



Picture: Oliver Stewart

## WELCOME

### Winter's Here — But We're Just Warming Up!

With the Winter Solstice rolling in tomorrow, we're reminded that change is in the air; and here at the Custodians office, we're shifting into high gear! Between prepping for next week's EXCO meeting and getting fired up for our 2025 Annual Conference, there's no time for hibernation.

But don't worry — we've still made time to bring you another jam-packed, info-rich edition of your Custodians Newsletter.

- ✓ Thinking about registering for the **conference**, becoming a **sponsor**, or **donate** an item for our **annual auction**?
- ✓ Struggling with your **Limpopo PH or HO Outfitter permit application**?
- ✓ Still wrapping your head around the **RPL process**?

No worries — we've got it all covered right here.

Settle in, enjoy the read, and as always — thanks for being part of the Custodians community.

Warm regards,  
Adri & Nonkie  
Editorial Team



*Welcome to our newest members  
Hannah Ford and Petra Schorr.*



## ON THE TRAIL TO CUSTODIANS' 2025 CONFERENCE



Rekindling the spirit of hunting in Mzansi  
A destination like no other


# custodians


## CONFERENCE & AGM

17 - 18 NOV' 2025


Registrations now open

Picture: Garry Kelly Safaris

 **Venue:** Slanghoek Villa, Goudini Spa, Rawsonville

 **Arrivals:** Sunday, 16 November 2025

 **Networking, Conference & AGM:** Monday & Tuesday, 17-18 November 2025

 **Departures:** Wednesday, 19 November 2025

 [Invitation letter and preliminary program](#)

### Good News!

Thanks to the combination of budget friendly yet luxury accommodation, the total costs for the conference registration and accommodation won't exceed last year's.

In fact, depending on how many people share a villa and with option to self-cater some meals, there's a good chance it could even cost less.





## Even better news for our Custodi-Youngs (<35)

This year, our *Custodi-Youngs* (paid-up members <35) are eligible for a **conference registration subsidy of up to R1,000!**

♥ Why? Because they are the future of South Africa's PH industry!



🔔 Don't miss out – send us your/their registration forms ASAP to claim the subsidy!

Let's make **"Rekindling Hunting Mzansi: A Destination Like No Other"**  
a conference to remember – together.

👉 [Conference registration form](#)

👉 [Accommodation reservation booking form](#)

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## Be Part of the 2025 Conference Magic!

Our stunning new logo was inspired by South Africa's iconic skies—now we want your help to bring that magic to life!

We're inviting all Custodians to submit their most breathtaking sky or sunset photos to be featured on our official Custodians banner and serve as the backdrop for our upcoming Conference.

📅 Deadline: 20 July 2025

Let's colour the Conference with your vision

An expert photographer will handpick the winning image that captures the soul of our skies and the spirit of Custodians.

*Think you've got the shot?*

Send your high-res photo via WeTransfer to Nonkie at [admin@thecustodians.co.za](mailto:admin@thecustodians.co.za), and confirm delivery with her on WhatsApp.

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**Your name. Your brand. Your legacy – proudly aligned with the values we stand for.**

Our members are the heartbeat of the Custodians community, and when it comes to our annual conference and auction, your support is what turns a great event into an unforgettable one.

We're inviting you to get involved by not only attending, but by becoming:

- a Conference Sponsor; or
- donating an item to our prestigious Conference Auction.

All sponsors and donors will receive recognition:

- In the build-up to the conference;
- During the event itself; and
- Across our platforms for 12 months afterwards

Every contribution helps us raise vital funds to achieve and aims and objectives and to celebrate the spirit of ethical and responsible, professional hunting in Mzansi.

See below links

👉 [Sponsorship opportunity letter](#)

👉 [Become a donor or sponsor](#)

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## INDUSTRY NEWS

### Online permit applications: Limpopo

LEDET online permit applications have reportedly not been successful for some members. Nonkie contacted LEDET, and the main issue identified was members not submitting their registrations correctly. Here are some guidelines:

1. Ensure you click the SUBMIT button after uploading all your details; otherwise, the profile will be created but not registered with LEDET.

