



Gavin Knott

Dear Custodians Family,

Welcome to Edition 19 of our 2025 newsletter!

The first section of our newsletter focusses on the **Custodians Conference 2025**. This year, we're turning up the heat with a celebration of **Mzansi – South Africa in all its magic, rhythm, and soul**. To make our lives easier, **please register now - it's gonna be a great event!**

Very importantly, in the second section of this newsletter, we share some information about procedures to follow when you plan on taking hunting clients to our neighbouring country, Mocambique. We also share information about the SANBI Passport to Nature, feedback on a recent LEDET workshop and an international convention scheduled to take place in Denmark during April 2026.

Editorial Team
Adri and Nonkie



CUSTODIANS CONFERENCE, AGM & GALA DINNER

Theme: *Rekindling the Spirit of Hunting Mzansi – A Destination Like No Other*

Venue: Goudini SPA, Rawsonville, Western Cape

*If you've ever been to a **Custodians Conference**, you'll know—it's not just another event. It's the ultimate vibe-check of the year!*

And if you haven't been? Well... you've seriously missed out on unforgettable moments with our incredible Custodians family, their loved ones, special guests, bold conversations and big decisions. But hey—here's your chance to fix that! Join us for the **Custodians 2025 Conference**, 17 & 18 November 2025.

We're diving deep into what makes South Africa's hunting heritage truly world-class—from our rich biodiversity to legendary safari experiences, and the professionals who bring it all together.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM:

Sunday afternoon / evening: Unwind and connect around the pool with great company and some special beverages poured from the Cape's finest!

Monday morning is yours – Monday morning is yours – go explore! Whether it's sipping your way through nearby wine farms (keeping in mind that you will visit the shooting range in the afternoon though!), casting a line in scenic fishing spots, hitting the hiking trails, or zipping through the treetops closer to Ceres – the area is your playground.

Monday Afternoon – Krieghoff Shoot 🏹

The tradition continues! Lock and load for our much-loved Krieghoff Shoot, followed by a relaxed spit braai & fun-filled quiz night where teams' knowledge will be tested.

Tuesday brings the main event – our conference (8-1pm) & AGM (2-5pm) 🏹

Our line-up of speakers will shine a spotlight on what makes South Africa a one-of-a-kind hunting destination. After that, it's time to get down to business with our AGM in the afternoon.

Tuesday Evening – Gala Dinner 🏹

Dress up and raise a glass as the new EXCO will be announced and members being acknowledged for their remarkable achievements during the Award ceremony. And of course, back by very popular demand, the inimitable Pietman Geldenhuys will return to keep us entertained – expect laughter, stories, and unforgettable moments. This will be followed by our auction and then.... Party!!

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:: 🏹

- Dynamic keynote speakers, sharing information about South Africa's diverse biodiversity and the value of hunting in South Africa;
- Power-packed panel discussions about South Africa's hunting heritage, our diverse safari experiences and professionals who bring it all together;
- A mind-opening session on how our industry supports traditional healers through sustainable resource use;
- Global updates and messages from international partners
- The freshest hunting stats to keep you in the loop
- Top-tier networking with leaders, movers, and shakers in the industry

THEN, IT'S AGM TIME:

We'll take care of the business side with our Annual General Meeting—your chance to stay informed and involved.

AND NOW.... THE GLAM!:

Slip into your finest for our Gala Dinner, where we'll celebrate, amongst others, those who've gone above and beyond for conservation and hunting in SA.

Back by very popular demand—**Pietman Geldenhuys** returns as the Scottish Boertjie.



And yes, of course, we're wrapping it all up with our much-anticipated **Annual Auction**—don't miss the action!

Register now to secure your spot!

<https://thecustodians.co.za/events/>

YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADD YOUR, OR YOUR BUSINESS' NAME, TO OUR LIST OF 2025 CUSTODIANS CONFERENCE SPONSORS & DONORS:

Opportunities include:

- Double Gold, Gold, Silver & Bronze Sponsorships
- Auction item donations for our legendary Gala Dinner Auction
- Special event sponsorships (Guest Artist, Media Partner, Drinks & more)

Why sponsor?

- Boost your brand with 100+ delegates
- Year-long visibility on all Custodians platforms
- Align with conservation, ethical hunting, and transformation

To pledge your support: [CLICK HERE](#), OR contact the office

Adri: 083 650 0442 | ceo@thecustodians.co.za

Nonkie: 081 036 1151 | admin@thecustodians.co.za

Don't miss the chance to shine at the **2025 Custodians Gala** – let's make it unforgettable together!

