PHASA NEWS

The Official Magazine of the Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa

SA — The Ultimate Tourist Destination
Hunting vs. Poaching & Captive vs. Canned
CHASA & PHASA — A like-mindedness
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Time waits for no man. We are in the middle of 2019 and, every year, it appears as if the pace is accelerating. I trust everybody has returned from their marketing ventures and were successful. PHASA and all stakeholders in the hunting industry are facing challenges. We cannot think for one moment that we can sit back and relax — much work needs to be done to secure our hunting future. I will elaborate.

Serving you as the President of PHASA is a privilege, and I am extremely honoured and humbled that you have entrusted me with this responsibility. The pinnacle of my hunting career was to be honoured and recognised by the members of PHASA. Being the first recipient of the Mel du Plessis Award for Distinguished Service will forever be etched in my memory. It was also a very emotional moment, as Mel had sadly passed on and was no longer with us. Mel will undoubtedly be missed. His contribution and unflinching support of our association were monumental.

Our AGM and gala evening were an astounding success, and reinforced a very strong message that a united organisation can achieve great heights. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to making the convention a great success.

I represented PHASA at various international hunting exhibitions and media events in the past few months. The main events were the SCI convention in Reno, Nevada; the Dallas Safari Club convention in Dallas, Texas; Jagd und Hund in Dortmund, Germany; and Hohe Jagd und Fischerei in Salzburg, Austria.

Once again, the commitment of PHASA members, and support given to myself and the Exco was remarkable. I wish to personally thank all those who assisted PHASA at the conventions, and extend my gratitude to Richard and Ruth Lemmer, Tonie De Bruyn, Pieter Potgieter, Eardley Rudman, Jono Joseph and Louis Ebersohn. These individuals made extreme sacrifices to assist PHASA, once again. It is much appreciated and — thank you!

I do not want to single out anyone, as there are many individuals behind the scenes contributing to our achievements. However, the commitment of Barry York, Richard York, Ben Heystek and Henri van Aswegen to keeping the association functioning in our absence is much appreciated.

From an association perspective, I experienced all the exhibitions in a very positive light. We were well received and supported. The new PHASA logo and position were exceptionally well received. I did try and visit every PHASA member who exhibited at the exhibitions. If I did not make it to you, please forgive me. It was not intentional. PHASA Exco was able to meet with the boards of all the relevant associations. The opportunity afforded us was essential, as various contentious issues were raised and discussed. I have not received all the feedback from organisations yet, but I am confident we will be able to find solutions that will be mutually beneficial to PHASA, its members and the relevant organisations.

Numerous members have raised concerns and issues with me regarding the conventions. These have been taken up with the relevant people. The low attendance at SCI was of special concern to many. Representatives from our government were present and played a vital role in seeking solutions on how to support the industry. Thank you very much, Mr
Matibe and your team.
It is very obvious that we need to develop new markets, as the traditional ones are saturated. A new era will start with the first Chinese hunting show to take place this year — definitely very exciting.

On a local note, our leopard allocation for 2018 was seven leopards, of which three were successfully hunted. At this moment in time, I have not yet received any notification of when we will receive our 2019 quota. The minister must authorise and sign off the recommended quota. It is also a little disheartening that the minister did not approve the recommended elephant quota for 2019. PHASA is in constant communication with DEA regarding these matters.

This year is an election year and I anticipate many changes after the elections. This is also the year in which CITES CoP18 will be hosted in Colombo, Sri Lanka. In addition, the minister will be appointing a high-level panel to address and find solutions for the issues highlighted by the parliamentary portfolio committee last year. PHASA hopes to be appointed to this panel.

The PHASA Exco and I will continue to represent our members at the highest possible level. Please always be assured that you may contact anyone of us at any time for assistance.

It is extremely pleasing to see the growth in PHASA. Our membership has increased tremendously since December 2018, which is most definitely a sign that we are moving in the right direction. Our good friends in the SCI Houston Chapter have played a massive role in supporting PHASA and its initiatives. Please take up their offer of chapter membership. Moreover, Global Rescue is growing from strength to strength alongside PHASA and we thank them for their allegiance. We are delighted that many new donors and supporters have joined up with PHASA, which is really encouraging.

To summarise, PHASA is a force to be reckoned with and we will continue to look after our members’ interests.

May you all have a great season and stay safe.

Yours in hunting.

The PHASA Exco and I will continue to represent our members at the highest possible level.
Out of Nowhere

A LIFE CHANGED ON AN AFRICAN SAFARI

Walking through the Tsitsingombe River Valley in Zimbabwe, Global Rescue member Angie Heister had no idea her life was about to dramatically change. Angie and her husband were 10 days into their trip when a male Cape buffalo emerged from behind a ziziphus bush and charged the couple. The bull hit Robert first, knocking him over. Angie was next.

“It was about four seconds from the time I saw the animal until it gored me,” Angie said. The buffalo knocked Robert unconscious before goring and throwing Angie.

“I couldn’t move my legs and I was having trouble breathing,” Angie said. “A professional hunter came over to assess the situation, and he and the guide saw that I couldn’t walk. We didn’t know it at the time, but my spine was dislocated, my ribs were broken and my lungs had collapsed.”

Angie had a gaping wound on her left side, and the guide attempted to staunch her bleeding before taking her to the nearest suitable helicopter landing, where he called Global Rescue.

A helicopter arrived within the hour, and transported Angie to a Victoria Falls facility where she was assessed and stabilised. With no sensation in her lower extremities, Angie had also lost a life-threatening amount of blood.

After consulting with Angie’s attending physician, Global Rescue physicians recommended she be transported immediately to South Africa. Global Rescue then medically evacuated Angie to a world-class trauma centre in Johannesburg, where she was assessed and stabilised. With no sensation in her lower extremities, Angie had also lost a life-threatening amount of blood.

After consulting with Angie’s attending physician, Global Rescue physicians recommended she be transported immediately to South Africa. Global Rescue then medically evacuated Angie to a world-class trauma centre in Johannesburg, where she was assessed and stabilised. With no sensation in her lower extremities, Angie had also lost a life-threatening amount of blood.

Global Rescue recommended Baylor as a top choice for the Heisters.

“Global Rescue started the conversation about where to take me when I got home,” Angie said. “I didn’t know anything about rehab centres. At this point, I didn’t realise that I would be paralysed for the rest of my life. My thinking was, I had the surgery and the doctor said I’ve got to give it six months. I thought I would start working on learning how to live like that, just in case.”

After moving to the rehab unit in Johannesburg, a third Global Rescue paramedic arrived at Angie’s side before she was evacuated home.

“It was about four seconds from the time I saw the animal until it gored me,” Angie said. “I can’t even imagine what I would have done had it been just my husband and me trying to get home.”

After six weeks in rehab, Angie was eventually discharged.

“The first six months were pure hell,” Angie said. “We had our bathroom remodelled because I couldn’t get in the shower. At first, I had to have 24-hour support with a caregiver. Gradually, I got stronger and started with two hours all by myself. Finally, we let the caregiver go and I was ok to be by myself in the house.”

Looking ahead Angie maintains a positive outlook on life, despite remaining paralysed. Her determination brought enjoyment back to travelling...
and her independence inspired her to help others cope with transitioning to life in a wheelchair.

“I took classes so I could drive again and bought a van modified with a ramp and hand controls,” Angie said. “It was like learning to drive again, but I was terrified. Now I drive places every day by myself and on the highway. If my husband is out of town, I’m ok in the house by myself, even during the night.”

Angie’s advice

“I’m so thankful we had a Global Rescue membership before we travelled,” Angie said. “My husband had been to Africa twice before and wanted to share it with me. I’m the non-adventurous type and I insisted we get memberships. Never in 1000 years did it occur to me that I would be the one who needed help from Global Rescue. I’m guessing it would have cost between $100 000 and $300 000 to get me home had we not been Global Rescue members.”

“Any time friends are travelling anywhere, I tell them they must get a Global Rescue membership. People don’t understand that travel insurance is different from having Global Rescue personnel come to personally take care of you and bring you home.”

- If you’re travelling to an area that’s not well developed, do some research to understand what hospitals and services there are in the area. Are they similar to the US, where you are treated and then you pay, or do you have to pay before they admit you?
- Find out if your health insurance works where you are travelling and determine whether or not you should purchase a special health insurance policy.
- Carry a satellite phone and extra batteries.
- Have a Global Rescue membership.
GLOBAL rescue

WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

When you travel, anything can happen. When it does, Global Rescue gets you home safely.

If you are ill, injured or in danger while travelling, emergency rescue and evacuation can cost well over $100,000—life-saving services that are rarely covered by existing home, health or financial insurance. Global Rescue provides 24/7/365 emergency support and evacuation services worldwide all for the cost of membership.

The most trusted provider for hunters worldwide.
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“Whoever said, ‘South Africa is a World in One Country’, did not veer far off from the truth. Its scenic beauty continues to enthrall visitors, and has been the subject of many a novelist and landscape artist,” according to Minister Derek Hanekom, Minister of Tourism, speaking at a recent airline conference.

As Professional Hunters and Hunting Outfitters, you are often, like any inbound tour operator, selling South Africa as a destination. It should not be a hard sell.

South Africa is frequently lauded as one of the most beautiful countries in the world. Currently, it is at Number 5, according to the readers of Rough Guides; it is at Number 2 in The Telegraph Travel readers’ survey for best country; while in 2015, it was placed first as the most beautiful country in the world in the BuzzFeed TravelGuru ranking.

Often topping that, our cities, towns and places win numerous travel awards and feature high on rankings. Cape Town recently garnered the Best City in the 2018 Telegraph Travel Awards survey for the sixth consecutive year! The town of Franschhoek has been named among the five loveliest in the world; Kalk Bay in Cape Town was voted Number One in the ‘12 Coolest Suburbs in the World’ list by Forbes, and we have three of the world’s 10 most beautiful coastal drives, including Clarence Drive and Chapman’s Peak, which were the Number One and Number Two most beautiful coastal drives, respectively!

So, what’s not to sell?

For decades, South African Tourism, our national destination marketing agency, has been researching why people are coming to South Africa, and knows how to play to our strengths. Beautiful scenery, experiencing a different culture and going on safari have been, and are, the key motivators for people choosing to visit our country. But from years of research, we know that we offer even more than that. As well as safaris, culture and scenery, we have three other features that set us apart: active adventure, vibrant city lifestyle and coastal beaches, all adding up to a six-pack of note!

South Africa has an astonishing variety of marine life, with almost twice the number of marine species in the whole Mediterranean found along our more than 2 700 kilometres of coastline. It’s the best place in the world to view whales from the shore and to swim with great white sharks. The world’s largest migration of ocean life occurs here, and this is one of the two largest migrations of any kind on earth. We have 45 Blue Flag beaches, and the best dive sites in the world with coral reefs and prolific fish life. Our beach cities, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town, are all home to amazing beaches and can beat any in the world.
With some of the best national parks in the world, including the iconic Kruger Park, the Kgalagadi with its desert setting, Hluhlu Imfolozi and Addo Elephant, to mention a few, South Africa has been rated the finest wildlife destination on earth and is Africa’s most biodiverse. And there are dozens more private parks, all offering unparalleled safaris and game viewing. While open-vehicle game drives are the most well-known way to enjoy a safari, the options are endless: take a walking or self-drive safari, have a bird’s eye view from a hot-air balloon, ride on horseback, or go by river.

If it’s adrenalin you are seeking, we have it all. You only have to imagine the additional exhilaration our incredible diverse scenery provides when you are bungee jumping, hang-gliding, canoeing or rafting, whizzing through the treetops on a canopy tour, surfing, sailing, diving, cycling or simply hiking, to realise why we were chosen in Virtuoso’s 2018 Luxe Report as the Top Adventure Destination of the year. Add to this our amazing climate and you can see why there is no better place for the adrenalin junky, or those seeking softer adventure, to experience an action-filled holiday.

