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4 July 2025



It's mid-winter in South Africa and—"dis bibber-weer"! 🎇

We know many of you are deep into peak hunting season, and we're sending best wishes for safe, successful, and unforgettable safaris. Whether you're tracking game in the bush or running the show from your office, we hope this edition of our bi-weekly newsletter brings you value, insight, and a quick connection to what matters in our industry.

F This week, we're focusing on feedback from the recent wildlife forum meeting, wildlife research and other interesting news. We even include the Springbuck games schedule!

Before we get into it, a quick reminder about the **2025 Custodians Conference**, **17&18 November at Goudini Spa, Rawsonville, Western Cape.**

Over and above attending, you also have the opportunity for you or your business to feature on the Conference materials by grabbing a sponsorship spot or donating an auction item. And while you're at it, be sure to register yourself and your team for the conference spaces are filling fast!

See below links

- Invitation letter and preliminary program
- Conference registration form
- Accommodation reservation booking form
- Sponsorship opportunity letter
- Become a donor or sponsor

Warm winter wishes, Adri & Nonkie Editorial Team

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JULY BIRTHDAYS

Brad Birkholts 28th, Craig Kelly-Maartens 19th, Greg King 13th, Harold Lister 9th, James Gush 15th, Edward Wilson 23rd, Luke McDonald 14th, Paul Stones 14th, Pieter Erasmus 7th, Romano Willemse 9th, Sanette du Preez 28th and Shawn Viljoen 4th of July.



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER: Theunis Smit



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OUR NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE



The new Custodians website is built to make your experience faster, fresher, and more userfriendly. It's still the Custodians you know and trust — just with a digital upgrade, following our recent rebranding.

We'd love for you to take a look, click around, and let us know what you think

Questions, feedback, or ideas? We're all ears: <u>admin@thecustodians.co.za</u>

Ready? Set? Browse!

🗲 <u>www.thecustodians.co.za</u>

EXCO MEETING



What's to expect?

A clean, modern layout for easy navigation.

About Custodians Everything you need to know about who we are

Member Information Everything you need as a Custodians member – at your fingertips with essential documents and updates

About our Industry Access all relevant policies and legislation pertaining to our industry

Document Vault Access up-to-date wildlife and biodiversity research.

News & Events Latest news, events, and policy info.

Custodians EXCO recently met virtually. EXCO meetings are a vital part of our ongoing commitment to good governance and transparency. Not only is this meeting in line with the stipulations outlined in our Constitution, but it also serves



as an essential platform for discussing key updates, making informed decisions, and ensuring the smooth running of our organization, all of which will be reported on at our AGM to be held on the 18th of November 2025.

PITFALLS OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Read here: Custodians full Position Statement re Social media

While social media gives everyone a voice, individual members of associations should be mindful of the impact their words can have, both personally and professionally. When a Custodians member criticizes another association or its members, whether from a personal perspective or otherwise, their membership may lead people to associate the comment with Custodians.

Our intention is not to monitor the personal activities of Custodians members. However, we would like to offer a gentle reminder that public statements—especially those that are critical or contentious—may be perceived as reflecting the views of Custodians, even when made in a personal capacity.

In light of this, we kindly ask members to refrain from making or engaging in negative commentary about other associations, organizations, or individuals on public platforms. A spirit of mutual respect and professionalism benefits us all and contributes to a stronger, more collaborative industry.

We thank all Custodians for your continued support and for helping us maintain a professional and respectful environment within the industry.

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LEGISLATION

WILDLIFE FORUM

As reported previously, Custodians actively engage with the government. As members of the national wildlife forum under the auspices of the Department of Environmental Affairs, we attended a meeting last week. Key insights include:



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

- Provinces were requested at the previous meeting, to report permit statistics at every forum meeting. However, as there was no template, the reporting was inconsistent and we proposed that the Department provide a standardized template for provincial reporting on all permits issued, including details on the causes for backlogs; e.g. whether it is due to a delay of applicant documentation being provided, or permit office delays.
- We enquired from LEDET about the number of non-exportable trophy hunt permits issued, or reasons for non-issuance. It was reported that, currently, most elephant hunting permits in Limpopo are for DCAs. However, we also received the good news that LEDET is exploring the possibility of issuing permits for non-exportable elephant hunts, to align offerings for the areas surrounding the KNP, for both international and South African hunters.
- Feedback on export quotas for elephant, leopard, and black rhino: The Scientific Authority's recommendations on leopard will be sent to DFFE by the end of the week, with the internal process starting thereafter for the Minister's review. Custodians noted it is unlikely that export quotas will be issued this year given the timing and asked about the timeline for next year's quotas, requesting urgent and regular updates between wildlife forum meetings.

CITES:

All proposals for the CITES CoP in November, is available on the CITES website.

