

## CONSERVATION TRAINING GETS A MASSIVE CASH INJECTION

Five years and over R6.7-million rand later, the Professional Hunters Association of South Africa (PHASA) once again demonstrated its commitment to conservation at its annual African Wildlife Heritage Gala Dinner hosted at the Sandton Sun in Johannesburg. This year was no exception with a whopping R1,5-million raised on the night.

Launched in 2007 with the aim of supporting worthy conservation causes, this fundraising initiative has continued to grow from strength to strength. “At the outset, the hunting fraternity and various conservation organisations agreed that the biggest contribution PHASA could make to conservation was to ensure that wildlife managers are adequately trained. Through PHASA’s Conservation and Empowerment Fund, donors continue to support this annual event which enables people already employed in the field of conservation to be trained at the Southern African Wildlife College,” said Mrs Adri Kitshoff, CEO of PHASA.



It was smiles all round when Theresa Sowry, CEO of the Southern African Wildlife College received a cheque for over R1.5-million raised at the annual African Wildlife Heritage Gala Dinner hosted by PHASA at the Sandton Sun in Johannesburg. Pictured from left are: Hermann Meyeridricks, Chairman of the PHASA Conservation and Empowerment Fund; Theresa Sowry; Adri Kitshoff, CEO of PHASA and Eduard Katzke, President of PHASA.

“To date 676 wildlife rangers, field guides and protected area managers from across the SADC region have benefitted from the funds raised at this event,” said Mrs Theresa Sowry, CEO of the Wildlife College. “As a non-profit training institution, which does not receive a government subsidy, the funding received from the PHASA Conservation and Empowerment Fund enables us to empower and uplift individuals and communities, primarily through training and skills development programmes.”

Endorsed by leading players and organisations in the conservation industry, the funds are raised by way of auctioning exclusive donations of hunting and accommodation packages, luxury weekend retreats, hunting equipment and wildlife art donated by various conservation organisations, outfitters and businesses. The Fund is also strengthened by voluntary donations from foreign hunters whilst hunting with PHASA members.

Adding to the success of the event is the fact that it has over the years been supported by numerous dignitaries which this year included Nandi Nyameka Khoza, Gauteng Agriculture and Rural Development MEC, Dr Bartolomeu Soto, Ministry of Tourism in Mozambique, Dr David Mabunda, CEO of South African National Parks, and Dr Bandile Mkhize, CEO of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.



Pictured at the annual African Wildlife Heritage Gala Dinner hosted by PHASA at the Sandton Sun in Johannesburg are from left: Adri Kitshoff, CEO of PHASA; Victor Khoza; Nandi Nyameka Khoza, Gauteng Agriculture and Rural Development MEC; and Eduard Katzke, President of PHASA. In addressing these and other guests, Hermann Meyeridricks, Chairman of the PHASA Conservation and Empowerment Fund said that hunting plays a significant role in the South African economy. “It brings in a substantial amount of foreign expenditure every year, resulting in job creation and economic stimulation, particularly in rural areas. In addition, and as a result of the growth in the industry, game numbers and land under conservation has increased exponentially.”

Other projects supported by the Fund since 2003, include the training of black professional hunters, the development and production of educational media, a cheetah conservation project and a Cape Mountain Zebra research project as well as contributions to Conservation Force, the Magqubu Ntombela Foundation and the Endangered Wildlife Trust. During 2010, the Fund also donated R220 000 towards the Wildlands Conservation Trust and Private Rhino Owners’ Association’s rhino anti-poaching projects, with another R150 000

handed over to Dr Mabunda, CEO of South African National Parks on 15 April 2011 towards their anti-poaching projects.



### **ABOUT PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA (PHASA)**

- PHASA is a voluntary, non-profit organization which was established in 1978 at the mouthpiece of professional hunting in South Africa.
- PHASA is the largest professional hunting association in the world. It actively participates in the formulation of conservation policy in South Africa in partnership with government and non-governmental organizations and in consultation with an international network of affiliated bodies.
- In terms of its mission statement PHASA “supports the conservation and ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources, for the benefit of current and future generations, through the promotion of ethical hunting.”
- The sustainable use of wildlife as an important and effective conservation tool has unfolded as an epic success story in South Africa over the last five decades. PHASA is proud to be a part of this success story which has seen the population numbers of most species, in particular those considered “hunnable” game, increasing significantly during this period.

This achievement is now being studied and introduced in other parts of Africa. To ensure the continuation of past successes and to build on these proud results in the 21st century, PHASA recognizes the requirement for further pro-active involvement by encouraging and promoting broad acceptance of three proven principles that will safeguard and sustain our wildlife and its habitat for this and future generations.