#### 2. PH permit applications:

Attach copies of the following documentation:

- a) hunting registers;
- b) **certified** copy of the ID, with certification stamp not older than 3 months; and
- c) expired, signed PH permit.

#### 3. For Hunting Outfitter permits application (on own land):

Attach copies of the following documentation:

- a) Certified ID copy, with the certification stamp not older than 3 months;
  - b) P3 exemption
  - c) Camp inspection certificate;
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**Online permit applications: Limpopo (cont...)**

- d) Brochure; and
- e) Pricelist.

**4. For Hunting Outfitter permits application (if you are NOT the landowner)**

Attach copies of the following documentation:

- a) Certified ID copy, with the certification stamp not older than 3 months;
- b) Landowner's P3 exemption
- c) Landowner's camp inspection certificate;
- d) Transfer of hunting rights; and
- e) Written permission from landowner to use the camp
- d) Brochure; and
- e) Pricelist.

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**Update on PHASA's Professional Body Status and Industry Developments**

Many of our longstanding members will remember that PHASA was officially registered as the professional body for professional hunting a few years ago. This was recently renewed for another five years.

In early June, Custodians took part in a workshop hosted by PHASA, attended by representatives from other professional hunting associations, training institutions, and school directors. Key topics included the creation of a fully inclusive professional body and the transition of current unit standards into a modular format for formal qualifications.

**Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and the Path Forward**

The topic of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) was discussed in detail during the recent workshop. PHASA remains confident that a national qualification will, in time, become a formal requirement to operate as a professional hunter. However, we must emphasize that no legal confirmation has yet been received from the relevant provincial nature conservation authorities or the national Departments of Environmental Affairs or Higher Education.

That said, the absence of formal confirmation does not preclude the possibility that such a requirement may be introduced in the future. If introduced, there is huge uncertainty on how it will apply to professional hunters who currently hold valid PH permits originally issued based on a PH school certificate and thereafter renewed through demonstrated activities as a professional hunter. Please refer to the information previously shared in [Newsletter No. 5/2025](#).

The deadline for RPL applications, is 30 June 2026. If you intend to apply for RPL, we strongly encourage you to contact Nonkie to do so as early as possible to avoid a last-minute bottleneck closer to the closing date.

We will continue to keep you informed as new developments arise concerning the professional body, RPL processes, and the national qualification framework.

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**SAHGCA NEWS**

Custodians congratulates Mr. Basie Bergh on his recent appointment as CEO of the SA Hunters and Game Conservation Association.

With our Memorandum of Understanding in place, we look forward to building an even stronger partnership with SAHGCA as we continue to promote a responsible and sustainable hunting community.

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS****Congratulations to DSC and TWA Foundation on this excellent initiative!**

DSC Foundation sponsors the Texas Wildlife Association Foundation's Adult Learn to Hunt Program, during which they engage late adult onset hunters, providing them the tools to understand what hunting is; from ethics, to shooting, to proper butchering and meat care, to the importance of hunting for conservation. Congratulations to DSC and TWA Foundation on this excellent initiative!

The participants become stewards for hunting after leaving the class. What better mechanism to enhance the hunting narrative by having resource professionals understanding what hunting does and what it means.

**ANOTHER EXCELLENT DSC INITIATIVE, to take place during the DSC Summer Expo**

All, aged 9 and up, can earn their Texas Hunter Education Certification at the DSC Summer Expo! A 6-hour class on Saturday, the 19th of July, will cover hunting safety, ethics, and conservation, with lunch provided by the DSC Foundation.

✓ Certification is just \$15

🎫 Each student receives two complimentary day passes to the DSC Summer Expo

📅 Pre-registration is required!





## Conservation Force

Conservation Force Appoints Joseph Goergen as Director of Conservation Strategies

Full press release: <https://www.conservationforce.org/news-updates-alerts>.



Conservation Force has expanded its team by adding Joseph Goergen as Director of Conservation Strategies. Goergen brings more than a decade of proven leadership in natural resource policy and international affairs aligned with Conservation Force's commitment to sustainable use and mission to amplify the positive contributions of sportsmen and women to wildlife and habitat conservation globally.