However, as far as South Africa is concerned, it was reported at the wildlife forum that, from

the 17 proposals received, the following six were approved:



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CITES CONT....

- 1. Abalone: The inclusion in Appendix II if South African abalone (Haliotis midae) that are exported in dry form.
- 2. Giraffe: To delete Giraffe camelopardalis giraffa (southern giraffe) from Appendix II by excluding the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe from the listing.
- 3. Bontebok: To delete Damaliscus pygargus pygargus (bontebok) from CITES Appendix II.
- 4. Aloe spp: To amend the listing of Aloe spp. In Appendix II to also include the four species previously treated in the non-listed genus Chortolirion, but now included in Aloe
- 5. Avonia quinaria: Transfer Avonia quinaria from Appendix II to Appendix I
- 6. Euphorbia bupleurifolia: Transfer Euphorbia bupleurifolia from Appendix li to Appendix I.

Stakeholder meetings have been arranged for the 8th and 9th of September.

RESEARCH

WILDLIFE RESEARCH:

Research recently undertaken by Prof Peet Van Der Merwe and Andrea Saayman, determined the collective economic significance of hunting tourism in South Africa, making several contributions to the field of study.

Firstly, it contributes to the literature by providing empirical evidence of the simultaneous economic significance of both types of hunting markets, that is, biltong and trophy hunting in the country. Therefore, for the first time, there is a combined economic value of the contribution of hunting tourism to the South African economy (USD2.586 billion).

Secondly, this research follows the COVID-19 pandemic and shows the economic rebound of the industry and its importance to the economy of South Africa and job creation. <u>Read the full research paper here</u> Given that the South African government allowed hunting as one of the first kinds of tourism to continue generally during the pandemic due to its location in open spaces, this result gives credence to this decision, safeguarding income and jobs in rural South Africa.

Thirdly, the practical contribution for the researchers lies in the notion that hunting, directly and indirectly, supports conservation initiatives in South Africa, thus facilitating job creation (95,000 job opportunities depend on hunting), and therefore, plays a vital role in South Africa to improve the living conditions of people living in rural areas.

Lastly, this research reveals that the consumptive use of wildlife is an integral part of the rural economic development plan in South Africa and Africa – a continent blessed with abundant, diverse wildlife.

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😇 Reflecting on Cecil – And Those We've Lost to Wildlife

On the ten-year anniversary of Cecil the lion's death, this thought-provoking piece shifts focus from animal tragedy to human loss. In a deeply affecting read, Ed Stoddard and Adam Hart ask us to mourn not only iconic wildlife but also the human lives—like Josephi and his widow Elphina—torn apart by wildlife attacks. It's a vital reminder that conservation must care for all victims.



Read more here

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CIC

CIC interviewed Lord Mancroft following his keynote address at the CIC General Assembly in Doha Qatar during April 2025, which was also attended by Custodians as a CIC member. In a session on "Mediation and the Political Challenges to Hunting", Lord Mancroft addressed rising hostility toward hunting in British politics, the disconnect between public perception and conservation reality, and why diplomatic engagement is essential for the future of sustainable use.

Watch the full video to hear why, in his words, hunters are doing the real work to protect wildlife – even when the world isn't watching.



CIC reported on the EU's confirmation: No Change to Policy on African Hunting

Brussels, 25 June 2025 – In response to a parliamentary question concerning alleged human rights violations linked to trophy hunting in northern Tanzania, the European Commission has confirmed that it will not be making any changes to the current EU policy on hunting in Africa.

In its formal reply, the Commission stated:

"The Commission is of the view that legal, well-regulated trophy hunting programmes can contribute to species conservation and to the livelihoods of Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLC's), when they are part of a clear conservation strategy, are based on scientific evidence and sound governance, and provide tangible conservation incentives to the local communities involved."

Read more here: EU confirms no change to policy on African hunting

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OTHER NEWS

Leadership Transition at GRAA (Game Rangers Association of Africa)

After a decade of dedicated service, Andrew Campbell has officially stepped down as CEO of the GRAA. Under his leadership, GRAA has grown into a respected, professional body supporting rangers across the continent. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Andrew for his tireless efforts and are pleased to share that he will remain involved as Head of Special Projects.

The GRAA Executive Committee is proud to announce the appointment of Louise de Bruin as the new CEO. With ten years of experience on the GRAA team, Louise brings a deep understanding of the organisation's mission and a strong commitment to supporting Africa's rangers. We look forward to her leadership in this next chapter.



Read here for more

🚂 Rovos Rail Back on Track After Zimbabwe Collision

Rovos Rail has confirmed that service has resumed following the April collision between its luxury train and a Bulawayo-Beitbridge freight locomotive in Zimbabwe. Though no passengers were injured, the incident tragically resulted in the loss of one staff member weeks later due to subsequent medical complications.



