participants. Details regarding the course have been shared on our WhatsApp group, and we will reach out to those members who have expressed their interest in participating. Please let us know if you are interested.

Please note that this course does not qualify participants to obtain a Dangerous Game PH Permit. It is designed solely for personal enrichment.

For more comprehensive information, please refer to the flyer.



Specialist Dangerous Game Courses at The Southern African Wildlife College

The Southern African Wildlife College have developed a series of dangerous game courses for the amateur and Professional Hunters alike. Species covered in these courses are Elephant, Buffalo, lion, leopard, hippo and crocodile. The course consists of a 3 to 4 hour theory presentation on each specie, covering habitat and habits, biology, aging, ethical hunting techniques, trophy assessment, shot placement and suitable rifles and calibres.

Significant time is spent out in the college training area, which shares an unfenced boundary with both Kruger National Park and Timbavati Private Nature Reserve. In this time, participants track and approach dangerous game, giving participants time to get accustomed to being in the presence of these animals and putting the theory learned into practice. During these approaches each animal is aged, shot placement discussed, and other related information discussed.

The course is completed with a session on our shooting range. Each rifle is inspected, suggestions made in relation to stock fit, sights etc. A shooting exercise conducted, testing the shooter, rifle handling and reliability under pressure. Participants will complete a standard shooting test, similar to what walking guides in the Kruger National Park has to pass. This will test every participant and rifle to the limit, any flaw will raise its head. Few rifles, including expensive ones, have made it through this course without a glitch.

Participants come out of these courses with a better understanding of their own capabilities, where they need to improve, and if their hunting equipment needs any attention. Moreover, participants get a better understanding and improved appreciation of the animal, it's behavior and habitat. In turn, this makes for a more responsible approach to the use of natural resources.

We can tailor make this product to the clients' needs, and encourage input. Any knowledge added, is an improvement to the next generation of conservationists.

~A three-day course discussing two animals (i.e. Buffalo and Elephant, or Lion and Hippo), sleeping in safari type tents, each with an en suite bathroom, including a light breakfast consisting of coffee/tea with rusks, a full lunch, and an evening braai will cost R6350 pp sharing. This does not include the rent of a weapon or use of ammunition (Participants are expected to use own weapons and ammunition on shooting range as part of equipment test). ~ An option to self-cater in above-mentioned accommodation can be chosen, with cost R 5500 pp.

Training beyond boundaries

Registered as an incorporated association for Section 21 of the Companies Act 61 of 1973. Registration Number 1996/005726/08. 046-675-NPO. 930016093-PBO Registered as a Private Higher Education Institution until 31 December 2027. Registration Number: 2011/HE08/004.

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6 June 2025

NEWS & VIEWS

Well done!

to Custodians member Dr Robbie Kroger, who succeeded in publishing an excellent rebuttal to an article which was published in Daily Maverick recently.

Read here.

MEMBERS' GOOD NEWS STORIES

Wildlife Comes Home to Sephikantswana: A Community-Led Conservation Success Story from Kwalata Safaris

Exciting momentum continues to build at the Sephikantswana Community Rewilding and Rehabilitation Project, proudly led by Kwalata Safaris. This dynamic initiative is reviving natural landscapes, restoring local wildlife populations, and placing communities at the heart of conservation.

In a major milestone, the project has successfully reintroduced several species of indigenous plains game to the property—breathing life back into an ecosystem long deprived of its natural inhabitants. The return of these animals is a powerful symbol of renewal, laying the groundwork for future biodiversity and ecological balance. But this is more than just a wildlife success. It's a community transformation story. Kwalata Safaris has long believed that meaningful conservation must benefit the people who live closest to the land. That's why the project places strong emphasis on: MRewilding — Restoring habitat and reintroducing key game species native to the region;

Community collaboration — Actively involving local stakeholders in stewardship and land management;

Skills development – Including the sponsorship of professional hunter training, with two promising candidates from the Sephikantswana community currently under assessment.







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"Conservation can only work if communities are part of it from the ground up," says the Kwalata team. "By restoring both wildlife and opportunity, we're building a shared future where people and nature thrive together."

This is just the beginning. With more species set for introduction, expanded training programmes, and continued ecological restoration, Sephikantswana is fast becoming a model for what's possible when conservation is done with communities, not just for them. Follow the journey at www.kwalata.com

Access to Information

Stay informed through exclusive updates, access to our research repository, policy briefings, and regular engagement on key industry developments.

