

# The Custodians

January / February 2024 Edition





# TABLE OF CONTENT

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE	03-04
INTERNATIONAL SHOWS 2024	05-06
WHY BECOME A CUSTODIANS MEMBER?	07-09
HOW TO ACCESS CPHC MEMBERSHIP DATABASE	10
LEGISLATION	11
TELL US YOUR STORY	12
ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY	13



Cover Photo: supplied by Adri Kitshoff-Botha

# 2024 EXCO & Shadow-Exco

**Chairman:** Craig Kelly Maartens

**Immediate past-chairman:** Sean Kelly

**Vice Chair & Treasurer:** Willem Theron

**Membership, Research & Conservation:**  
Exco members: Jannie Otto, Howard Knott.  
Shadow Exco member: Hanroe Taljaard

**Legal & Governance:** Exco member  
Hermann Meyerdricks. Shadow Exco  
member: James Lizamore

**Public Relations & Brand Awareness:** Exco  
member Paul Stones.  
Shadow Exco members Cullen Kelly &  
Steven Schwartz.

**Research, Conservation & Land owner  
liaison:** Exco member Howard Knott.  
Shadow Exco member Greg King

**Transformation:** Exco member Mark Ivy.  
Shadow Exco member Makena Ngoato

## STAFF

### ADRI KITSHOFF-BOTHA

Chief Executive Officer  
ceo@cphc-sa.co.za

### NONKULULEKO KUNENE

Membership, Marketing, Research  
& Transformation Liaison  
admin@cphc-sa.co.za

[WWW.THECUSTODIANS.CO.ZA](http://WWW.THECUSTODIANS.CO.ZA)

It's been three months since our very successful 2023 Conference and annual general meeting. I am looking forward to 2024, being the first of my two-year term as Chairman of CPHC-SA and welcome the newly-elected Executive and Shadow Committee members. At a meeting held the morning after the conference; Exco, Shadow Exco and staff members have committed ourselves to the 2023 conference theme: Preserving our Future. Our aim is to always act in the best interests of our members and to grow our footprint and create an increased awareness of who we are and what we stand for as an organisation.

It is my privilege to introduce you to the 2024 Exco, as elected by our members, and the portfolios that they will be responsible for. They will be shadowed by members who have made themselves available for election at the 2024 AGM, to assist EXCO and learn more about what we're doing:

- Craig Kelly Maartens: Chairman
- Sean Kelly: Immediate past-chairman
- WJ Theron: Vice-chair and treasurer  
Jannie Otto & Howard Knott: Membership  
Shadowed by Hanroe
- Hermann Meyerdricks: Legal & Governance  
Shadowed by James Lizamore
- Paul Stones & Steven Schwartz: Public Relations & Brand Awareness  
Shadowed by Cullen Kelly
- Howard Knott Research, Conservation & Landowner liaison  
Shadowed by Greg King
- Mark Ivy: Transformation  
Shadowed by Makena Ngoato

Our ladies at the office, Adri Kitshoff-Botha (CEO) and Nonkie Kunene (Membership, Marketing, Research & Transformation Liaison) should both by now be well-known to all our members.

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

We are all here to serve, not only our Association, but the bigger South African Professional Hunting Industry. The very reason for CPHC's existence is you; our members. As a membership organisation, Custodians depends on every member to participate wherever you can and to be a CPHC Brand ambassador. I therefore also encourage you to share ideas or concerns you might have with us.

I also want to take the opportunity to thank those of our members who have paid their 2024 membership fees. Membership runs from 1 January to 31 December and if you have not settled your account yet, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Our full and field membership includes SATIB EVAC-911 cover and it would be extremely important for you to ensure you are covered before starting with the hunting season.



We have emphasised at our last two AGM's, the importance of building and retaining sound relationships with other local and international organisations, relevant government departments and tourism agencies. I believe our attendance at the DSC and SCI Conventions this year were extremely valuable. It provided our CEO, and some of our EXCO members, the opportunities to engage with stakeholders and representatives from various organisations and we look forward to strengthening our relationships with them in the near future. Adri has shared some of the interactions we've had in her report.

We have already seen various challenges in the year, which included the uncertainty about an apparent moratorium on the issuing of temporary firearm import permits between SA, Mocambique, Eswatini and Lesotho. Although no written Directive was ever distributed; a verbal communication from the CFR, at the end of January, was circulated that no permits will be issued.

This was of great concern and Hermann has, amongst others, reached out to Col. Seshwene from the Central Firearms Registry for more information regarding the verbal Directive. We have since been informed, via verbal communiqué, that the apparent moratorium has been lifted at the time of writing this message. A few permit applications have been handed in and we are awaiting the outcome.

We have also been made aware of USFWS's review for the possible listing of Hippopotamus on the Endangered Species Act. Adri is in the process of gathering information to finalise our comment to USFWS and I urge anybody with information, to please contact her.