Our scenic beauty is all encompassing, ranging from the Amphitheatre in the Drakensberg Mountains, the Three Rondavels in the awe-inspiring Blyde River Canyon, Table Mountain and the Cape’s scenic coastal drives, to our deserts and evocative Karoo landscapes. Other marvels are God’s Window in Mpumalanga, our amazing coastal lagoons and endless stretches of wilderness beaches, 100 000 hectares of vineyards and then simply the variety of bushveld, which comes in all guises: savannah, forests, thorn trees, hilly outcrops, wetlands and riverine expanses.

Our culture is multi-faceted and diverse, reflective of our Rainbow Nation. Explore traditional African culture and the frenetic township vibe, the Indian cuisine and heritage, Anglo-Boer and Zulu war battlefields, Cape Town Castle, the Voortrekker Monument and the likes of Constitution Hill, Maboneng precinct and the Nelson Mandela capture site. Add to this, music, including jazz, African traditional and contemporary art, galleries, theatre and dance. South Africa is also home to four Nobel Peace Prize laureates and the sites of ancient paleontological findings, including the Cradle of Humankind — an eclectic mix with opportunities to educate, enthral and entertain.

Our vibrant and award-winning cities are the glue that integrate the country’s many facets into a kaleidoscope of action, architecture and lights. Imposing modern shopping malls with international designer brands and matchless local products, neighbourhood and farmers’ markets, restaurants offering diverse global and local cuisine, nightclubs and funky, revitalised old precincts add to the energy. Waterfronts and beaches and the associated nightlife are interwoven into the fabric of our coastal cities, while world-class international convention centres, theatres, museums and art galleries are cultural hubs in the metropolitan areas.
If you need supporting videos and photos to tell our story and promote our six destination strengths, South African Tourism has a digital asset library where these, and other brand and marketing collateral may be accessed – there is a key word search and literally endless material available to download. http://digitalassets.southafrica.net/

Twenty-five years into our democracy, and we have achieved a great deal in our tourism industry. International arrivals have grown four-fold to 15 million foreign visitors a year, 10.5 million of them tourists, many who return more than once to further explore our country. There are now more than a dozen international hotel brands operating in the country, and we have added numerous casino and leisure complexes. We have 10 World Heritage Sites inscribed by UNESCO, among them iSimangaliso Wetland Park, the Cradle of Humankind and Robben Island. We have expanded the footprint of our national parks by the addition of Table Mountain National Park, which protects one of the richest floral regions in the world, and Mapungubwe National Park bringing in the culturally rich Mapungubwe Hill, the site of a community dating back to the Iron Age. Today, South Africa boasts three world-class international convention centres, with many more convention centres in our secondary and tertiary cities. And, we have created hundreds of authentic experiences of various types, but especially linked to our African culture and heritage, and our struggle history.

Nevertheless, as is often the case in developing countries, we do have challenges that we must address decisively, some of which deter international travellers and sometimes discourage them from considering us as a tourist destination of choice. Tourism safety is one of these. We have a high crime rate and all of our citizens bear the brunt of this. However, for tourists, the levels of crime are not high, and we do our best to ensure your security.

Our Minister of Tourism has stated emphatically, “Let me place it on record: South Africa is not a ‘war zone’. It is very important to note that the places tourists typically visit - like the Kruger National Park, Table Mountain, the Garden Route, Wild Coast, the Waterfront, Cape Floral Kingdom, the Cradle of Humankind, Robben island and the Drakensberg, to name a few, are safe by any standards. As far as incidents of crime against tourists are concerned, we are comparable to most destinations around the world.”

The tourism industry is in the process of further strengthening the Tourism Safety Initiative and looking at options to collaborate with metro police, leverage the National Department of Tourism’s Tourism Monitor programme (1 450 trained monitors being deployed nationally at key sites this year), work with SANParks and collaborate with other agencies to continually enhance tourism safety at our major destinations and iconic landmarks.

In some circles, the issue of land reform is being conflated with farm murders and land invasions, often deliberately fuelled in the overseas media by right-wing organisations. Other than one or two isolated attempts, there are no land grabs in South Africa. Statistics from the Police, the Transvaal Agricultural Union and AfriForum all show a drop in the rate of murders on farms and smallholdings in 2017/2018, which shows that there is not a worsening situation due to the recent land expropriation debate. Sadly, in contrast, the overall murder rate did rise from 34.1 to 35.2 per 100 000 in 2017/2018; something which our President and our Minister of Police have committed to address.

One of the biggest challenges to sustainable growth in our country is severe inequality between black and
white South Africans, and one of the areas where this disparity is still manifest is in the ownership and access to land. The land redistribution debate is an essential one, and within this, one tool is expropriation without compensation. There will, however, be no land grabs or arbitrary deprivation of private property. The proposed changes in the Draft Expropriation Bill tabled in Parliament in December 2018 continue to enshrine property rights and simply spell out instances where expropriation with no compensation may be appropriate.

There has been much healthy debate around this issue, which has resulted in a strengthened resolve by both government and agricultural organisations to work together to find sustainable solutions to the land issue.

Tourism has a role to play in this, as spelled out by Jerry Mabena, CEO of Thebe Tourism, while speaking at the Africa Travel Summit hosted by Airbnb at the Guga S’thebe Cultural Centre in Cape Town last year. “Take emotions out of the land debate and rather look at how fallow land can be turned into tourist destinations to benefit surrounding communities,” he said.

Hunting is a part of the tourism industry, as well as playing a key role in empowering communities, and people in rural areas. As PHASA, you have recognised this important role, and have actioned it through your Conservation and Empowerment Fund.

As we have been able to innovatively and successfully grow an amazing tourism industry over the past 25 years, so too can South Africans, the agricultural industry, the tourism industry and, no doubt, the hunters, come together to effectively develop and implement solutions to the land redistribution imperative.

In so doing, we will have a sustainable industry and be able to continue selling this superlative destination to all our markets.
Once again, public discussion of how trophy hunting fits into the wildlife situation in Africa has been triggered by an editorial in *Africa Geographic*, entitled, ‘Trophy hunting in Africa is in decline, and no longer pays its way’. Such a suggestion is misleading, at best. It does, however, demonstrate the need for a more complete understanding of the entire picture, so that precious wildlife resources can be sustained in wild places, now and into the future.

Wildlife in Africa has suffered tremendously, and illegal criminal enterprises that commit poaching have benefited greatly, from the misguided efforts of anti-hunting eco-imperialists in other parts of the world. In addressing European officials, Michel Leonidas Mantheakis, Chairman of the Tanzania Hunting Operators Association, summed up the overall situation: “It is ironic that anti-hunting pressure resulted in the deaths by poaching of more elephants, lions and other wildlife than safari hunting ever did ... A decision taken on wrong information can never be right. When emotion prevails, you are bound to come to the wrong conclusions, even if the information is right.”

Hunters as conservationists practise the sustainable use of wildlife resources. It wasn’t until recently that our message was disseminated more broadly, so that those interested in true conservation and effective wildlife management can understand the totality of the very complex issues involved.

Well-regulated trophy hunting helps wildlife and local economies, while attacks on hunting result in harm to the very animals that we all want to save. Any decline in hunting in Africa is at least in part due to importation restrictions imposed by foreign governments. There are significant differences in conservation and economic benefits between countries like South Africa and Namibia, which have strong hunting programmes, versus countries like Kenya and Botswana, which currently lack strong hunting programmes. For example, a prominent study, entitled, ‘The Conservation Equation in Africa’, concluded that between the years 2012 and 2014, hunting for conservation contributed a staggering $426 million to the GDP of Botswana, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Moreover, direct spending by foreign hunters injected an additional US$326 million into these south-eastern African economies, while also supporting over 53 000 jobs for local residents. The hunting that takes place in these countries and the subsequent economic benefit have no viable replacement.

In a briefing paper to European Union decision-makers in April 2016, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) stated, “Legal and well-regulated trophy-hunting programmes can — and do — play an important role in delivering benefits for both wildlife conservation and the livelihoods, and wellbeing of..."
indigenous and local communities living with wildlife. The report goes on to say, “Well-managed trophy hunting ... can and does generate critically needed incentives and revenue for government, and private and community landowners, to maintain and restore wildlife as a land use, and carry out conservation actions, including anti-poaching interventions. It can return much-needed income, jobs, and other important economic and social benefits to indigenous and local communities in places where these benefits are often scarce”.

The briefing paper recognises that there are examples of “poorly conducted and poorly regulated hunting” that receive an undue amount of public attention. However, “intense scrutiny of hunting due to these bad examples has been associated with many confusions (and sometimes intentional misinformation) about the nature of hunting, including:

• trophy hunting is the same as ‘canned’ hunting
• trophy hunting is illegal
• trophy hunting is driving declines of iconic species, particularly large African mammals like elephant, rhino and lion
• trophy hunting could be readily replaced by photographic tourism.

None of these statements is correct.” [Emphasis added.]

Undeniably, trophy hunting plays a vital and irreplaceable role in land and wildlife conservation. The millions of dollars that hunters bring to these African nations offer powerful incentives to governments and private landholders to preserve land for wildlife. Properly incentivised by the cash injections brought by hunters every year, local populations are more proactive about managing real threats to wildlife such as poaching and indiscriminate agricultural land development.

Without conservation hunting, these African nations will undoubtedly see an increase in conflict between humans and wildlife, a rapid loss of animal habitat to human activities, and an irreplaceable loss of economic support for the local communities.

If hunting is declining, it may very well be due to the actions of ‘first-world’, anti-hunting activists who have little or no recognition of anything but their own emotionally driven agendas. It is vital that we, as hunters, make a concerted effort to educate the public on the very real benefits of trophy or conservation hunting and improve or revitalise the public perception of hunting, so that future conservation successes might be achieved.

“It is ironic that anti-hunting pressure resulted in the deaths by poaching of more elephants, lions and other wildlife than safari hunting ever did...”

INTERNATIONAL & SADC NEWS • • •
## DEA STATISTICS

### 2017

**01/01/2017**

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### 31/12/2017

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### SUMMARY

#### DATA - AS SUPPLIED BY PROVINCES

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#### Client - Daily rates @ $

- Total: 63,042
- Average: 496

#### Observer @ $15% hunt days

- Total: 9,456
- Average: 0

#### Species hunted $

- Total: 48,938
- DEA: 96,642,896

#### TOTAL INCOME

- Total: 121,436
- DEA: 96,642,896

### INDUSTRY NEWS

- 01/01/2017
- 31/12/2017

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**01/01/2017**

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#### Client - Daily rates @ $

- Total: 5,999
- Average: 2,975

#### Observer @ $15% hunt days

- Total: 900
- Average: 1,655

#### Species hunted $

- Total: 4,960

#### TOTAL INCOME

- Total: 11,859
- DEAR: 38,074,970
- DEA: 1,103,331 | 18,992,407 | 3,573 | 108,493 | 075 | 374 | 7,555,830 | 074 |

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**31/12/2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
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<th>NC</th>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL HUNTED</td>
<td>4,960</td>
<td>158,164</td>
<td>070</td>
<td>11,999</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Client - Daily rates @ $

- Total: 5,999
- Average: 2,975

#### Observer @ $15% hunt days

- Total: 900
- Average: 1,655

#### Species hunted $

- Total: 4,960

#### TOTAL INCOME

- Total: 11,859
- DEAR: 38,074,970
- DEA: 1,103,331 | 18,992,407 | 3,573 | 108,493 | 075 | 374 | 7,555,830 | 074 |
It is with great relief that I roll the sable bull over onto his other flank to find a few, now totally dry, coagulated blood drops on his jet black coat next to a now semi-closed, slight cut high on the shoulder! During the approximate 45-hour time lapse between the bull being wounded, and finally being shot and killed, the wound had already closed up and started healing, since the bullet had lost all its momentum and energy, and had literally only cut a small slit into the coat!