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO NOMINATE A DESERVING CANDIDATE TO RECEIVE ONE OF OUR PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS AT THE GALA DINNER - Entry forms are available from Nonkie at admin@thecustodians.co.za

Do you know a Custodians member who will be worthy of receiving one of the following awards? Please submit entries to the Exco by email at ceo@cphc-sa.co.za by 10 November 2025.

Basie Maartens Award

For a professional hunter or outfitter who exemplifies the highest standards in ethics, trophy quality, personal conduct, hunting skills, bravery, and camaraderie with clients and fellow hunters. Celebrate those who truly embody the spirit of professional hunting!



Ian Goss Award

For the individual who goes above and beyond in conservation, championing ecologically sustainable practices that protect South Africa's biodiversity for present and future generations.



Garry Kelly "Essence of Safari" Award

For the storyteller who captures the magic of the hunt—its effort, unpredictability, and awe-inspiring moments. Success or failure, your story should embody why hunters rise each dawn in pursuit of the extraordinary. Stories may also be featured on our website: [GOOD NEWS STORIES](#)



Celebrate excellence, courage, and the heart of the hunt—submit your entries today!

OUR INDUSTRY

NOTICE TO MEMBERS: HUNTING IN MOZAMBIQUE

Following the publication of the Cross-Border Policy in our previous newsletter (dated 29 August), we have requested Sandy McDonald to share some important guidelines for members intending to hunt in Mozambique.

The information below is provided without prejudice to Sandy's rights and serves as a general reminder of key considerations when planning hunting activities in Mozambique:

1. Professional Hunter (PH) Licence Requirements

A Mozambique PH licence is issued by ANAC, based on the presentation of a valid SADC PH licence or a recognised Nature Conservation degree (or similar qualification).

2. Hunting Cards for Clients

Hunting Outfitters must apply for their clients' hunting cards from ANAC, which must include a photograph of the hunting client.

The hunting client must possess either a single-area or multi-area hunting card to hunt legally. Fees apply for both the hunting card and individual animal licences (referred to as abate tickets). These cards (which include the client's photo) must be kept up to date, with all game hunted being recorded on the card accordingly. The hunting client must possess either a single-area or multi-area hunting card to hunt legally. Fees apply for both the hunting card and individual animal licences (referred to as abate tickets). These cards (which include the client's photo) must be kept up to date, with all game hunted being recorded on the card accordingly.

Hunting in Mozambique cont.....

4. Quota Allocation

Hunting Outfitters must submit their prior seasons' annual report to ANAC.

Each hunting area is assigned a specific quota, usually determined in October/November following submission of the annual report.

Based on the hunting report and other factors, the quota is normally released early December. These quotas are fixed and cannot be transferred between areas.

5. Firearm Importation Protocol

A PH may import a rifle linked to their Mozambique PH licence, subject to customs clearance.

Each hunting area or outfitter receives annual credentials to facilitate temporary firearm import permits for both clients and PHs. No other legal method of firearm importation exists.

6. Area-Specific Licensing

PH licences are area-specific (e.g. R4 in Niassa), but may be upgraded to a multi-area PH licence if required.

Important Reminder:

Members are strongly advised not to engage with outfitters in Mozambique who do not comply with these regulations. Unfortunately, non-compliance often results in legal complications and financial loss.

Stay informed. Hunt responsibly.

Biodiversity Expenditure Review (BER) – Call for Input

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), in collaboration with UNDP's BIOFIN Initiative, is conducting a Biodiversity Expenditure Review (BER) to assess biodiversity-related public and private spending in South Africa from 2016 to 2024. This process forms part of the GEF-funded KM-GBF Early Action Support Project, implemented on behalf of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.

The Game Ranchers sector has been identified as key to this review, and stakeholders contributing to biodiversity conservation are invited to participate.

👉 Complete the form here: [Biodiversity Expenditure Review Survey](#)

Engagement Meeting between The Wildlife industry & LEDET

The Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) recently convened an engagement meeting with industry stakeholders in Polokwane, where Custodians was represented by Howard Knott and Robin Fourie. The discussions addressed several critical issues, including delays in permit processing due to staff shortages and persistent challenges with the online permit system, which stakeholders noted remains inefficient and lacks adequate training support.

Concerns were raised regarding illegal activities, such as unlicensed outfitters and professional hunters, as well as hunting out of season without the required permits. In addition, stakeholders

emphasized the increasing pressure of high predator numbers, noting the absence of legal mechanisms or incentives for landowners and outfitters to manage leopards sustainably. The need for expedited permits in cases of damage-causing animals was strongly highlighted, along with calls for greater clarity on the requirements for Dangerous Game Professional Hunter permits amid concerns of a dual system.