We have been informed of the ban on import of all CITES I and some CITES II species trophies into Belgium and that France and Germany are also considering similar actions. We will keep you informed as we receive more information, but we can certainly expect more challenges during the year. I want to give you the assurance that we will do our level best to work together with other stakeholders in our industry to address these as and when they arise. In the short term, we trust that the Department will soon commence with the public participation process for hunting quotas on elephant, rhino and leopard and we will inform our members as to when this will commence.

On a positive note, Custodians received an invitation to attend the Biodiversity Indaba & Investment Summit at the end of March. The objective of the Summit is to create a platform for dialogue amongst biodiversity, conservation stakeholders and various financial institutions invited to attend. President Ramaphosa will address the Summit on the last day and feedback will be given to members at the appropriate occasion.

We will also, together with PHASA, SAHGCA and WRSA assist the Department, and SCIF, with arrangements for the African Wildlife Consultative Forum to be hosted in South Africa at the end of October.

With the hunting season upon us, I wish you good luck and thank you for your continued support as a Custodians member and ambassador.



[www.thecustodians.co.za](http://www.thecustodians.co.za)





# INTERNATIONAL SHOWS 2024

REPORT BY ADRI KITSHOFF-BOTHA

## DSC CONVENTION 2024



Custodians once again had a booth in the combined OPHAA booth, together with PHAZ and ZPGA and an unmanned NAPHA information desk. The camaraderie amongst the three ladies at the booths, Sylvia (PHAZ), Debbie (ZPGA) and me was fantastic and we found the combined booth area to work extremely well. It makes it so much easier to walk the floor or attend meetings if there is someone else at the combined booth to take messages if need be.

DSC Executive Director Corey Mason invited representatives from the various African guides and outfitters organisations to an early morning meeting on the first day of the convention. One of the highlights of the discussions was a recommendation for organisations to make biodiversity the central theme in their approach to messaging; to focus on the role that trophy hunting plays in habitat protection, sustainability and ultimately in species survival. All organisations also acknowledged the importance of good connections and relationships with our governmental departments and communities to create positivity. This will be discussed by EXCO to decide on a method to determine the impact we have on habitat protection and community involvement as a collective.

Sean Kelly and I once again had the privilege of attending the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) cocktail. The CSF is a 501 non-profit organisation headquartered in Washington, DC. Established in 1989. CSF's mission is to "work with Congress, governors, and state legislatures to protect and advance hunting, angling and recreational shooting."

*PHOTO: Sean and Adri with DSC Executive Director Corey Mason and CSF Executive Director & President, Jeff Crane*



# SCI 2024 Convention



Although our organisation did not have a booth at the Convention this year, we have received a complimentary door pass for the four days through the SCI Guides & Outfitters Liaison, Scott Talbot. The Convention was once again extremely successful and the 20 Custodians members exhibiting were all very happy.

I attended various meeting, which included the SCI Guides & Outfitters meeting with representatives from membership organisations from across the world as well as representatives from US Fish & Wildlife Services

PHOTO: Scott Talbott (SCI Guides & Outfitters organisations' liaison), Adri and Mike Rogers (Executive Vice President of Member Services: SCI Convention)

It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up and engage with some of Custodians' main conference sponsors and supporters.



LEFT: Adri, with Mr Ludo J. Wurf Bain from the Rowland Ward Foundation & Sports Afield



RIGHT: Adri with Ralf Muller, from Krieghoff who annually sponsors the Shoot at our Conference



The AWCF (African Wildlife Consultative Forum) hosted by SCIF gives an opportunity to all African countries' guides and outfitters associations and governments to discuss pertinent issues. As the AWCF will take place in South Africa this year, Custodians and PHASA had the opportunity to meet with SCIF and our DFFE delegates Mr Matibe and Mpho Tjiane. Custodians, together with PHASA, SAHGCA and WRSA will work closely with our Department and SCIF to ensure a successful and enjoyable SCIF for all attending.

PHOTO: Ben Heystek, Mpho Tjiane, Dries van Coller, Adri Kitshoff- Botha, Khorombi Matibe and Tonie De Bruyn





# Why become a member of Custodians?

The Custodians of Professional Hunting and Conservation –South Africa (Custodians) is a respected and inclusive South African professional hunting community that enhances our biodiversity, the livelihoods of all our people and the values enshrined in our national Constitution.



## 1. National Voice

1.1 Custodians has a national voice as part of an organisation representing professional hunters and outfitters throughout South Africa.

1.2 We have an excellent relationship with the Department of Environmental Affairs and serve on the IPPHC (Inter-provincial professional hunters ocmmittee) and national Wildlife Forum. Therefore we provide specialist knowledge in specific areas of the industry and therefore you have access to information on industry developments nationally and internationally.

