



After the Shows – Back to Business

Our newsletter took a short breather while the international show circuit was in full swing – but we’re back now, and this edition is packed with news, updates and a few interesting industry insights we hope you’ll enjoy.

As always, the newsletter isn’t meant to replace the regular communication our members receive. We still share day-to-day information through WhatsApp and email, but the newsletter allows us a bit more space to unpack developments within the industry and highlight matters that may not always fit into a quick message. Our hope is that it gives you a broader view of what’s happening around us.

The year certainly didn’t start slowly. With the Dallas Safari Club Convention and the Safari Club International Convention both only taking place in February this year, the early days of January gave us a small window to catch up on all the usual new-year admin and planning. Unfortunately, Nonkie was unable to attend the SCI Show as planned due to an unforeseen delay with the issuing of her USA visa, despite the application having been submitted well in advance. With most of our EXCO members now back home after the shows, we’re shifting gears and preparing for our first EXCO meeting of the year, which, as tradition has it, will be a full two-day session.

While some of our members experienced travel disruptions on their way back to South Africa due to the snowstorms in the North-East of the United States, we are not aware of any members currently stranded due to the recent international flight cancellations related to the conflict. If you are still making your way home, we wish you a smooth and speedy return to sunny South Africa – or rainy, if you happen to be in Gauteng at the moment.

As always, thank you for taking the time to read and stay connected. We trust you’ll find this edition both informative and worthwhile.

Warm regards,
Adri & Nonkie



SAPS 271

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE

APPLICATION FOR LICENCE TO POSSESS A FIREARM
(Sections 16, 16A, 16B, 16C, 16D, 16E, 16F, 16G and 20 of the Arms and Ammunition Act of 2009)

OFFICIAL DATE STAMP	A. FOR OFFICIAL USE BY THE POLICE STATION WHERE THE APPLICATION IS CAPTURED 1. Application reference No: _____ of _____ 2. Number of application: _____ of _____
DATE RECEIVED	
B. FOR OFFICIAL USE BY POLICE STATION WHERE THE APPLICATION IS RECEIVED 1. Province: _____ 2. Area: _____ 3. Police station: _____ 4. Component code: _____ 5. Firearm application: _____ 6. Signature of CPH officer: _____ 7. Officer code: _____ 8. Name in block letters: _____ 9. Application for license refused (include section no.): _____ 10. Signature of CPH officer: _____ 11. Officer code: _____ 12. Name in block letters: _____ 13. Personal number: _____ 14. Date: _____	

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QUICK REMINDER!

Custodians is accredited by the Central Firearms Registry to award "Professional Hunter Status" under Section 16A of the Firearms Control Act, enabling members to license firearms as professional hunters. We can therefore also assist with endorsements of your Section 16A and Section 20 (business) licence application motivations. For more details, contact us at admin@thecustodians.co.za +27 81 036 1151

WELCOME
TO OUR HAPPY
PLACE

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Custodians would like to welcome new member Jack Neo Hayman to the family!!!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to our members celebrating in March. We wish **Ross Phillips** (1) and **Andrew Robbins** (1) a wonderful start to the month. Celebrating on the 2nd are **Paul White**, **Lindelani Mdlolo**, and **Antony Scheepers**. **Christopher Nghenabo** (4) celebrates next, followed by **Azwitamisi Nphembani** (8). On 14, we recognise **Timothy Jandrell** and **Adrian Donian**, followed by **Craig Brown** (15) and **Johannes Odendaal** (16). **Petro Myeni** (21) celebrates thereafter, **Sean Kelly** (23), and **Nicolaas van der Merwe** (24). Toward the end of the month, **Charl le Roux** (28) celebrates, followed by **Makena Ngoato** and **Fritz Ganz** (30), and finally **Phumzile John Sam** (31).

From all of us at Custodians, we wish you a fantastic birthday and a successful year ahead. 🎉





MEMBERSHIP FEES

Our mid-financial-year results at the end of February, together with the projections for the year ending 31 August, are looking very encouraging. Maintaining that position, though, depends largely on the successful collection of the membership fees that are still outstanding. We therefore kindly ask members who may still have this on their to-do list to assist us in reaching our targets. Your contribution plays an important role in allowing the organisation to continue its work on behalf of the industry and our members.

Please contact Nonkie or Adri if you want to make an arrangement or have any enquiries

STRENGTHENING OUR INDUSTRY THROUGH YOUR INPUT

Active participation from our members remains essential when it comes to matters that affect our industry. Whether it is providing input on proposed legislation, participating in surveys, or contributing to research initiatives, these efforts help ensure that the collective voice of the industry is heard.

Accurate information and well-supported input allow us to present a clearer and stronger picture of the value, impact and importance of our sector when engaging with policymakers and other stakeholders. Your involvement in these processes therefore plays an important role in shaping the environment in which we all operate.