SOUTH AFRICA AS TOURISM DESTINATION

Tourism Sector Concerned Over SA-US Crime Narrative

\mathscr{O} Full article here

The South African Tourism Services Association (SATSA) has voiced concern following President Ramaphosa's recent meeting with former U.S. President Donald Trump, where crime and land reform took centre stage. SATSA warns that this focus could undermine tourism confidence, calling instead for a balanced narrative that reflects South Africa's ongoing efforts to address crime and promote responsible, inclusive growth.



In this regard, we would also like to refer you to the SATSA statement and document below:
Statement





MEDIA STATEMENT Minister of Tourism Responds to Updated U.S. Travel Advisory Pretoria, 4 June 2025

The Minister of Tourism notes the recent update by the United States Department of State to its travel advisory for South Africa. We respect the sovereign right of all nations to provide guidance to their citizens travelling abroad. We also acknowledge the recent meeting between Presidents Ramaphosa and Trump and the subsequent media coverage that has followed.

However, it is important to offer broader context and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety, comfort, and enjoyment of all visitors to our country.

South Africa remains one of the most sought-after and rewarding travel destinations in the world — known for its natural beauty, cultural diversity, and the warm hospitality of its people. While challenges such as crime exist, as they do in many countries globally, the overwhelming majority of international visitors travel safely and leave with positive, enriching experiences. Visitor safety is, and continues to be, a national priority. It is actively addressed through a range of coordinated efforts between government, law enforcement, the tourism sector, and local communities. Our tourism infrastructure remains robust and resilient, with several established safety measures, including:

- Increased security presence in key tourism nodes, supported by trained Tourism Monitors stationed at popular attractions and visitor hotspots;
- Ongoing collaboration between government, law enforcement, and the private sector to ensure proactive safety monitoring and swift incident response.

It is worth highlighting that travel demand from the United States remains robust. In 2024, arrivals from the U.S. returned to pre-pandemic levels and the United States surpassed the United Kingdom as South Africa's largest source market. In the first four months of 2025 alone,

South Africa welcomed 111,491 visitors from the USA — reaffirming the destination's enduring appeal and strong market confidence.

We understand that travellers may have concerns, and we encourage all visitors to exercise the same level of vigilance and awareness they would when visiting any international destination. We also call on media outlets and government agencies globally to report on South Africa with accuracy and balance, recognising the distinction between isolated incidents and the broader reality experienced by millions of safe and satisfied travellers.

We are engaging closely with the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation on this matter and wish to reassure all travellers that South Africa remains open, welcoming, and committed to ensuring a safe and pleasurable journey for all who visit.

We look forward to continuing to welcome travellers from the United States and across the globe, to share in the richness of our landscapes, the depth of our culture, and the warmth of our people.

Ends.

Media Queries:

Mncedisi Mtshali Email: mmtshali@tourism.gov.za



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6 June 2025

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Dallas Safari Club

CEO Update



I hope everyone is gearing up for a great summer! After approximately five months as DSC's CEO, I am starting to see some light at the end of the proverbial tunnel. The temps are rising in North Texas, as is the excitement for our new signature summer event. I am thrilled to give an update on our inaugural Summer Expo and Foundation Gala coming up July 17-19 at the Gaylord Texan in Grapevine near DFW Airport. The <u>show floor</u> is sold out with more than 250 Exhibitor Partners from around the world coming to Dallas for this new summer showcase. There will be some amazing displays from outfitters, taxidermists and firearms manufacturers like Ruger and Marlin.

Along with the expo, a host of events will be happening around the Expo, starting with the Thursday night kickoff Smoke & Spurs Banquet and Auction. This Texas BBQ will feature great food, live music, cold libations and one heck of a party! If evening isn't your scene, then join us for the Ladies' Brunch and Auction or the Life Member Breakfast and Auction. Of course, the 3-day event will be capped off by the DSC Foundation Gala. Fabulous door prizes, entertaining guest speakers and world-class items will be available at the auctionsjoin us for one or all of these exciting events!

Along with print and radio ads, you should soon see this event advertised on more than 150 digital billboards around the DFW area. DSC has made a significant investment in promoting the Summer Expo and Foundation Gala, and ticket sales for the expo and events are strong, with much more to come. I've also been polishing up my best DSC sales pitch for a host of podcasts and upcoming radio interviews. Check those out for some exciting updates about what is going on around DSC.