1.3 We have SATSA, TBCSA and GRAA membership, keeping us informed about the latest developments on the tourism side and providing us the opportunity to communicate with tourism agencies.

## 2. Annual Conference & ACM

1.1 Annual Conference: the association's largest event, showcase our advances in the industry research, practice and education. Delegates can learn from speakers who are leaders in their fields, debate current issues and build networks with fellow members.

1.2 Members have the opportunity to partake and help promote the industry., with access to ready-made promotional materials and articles.

1.3 It is an ideal networking opportunity with PH's, HO's, national and provincial government officials, and local and international experts in their respective fields.

1.4 Members can nominate, be nominated, vote and be elected tp serve on the Custodians executive committee.

1.5 Opportunity for members to vote on policy position statements and other important resolutions to take our organisation forward.

1.6 Members can participate in the Custodians awards program, by entering or nominating others who have made outstanding contributions to the professional hunting industry.



### 3. Website and Publications

- 1.1 Access to industry information including Custodians policy statements and guidelines;
- 1.2 Important industry-related information shared on our website and members' WhatsApp group;
- 1.3 Custodians members have the opportunity to advertise on our website
- 1.4 Custodians bi-monthly Newsletter



### 4. Section 16A

- Custodians is accredited with the Central Firearms Registry and can award Section 16A "Professional Hunter Status" in terms of the Firearms Control Act to active professional hunters. That would allow members to license their firearms as professional hunters.
- The Association can also endorse motivations for new or renewal firearm licence applications.

For more information, please follow the link  
<https://www.cphc-sa.co.za/section-16-a/>

Or contact [admin@cphc-sa.co.za](mailto:admin@cphc-sa.co.za) / +27 81 036 1151







## 5. TOYOTA

- Custodians has entered into a collaboration with TOYOTA (SA), whereby Toyota will become a preferred vehicle supplier to the association and its members.
- Thus, Custodians members in good standing purchasing any of these vehicles, will qualify for the Toyota-SA special discount OVER AND ABOVE the dealer discount, even if the dealer's discount would be more than the minimum dealer discount.

## 6. SATIB/EVAC 911

- Custodians and SATIB Insurance Brokers reached an agreement last year, to offer emergency medical evacuation insurance as part of an exclusive membership benefit to professional hunters and field staff that are members of the Custodians.
- This agreement includes access to SATIB24 Crisis Call, for all Custodians members and their staff with membership, for injuries and incidents incurred whilst providing services to their clients, whether in camp or actively on the hunt:
- SATIB's incident management includes the SATIB24 Crisis Call which offers:

\*emergency evacuation and repatriation;

\*medical emergency;

\*accidental death;

\*permanent disability;

\*income protection for disability;

\*hospitalization;

\*life support equipment;

\*search and rescue;

\*quadriplegia, disfigurement and trauma.



## 7. RESOURCES

- Be informed of, and share, recent wildlife/hunting notices and bills, including events, job opportunities, etc
- We offer assistance to our members at national and international shows
- Have access to nationally approved PH registers and taxidermy registers which can be obtained from our office.
- We offer support and assistance to our members with provincial permit applications and renewal problems
- Custodians uses an online database which enables members to upload and download documents; issue automatic licence renewal reminders, register for events online and participate on our Custodians whatsapp group, facebook and instagram.
- Have access to research through our research repository.
- We also offer apprenticeship programs to new up and coming PH's so that they may gain more experience on the field.

# HOW TO:



## ACCESS THE CUSTODIANS MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

Custodians uses an online database which enables members to upload and download documents, issue automatic licence renewal reminders, register for events online and participate on our Custodians whatsapp group, facebook and instagram.

It also allows members to view their details, download their membership confirmation letters and upload their PH/HO permits.

# 01

Paste your **website URL**.  
**Customize to change**

URL <https://cphc.fmeecom.com/>

**Customize**

**Login and change your password**

Username

Password

 Show/Hide

**LOG IN**

*Please make sure that your details are correct and that  
we have your current PH/HO*



# LEGISLATION



## **LATEST ON THE APPARENT MORATORIUM: TEMPORARY FIREARM IMPORT OR IN- TRANSIT PERMITS: MOCAMBIQUE, LESOTHO, ESWATINI**

Although there was no official media statement from the Central Firearms Registry and SAPS, we became aware of an apparent moratorium at the end of January that no temporary export or in-transit permits will be issued by SAPS at CFR, OR Tambo or border posts for international clients or RSA citizens traveling with firearms to these countries until further notice. Other than liaising with CFR and looking into legal issues, we have also liaised with PHASA and outfitters in Mocambique. We have all agreed to keep each other informed of any information that anyone might obtain.