An absolute master of a tracker had intermittently held his spoor for two days, had tracked him down to his initial wounded bed (resting spot) and managed to finally find him as an almost perfectly healthy animal without any blood spoor — hail to you and your phenomenal, near-impossible tracking skills, David! (See the article below).

In my life-long hunting journey, I have never encountered another tracker in your class and, with the current generation of school-going youths losing contact with nature, I doubt that I will ever encounter another tracker in your class — a true master of a dying art form!

This sums 62-year old David up in a nutshell and, as the main PH hunting with him for 32 years, I experienced his phenomenal tracking time and again. David is an exceptional tracker in the nutshell and, as the main PH hunting client for 32 years, I experienced his phenomenal tracking skills, David! (See the article below).

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This sums 62-year old David up in a nutshell and, as the main PH hunting with him for 32 years, I experienced his phenomenal tracking time and again.

David is also profoundly in touch with his surroundings and extremely observant. He doesn't miss a track or other sign to hold that track, and then he will elaborate and provide more interesting information around it.

But, undoubtedly, David's most incredible and unique ability is to get into an animal's mind! David will track an animal, irrespective of whether it is wounded or not, and after some time on the track, he will turn around and coolly tell me exactly where that animal is heading! We hunt on 5600ha, so there is no question of an animal's movements being predictable, due to it being 'caged in'. In wounded scenarios, this remarkable skill of his has allowed me to separate from him and leapfrog forward to where he anticipated the animal would be heading. On numerous occasions, I would then be in a position to take down the approaching wounded animal. This supernatural skill of his has also enabled us to save a great deal of unnecessary footslogging and has directly contributed to our hunting success!

In closing, I believe that living in the bush his whole life, with the additional advantage of mixed Bushman-blood lineage, has honed his tracking skills and interconnectedness with the animals sharing the bush with him to a near-unbelievable supernatural level. David might be illiterate on paper, but he is a 'professor' when it comes to reading the bush and its inhabitants!

Master Tracker

David Sekgwama — recipient of the Tracker of the Year Award 2018

In the dense thicket with the late afternoon's low light, the dark Mopane trunks blend in perfectly with the dark, black coat of the sable bull. Once again, the sable becomes aware of the hunter, guided by one of my associate PHs and a local tracker. As the sable jumps away, the hunter fires!

Unbeknown to the hunting team, the 300grs soft-nosed .375 H&H bullet strikes and totally traverses a thick Mopane tree trunk full-on, dissipating most of its energy, and tumbling, it strikes the sable high behind the shoulder side-on, so that it just penetrates the skin and superficial muscle. With the very last fraction of energy, it then just manages to come to rest close to the spine of the bull. The slight shockwave generated close to the spine causes immediate temporary collapse, due to temporary nerve immobilisation, and the bull goes down hard. However, it quickly regains
consciousness again, jumps up, and flees before the hunter can manage to get in a second shot. The little bit of blood from the superficial muscle wound quickly coagulates and the few drops of blood on the track quickly become less and less to finally disappear in totality. The sun sets and light fades away, so that the hunting team has to give up for the day. Having noticed the bull go down hard with good blood spoor on the spot, the hunters believed that the bull had been terminally wounded and would die during the night. All night long, hunting vehicles traverse the hunting territory to prevent possible damage and loss, due to scavengers and predators. With first light, the hunting team (including an additional local tracker), continue tracking the bull, but with no blood spoor and concrete-hard soil to contend with, they lose the track after two hours’ frustrating tracking. After lunch, I join the team with my master tracker David. With all his lifelong tracking experience, the then 59-year old tracker eventually picks up the spoor (track) of the sable where the bull dragged one hoof crossing an uneven road. With no blood at all, we are all sceptical, but having experienced this old tracking magician’s ability on numerous previous occasions, I move the entire three-man tracking team to the spoor. Even the local trackers are sceptical, however, and start following other nearby tracks while David just holds to his own track. The radio cracks into life, and we are called into the bush to where he shows us where the sable was resting and then jumped up and fled from him as it became aware of his approach. There is no blood to be seen anywhere and neither could David see any on the fleeing animal, but with the firm conviction that it was the wounded animal, we continue tracking the bull until darkness sets in again. Now joined by the organiser of the local trackers, we are all back on the track at the crack of dawn of the third day. I traverse the known favoured territory of the wounded bull with the hunting vehicle, hoping for a chance to sight the bull, only to find another younger sable bull. Then David, along with one of the local trackers, radios me and informs me that they are holding the track of a sable which moved with a small herd of eland during the night. While the two trackers continue on the single track, we pick up the other main local tracker and work through the favoured territory of the wounded bull on foot, only to find nothing! It is 10 am on his last hunting day and by now, the hunter’s confidence has dwindled and his mood has become sombre. I can sense from his attitude that he has given up and, with my thoughts wandering to possibly arranging a helicopter for an aerial search, I am also not in a positive mindset to find the wounded bull. Then David suddenly reports on the radio that they spotted two very healthy-looking
SABLE-TRACKING MASTERY

Sables racing away from them. After quick deliberation with the main local tracker, we conclude, however, that it was another main breeding bull with a cow that raced away. I radio the information to David and he reports back that he would just like to continue tracking the single spoor leading into the corner of the hunting block where he believes the sable is hiding. I give him the go-ahead and they continue tracking for another hour.

By 11 am, we have given up all hope and, after instruction from the hunting client, I radio David and the other local tracker to return to our rendezvous point to return to the main hunting camp.

A short while later, however, the radio suddenly cracks into life again and we can all hear the excitement in David’s voice as he whispers that they found the bull!!! The excitement is contagious and hopes soar again! I instruct David to stay with the bull and to send the other local tracker to fetch us, and immediately request the hunter and his friend to prepare for, hopefully, a final stalk. However, with their hunting time up, they instruct me to go in alone to minimise movement and maximise our chances of success. The local tracker quickly guides me to David, from where we first stalk and then leopard crawl to within 100m of the bull standing in the shade of a small cluster of Acacia trees, nervously scanning his surroundings in a strong wind. The 10x Zeiss binoculars reveal no blood on the jet black coat, but David remains confident that it is the wounded bull. Finally, after much uncertainty and a last, desperate prayer, I launch the 9.3mm projectile through the proud, brave beast’s heart!

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General safety tips for visitors to South Africa

As a domestic or foreign tourist, your enjoyment and wellbeing are of the utmost importance to us. As in any country, there are a few basic safety precautions visitors should take to ensure they can confidently experience the best South Africa has to offer. Based on international guidelines, here are some precautionary guidelines on what to do before embarking on your trip and while travelling around South Africa:

BEFORE DEPARTURE

• Leave copies of your itinerary, ID document, passport and driver's licence with family or friends, so you can be contacted in case of an emergency.
• When renting a car, ensure that you have selected an option with Personal Accident Cover, so that you can have peace of mind, in case of an accident. Alternatively, take out medical insurance with your travel agent to ensure a speedy medical service, if required.
• Plan your route by obtaining a set map, or saving your planned locations on your mobile.
• Make use of a reputable shuttle service or car rental agency - to check on this, visit the following websites: Association of Southern African Travel Agents (ASATA) — www.asata.co.za and/or Southern Africa Tourism Services Association (SATSA) — www.satsa.com
• In the case of ordering a shuttle service, get the name, contact number and photograph of the driver who will collect you at the airport in South Africa.
• Make sure you have securely locked your bags and luggage, and have placed distinct markers for easy and quick identification.
• Take photos of your luggage and save them on your mobile device, in case it goes missing and you have to report it.
• Avoid wearing flashy jewellery, expensive watches and clothing that might draw attention.
• Set your mobile device on data roaming, so that you have immediate internet and telephonic access when you arrive in South Africa. Check with your current mobile phone provider regarding extra fees while in South Africa.
• Activate your credit and debit cards with your personal bank for use in South Africa.

TRAVELLING WITH GUNS

• Make sure your paperwork is in order for transit, as well as for South Africa, especially if you are travelling with sporting equipment such as hunting rifles. Keep notarised/certified colour copies with you and on a mobile device.
• PHASA strongly advises you to make use of a reputable meet-and-greet agent who can have your transit/temporary import/export permits pre-issued and who can assist you at the firearms permit office upon arrival. PHASA provides this service at a fee - please contact phasa@phasa.co.za for further information. Your Hunting Outfitter can also assist with this process.
• Restrict your firearms to a maximum of four different calibres, i.e. 1 x .30-06, 1 x .375 and 1 x 12g shotgun.
• Should you wish to bring along two rifles of the same calibre, we strongly advise you to apply for a pre-issued permit.
• The FULL description of each rifle must be reflected on your home country’s export documentation, e.g. for USA citizens the customs form 4457 AND your temporary import documentation, e.g. Winchester .470 Win Mag or Krieghoff .458 Lott.
• You are allowed 200 rounds of ammo into South Africa per rifle. However, IATA restricts travellers to 11 pounds/5kg of ammo, weighed WITH THE BOX. This is the equivalent of about 100 x .375 ammo.
• Your empty brass shells MAY be taken back home for reloading. If an airline or official wishes to force you to discard the same, report them to the police. The Firearms Control Act does not prohibit it.
• ALL ammo must be packed in a LOCKABLE BOX and checked in separately from your LOCKABLE gun case. All firearms must be unloaded. The keys must be held by yourself and the gun case and ammo boxes must be opened in your presence for inspection.
• The onus rests on you to make sure that your preferred airline carrier and the countries it transits allow firearms as cargo. Please take note of the airline charges for the transportation of firearms.
• Special, pre-issued permits are required for handguns and semi-automatic hunting firearms.
• You may lodge a complaint at: https://www.123formbuilder.com/form-4725674/bribery-corruption-report or contact info@phasa.co.za.
INDUSTRY NEWS  •  •  •

ON ARRIVAL IN SA – TRAVELLING WITH GUNS

• Passengers travelling with South African Airways (SAA) must, upon arrival, sign in at the security desk at baggage collection and then proceed to the firearms permit office outside the secured area.
• Do not disclose any information that may compromise your safety, e.g. how much cash you are carrying on you, or where you are staying over.
• Make sure your rifle and ammo boxes are opened and inspected in your presence. Lock them afterwards, and keep the rifle and the ammo boxes separate from each other.
• Have copies of all your documentation on hand, e.g. 4457, copy of firearm licence, passport, travel itinerary and invitation letter from Outfitter/sport shooting club.
• Be patient and courteous towards the officers at the South African Police Services’ firearms permit office.
• Your rifles and ammo should at all times be locked in a safe when not in use.

AT THE AIRPORT

• Do not allow anyone to handle your bags, except the clearly identifiable porters at the airport, and only with your express permission.
• Do NOT trust anyone that cannot be identified.
• Do NOT draw or exchange money at the airport ATMs. Credit cards are widely accepted throughout South Africa.
• When seeking directions, proceed to marked information counters only.
• As you approach your rental, shuttle or tour operator’s vehicle, be vigilant and aware of your surroundings.
• If you have planned for a shuttle service to collect you at the arrivals section, call the driver first and tell them that you have landed safely. Then ask where exactly they are situated and waiting for you. Try not to look ‘lost’.
• Place all luggage in the boot of the car and avoid leaving handbags and briefcases on the car seats.

IN YOUR VEHICLE

• As you or your driver exit the parking area and airport itself, keep the doors locked and windows up at all times, and be vigilant at stop signals.
• Keep a manoeuvrable distance between you and the car in front of you.
• Do not leave your mobile device or other valuables where they are visible from outside.
• Plan your route in advance. In the case of a car rental, always have the company’s number on hand, in case you get lost. Make sure the tank of the car you are driving is full.
• Never pick up strangers or hitchhikers.
• At night, park in well-lit areas.