Chief Operating Officer Tiffany Vos-Thane attributed the crash to a timing miscommunication by the BBR operator, with a final accident report still pending. Importantly, the company reports that traveller interest remains strong, with only "one query" about that specific route.

For more details, **read the full coverage here:**

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ABOUT CUSTODIANS

We started including abstracts from our Constitution in our newsletters, to help members learn more about our Association. Section 9 covers the election and powers of EXCO. Due to its length, we will include Section 9.2 (Powers of EXCO) in the next newsletter.

9. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

9.1 Membership of the Executive Committee and Elections

- **9.1.1** Only Full Members may be members of the Executive Committee.
- **9.1.2** The Executive Committee shall:
 - 9.1.2.1 consist of not less than 5 (five) and not more than 8 (eight) elected members as may be elected in a general meeting (save for the first members who were elected at the founding meeting held on 6 December 2017); and
 - **9.1.2.2** such additional members who may be co-opted by the Executive Committee.
- **9.1.3** The Executive Committee shall include the following portfolios:
 - 9.1.3.1 a Chairperson;
 - 9.1.3.2 a Vice-chairperson; and
 - **9.1.3.3** in alternate years, a Chairperson-elect or an Immediate Past Chairperson, as the case may be; and
 - 9.1.3.4 a Treasurer; and
 - **9.1.3.5** such other portfolios as the Executive Committee may decide from time to time.
- **9.1.4** The election of the members of the Executive Committee shall be conducted in the following manner:
 - **9.1.4.1** Whenever there is a vacancy on the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall call for nominations by sending a notice to those Members eligible to vote, and/or by publishing a notice in a newsletter of the Association or on its website, not less than 20 (twenty) days prior to the annual general meeting at which the election will be held.
 - **9.1.4.2** Nominations must be received in writing by the Executive Committee no later than 5 (five) days prior to the relevant annual general meeting.
 - **9.1.4.3** The election will be conducted in such manner as the Executive Committee decides, provided that it is conducted in a fair and impartial manner.
 - **9.1.4.4** In the event that insufficient nominations have been received to fill the number of vacancies, those Members validly nominated shall be elected unopposed, and further nominations can be made by those Members present at the annual general meeting.

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- **9.1.5** The Executive Committee shall elect the office bearers in the various portfolios from time to time and for such periods as it decides, subject to the provisions of clauses 9.1.6, 9.1.7 and 9.1.8.
- **9.1.6** Each member of the Executive Committee shall, save for the Chairperson and/or Chairperson-elect and/or Immediate Past Chairperson, as the case may be, be elected for a term of not more than 2 (two) years, but 3 (three) members of the first Executive Committee shall only be elected for 1 (one) year.
- 9.1.7 The Chairperson-elect shall be elected by the Executive Committee in alternate years and shall, notwithstanding the limitation imposed in clause 9.1.6., serve in this portfolio for a period of 1(one) year and shall then, when the tenure of the outgoing Chairperson ends, automatically become Chairperson for a period of 2 (two) years; or in the event of the office of Chairperson becoming vacant for any other reason, for the remainder of the tenure of the outgoing Chairperson plus a further period of 2 (two) years.
- **9.1.8** The outgoing Chairperson shall, when his/her tenure as such ends and notwithstanding the limitation imposed in clause 9.1.6., automatically become Immediate Past Chairperson and shall serve in this portfolio for a period of 1 (one) year.
- **9.1.9** Failing election and/or succession as stipulated herein, the Chairperson and/or Chairperson-elect shall be elected immediately after the next general meeting, and pending the conclusion of this election, the Vice-chairperson shall act as Chairperson.
- **9.1.10** An Executive Committee member whose term comes to an end shall be eligible for re-election by the Members of the Association in a general meeting.
- **9.1.11** When a member of the Executive Committee dies, resigns or is removed, the Executive Committee may co-opt a temporary member in his place until the next general meeting, when the members of the Association in a general meeting shall elect a replacement member.
- **9.1.12** The Executive Committee may remove any of its members:
 - **9.1.12.1** who would be disqualified, in terms of the Companies Act or equivalent legislation in force from time to time, from acting as a director of a company; or
 - **9.1.12.2** who are absent from 2 (two) consecutive Executive Committee or General Meetings without a written apology and an acceptable explanation for such absence; or
 - **9.1.12.3** for any other reason if the Executive Committee, by resolution adopted by more than 50% (fifty percent) of its members in office from time to time, deems such member to be unfit to serve on the Executive Committee: Provided that it first furnishes reasons for its decision and gives him a reasonable opportunity to make written or oral representations why he should not be so removed.

We once again want to thank our 2024 sponsors and donors