**We have subsequently been informed verbally by CFR and by PHASA, based on correspondence that they have received from the CFR, that the status regarding the issuing of firearm import permits are OR Tambo International Airport will remain, with the CFR remaining the regulatory authority of all types of permits). Furthermore, that applications for temporary firearm import permits, may be considered by the office of the Central Firearms Register. Applications will be considered based on presentation, appropriateness and adequacy of all legally required documentation from the applicants.**

**We are also aware of some of our members who have since had positive responses to their clients' temporary firearm import permits.**

## **US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICES' REVIEW ON HIPPO**

During March 2022, the USFWS received a petition from The Humane Society, requesting that the common hippopotamus be listed as a threatened species or an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act.

The USFWS will now evaluate the potential threats as listed by the Humane Society and others.

All documentation regarding this can be found on our website: <https://www.cphc-sa.co.za/2024/02/12/the-humane-society-petition-to-the-us-fish-and-wildlife/>

Custodians will request the Scientific Authority of South Africa for updated information regarding hippo, to include in our comments to the USFWS.

Please send any comment or inputs you might have,  
to Adri at [ceo@cphc-sa.co.za](mailto:ceo@cphc-sa.co.za)



# SATSA

## The Voice of Inbound Tourism

**SATSA recognises that news about cholera outbreaks in Southern Africa may raise questions for travel and tourism professionals. It's essential to be equipped with accurate information to reassure clients and maintain confidence in the region.**

### *KEY POINTS FOR TOURISM PROFESSIONALS:*

Key points for tourism professionals:

- Localised outbreaks: Outbreaks are occurring in certain countries within Southern Africa and not across the entire region. Stay informed about specific affected areas.
- Minimal risk for tourists: The risk of tourists contracting cholera remains low when adhering to standard hygiene practices.
- Focus on prevention: Emphasise the following to clients:
  - Safe water and food consumption (bottled water, cooked food, etc.)
  - Strict hand hygiene practices
  - Consider recommending cholera vaccination if appropriate for the client's itinerary
- Stay aware: Monitor reliable sources for updates:
  - World Health Organization (WHO) - Africa Region: <https://www.afro.who.int/> (search for "cholera")
  - ReliefWeb: <https://reliefweb.int/> (search for "cholera Southern Africa")
  - National Institute of Communicable Diseases (South Africa): <https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/cholera/>

The situation in South Africa

- South Africa experienced isolated outbreaks in 2023, contained without a national emergency declaration.
- Very few cholera cases have been reported in South Africa (less than a dozen), with the majority being imported cases related to travel to and from endemic countries with outbreaks.

Proactive communication

- Address client concerns with factual information and preventive guidance.
- Reinforce the safety and appeal of Southern Africa for tourists who take sensible precautions.
- Share SATSA's FAQ resource for quick reference: click [here](#)



## **ALERT: NEW TOURISM GAZETTED REQUIREMENT - SUBMISSION OF TOURISM BUSINESS INFORMATION**

On 16 February 2024, the Minister of Tourism Gazetted a "General notice calling for submission of information from South African Tourism Businesses in terms of section 6(2) of the Act".

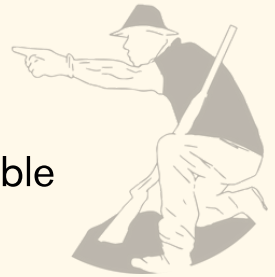
Tourism Businesses in all Provinces must submit information relating to their business by latest 24 April 2024

Submit your form by clicking [here](#)



# Tell us your story.....

to be considered for publication on our website and a possible nomination for one of our prestigious annual awards



It was the tradition of telling stories around the fire that gave birth to oral tradition. Fire brought people together and still does today. Story telling and knowledge exchange allows us to pass it on for generations to come..... Best part of the day !

## **Essence of the Safari:**

**Your story could possible be nominated for one of our prestigious annual awards: The Garry Kelly Award Essence of Safari Award.**

This award is presented annually to an individual who write and presents a unique story regarding a hunt that he or she conducted or participated in, in the sense that the sum of all its parts captivates an audience in the spirit of the true tradition of safari in its uniqueness, its effort, incredulity or the mere description of a hunt that the individual deems to be uniquely special.



Share information or stories about your conservation projects



**The Ian Goss Award is annually awarded to a person that goes the extra mile to demonstrate and enhance conservation and ecologically sustainable development through the sustainable use of natural resources.**

We would love to know about your conservation efforts and successes and also share it with our members on the website!



# ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

- Advertise your business on the Custodians website and newsletter.

Contact Nonkie Kunene  
+27 81 036 1151  
[admin@cphc-sa.co.za](mailto:admin@cphc-sa.co.za)

[WWW.THECUSTODIANS.CO.ZA](http://WWW.THECUSTODIANS.CO.ZA)





# SAVE THE DATE

CUSTODIANS 2024  
CONFERENCE & AGM



25 - 26  
NOVEMBER  
2024