WHILE TRAVELLING

• Limit the amount of cash you carry with you. There are numerous safely located ATMs around, in case you need cash. Most establishments and shopping outlets accept credit cards. Never carry your wallet in the rear of your trousers.
• When using an ATM, keep your pin secure and do not accept any help from strangers.
• At the ATM, always be fully aware of your surroundings and the people around you.
• When paying with your credit card, demand that the transaction be performed in your presence. DO NOT let your card out of your sight.
• Plan your day trips in advance and, where possible, save the GPS locations on your mobile.
• Avoid wearing expensive or flashy jewellery and clothing. Keep mobile devices and cameras close to you by connecting them to a safety string wrapped around your wrist or waist.
• Do not stop if your vehicle’s tyres have been damaged by rocks or obstacles on the road — go to the nearest well-lit service station and call the police on 10111.
• At night, stay away from dark, isolated areas. Where possible, always travel with a group and explore busy and well-lit streets in urban areas.

TBCSA and PHASA wish you a pleasant and memorable stay in our country.
Familiarise yourself with the area you are visiting / staying in. Check with your hotel before going for a walk alone.

Always keep your valuables in sight.

Leave your passport / other documents in a safe place, but carry a copy or another form of ID with you.

Take precautions when hiking, as some areas might be slippery.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Police (SAPS) – 10111
Ambulance / Fire – 10177
Weather forecast – 082 231 1640
Tourist complaints: complaints@tourism.gov.za
Tourist Safety Initiative: info@tourismsafety.co.za

Here are a few tips for staying safe in South Africa:

Some areas are best explored through recommended and registered Tour Operators / Tour Guides.

Information on top tourist attractions / activities is available at local Visitors’ Information Centres throughout the country.

Be careful with personal possessions and travel documents in cities and other popular destinations.

Wear sun lotion and carry enough water to stay hydrated, especially when visiting outlying areas.

Avoid drinking water from rivers and streams.

Take care when swimming, as rip currents can pull you out to sea.

Most of our beaches carry a Blue Flag status. Be sure to read and follow all signs at swimming areas and be aware of sharks.

We are excited to have you in South Africa!

With so much to see and so many unique adventures to experience, we can’t wait for you to get started!

We’d love to make you feel at home the South Africa way — with warm smiles, open arms and friendship.

We know that holidays are for creating memorable moments and having fun. We want to make sure you have all of that and more, the safe way.

We hope you enjoy your stay!

We care about your safety and want to make sure that your time spent in South Africa is pleasant and memorable.
The Conservation and Empowerment Fund's previous chairman said in his report, “2017 has been a difficult year and will most likely close as the most difficult year of PHASA’s 40 years of existence”. He obviously could not have predicted what lay ahead in 2018. This has been a long year with many challenges. Personally, it was my first year on the PHASA Exco — and then I won the lucky prize of becoming the Fund Chairman. As I was trying to assess the lay of the land, our fundraising contractor, Mrs Retha van der Merwe, resigned, leaving the board to take up the baton.

I wish to thank everyone on the board for their excellent work, as well as the ladies at the office and the PHASA Exco members who helped, regardless of whether they were on the board or not. Our sincerest gratitude and thanks go to all our donors for their willingness to support this worthy cause. Without you, we could not have done all the wonderful work listed below.

2. Online auction
We received 37 donations of different plains game hunting packages that were put up for an online auction run by an international auction house. Only five were not sold. Many said we would fail, but we proved them wrong. We had a gross turnover of R500 000 and net income of R450 000 in the pilot project. Our members were able to recruit new clients, and South Africa as a preferred destination will be introduced to many new hunters and tourists. I would like to thank everyone who donated hunts and helped to make this possible. We will certainly do this again.

3. PHASA gala auction
The gala auction was an astounding success, with a turnover of R1.5 million for the Fund and its projects, excluding what was earned for PHASA. It was a truly humbling experience to see how generous our members and other guests attending were.

4. Donations from individuals and companies
These are people with whom we share a common goal, who donate cash or goods to be utilised for specific projects.

**A few of our main income sources**

1. Voluntary contribution booklet
This is probably the easiest way for the Fund to earn a sizeable income with minimum effort. You buy the booklets of 50 certificates each, at R1 500, and sell the certificates to your clients, who pay 10 US dollars per animal hunted. You then voluntarily pay the net amounts collected over to the Fund, after deducting the cost of your booklet. If only half of our PHASA Outfitters [150 Outfitters] each pay the amounts for 100 animals, we are looking at an income of R2.1 million. As an incentive, we had a lucky draw for all participants during the past year, giving them the chance to win a Musgrave Deluxe .375 rifle, and it went down so well that it will probably be an annual event.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE**
It does not cost you anything and, from personal experience, I can assure you that clients gladly pay the requested amount.
As many of you know, the Fund is based on four pillars: conservation, research, empowerment and social responsibility. I would like to share some of our projects of the past year where we lent a helping hand. Since the Fund lost its only paid employee, the decision was made to phase out smaller hands-on projects and rather focus on projects that were more manageable.

1 & 2. Conservation and Research

Conservation and Research Fund
I reported at the AGM in November 2018 that we had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tshwane University of Technology. Although this is still in effect, we decided to go a different route for several reasons. There were many concerns raised by members. “Will our research be accepted by the Scientific Authority?” As you might know, SANBI is the authority that approves or disapproves research in South Africa.

We decided to join SANBI in their current research on leopards, as they needed funding and assistance with identifying areas in which to do research, and with gaining access to these areas. This will mean research on private land. We will appoint our own researcher to be part of the SANBI research team. It is in our best interests that we have a close relationship with the Scientific Authority.

Conservation Force
An international organisation with the main objectives of wildlife conservation, education and research. They receive an annual grant for the outstanding work they do.

True Green Alliance (TGA)
Under the leadership of Ron Thompson, do I need to say more? He is the voice of reason, and not afraid to speak his mind and say it without sugar-coating it. TGA is an organisation that protects and advocates sustainable utilisation of living resources (both wild and domestic) for the benefit of mankind; supports and embraces the animal welfare philosophy; and rejects the animal rights doctrine.

Lions to Angola
The immense value of the hunting industry as a guarantor of the future of Africa’s premier predator, the lion, has once again been conclusively demonstrated by a reintroduction project run by member Tienie Bamberger of Warthog Safaris, under the auspices of PHASA. Six lion cubs were airlifted to Angola, where they will eventually be released into a large private wilderness area near the Bicuari National Park in the Lubango region, which has become completely devoid of lions after decades of civil war. Now the king is poised to return. This introduction venture follows two similar projects initiated earlier in Limpopo. These proved to be very successful with the newly released lions thriving, hunting and procreating in large wilderness areas. This is proof that, as long as the lion has value invested in it by the hunter, it will survive in Africa.

3. Empowerment

In our current political environment, empowerment is not a ‘nice to have’, but a ‘need to have’. We should embrace it and become involved, as we are currently doing.

What is empowerment? It is a multidimensional social process that helps people gain control over their own lives. It is a process that fosters power in people for use in their own lives, their communities and their society. This is exactly what we are trying to accomplish with the following projects:

Makuya Nature Reserve
The 13 800ha reserve is situated just south of the Pafuri Gate and shares a fenceless border with the Kruger National Park. We are very excited to be part of this community-based project and will help the reserve in an advisory capacity with furthering their sustainable utilisation policy and financial management. I want to express my sincere thanks to Esther Netshivhongweni, who negotiated a donation of three buffalo, one nyala and one elephant, which were auctioned off by PHASA at the gala dinner for the benefit of the Fund and the Makuya community. These hunts were sold for an astounding R1.2 million. Thank you to those who supported these auction items, in aid of hunting in a vast open area with the free-roaming Big 5. The Fund will manage these funds to benefit the Makuya reserve and communities, by helping them with anti-poaching initiatives and training, among others.
Conservation and Empowerment Fund

Mozambique projects
Donations of maize meal, meat spices, good used clothing and children’s story books were received. The purpose is to teach the children English, so that they will be able to obtain good employment and not resort to poaching when they grow up.

Sanctuary of Hope
A few black ladies from the community are giving lessons in sewing, and making uniforms and school clothes for an income.

4. Social Responsibility

Abraham Kriel Children’s Home, Nylstroom
This is a safe home to around 170 children and a project very close to my heart. The Fund and several of its members, as well as their clients, generously support them by donating meat, clothing, toys and money. The Fund handed over a cheque of R50 000 to the home during our AGM in November (picture below). Several of the older boys had the opportunity to hunt after undergoing a short hunter’s training course and the meat went back to the children’s home.

Anchors projects
These projects were initiated to feed needy families at Hennopspark and Magalieskruin primary schools.

Dudley Rogers
Dudley Rodgers, a well-known Zimbabwean PH, was seriously ill in a South African hospital and needed a medivac back to Zimbabwe. We contributed towards making this happen.

Mel du Plessis
A very well-known and respected member, who has since passed away, needed urgent medical care, and through contributions by the Fund and our members, we could lessen the burden on the family. During the November gala evening, it was heart-warming to see how the hearts and wallets of our members opened up to support Mel and his family financially during this trying time.

Munsieville project
In Munsieville squatter camp on the dumping ground outside Krugersdorp, there are some 297 adults and 129 children living, with numbers growing daily. We provided daily meals to the children. They normally do not have any food, electricity or running water at the squatter camp. The lunch we provide is usually a home-cooked meal with meat and vegetables, and we also provide the children with good used clothing, school necessities and stationery.

Boysens Beertjes
This nursery school is in a very poor area of Pretoria and 100 toddlers attend the school daily. The Fund supplies them with porridge for breakfast, meat and vegetables for lunch, and good used clothing. Since the school is closed during school holidays and many of these children depend on meals from school, we make up grocery hampers for the children to take home over the holidays.

Elandspruit Child Welfare
This is a welfare centre for the poor children of Danville and Elandspruit, where some 170 children come after school to do their homework and eat lunch. The Fund donates meat and vegetables for their lunches.

Kuierkidz
Some 35 autistic and other physically handicapped children come here to receive daily care, and we help them financially, as well as providing them with toiletries and cleaning materials.

Residence@work
This care centre looks after 30 physically handicapped and mentally disabled children, of which some are autistic. They do arts and crafts, which they try to sell to raise funds, but the children have limited abilities. We gave them a pottery oven, a sewing machine, cleaning products and materials to help them with their projects.

Kungwini Centre
Some 200 adults and 30 children who are physically impaired and/or have brain damage live at this centre. Many of these people need special care. They rely on government grants, which are not enough by any means. We donated meat, spices and vegetables to them.

House Eljada
We gave a donation of meat to this house in Booyens, where 39 poor families and homeless people can enjoy a meal once a day.

Gauteng Down Syndrome Organisation
In December 2017, we held a Christmas party for the organisation at the zoo, with 120 people attending. With the help of donors, we arranged transport, food, entrance fees and gifts.

#HelpJag
This is a wonderful new project under the guidance of Helpende Hand, which is endorsed by Bakkies Botha, Adam Tas, Wild en Jag and many other well-known and not such well-known people. Game and other donations are used to feed around 6 550 hungry kids in 83 pre-primary schools nationwide. The Fund became involved during the project’s first ever and very successful gala evening, held at Castle de Wildt during March. We are looking forward to a long and prosperous relationship with this well-deserved project.

Ebert Ludick
At the gala evening, everyone was moved when Hansie du Bruyn asked for help for this brave young boy fighting cancer. Several hunts were generously donated to be auctioned off to financially assist Ebert’s parents during this difficult time. An astounding amount was raised, and I wish to thank everyone who made this possible. It made me proud to be a hunter! Unfortunately, Ebert has since gone to live with his Heavenly Father, and we wish to express our sincere condolences to his family and friends.
Conservation and Empowerment Fund

The total contribution of professional hunting to community upliftment in South Africa has been significantly understated and PHASA’s ability to give a full assessment of the industry’s humanitarian impact has been hampered because of the diverse nature of its members’ contributions.