Further discussion focused on the P3 Exemption Permit, which is currently restricted to properties of at least 400 hectares, with LEDET committing to share the full set of application prerequisites. Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA) also presented its Buffalo Tracking System, designed to monitor buffalo populations across the country.

The engagement was considered a significant success, with both stakeholders and LEDET expressing a strong willingness to work together in advancing the industry.

OTHER NEWS

SANParks

🌿🌟 It's that time of the year again – Mahala Week at SANParks! 🌟🌿

From 22–26 September 2025, you can enjoy FREE day entry into our breathtaking national parks. And guess what? Selected parks have extended the offer until 27 & 28 September 2025! 🐘🦒🌳

Don't miss this golden chance to reconnect with nature, explore our heritage, and make memories – absolutely mahala!



SANBI News

Your Year of Discovery with 25% Off Membership for Tourism Month

This Tourism Month, the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) is inviting South Africans to make that a reality with the launch of Passport to Nature: Your year of discovery.

For the month of September, SANBI is offering 25% off the Individual Annual Membership, your ticket to unlimited entry across all 11 National Botanical Gardens and the two Zoological Gardens for a full year.

More than just a membership, SANBI's Passport to Nature transforms domestic travel into an adventure. Each site visit unlocks a unique stamp and biodiversity fact in a beautifully illustrated passport. Members can collect stamps to claim rewards, from SANBI tote bags to exclusive seed hampers, and when your passport is full, you stand a chance to a curated behind the scenes experience.

Tourism Month 2025 highlights the critical role of domestic travel in South Africa's, with economists and social development experts pointing to tourism as a driver of growth and social cohesion. SANBI's network of gardens and zoos embodies this connection: protecting our natural heritage while giving South Africans spaces to breathe and belong. Research shows that access to nature doesn't just boost mental health and well-being, it builds stronger communities.

"Tourism Month is about discovering the hidden treasures of our country and how deeply nature is connected to our wellbeing," says SANBI's Director of Marketing Communication and Commercialisation, Nontsikelelo Mpulo, "With this Passport to Nature, South Africans can turn everyday in to outings that nurture both biodiversity and bonds."

From family picnics to birdwatching, to touching, and smelling the plants in our sensory gardens and music events, turn each trip with your SANBI Passport to Nature into a cherished chapter in your year of discovery.

Now is the time to celebrate a culture of domestic travel, not just as leisure, but as an investment in South Africa's natural heritage. With 25% off the Individual Annual Membership, this September, there's no better time to get your passport, start your journey, collect your stamps and unlock all the rewards of spending time in nature.

Book your passport [here](#)

Enquiries:

Nontsikelelo Mpulo

Director Marketing Communications and Commercialisation

Email: n.mpulo@sanbi.org.za

Tel: 082 782 7143





JAGT & OUTDOOR

17.-19. APRIL 2026

Welcome to Jagt & Outdoor

Jagt & Outdoor is Denmark's premier trade fair for hunting, outdoor activities, and travel experiences. The event attracts dedicated enthusiasts and industry professionals, providing a platform to connect directly with passionate hunters eager to discover new travel opportunities.

Why exhibit at Jagt & Outdoor '26?

Meet thousands of engaged visitors, with 81% of exhibitors rating attendee relevance as "high" or "very high". This is your chance to directly connect with a committed, affluent audience ready to book their next hunting adventure.

Statistics from 2024

- More than **13.000 visitors**
- **92%** of exhibitors reported gaining new leads and valuable customer interactions.
- **90%** of exhibitors had their expectations met or exceeded.
- **92%** is likely to return in 2026.

What do the exhibitors say?

- "An exceptionally well-organized event with great service and high visitor engagement."
- "We experienced significant interest from visitors, leading to multiple new bookings both during and after the fair."
- "The best place to connect with serious hunting clients!"

Stand pricing

Area on floor – DKK 555 per m²:

- Colored stand-walls designed to carry mounted game

Registration fee – DKK 1795:

- 10 free tickets
- Various PR opportunities on Jagt & Outdoor's digital platforms
- Link and logo on Jagt & Outdoor's website

Interested in exhibiting at Jagt & Outdoor 2026?

E-mail, write, or call on WhatsApp
Susanne Tjørnehøj Jensen at:

✉ stj@occ.dk ☎ +45 29 37 45 49

Would you like to add your or your company's name to the list of sponsors and donors who have already confirmed their participation and support towards our 2025 Conference:

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