"Joe is an emerging leader with great potential and the precise skillset to be a true Conservation Force multiplier", said John Jackson, President. "He is recognized and respected across the globe. He will immediately increase our influence in policy engagement, species management planning, and other strategic conservation initiatives as we meet our growing MOU obligations in Africa and collaboration with Dallas Safari Club in the international conservation arena. Joe is also expected to assist Marco Pani, our Director of International Programs."

Throughout his career, Goergen has worked closely with Conservation Force and its network of government and operator partners, engaging both in high-level multilateral forums such as CITES and IUCN and on-the-ground management of a large grant portfolio for wildlife research and anti-poaching projects. He brings valuable experience in government relations, multicultural diplomacy, partnership development, workshop facilitation, non-profit fundraising, and communications.

"Conservation Force is the most trusted advocate for the international hunting industry, recognized by governments, operators, and hunter-conservationists", said Goergen. "I'm extremely grateful and excited to apply my unique experience to this conservation legacy."

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## OTHER NEWS

**Controversy Over Rhino Relocation in Rwanda**

A recent Daily Maverick article has sparked debate over African Parks' decision to translocate more South African rhinos to Rwanda. The piece, titled "Loaded for Bear: African Parks Has Disgracefully Sent More SA Rhinos to Repressive Rwanda," raises urgent ethical, political, and conservation questions about the move. Critics argue the relocation undermines local conservation sovereignty and ignores human rights concerns in the recipient country.

[Read the full article](#)

**PH REGISTERS**

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!

**🌿 Reminder: Youth Discount on Custodians Membership 🌿**

A reminder that Custodians offers a 66.66% discount on first-year membership for new members under the age of 25, and a 33.33% discount in their second year. This is part of our commitment to nurturing a new generation of Professional Hunters who value responsible, resourceful, and ethical use of our natural resources. We encourage all members to sign up their young PHs and staff and help us strengthen the future of sustainable use and conservation.

For more information, contact the Custodians office.  
Nonkie [admin@thecustodians.co.za](mailto:admin@thecustodians.co.za) | +27 81 036 1151



## KNOW YOUR CUSTODIANS - NO 3

### 7. POWERS

The Association, acting through its Executive Committee, or at general meeting, will have all the powers necessary for it to carry out its stated objectives effectively. Such powers shall include, but not be limited to:

- 7.1. the employment of staff and hiring and engaging contractors and professional and other services;
- 7.2. the appointment of the Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Panel, the convenor of the Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Panel and prosecutors in disciplinary hearings;
- 7.3. the institution or defending of any legal or arbitration proceedings and the settling of any claims made by or against the Association;
- 7.4. the opening and operating of accounts with registered banks;
- 7.5. the making and varying of investments and re-investment of the proceeds of such investments on condition that any investments made by the Association shall be with registered financial institutions;
- 7.6. the acceptance of donations made to the Association and retaining them in the form in which they are received, or selling them and utilizing the proceeds in terms of the powers granted in this clause 7;
- 7.7. the purchase and acquisition of property and assets, whether movable, immovable or intangible;
- 7.8. the maintenance, management, development, exchange, leasing, selling, or in any way dealing with the property and assets of the Association whether movable, immovable or intangible;
- 7.9. the donation and transferring of property and assets of the Association to organisations with the same or similar objectives;
- 7.10. the power to borrow and to use the property or assets of the Association as security;
- 7.11. the guaranteeing of the performance of contracts or obligations of any person on condition that any such person is primarily engaged in activities which further the objectives of the Association;
- 7.12. the execution any act or deed in any deeds registry, mining title or other public office;
- 7.13. work in collaboration with other organisations and to amalgamate with any organisation with the same or similar Aims and Objectives;
- 7.14. the exercising of all the management and executive powers that are normally vested in the board of directors of a Company;
- 7.15. To make rules as envisaged in clause 11 of the Constitution

# We once again want to thank our 2024 sponsors and donors



## CONFERENCE PARTNERS & MAIN SPONSORS



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SAFARI OUTDOOR



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