Also, be sure to check out some great deals currently happening in the updated <u>DSC</u> <u>online store</u>. There are a ton of great items, from hats to shirts to DSC gear, and it's all 25% off right now with the code D&G25, just in time for graduation and Father's Day! Finally, we are seeing positive momentum all around DSC at the moment. Members and exhibitor partners are excited about the upcoming Summer Expo, and I hope to see you there, or at another member event soon!

Sincerely,

Rob McCanna CEO DSC and DSC Foundation



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Safari Club International

SCIF Launches Anti-Poaching and Landscape Protection Strategy (ALPS) The Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF) has launched a new initiative, the Antipoaching and Landscape Protection Strategy (ALPS), aimed at enhancing anti-poaching efforts and safeguarding key landscapes across Africa.

SCIF is calling on all hunting safari operators to participate in a short 10–15 minute survey to help identify priority areas for pilot projects. Your input is vital in shaping effective, region-specific strategies that reflect the needs and realities of the industry.

<u>Click here to take the survey</u>

We encourage all members to complete the survey and share it widely within their networks. Together, we can make a meaningful impact on conservation, protect our wildlife, and ensure the sustainability of the landscapes and communities we serve.



For further information or questions, please contact SCIF directly.

GET TO KNOW OUR ASSOCIATION – PART 2

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we will publish sections of the Custodians Constitution in every newsletter, to enable our members to know our Association better.

Herewith sections 3 & 4 of the Constitution:

3. MISSION STATEMENT



The Association has been established to:

3.1 promote ethical and responsible hunting;

3.2 demonstrate and enhance conservation and ecologically sustainable development through the responsible use of natural resources in order to ensure that South Africa's biodiversity and conservation heritage is protected for the benefit of present and future generations; and to

3.3 enhance and promote the contribution of professional hunting to the livelihood and socio-economic development of all South Africans.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the Association are to:

4.1 uphold to the highest standards of ethical and responsible hunting conduct whilst in the field and to promote the traditions of responsible hunting;

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4.2 promote and improve the image and integrity of professional hunting and hunting in general by supporting sound and socially acceptable hunting and conservation principles that generate incentives for conservation and social-economic benefits for wildlife stewards and people co-existing with wildlife;

4.3 promote broad based black economic empowerment in the hunting environment in order to contribute to redressing the imbalances of the past;

4.4 ensure, in fulfilling these objectives, and while recognising that the economic empowerment of previously disadvantaged Members is a crucial component of the broader spectrum of transformation that is imperative in South Africa, that:

4.5 the initiatives of the Association through its transformation strategy are carried out with integrity, whilst being developmental and representative of the interests of all South Africans;

4.6 the Association contributes to the existing and future developmental and empowerment programmes within the field of hunting in South Africa;

4.7 promote an ethos of integrity, transparency and accountability within the structures of the Association;

4.8 collaborate with governments and other conservation-orientated non-governmental organisations, and to assist them in the execution of their duties, aims and missions in all matters relating to hunting and conservation;

4.9 engage with and educate civil society and policy makers through the press, social media and any other mechanisms that become available regarding the true value and benefits of hunting within the realm of conservation;

4.10 promote and safeguard the interests of its Members in relation to the aim and objects of the Association;

4.11 cooperate with and assist (where possible) other associations that share similar values and goals to the Association;

4.12 promote brand South Africa as a hunting and tourism destination within the local and international hunting and tourism industry;

4.13 observe and promote the obligations in, and purposes of, the Firearms Control Act, Act 60 of 2000 ("the Act"); and

4.14 to procure funding for the promotion of the goals and objectives of the Association.

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OTHER CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORIES:

氲 Cape Vulture Conservation: A Beacon of Hope Amid Ongoing Challenges

The Cape vulture (Gyps coprotheres), Southern Africa's only endemic vulture species, has shown promising signs of recovery. Once classified as endangered, its status was upgraded to vulnerable in 2021, reflecting a stabilizing population. Notably, earlier this year, over 80 wild Cape vultures were sighted near Mountain Zebra National Park in the Eastern Cape—the first such occurrence in over three decades.

This resurgence is attributed to dedicated conservation efforts, including breeding and release programs, habitat protection, and community engagement. However, threats like poisoning, collisions with energy infrastructure, and belief-based use in traditional medicine continue to pose significant risks.

The Cape vulture's recovery offers a hopeful narrative in vulture conservation yet underscores the need for sustained efforts to address persistent challenges.



SAVE THE DATE: CUSTODIANS ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 17-18 NOVEMBER 2025

Goudini Spa, Western Cape

A reminder that the Custodians Annual Conference will be held on 17–18 November 2025 at Goudini Spa, located outside Rawsonville in the heart of the Western Cape winelands. This year's theme will focus on South Africa's distinctive qualities as a hunting destination.