In the midst of increasing criticism levelled at the hunting industry — against a background of general misunderstanding of what the industry actually does, and how this benefits both conservation and empowerment — we as Outfitters and Professional Hunters are doing a great deal for the communities in and around the areas where we hunt, but we generally keep it to ourselves. I urge you again to send us photos and details of what you are doing. Whether it is donating meat to the community, or your clients donating stationery to a local school, we want to know about it, so that we can share such information with the public. By sharing our social responsibility programmes with them, we can prove to them that ‘Hunters Care’!

We have printed several Hunters Care banners that will be strategically placed around the country and used with all Hunters Care projects, so please contact us, should you need one.

We know you are not doing it for yourself and, very often, do not want any recognition for the great work you are doing in your communities, but let’s share our activities with the public out there to change their perceptions, and gain their support by letting the Hunters Care banner fly high.

We make a living by what we get ... but we make a life by what we give.
— Winston Churchill

The PHASA Conservation and Empowerment Fund handed over a cheque for R50 000 to the #HELPJAG project of Helpende Hand at Castle de Wildt in Modimolle, on 1 March 2019.

This project feeds hundreds of kids throughout South Africa. #HELPJAG is endorsed by Bakkies Botha, Adam Tas and Wild en Jag. PHASA is proud to be associated with such a humanitarian venture.

At the PHASA AGM 2018, the CRF donated R20 000 towards the True Green Alliance, an organisation that protects and advocates sustainable utilisation of living resources (both wild and domestic).
We would like to thank the following donors

Conservation & Empowerment Fund

Contributors

Anton Bakker
Ben Harmse
Brian Seady
CJ Van Der Merwe
Dawyn Hefer
Dries van Coller Safaris
Hain Life Science SA (Pty) Ltd.
Jaco Van Eeden
Johan Seyffert
John Sholes
Katzke Safaris
KD Ball Shi-Awela
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PHASA Conservation & Empowerment Fund

HUNTERS CARE

Conservation & Empowerment Fund contributors

Conservation Research Fund contributors
On a very hot 11 December, we had the privilege of accommodating the children from Abraham Kriel Children’s Home at Nyala Lodge during their annual trip to Motsomi. The little ones arrived just in time for some cooling down in the swimming pool, after which they were treated to plates stacked with hot dogs to fill their tummies. At the end of the day, there was a bonanza of Zac’s delicious cooking and, of course, a big scoop of ice-cream, just to keep things sweet and cool!

Each morning started with a glorious sunrise, cup of coffee and some home-baked rusks. Splendid summer days were spent splashing in the pool, and running and playing around camp. Knowing how ravenous playing around can make the little ones, brunch was served and the afternoon treats consisted of sweet, juicy watermelon or bucket loads of sweets. For their evening meal, they were treated to some game meat, which was rounded off perfectly with some baked-with-love cupcakes.

Thursday morning started early with a bunch of excited little faces peering at us and squeals of delight as we made our way to Sun City’s Valley of the Waves. The day was filled with laughter, sun, splashes and, of course, ICE CREAM. The kids played for hours, enjoying the slides and the manmade waves. Although tired, they arrived back at the lodge content and happy.

As the time to open gifts crept ever closer, the excitement grew almost tangibly. After the wrapping paper flew off, the lodge was filled with remote-control cars zooming around, dolls crying like real babies and upcoming artists busy practising their painting skills. Everyone went to bed with a satisfied heart and a happy soul. Their trip to Madikwe proved to be very educational; the children saw ample game such as elephant, lion, rhino and, of course, many antelope, and came back very satisfied. Some of them had their first sighting of the Big 5 ever. They had a dip in the pool at Madikwe and were treated with some truly South African boerewors rolls and home-baked cakes for dessert.

On the morning that they left, our hearts felt empty, but satisfied in the knowledge that we had made a difference. It was such a privilege to give such joy and pleasure to these children who have nowhere else to go for Christmas, and teach them a love for wildlife and the outdoors.
VERBIND TOT DIE WELSTAND VAN MENS & OMGEWING

Die Professionele Jagtervereniging van Suid-Afrika (PHASA) se BEWARING EN BEMAGTIGINGSFONDS, pleg jaarliks broodnodige fondse terug in aktiwiteite wat fokus op bewaring, navorsing, ekonomiese bemagtiging en sosiaalmaatskaplike projekte. Hierdie fonds word hoofsaaklik ondersteun deur private skenkings, opbrengste uit veilings, en die bewaringsfooie wat internasionale jagters betaal wanneer hulle Suid-Afrika besoek. Die PHASA Fonds bestuur hierdie geld met groot omsigtigheid en ken dit toe aan spesifieke verdienstelike projekte.

PHASA se Conservation Research Fund (CRF) is een van die begunstigdes wat baat vind by hierdie geld. Die CRF is ’n nasionale navorsingprojek wat gestig is om die status en lewensvatbaarheid van Suid-Afrika se luiperdbevolking te ondersoek. Vanweë die omvang van hierdie projek, verskaf dit ook waardevolle inligting oor kleiner katsoorte soos die Rooikat, Tierboskat en Vaalboskat. Die resultate van die luiperdprojek sal ook waardevolle inligting oor kleiner katsoorte verskaf en help om die status en lewensvatbaarheid van Suid-Afrika se luiperdbevolking te ondersoek.

Die Leeus na Angola-projek waarin ses jong leeus in die Bicuari Nasionale Park in die Lubango Streek vrygelaat is om die status en lewensvatbaarheid van Suid-Afrika se luiperdbevolking te ondersoek. Tienie Bamberger, ’n lid van PHASA, wat deel uitmaak van die projek, verskaf dit ook waardevolle inligting oor kleiner katsoorte soos die Rooikat, Tierboskat en Vaalboskat. Die resultate van die luiperdprojek sal ook waardevolle inligting oor kleiner katsoorte verskaf en help om die status en lewensvatbaarheid van Suid-Afrika se luiperdbevolking te ondersoek.


Ander projekte wat voordeel trek uit die PHASA-fonds sluit in:

- Die Leeus na Angola-projek waarin ses jong leeus in die Bicuari Nasionale Park in die Lubango Streek vrygelaat is om die status en lewensvatbaarheid van Suid-Afrika se luiperdbevolking te ondersoek.
- Die Abraham Kriel-kinderhuis in Modimolle wat sowat 170 kinders huisves, ontvang kos, klere, speelgoed en finansiële bydraes van Phasa.
- PHASA betrek ook die ouer kinders van die Abraham Kriel-kinderhuis by jaggeleenthede en bied aan hulle die kans om self ’n bok en/of vark te jag, waarna die verwerkte vleis aan die kinderhuis gaan sodat hulle maats en al die inwoners dit kan benut. Ten einde hierdie en vele ander projekte volhoubaar te ondersteun, het PHASA en Waterberg Toyota tydens HuntEx 2019 ’n fondsinsamelingsprojek geloods, waarin ’n splinternuwe 2.4 SRX Hilux 4x4 Dubbelkajuitbakkie gewen kan word. Kaartjies is beskikbaar teen R500/kaartjie. Die wenner sal op 9 November tydens PHASA se Gala-dinee aangekondig word.

Dries van Coller, President van PHASA het die volgende beklemtoon: “Ons is die beskermers van ons kinders se natuurerfenis. Dit is ons verantwoordelikheid om die omgewing en ons natuurlike hulpbronne te bewaar. PHASA is die grootste professionele jagvereniging in die wêreld en lewer ’n groot bydrae tot bewaring, navorsing en bemagtiging. Ons neem ons sosiaalmaatskaplike verantwoordelikheid ernstig op wat ons verbintenis tot ons leuse, Hunters Care, bevestig.”

Belangstellendes wat ’n bydrae wil maak tot die PHASA-fonds en ’n kans wil waag om die Hilux-bakkie te wen, kan kaartjies by PHASA se kantoor kry. Vir meer inligting oor die PHASA-fonds, tree in verbinding met Pieter Potgieter, voorsitter van die Fonds, deur middel van die PHASA-kantoor. Kaartjies is beskikbaar by www.phasa.co.za of doen navraag by Marianna by [012] 667 2048 of info@phasa.co.za.
Role-players in the South African wildlife sector have long been organised into various fora and alignments towards promoting and protecting the highly challenging activities surrounding wildlife production and hunting. Inevitably though, there are issues which are cause for division and discord, and often there is also a conflict of interest, given the exceptional fact that in hunting, the end user is also a key fighter for the interests of the sector as a whole. In this space, for four decades now, CHASA and PHASA have been fellow travellers.

However, in recent times, the bar has been raised to new heights, in terms of direct threats to hunting, in particular. In response, both organisations have ‘upped their game’ by increasing the professionalism with which they approach their work. This space is no longer just the domain of an ‘old boys’ club’ meeting from time to time to chin-wag over a couple of irritating bunny-huggers. Our enemy is organised, massive and incredibly well funded, and we have had to rise to the challenge.

Driven by this increased anti-hunting onslaught, a new dynamic has unfortunately, entered the arena lately, which is the tendency among some organisations to opt for appeasement or expediency when dealing with the most difficult of hunting and breeding activities. PHASA and CHASA have resolutely resisted this tendency, and have retained their unyielding and principled stance to defend ALL that is sustainable and legal, albeit with some difficult internal processes.

This like-mindedness was encapsulated in the words of CHASA President, Prof Pieter van Niekerk, during an informal bush dinner hosted under a magnificent Kameeldoring and a million stars in June last year. Inter alia, he expressed CHASA’s pride at being able to work with people who applied certain values and reiterated that CHASA would stand in support of these values. The principle was far more than just the ‘lion issue’, he said, but rather a value system, and one that CHASA passionately identified with. He said that PHASA were people that they were extremely keen to work with!

In return, PHASA President Dries van Coller agreed that, with the dynamic changes happening, it was long overdue that “like started seeking like”, in order to rise to the challenge. The open and loyal approach of CHASA towards PHASA was truly appreciated. He stressed that there were solutions for every problem and, while acknowledging the many challenges, he was confident that, together, they would succeed and grow. It was time to put petty politics aside and focus on the right direction and priorities.

Following on this discussion, the already cordial relationships have further developed and it is true that with almost every global challenge facing hunting, the two organisations are in liaison, supporting each other and sharing resources and information. We at CHASA believe that we have never known a ‘better PHASA’ than the one it is now. We were truly heartened by the Rhino conservation - closely supported by both PHASA and CHASA
fantastic spirit that prevailed during the PHASA Convention in November, which was testimony to the ethics, hard work and loyalty expressed by their Exco. Members of both organisations can take heart from these developments. As each strives towards their respective vision, namely ‘Responsible Hunting for Sustainable Life and Livelihoods’ (PHASA) and ‘The Freedom to Hunt’ (CHASA), you can be sure we have each other’s backs. PHASA continues in its specialised field of looking after the interests of the professional hunter, outfitter and, by extension, anyone else whose livelihood relies on sustainable hunting, and CHASA focuses on the issues pertinent to the local South African recreational (own-use/biltong) hunter. Far from being competing interests, these are absolutely two sides of the same coin. Hunting is an activity driven by passion, whether to earn a living or for recreation. The overarching health of the whole wildlife sector is totally reliant on hunting, and while the anti-hunting brigade tends to focus their fight on the more controversial activities, they will certainly move along to the next, and the next hunting activity as each domino falls. Never has an alignment of like-mindedness been more necessary than now!