SURVEYS: We really need your support with the following two surveys

(i) Survey – Value of the Export Quota

Prof Peet van der Merwe from NWU (TREES) is conducting a research survey on the value of the export quota. Your input is valuable in gathering data to understand the economic impact of these species in the industry. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey using the link below:

<https://nwu.questionpro.com/t/AcAUTZ7r1L>

(ii) Survey - Bontebok

Custodians members are encouraged to participate in an ongoing research survey focused on the Bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*). The outcomes of this research will contribute to improved understanding, management, and policy considerations relating to the species.

Your participation is valuable in ensuring that industry experience and on-the-ground knowledge are accurately represented in the research process.

The survey is short and anonymous. [Access the survey here:](#)



LEGISLATION

COMMENTS INVITED ON THE PROPOSED SETTING AND ALLOCATION OF THE 2026 & 2027 CITES EXPORT QUOTAS:

A notice was published in Government Gazette No. 54098 (Government Notice (No. 7106), dated 6 February 2026, for consultation on the proposed setting and allocation of the 2026 and 2027 CITES export quotas for elephant, black rhinoceros, and leopard hunting trophies.

[Access here](#)

The notice was only published in newspapers on the 23rd of February and therefore the official date for comments to reach the Department will be the 25th of March 2026.

We are aware that members were invited on various platform to complete a template but as requested via WhatsApp, we would also appreciate if it you can forward any substantial input from your side, to be considered for inclusion in the Custodians submission. **Please forward such information to Adri by 15 March 2026.**

NORMS AND STANDARDS

Nonkie attended a Consultation Meeting convened by DFFE (the Department) to engage government representatives and wildlife sector stakeholders on three key regulatory initiatives:

(i) Proposed Well-being Regulations for wild animals:

The Department has not drafted the regulations yet, but presented information to set the scene to encourage the industry to make proposals towards regulatory provisions. These could possibly include prohibitions in certain circumstances, that industry views to be appropriate to be included in such regulations. As an example, it could include issues related to controlled environments; translocations; prohibited methods of hunting similar to those in the TOPS Regulations, etc. The Department confirmed that there is no intention to introduce additional permits in these regulations.

Associations were invited to propose key issues to be addressed in the proposed regulations, to the Department by the 9th of March, augmented by detailed proposals by not later than.

Should you have any proposed inputs, please forward it to Adri urgently, but latest by 13th of March.



Stakeholders who attended the workshop, raised concerns about the current legal definition of “well-being,” particularly the inclusion of mental well-being, which is reportedly still under review by the Constitutional Court. Developing regulations based on a definition that may still change was highlighted as creating legal and operational uncertainty. Ongoing confusion between animal welfare (under the Department of Agriculture) and animal well-being (under DFFE) was also raised, with the overlapping use of these terms potentially leading to duplication of mandates and inconsistent enforcement.

(ii) Draft Norms and Standards for Elephant, Lion, Leopard and Rhino:

DFFE indicated its intention to develop Norms and Standards for the management of elephant, lion, leopard and rhino. The process would involve development of overarching principles supported by species-specific chapters, as well as the incorporation of provisions in existing norms and standards and deletion of outdated provisions. The norms and standards would be augmented by flexible guidelines. The approach aims to avoid overly prescriptive rules and to align with meta-population management strategies. Stakeholders at the workshop requested clarity on how previous consultation processes, including outcomes from the Elephant Indaba, would be integrated into the revised framework. The importance of distinguishing between binding norms and flexible guidelines was also emphasised.

Written input on this process is due by 16 March, with a draft zero expected in September 2026. **Please forward any proposals you might have, to Adri by the 13th of March.**

(iii) Draft Criteria for the Registration of New Lion Sanctuaries and Rehabilitation Facilities:

The Department presented detailed technical requirements covering enclosure design, fencing standards, security measures, management plans, quarantine procedures, enrichment protocols, and overall facility layout. These criteria are linked to the Lion Prohibition Notice that will prohibit the registration of new captive facilities for lion, which is currently undergoing parliamentary processes.

Inputs to DFFE on this matter are due by 13 March



FMD INFORMATION

All available Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) protocols are being published on the Custodians website as they become available. Members can access the current movement [protocol here](#):

At this stage, no official protocols or regulations have yet been published regarding the transport of hunted carcasses. We will share any updates with members as soon as formal guidance is issued.

In the meantime, we strongly encourage all members to support and implement responsible biosecurity measures to assist in preventing the further spread of FMD. Custodians also participates in an FMD Wildlife Discussion Group, where industry stakeholders share information and developments. We have requested permission from PHASA to once again circulate the [Best Practices document](#) drafted and distributed by PHASA, which was previously shared with our members via WhatsApp at the end of January.

We will continue to keep members informed as new information becomes available.

TRACKING CUSTODIANS

Please share our Facebook and Instagram posts celebrating our South African Professional Hunters and Outfitters, to help counter irresponsible and inaccurate comments about their professionalism and excellence.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cphcsa>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/custodians.sa/>

As part of our “Tracking Custodians” initiative, we encourage members to share glimpses of their journeys in the field and on the road. When posting on social media, feel free to tag Custodians so that we can follow along and share in your experiences. It doesn't have to be client-related or feature a hunted animal – it could be a striking sunset, a moment around the campfire, or even your travels across the world while promoting the industry. These snapshots help tell the broader story of who we are and what we do.