Our theme this years is "Rekindling the spirit of hunting Mzansi", A destination like no other.

As is customary, the conference will offer you an opportunity to network with fellow members, industry partners, stakeholders, and potentially some government representatives. Further details, including the programme, keynote speakers, and accommodation options, will be shared shortly.

Meanwhile, please mark your calendar and commence your travel arrangements.

Your participation is crucial in advancing the industry and affirming South Africa's esteemed position on the world hunting stage.











CUSTCE JIANS 2025 Annual Conference Rekindling the spirit of hunting Mzanzi

A destination like no other

DO YOU WANT TO ADD YOUR NAME OR BUSINESS TO THE SPONSORS' LIST?

The Custodians' Annual Conference, AGM, and Gala Dinner are set to take place at Goudini Spa, Rawsonville in the beautiful Western Cape on 17 & 18 November 2025 – and you're invited to be part of it!

We're ready to welcome you on board as a valued sponsor at our 2025 Conference. With an expected 100–120 delegates, this is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your support and connect with the heartbeat of our community.

Want to make an even bigger impact? Contribute items for our legendary annual auction, happening after the Gala Dinner on 18 November – it's always a highlight of the night!

Please see all the available opportunities, as listed below.

- To confirm your support as sponsor or donor, or get more info, reach out to:
 - Adri: 083-650-0442 / ceo@thecustodians.co.za
- Nonkie: 081-036-1151 / <u>admin@</u>thecustodians.co.za

A little bit more about our Association:

Custodians is a voluntary membership organisation, established in 2017 to:

- promote ethical and responsible hunting;
- demonstrate and enhance conservation and ecologically sustainable development through the responsible use of natural resources, to ensure that South Africa's biodiversity and conservation heritage is protected for the benefit of present and future generations; and to
- enhance and promote the contribution of professional hunting to the livelihood and socio-economic development of all South Africans.



International & South African Conference Partners



CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES & EXPOSURE

DOUBLE GOLD Sponsorship: R20,000 Sponsorship Package:

Being acknowledged as a Double Gold Category Sponsor Inclusion of logo on all event materials Exhibition space Opportunity for sponsor to speak at one of the side-events Gala dinner for 2 persons Distribution of pamphlets or marketing material to conference attendees Logo featured on website for 12 months

GOLD: R10,000 Sponsorship Package:

Being acknowledged as a Gold Category Sponsor Inclusion of logo on all event materials Exhibition space Distribution of pamphlets or marketing material to conference attendees Logo featured on website for 12 months

SILVER:R5,000 Sponsorship Package:

Being acknowledged as a Silver Category Sponsor Inclusion of logo on all event materials Distribution of pamphlets or marketing material to conference attendees Logo featured on website for 12 month

BRONZE: ALL DONATIONS UP TO R4999 Sponsorship Package:

Being acknowledged as a Bronze Category Sponsor Inclusion of logo on all event materials Logo featured on website for 12 months

GALA DINNER AUCTION ITEM / DONOR PACKAGES:

Our annual fundraising auction will be held on Tuesday night, the 18th of November, following our annual gala dinner.

Donation packages:

-Auction item donors will be acknowledged in the Conference manual;

-Donors' names and/or logos will be displayed on the online auction platform;

-Donors' names and/or logos will be displayed on the slide show during the auction, together with images of the auction item;

-Logos will be featured on the Custodians website for a period of 12 months.



International & South African Conference Partners



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In addition to representing our members both nationally and internationally at government and stakeholder levels, Custodian members qualify for:

- Section 16A (Professional Hunter) status in accordance with the Firearms Control Act;
- Endorsement of firearm licence application motivations;
- A limited annual apprenticeship program for newly qualified Professional Hunters (PHs);
- SATIB-24 Crisis Call cover for PHs, hunting outfitters, and their staff through individual membership;

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- The opportunity for qualified PHs to register for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), aimed at obtaining a national NQF Level 4 certificate;
- Discounts on select vehicle purchases through Toyota SMG.

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PH REGISTERS

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CONTACT NONKIE ADMIN@THECUSTODIANS. CO.ZA TO ORDER YOUR NEW PH REGISTER. WE NOW HAVE ADVERTISEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CUSTODIANS MEMBERS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AND IN NEWSLETTERS. CONTACT NONKIE ADMIN@THECUSTODIANS.CO.ZA FOR MORE INFO!