CHASA is a confederate, structured umbrella body with 23 affiliated, independent and diverse hunting/shooting associations making up its membership. We can deliver a variety of services, including endorsement certificates for dedicated hunter and dedicated sports shooter status, and we offer a host of related shooting and hunting activities to suit all tastes. We have affiliates across South Africa. We would urge all PHASA members: look to one of our affiliates for your needs, your family’s needs and those of your staff, outside the realm of PHASA-specific needs. Similarly, we would urge anyone who is engaged in the profession of hunting in South Africa to join PHASA. Our collective futures depend on support in numbers. Find your choice of CHASA affiliate at www.chasa.co.za on the ‘Links’ drop-down list.

CHASA & PHASA - An alignment of like-mindedness

INDUSTRY NEWS • • •

Vir die wildste nuus in die wild-en-jag-bedryf.

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Words are often used in association with each other and out of context, in order to portray a particular negative message that may suit a specific agenda and influence public opinion. For example, animal rightists who oppose the sustainable utilisation of wildlife for the benefit of people, use the words ‘poaching’ in conjunction with ‘hunting’ and ‘killing’, in order to discredit hunters and confuse the general public. Unfortunately, certain hunters’ associations have used the same devious tactics with regard to confusing the public on the issues of ‘captive’ animals and ‘canned’ animals.

The following statements have been made, with the specific evil intent of trying to malign responsible hunting and sound wildlife management practices.

**Hunting = Poaching.** It is claimed that these activities are the same, as any killing of animals cannot be linked to conservation.

**Captive = Canned.** It is claimed that these activities are the same.

The purpose of this article is to clear the muddy waters that have been created around these issues.

The modern Professional Hunter also relies on the latest technology to kill animals for profit, so what is the difference between us and poachers? Is it good enough to simply claim that hunting involves the legal harvesting of wildlife, whereas poaching is illegal? The answer would change from ‘yes’ to an unequivocal ‘no’, should corruption be involved in the issuing of hunting permits. Add to that, the concessions and quotas that alienate rural people from the utilisation of their renewable natural resources, causing the decline of wildlife populations and increased rural poverty.

The most important ethics of the modern PH are that we hunt for the following reasons:

- To manage and grow our wildlife numbers and increase areas under responsible game management
- To benefit the wildlife economy of our
remote rural hunting areas

- To respect the cultures, traditions and values of our hosts and communities.

A simple way for the general public to understand and differentiate between responsible hunting and poaching is to equate a hunter with an investor who legally withdraws the interest earned from his bank account. Poachers are similar to the bank robbers who destroy infrastructure to steal other people’s property.

The modern, responsible, ethical Professional Hunter does NOT behave like a robber and steal from the wild. We hunt to create the wealth required to drive the wildlife economy. We hunt to manage both wild and ranched animals by removing only a portion of what has already been put back.

POACHERS are thieves who destroy the wildlife economy to the detriment of biodiversity and conservation, with the goal to impoverish our people.

HUNTERS are investors who grow the wildlife economy and improve biodiversity for the benefit of our people.

Those claiming that there is no difference between hunting and poaching are misinformed and wrong.

CAPTIVE vs CANNED

There are those claiming that ‘captive’ equals ‘canned’ and that these activities cannot be separated. Therefore, we need to establish the facts concerning ‘captive’ breeding versus ‘canned’ killing of wildlife.

The term, ‘captive-bred (CB) wild animals’ refers to non-domestic animals that have been bred, born and raised within a controlled environment, such as zoos or other wildlife breeding establishments.

Most people understand the conservation value associated with the responsible captive breeding of endangered or rare wildlife species and, therefore, support this activity. Differences occur over the funding of such facilities, as there are those who believe that all CB facilities should only be funded by donors and may NOT recover costs through commercial trade or any other form of sustainable use. According to many claiming to be conservationists, CB animals should have no commercial value.

Our South African conservation success story differs from the above model. It is based on the private ownership of wildlife that has a commercial value for the economic benefit of the landholder. In order to optimise the breeding and production of rare and, therefore, highly valued species, such as roan and sable antelope, disease-free buffalo, lion and other species, game farmers are required by law to register their CB operations for these animals.

The ‘captive’ breeding of many different wildlife species is a legally regulated game-farming operation that is widely practised in South Africa.

‘Canned’ with reference to hunting, is a derogatory term used to discredit and confuse legal hunting, with the illegal shooting of drugged, or habituated animals within a small enclosure. To hunt an animal is defined as to search for, or be in pursuit of that animal. A wild animal that is shot, once it has been drugged or caged is no longer searched for or pursued, and is, therefore, NOT hunted.

PHASA understands the commercial and conservation importance of the many different species that are bred and raised in controlled, ‘captive’ environments by our game ranchers.

PHASA endorses the legal requirements for hunting and emphasises that NO hunting of wild or ranched animals may take place within a controlled or ‘canned’ environment.

‘CANNED’ is the term used to describe the illegal activity of killing an animal within a controlled environment. This is NOT hunting.

‘CAPTIVE’ is the term used to describe the legal activity of breeding and raising animals in a controlled environment. This a game-farming practice that does not involve hunting.

One can expect animal rightists to purposely misrepresent the facts that separate hunting from poaching, in an effort to discredit responsible hunting. For certain hunters, however, to resort to the same devious behaviour as animal rightists and create controversy by knowingly distorting the true facts concerning ‘captive’ breeding and ‘canned’ killing, is as low as one can get.

PHASA members are professionals in both hunting and wildlife management. We are proud to be the generation of hunters who have returned wildlife to the land, for the benefit of our people.

PHASA is a force for positive change within our wildlife industry. This is achieved through pragmatic, meaningful and professional actions. We will not discredit others, in order to promote ourselves, but we will take decisive action against those who can’t live by the same code.
The True Green Alliance (TGA) is a non-governmental, public-benefit and non-profit South African organisation that promotes caring for the earth and sustainable living practices throughout the societies and governments of southern Africa. It supports the sustainable use of living resources, and fosters correct social and official government attitudes towards wildlife management.

By Ron Thomson, CEO of The True Green Alliance

The ELEPHANT Issue

On 22 February 2019, the BBC released a report (and YouTube material) called, Botswana Mulls Lifting Elephant Hunting Ban on the now probable reintroduction of elephant hunting in Botswana. This has given me the opportunity to provide insight into some vexing problems surrounding this new controversy.

In one of the videos, Mr Colin Bell of Botswana’s Wilderness Safaris states that the income from tourism is the criterion that best gauges ‘conservation success’. He clearly has no idea about the science of wildlife management; or where tourism fits into the bigger ‘conservation’ picture. And he seems to believe that adverse public opinion will stop the lifting of Botswana’s four-year-long elephant hunting ban. Mr Bell — and others like him — does not yet understand that wildlife cannot be managed by public referendum. The reality is that, if the current excessive elephant population in Botswana is not reduced in size, SOON, there will be NO habitat left to support any kind of wildlife, let alone elephants. And when that stage is reached,
Mr Bell’s tourism industry will be absorbed into the sands of the Kalahari.

Sustainable tourism is only possible when a national park’s ecosystem (its soils, plants and animals) is maintained in a state of equilibrium. Mr Bell is on record as stating that elephant numbers have now ‘stabilised’ in Botswana (not true), which, he implies, removes the imperative to control elephant numbers. People who express this kind of simplistic naiveté — and who project themselves as being elephant management experts — cause the greatest confusion within society. Yet, the truth is easy to explain: when elephant numbers are allowed to increase without constraint, the ecosystem will eventually collapse; followed by the collapse of whatever eco-tourism structures have been constructed upon it.

When managing a wildlife sanctuary, there are three priorities:
FIRST, to protect the SOIL — because without soil, no plants will grow; and without plants there will be no animals.
SECOND, to protect the PLANTS — because (it is worth saying again) without plants, there will be no animals.
NB: Besides providing herbivorous animals with food to eat, plants also provide them with shelter; and they protect the soil from erosion by the sun, the wind and (especially) the rain. Finally, plants, together with their physical environment, create the habitats to which the earth’s many wild animals are adapted — and without which they would become extinct.
THIRD, to protect the ANIMALS — last on the list, NOT because
they are UNIMPORTANT, but because they are LESS IMPORTANT than the soil and the plants. Different animal species are adapted to those specialised habitats where their species’ survival needs are met; and if those habitats disappear, the animals which depend on them will die out. Maintaining the full spectrum of habitats in a wildlife sanctuary in a stable and healthy condition is, therefore, an equally important wildlife management priority. Indeed, this is an objective that is more important than the so-called ‘conservation’ of the mega-animal species themselves.

Depending on who you listen to, there are between 130 000 and 250 000 elephants in Botswana’s Ngamiland — the Okavango Swamp area — today. This is part of a much bigger, mega-population, possibly numbering 300 000, which is shared by Botswana, Namibia, Angola, Zambia, and Zimbabwe (Hwange National Park). Wherever these elephants occur, their numbers exceed the sustainable carrying capacity of their habitats. Indeed, the numbers are between 10 and 20 times more than what their habitats should be carrying. And they have doubled their numbers every 10 years, for the past 55 years.

As a consequence of this long build-up to present-day elephant numbers, the habitats in all these areas have been progressively trashed. Within 25kms of water, whole ecosystems in the Botswana complex have disappeared: all the riverine forests along the Chobe River and the Kavango River (and others) have been destroyed; the once rich, alluvial Acacia/Combretum woodlands adjacent to the river systems (everywhere) have disappeared; many acacia trees, elephant food favourites, have been extirpated; the kiaat tree has gone; and whole groves of iconic baobab trees, some up to 5 000 years old, are now on the road to extinction. The habitat damage is more intense in the vicinity of the rivers, but the destruction is effectively complete for up to 25kms from every dry-season water supply.

Everywhere, the ground has been laid bare. The soil is devoid of grass and other protective woody plants. Dust storms are now commonplace at the height of every dry season and, when it rains, the loose topsoil is washed away into the nearby rivers.

So, these elephants are doing exactly what should be avoided. It is a mess! And it has happened because, for the last 50 years, uninformed people in the public eye, backed by the sensation-seeking media, have been making emotional demands on Botswana to stop all hunting, and not to introduce lethal elephant management.

So, should Botswana be allowed to reintroduce the hunting of
Should Botswana be allowed to cull its excessive numbers of elephants? Should Botswana be allowed to use the meat from these culls to feed its people? Should Botswana be allowed to sell the valuable hides it will obtain from its harvested elephants? Should Botswana be allowed to sell the ivory from these essential culling operations? The answer to all these questions is a resounding: YES! Most certainly so! And the public should get behind Botswana’s new President, Mr Mokgweetsi Masisi, and encourage him to continue on the path that he has adopted. What he has chosen to do is best for Botswana, best for Botswana’s rural people, and best for Botswana’s wildlife.

In all these things, the President of Botswana has the TGA’s full support.

Note from Ron Thomson’s desk

The TGA serves all sectors of the South African wildlife industry, including PHASA, without fear or favour. We are not Professional Hunters or Hunting Safari Outfitters; we are not game-ranch owners; we are not game breeders; and we are not tourism operators. So, the TGA gains no financial compensation for the work that we so selflessly do for the industry. Our finances come from three sources: membership fees, two sponsorships and a few donations. This is NOT a secure nor adequate income. So, we literally limp from one badly financed project to the next and we could do so much more, if the ordinary members of the industries that we work for endorsed and fully supported us. I am not sure that PHASA’s rank and file understand how precarious the TGA’s financial affairs really are.

This whole sad state of affairs could be turned around overnight, if ordinary wildlife industry members were to individually volunteer to become paid-up members of the TGA. The annual subscription doesn’t cost an arm and a leg. Only R500, which is less than you would pay for a single night on the town with your wife or girlfriend. So, come on, PHASA members, become a member of the TGA and put some money into a worthwhile cause that benefits everything that you believe in.

(E-mail: magron@ripplesoft.co.za)
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GIRLS WITH GUNS — Cash Donation
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November thunder showers welcomed members of PHASA to Klein Kariba Resort outside Bela-Bela in Limpopo for its 40th Convention and AGM, with the theme, ‘New Beginnings’. PHASA president Dries van Coller welcomed all members and guests, and reminded them of the importance of being honest with one another, in order to move forward; not only in addressing problems, but also in finding solutions.