LINKS TO RECENT ARTICLE PUBLISHED ON THE WEBSITE

- 1 [Southern Africa's unique model for conserving wildlife](#)
- 2 [Reel by Face -European Federation for hunting and conservation](#)
- 3 [South Africa's wildlife model works, and it's even better with the charismatic megafauna quota](#)
- 4 [Elephants and marulas – a call for a more nuanced approach to nature's drama in Kruger National Park](#)
- 5 [The facts on wildlife conservation – from an experienced practitioner](#)
- 6 [SA's real hunting, conservation story](#)

OUR SOCIAL MESSAGE ON INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE DAY ON THE 3RD OF MARCH.



The future of wildlife will not be decided by how loudly we speak about it, but by how well we protect the places it calls home.

As Custodians, we believe conservation starts with responsibility. Because, thriving wildlife is only possible where habitats are respected, restored and carefully managed.

The real legacy we leave is not animal numbers, but ecosystems sustained.

CUSTODIANS ACTIVITIES SINCE THE PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER:

29 January: MEC Bitsa Lenkopane engaged with wildlife industry stakeholders as part of ongoing engagements linked to the proposed Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and broader provincial economic development initiatives.

29 January: Virtual Wildlife Forum meeting.

30–31 January: Steering Committee and Office meeting.

5 February: Wildlife FMD Discussion Group virtual meeting.

6–8 February: Exhibited in the OPHAA booth at the Dallas Safari Club Convention. Attended meetings, met with DFFE Chief Director Mr Matibe, and visited most of our members who were exhibiting.

18–21 February: Exhibited at the Safari Club International 2026 Convention. During the event, the MEC of North West visited our booth. We attended a Congressional Sportsmens Foundation Event, as well as a Guides & Outfitters meeting, attended a presentation by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, presented at a seminar, met with SCI regarding visa application challenges affecting some African countries, and met with various members.

26 February: DFFE Norms & Standards Workshop.

RECOGNITION TO OUR 2025 CONFERENCE SPONSORS AND DONORS

In addition to the list published on the last page of our newsletter, we have also started to feature special acknowledgement on some of our supporters in each newsletter. We've paid tribute to **DSC**, **Badger Cargo** and **Splitting Image** in Newsletter #2.

Today, we want to extend our sincere thanks to **Trophy Solutions Africa** for coming on board as our 2025 Media Partner Sponsor, **Krieghoff** and **Magnum Arms/SABI Rifles** for once again sponsoring our annual shoot:

Trophy Solutions Africa plays a vital role in the hunting value chain, providing professional **trophy handling, dip & pack, and international export services** that ensure hunters' trophies are prepared, documented, and delivered safely to destinations around the world. Their expertise and attention to detail help maintain the high standards expected of South Africa's professional hunting industry.



We appreciate their support and partnership in helping us communicate the positive impact of responsible hunting and conservation.

Learn more about their services: <https://trophy-care.com/>

Thank you, Trophy Solutions Africa, for supporting Custodians and the professional hunting community.

Krieghoff and SABI Rifles

A sincere thank you to Krieghoff for generously sponsoring the Fun Shoot. With a heritage dating back to 1886, Krieghoff is internationally recognised for producing some of the finest hunting rifles and sporting firearms in the world, combining traditional craftsmanship with modern engineering to create firearms trusted by hunters and sport shooters globally.

We would also like to thank Magnum Arms / SABI Rifles for organising the shoot and helping make the event such a success. Based in Nelspruit, Magnum Arms has been serving the hunting community since the 1980s and is well known for building custom SABI rifles, particularly reliable big-bore hunting rifles designed for balance, durability, and performance in the field.

custodians™

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS

Promote Your Business Through the Custodians Newsletter

Our newsletter reaches a dedicated audience within the professional hunting and wildlife industry – making it a great platform to showcase your services, products, or upcoming opportunities.

If you would like to advertise in our newsletter, please contact Nonkie Kunene for more information:

✉ admin@thecustodians.co.za

☎ +27 81 036 1151

CALLING all Outfitters

Corne and Pam from NavaManzi are once again open for day rides, offering a relaxed and memorable experience designed especially for the hunter's wife or *observer* looking for something *special* to do *while the hunt is on*.



Suitable for intermediate & experienced riders only! (No exceptions)

Enjoy unhurried time in the saddle, exploring pristine bushveld and viewing free roaming game from horseback. This is a chance to slow down, breathe, and truly take in the landscape. Along the way - encounter a majestic kudu, the elusive nyala, or get a chance for a photograph while the inquisitive giraffe gazes on.

Our rides are peaceful, scenic, and unpressured – perfect for observers who want to experience Africa from a different perspective. No rush, just the rhythm of the horse and the beauty of the wild.

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E-mail Pam for day hunting trips on horseback and T&C's.





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