After the introduction of PHASA’s international convention partner, Global Rescue, and local convention partner, Zingela Forwarders, guest speaker Dr Roelof Botha, economic advisor of the Optimum Group, assured the audience in his distinctive ‘economist’ way that, despite political and economic challenges in South Africa, our economy could grow steadily, as long as there was capital investment in the country. Therefore, South Africa should not make the same mistakes with a radical approach to land transformation as Zimbabwe and Venezuela did.

International representatives from Conservation Force, John Jackson III and John Boretsky from SCI, who have both been attending the convention for many years, underlined the importance of the South African hunting industry in the hunting sector internationally, reminding attendees of the importance of reputation within a changing and challenging global environment. Their message was echoed by Gillian Saunders, Special Advisor to Minister of Tourism Derek Hanekom. The statistics in her presentation, entitled, ‘South Africa – Preferred Destination in Africa’, gave insight into the importance of reputation to secure and maintain tourism activities, including ecotourism and hunting.

Inspired by excellence and innovation, PHASA introduced its new logo, ‘Building on the past and looking to the future’. As the industry has changed, PHASA has changed its logo to reflect a modern, transparent identity. Carrying the flame forward is symbolised by integrating the predator paw, protea and fire torch, with species diversity being symbolised by the antelope head. This was all combined using a modern approach.

The remaining programme for the first day was comprised of a facilitated question-and-answer session on topics such as the Department of Environmental Affairs, legislation, hunting statistics for 2017, and challenges and solutions relating to the hunting industry, rural safety, Hunting and Wildlife Associations of South Africa (HAWASA), and the legal requirements for Big Five hunting licences. What transpired from these sessions was the importance of an association such as PHASA being
actively involved in many different forums, on behalf of its members. Some of these activities include informing and participating in decision-making on conservation and ecologically sustainable development, and the use of natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations through the promotion of legal hunting.

conservation and empowerment fund

The second day of the convention kicked off with feedback on the work of the Fund, based on four pillars, namely conservation, research, empowerment and social responsibility. Chairman of the Fund Pieter Potgieter said it was all about working within communities, and contributing not only through hunting, but also through helping where the need existed. One of the Fund’s flagship projects is the Makuya community close to the northern part of the Kruger National Park, where the community has donated hunts, including elephant and buffalo. PHASA sells these hunts on their behalf, with a 70% profit share going back to the Makuya community. The Fund is helping and advising with finances, wildlife management and anti-poaching. To date, the Fund has contributed more than R16 million to various worthy projects, in addition to members’ direct donations and contributions towards needs in their area. A successful online auction recently boosted the Fund with R500 000. During the convention, R50 000 was handed to the Abraham Kriel Children’s Home in Modimolle (previously Nylstroom), and R20 000 to the True Green Alliance (TGA).

constructive engagement

Panellists representing landowners, game breeders, Hunting Outfitters and Professional Hunters discussed misconceptions and responsibilities within the sector, emphasising that they all formed an integral part of the same industry. From the wise words of one of the old Dagga Boys in the industry, Arthur Rudman, to the pleas of freelance PHs such as Marcelle van Heerden, these discussions highlighted the responsibilities expected from one another, as well as solutions to correct the misconceptions. South Africa has a distinctive game-ranching model that must adhere to the needs of an ever changing hunting industry. For this reason, sustainable, inclusive, long-term relationships must be forged to protect everybody within the value chain. Richard Morten and Maurits van de Wetering discussed what they regarded as warning signs in the hunting industry that might influence the availability of and prices paid for ranched hunting animals in the near future. The floor and the panel agreed that, once again, it was important to be honest with one another, in order to move forward.

agm

As a member organisation, PHASA demonstrated that goals could be achieved if there was an interest in the industry, coupled with positive contributions and active involvement such as the great attendance at the AGM. Small amendments were required to the PHASA constitution to facilitate the growth of the association. These amendments were well received by members, with no contentious issues being raised. As PHASA is not shying away from responsibilities, based on a thorough, well-planned document with proposals for the hunting of wild, managed wild, and ranched lions, the association is able to move forward, ensuring that the sustainable utilisation of all species is taken into account.

Small amendments were required to the PHASA constitution to facilitate the growth of the association.
With the most positive coherence seen among members at a PHASA convention in many years, attendees also had the opportunity to engage socially during a fun evening, a fun shoot and an informal braai event in the first two days leading up to the highlight of the convention, the gala banquet.

Guest speaker at the gala event, Sisa Ntshona, CEO of South African Tourism, said that tourism was one of the country’s focus points, and to grow tourism numbers, we had to make sure that our market share around the world included all the sectors of sub-economies. The hunting environment was regarded as an important sub-economy. Ntshona also said it was important to acknowledge that there was a perceived problem with hunting. Secondly, we should find solutions, in terms of addressing these issues, and we should understand the nuances surrounding them. According to him, it was important to tell the complete story, so that it could be understood by those listening. First of all, we should ask whether it was legal. Secondly, if it was legal, how could we make sure it was portrayed accurately across the world? Standards had to be addressed, in terms of ethics and consistency, ensuring that we rooted out those that did not comply with the highest standards. Ntshona was looking forward to interacting with PHASA as a representative of South African Tourism, understanding the problems and being part of the solution. “By engaging, we begin to learn and, although we will not always agree, as long as we work towards a common goal. What is good for the country, what is good for the economy, is good for employment as well,” he said.

Based on nominations from its members, accompanied by comprehensive motivations, the PHASA Executive Committee awarded the following awards: Bowhunter of the Year; Nature Conservation; PHASA Trophy of the Year; PH of the Year; Wildlife Utilisation; Tracker of the Year; Character of the Year; International Hunting Industry; and the Mel du Plessis Award for Distinguished Service, to deserving recipients. This was followed by the live auction that raised a total of R1.7 million for PHASA, and the PHASA Conservation and Empowerment Fund, including other charitable donations.

During the event, the President of Conservation Force, John Jackson III, who had been attending the convention for the past 28 years, spoke to Game & Hunt. He said that, as a partner of PHASA and a recipient of several PHASA awards, he had, through the Conservation Force, been actively involved in trying to downlist the Cape mountain zebra. Through litigation in Washington D.C., he also successfully managed to facilitate elephant trophy imports into the USA. John commended PHASA for being a leading organisation in building trust and relationships for conservation, wildlife management and fair-chase hunting in southern Africa for decades, “proceeding full force ahead”. According to John, Conservation Force was about a force for conservation and the sportsman that paid the bills. The organisation had, therefore, donated US$5 000 to PHASA’s leopard study, showing “commitment not only to the animals, but also to the people”.

For Stephen Palos, CEO of the Confederation of Hunting Associations of South Africa (CHASA), the choice of wording, ‘New Beginnings’, for the convention was “real and perfect”, referring to problematic issues a year or two ago, such as reputational damage, which, in his mind, had faded into insignificance. “People with integrity will always overcome such issues,” he said, and, therefore, CHASA would continue to take hands with PHASA to secure the freedom to hunt. John Boretsky, Safari Club International’s liaison for Guides and Outfitters, said that, as with most things in life, reputation was almost everything, and that PHASA had for many years been the leader in professional hunting in southern Africa. International hunters had to feel comfortable when flying to South Africa to hunt with an Outfitter, and it added to their assurance, if the Outfitter was a member of a strong association such as PHASA. Of the 37 associations John was dealing with worldwide, PHASA was the largest and most developed. This was the thirteenth PHASA convention he was attending. With the convention always coinciding with Thanksgiving Day in the USA, he said that it was “13 Thanksgivings I have missed, but I have been able to spend them with people like PHASA”.

On a lighter note, knowing that John was a military man, I asked him what the military usually said when the term, ‘reputational damage’ came up. Smiling, he replied, “Uninformed and usually unreliable sources have said today that we could neither confirm nor deny any participation or lack of participation in any situation, real or imagined, which may or may not have occurred. Beyond this we have no comment”.

Reflecting on previous PHASA conventions and the spirit in which the 2018 convention was held, and taking into account Dries van Coller’s opening words, “The importance of being honest with one another, in order to move forward”, one is reminded to never discredit others to benefit oneself.

To view a video of the interviews at the 2018 PHASA Convention and AGM, scan the QR code, or visit www.wildenjag.tv for all our archived videos.
Bowhunter of the Year Award — Dawie Kemp, Kemp African Safaris
Nature Conservation Award — Coenie Erasmus, Director: Biodiversity Management and Conservation, DETEA Free State
Trophy of the Year Award — Peter de Villiers, Hunters Southern Africa

PH of the Year Award — Graham Sales, Graham Sales Safaris
Wildlife Utilisation Award — Ron Thomson, CEO, True Green Alliance (TGA)
Tracker of the Year Award — David Sekgwama, Riebelton Safaris

International Promotions of the South African Hunting Industry Award — Hennie van der Walt & Christine Bothma from Wild & Jag / Game & Hunt Magazine and Africa’s Sportman Magazine with Tienie Bamberger, Warthog Safaris
Character Award — Casper van der Merwe, Jenobili Safaris
Mel Du Plessis Distinguished Service Award — Dries van Coller, Dries van Coller Safaris

2018 PHASA Convention & AGM
2018 PHASA Convention & AGM
SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS!
PHASA CODE OF CONDUCT

Each member of PHASA shall commit themselves, upon acceptance of membership, to this Code of Conduct, whereby they:

- Shall obey the laws of any country in which they operate at any time in professional hunting or related activities.
- Shall obey the laws of any country in which they operate at any time in professional hunting or related activities.
- Shall conduct themselves in a manner which will reflect honesty and integrity.
- Shall promote and observe the aims and objectives of PHASA, the provisions of the PHASA constitution and its by-laws.
- Shall respect the rights and interests of property owners and local communities.
- Shall not misrepresent themselves to clients or mislead clients in any way.
- Shall respect the natural resources of the country in which they hunt.
- Shall take every reasonable step to ensure that their clients receive the services contracted for, and pursue their safety, comfort and satisfaction.
- Every full member who is registered in terms of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act No. 60 of 2000), Sec 16(a), shall submit to the PHASA Office, proof of their current and valid professional hunter permit, no later than 31 December of every calendar year.
- No member shall convey any statement about/regarding PHASA, to any person or media, in any form or method that is misleading or false.
- Every full member who receives the designation of ‘professional hunter’ from the professional body shall submit to the PHASA Office, proof of their current and valid professional hunter permit, no later than 31 December of every calendar year.
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ITEMS FOR SALE

Win the Wild
R 295

Shot Placement
R 130

The Story of the White Rhino
R 200

Africa my Africa
R 180

Wild & Warm
R 220

The SA Conservation Success Story (DVD)
R 125

African Species
R 1 295

PHASA Tie
R 190

PHASA Badge
R 60

PHASA Cap
R 130

Remuneration Agreement
R 120

Taxidermist Instruction
R 120

Hunting Logbook
R 50

PH/Trophy export
R 250 for members

For sales please contact:
Tel: +27 (12) 667 2048
info@phasa.co.za
www.phasa.co.za
NOTICE: FIREARM LICENSING — SECT 16A

Application for firearm licences for professional hunting purposes:
• In terms of Section 16A of the principal Firearms Control Act, a Professional Hunter in possession of a valid Professional Hunter’s licence/permit issued by Nature Conservation, can apply for all, or some, of his/her firearm licences to be used by the professional hunter for his or her private use and professional hunting purposes, where it is safe to use the firearm and for a lawful purpose. This is NOT ONLY applicable to where the person owns more than four firearms, but does give the person the opportunity to apply for firearm licences for more than four firearms.
• PHASA realises the importance of our members having the necessary ‘tools of trade’. PHASA members can therefore apply for ‘Professional Hunter Status’ in terms of the Firearms Control Act from PHASA at no cost at all.
• The application form is available from the PHASA office and must be accompanied by a copy of the applicant’s current Professional Hunter’s licence/permit issued by a Nature Conservation authority and a copy of the ID.
• Once a member has been awarded ‘Professional Hunter Status’ from PHASA, the individual will be able to motivate his/her application for a firearm licence to be used for professional hunting purposes. Page 2 of the SAPS-271 form, (Application for licence to possess a firearm) allows for Section 16A, whereby an applicant can apply for a licence to possess a firearm for professional hunting.
• The Act defines a Professional Hunter as any person who supervises, escorts, offers to, or agrees to supervise or escort a client, for reward in connection with the hunting of a wild or exotic animal and who is authorised to do so in terms of any applicable provincial law.
• Applications for firearm licences for business purposes, in other words the handing or renting out of firearms, still need to be submitted under Section 20 of the Act.
• A person in possession of a firearm licence issued in terms of Section 16A, may only allow another person to use his/her firearm, under his/her direct supervision.
• For further information on licensing and endorsements under Sect 16A or Sect 20 (business in hunting), please contact Tersia Du Plooy: phasa@phasa.co.za or 012 667 2048.

PHASA Medal Programme

Using our medal programme, scores available for rifle and bow, can help you fund your subs and/or AGM attendance.

With a 20% commission on medals sold to clients, this might just be possible.

PRICES FOR MEDALS & CERTIFICATES

Gold Medal - 22 carat gold-plated $50
Silver Medal - pure silver-plated $35
Bronze Medal - bronze-plated $25

Each medal is accompanied by an attractive certificate which includes hunter’s name, trophy, score, place, date, and name of Professional Hunter and Outfitter.

SAMPLE SET

Sample sets of medals and certificates are available to members for R500 to have on hand to promote to clients.

COMMISSION

Members receive commission of 20 percent on every medal sold — refunded immediately. Medals available for purchase by non-members, but they will not receive any commission.

PROCESSING

Medals and certificates will be dispatched from the PHASA Office upon receipt of the entry form and payment at the Office.

For further information, contact Marianna Louwrens info@phasa.co.za — at the PHASA Office — 012 667 2048
Limpopo Permits - Collection Offered
The Limpopo Hunters Liaison Forum (LHLF) is offering a collection service to non-LHLF members at a fee of R300 + courier/mailing fees.
Contact the LHLF office on secretary@limpopohunters.co.za for further information.

PHASA Offers Assistance with Provincial Permits/Licences
PHASA wishes to offer its assistance to members who are experiencing problems with hunting permits and Professional Hunter/Outfitter licences at their provincial nature conservation departments.
Please make sure that you have submitted your applications to the nature conservation office in the prescribed format, paid your fees and provided proof of payment, in addition to all relevant supporting documentation.
If you still do not receive a positive and prompt response from the department, please escalate the matter to PHASA. PHASA will also keep a record of complaints and compliments.
Contact Marianna Louwrens at info@phasa.co.za; or +27 (0)12-667 2048.
PHASA IS THERE TO ASSIST!

New Incentive for Outfitters
Make use of PHASA’s temporary import permit service for your clients and YOU will receive an incentive of R150/permit, refunded at financial year-end!!
PHASA endeavours to ensure a trouble-free arrival in South Africa for all international hunting tourists travelling with hunting firearms.
It’s as easy as A-B-C!
1. PHASA can apply for temporary importation permits or in-transit permits on your clients’ behalf, prior to their arrival.
2. A representative from Go 2 Safari Concierge will meet your clients, on behalf of PHASA, in the SA Police firearms office at OR Tambo Airport, Johannesburg, with their permits.
3. The representative will assist them with the clearance of their firearms.
For more details, contact Tersia Du Plooy at +27 (0)12-667 2048 or phasa@phasa.co.za

SAQA: Professional Hunter Designation
PHASA is the only registered professional body for professional hunters. Duly registered professional hunters in good standing will receive recognition on SAQA’s national database.

PHASA Medal Programme
Our medal programme can enable you to fund your subs or AGM attendance. With a 20% commission on medals sold to clients, this might just be possible. Any member buying more than R100K worth of medals, will receive a 25% discount.
Contact Marianna Louwrens at the PHASA Office at info@phasa.co.za; or +27 (0)12-667 2048.

PH Registers & Logbooks for Sale!
Purchase your PH Register, Taxidermy Register, Remuneration Register and Logbooks from PHASA!
Prices:
• PH Register (PHASA members) - R250
• PH Register (non-members) - R300
• Taxidermy Register - R120
• Remuneration Register - R120
• Logbook - R50. This is a very useful tool, especially for PHs, apprentices and trackers to keep record of the hunts in which they participate.
Courier costs will be for your account.
Contact Sybil Schoeman at finance@phasa.co.za or +27 (0)12 667 2048.

Section 16a Endorsement
PHASA can issue an endorsement to a member to the effect that a firearm is suitable for the purpose of Section 16a.
In order for PHASA to endorse the firearm as being suitable, a PHASA member must supply PHASA with a copy of their motivation for licensing the firearm.
Contact Tersia du Plooy, PHASA Office, at +27 (0)12 667 2048 or phasa@phasa.co.za

Global Rescue
Global Rescue is the world’s leading provider of medical evacuation, repatriation and security extraction services for individuals, enterprises and governments. Global Rescue was founded in 2004 to address a lack of global emergency services for travellers and companies, following 9/11. Among the global events for which Global Rescue has provided crisis response services are: the 2006 Israeli conflict in Beirut, Lebanon; the 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai, India; the 2010 ash cloud in Western Europe; the 2012 coup attempt in Mali; and the 2015 earthquake in Nepal.

Exclusive Benefits to PHASA Members
Preferential pricing for PHASA Members — Annual Individual Medical Membership: $275.
Services include
24/7/365 Emergency support / Medical evacuation / Security extraction / Field rescue / Travel assistance and advisory / Access to destination reports and event alerts prepared by our in-house intelligence team.
Contact Marianna Louwrens at the PHASA office at info@phasa.co.za; or +27 (0)12-667 2048.
MEMBER NEWS

PHASA Marketing Opportunities
Advertise in the PHASA Electronic Newsletter!
The following advertisement options are available for members and non-members!

**Free adverts***:
- Once-off game available for sale/game wanted for purchase
- Once-off hunts available/wanted
- Once-off game farms/concessions available for sale, or wanted
- PHASA members: work wanted (unlimited ads)
- Hunting-industry related: work offered (unlimited ads).

*Fees will be charged for any future advertising of the same product during the calendar year.*

**Paid adverts**:
- Marketing of non-hunting industry products, e.g. game auctions, printing services, insurance cover and cell phones
- Hunting business advertisements, e.g. safari company regularly advertising hunts or game available
- Marketing of services related to the hunting industry, e.g. freight services, guesthouses, charters, lodges and shuttles.

**Advertising fees: (to be paid in advance)**

**Monthly:**
- Non-members: R535 (4 adverts)
- Members: R375 (4 adverts)

**Weekly:**
- Non-members: R160
- Members: R110

Contact Tersia Du Plooy for the advertising criteria, T&Cs and any queries at phasa@phasa.co.za.

² PHASA reserves the right to accept or refuse any advert, material or photographs.

**Advertise on the PHASA Website**
Take advantage of the power of the World Wide Web. PHASA’s online ‘Hunting Services’ advertising system will put you on the map for a fraction of the price of conventional advertising.

**Simple link:**
This is available to members who have a website and want a link to their website from their name on the existing PHASA members’ list on the PHASA website. This is free of charge.

**Quarter-page ‘Hunting Services’ advert:**
This option enables a member to have an entry-level web presence in the ‘Hunting Services’ section on PHASA’s website, with a link to their website. The cost for the quarter-page ‘Hunting Services’ advert is R670 per year (price is VAT inclusive).

Adverts in the PHASA Magazine:
Various options are available. Contact Marianna Louwrens at the PHASA Office at info@phasa.co.za; or +27 (0)12-667 2048, regarding deadlines, artwork and rates.

Update of Members’ Personal Details
In order to update PHASA’s membership database, we kindly request you to update your personal details, if necessary (address, e-mail address, contact numbers and company name):
- Update your details online, or
- E-mail your new personal details to reception@phasa.co.za

Newsletters Not Reaching Some Members
If a member does not receive the newsletter anymore, or is aware that a fellow member is not receiving the newsletters, please contact Tersia at phasa@phasa.co.za

In this technological age, we all have anti-virus software and firewalls on our computers to protect them from malicious content. Unfortunately, this also causes e-mails to be blocked, if the anti-virus or firewall identifies an e-mail address as SPAM.

Add us to your Address Book, please!

Accommodation at the PHASA House
Accommodation is available for all PHASA members, as well as their direct family and/or clients, if they accompany them, at the PHASA house in Centurion. Members have to book and pay in advance. Rates for 2019 are R100 per member and direct family, and R300 per client. Children under 7 stay free of charge.
PHASA welcomes new members!

10 April 2018-10 April 2019

PHASA NEWS

To join PHASA, or to get more information please visit www.phasa.co.za
Claude Kleynhans
Robbie Hughes
Bob Deveny
Mel du Plessis

Our condolences to family members with their loss

Fund and Executive Committee meeting dates for 2019:

The PHASA Fund Board of Directors and the Executive Committee members will meet on the following dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 July</td>
<td>30 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 September</td>
<td>18 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 October</td>
<td>30 Oct</td>
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Should you wish an agenda item be discussed by the Committee or directors, please forward those to Marianna Louwrens info@phasa.co.za

Other meetings scheduled for 2019:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>10 July</td>
<td>TBCSA Board meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 July</td>
<td>Wildlife Forum meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 October</td>
<td>IPPHC meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 October</td>
<td>IPPHC meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 – 15 November</td>
<td>AWCF in Zimbabwe</td>
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Our bank account details have changed

PHASA Conservation & Empowerment Fund
Nedbank
Acc#: 118 752 3313
Branch code: 1621 45
Centurion
Swift Code: NEDSZAJJ

PHASA
Nedbank
Acc#: 118 752 4123
Branch code: 1621 45
Centurion
Swift Code: NEDSZAJJ

The following sub-committees have been established and the members are as follows:

**Media sub-committee:**
Phillip Bronkhorst
Richard York
Richard Lemmer
Pieter Potgieter
Randy Westraadt
Dries van Coller
Jorika Prinsloo (co-opted)
Marianna Louwrens

**Training sub-committee:**
Ben Heystek
Randy Westraadt
Dries van Coller
Pieter Potgieter
Tony du Bruyn
Johann Kotze (co-opted)
Marianna Louwrens

**AGM sub-committee:**
Richard Lemmer
Dries van Coller
Ben Heystek
Phillip Bronkhorst
Pieter Potgieter
Marianna Louwrens

**Financial sub-committee:**
Pieter Potgieter
Phillip Bronkhorst
Richard Lemmer
Dries van Coller
Sybil Schoeman

**Membership sub-committee:**
Tony du Bruyn
Henri van Aswegen
Richard Lemmer
Eardley Rudman
Marianna Louwrens

**Awards sub-committee:**
Henri van Aswegen
Tony du Bruyn
Richard Lemmer
Pieter Potgieter
WIN A

HILUX

Toyota 2.4 SRX 4x4 d/c

R500 PER TICKET

All funds go towards the PHASA Conservation & Empowerment Fund

Online tickets now available!
Go to: www.phasa.co.za/bakkie-raffle
or order at tel: +27 (12) 667 2048 / info@phasa.co.za

T’s & C’s available online.
“at your service since 2003...”

“EVERY INDUSTRY HAS A LEADER...”

Office: +27 15 880 0888 • Johan: +27 82 820 1234
Email: info@trophy-care.com • Web: www.trophy-care.com