1. Firstly by giving wild animals a value and allowing private ownership and trade in them. This enables wildlife to successfully compete economically with other conventional land uses and farming. There are today more privately owned conservation areas than state owned reserves.
2. Secondly by educating our people about the direct economic benefits and value of well managed eco-systems and wildlife populations.
3. And, thirdly, to have well trained wildlife managers – both in the field and, very importantly, also in all levels of government. It is these future conservationists

and managers that will serve and give sound advice to the private sector and be responsible for the running of our prized national parks and wildlife areas. PHASA wants to ensure that our country has the expertise in wildlife management to continue with the high standards set in this field.

### **PHASA'S AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- to promote and safeguard the interests and good name of PHASA and its members;
- to promote and safeguard the hunting profession in South Africa;
- to promote and participate in the conservation of Africa's natural resources;
- to promote and facilitate sustainable hunting as a conservation tool;
- to promote and facilitate the empowerment of all South Africans wishing to participate in the hunting profession, conservation and related activities;
- to engage with the national and provincial Governments of the Republic of South Africa and other countries, in all matters affecting professional hunting, conservation and related activities;
- to collaborate with and assist, wherever possible and to the extent reasonably feasible, all officers of organisations and authorities tasked with the conservation of natural resources;
- to cooperate with other persons and organisations in Africa and elsewhere having objects similar to those of this Association;
- to promote and market South Africa as a leading international hunting destination;
- to cooperate with those (wherever situated) who by business or other circumstances are connected with hunting and to provide opportunities for discussion between them and members of the Association on matters of common interest;
- to promote adherence to its Code of Conduct by all PHASA members and to sanction members who contravene its Code of Conduct or act contrary to these Aims and

### **Objectives**

- or other provisions of the Constitution of the Association;
- to render assistance to and serve the needs of members of the Association;
- to render assistance to and serve the needs, wherever possible and to the extent reasonably feasible, of the clientele of PHASA members;
- to regulate or prohibit, as the case may be, the publication in the Republic of South Africa or elsewhere by members of advertisements, interviews or press releases, that may be contrary to the objects of the Association; and
- to develop fellowship and cooperation among professional hunters

### **Responsible Hunting for Sustainable Life & Livelihoods**

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SOUTHERN AFRICAN  
WILDLIFE COLLEGE

## **SOUTHERN AFRICAN WILDLIFE COLLEGE**

Since the Southern African Wildlife College's (SAWC's) inception in 1997, it has held fast to an unwavering course to empower and inspire protected area managers and others involved in environmental practices to embrace the challenges of conservation in Africa.

In recognition of the fact that the future of our continent depends on the future of our natural heritage, the Wildlife College offers cutting, edge hand-on training programmes, aimed at giving protected area managers the motivation and skills they need to become partners in conserving our continent and its associated fauna and flora on a sustainable basis and in cooperation with local communities.

Established in 1997 in close cooperation with all interested and affected parties in Southern Africa; including national and provincial government departments (specifically SANParks), other conservation agencies, and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the SAWC is an independent SADC training institution and does not receive a government subsidy. Registered as a non-profit organization (registration number 046-675-NPO), the SAWC is proudly supported by both the Peace Parks Foundation and WWF-SA together with SACET, an independent Capital Trust Fund set up by WWF-SA in 1999 to provide a reliable income stream for the Wildlife College in perpetuity.

The principal business and corporate directions of the SAWC is encapsulated in its vision to empower future leaders in the fields of tourism and conservation. The major stakeholders include conservation agencies, tourism and hospitality sectors, local communities and private business.

The SAWC is registered with the Department of Education as a Private Provider of Further Education (Reg. No. 2008/FE08/003). The SAWC has however also applied to the Department of Education to be registered as a Private Provider of Higher Education and has developed programmes which will be registered with the Council for Higher Education (CHE).

Since inception, more than 5,000 students from 26 countries in Africa, but mostly from countries in the SADC region, have received training in natural resource management. Five

hundred and thirty nine students have completed qualification courses and 4661 have been through target skills development courses. Approximately 80% of the learners who have received training at the SAWC since are still in wildlife management and most of the graduates have been promoted to more senior management positions. To date over R90-million has been spent on capacity building throughout Africa through the efforts of the Southern African Wildlife College and with the assistance of PPF and WWF-SA. By expanding its reach and becoming involved in training ventures and projects off-site the College has also capacity-built over 2000 previously disadvantaged South Africans.

**Key strategies:**

The SAWC aims to:

- Provide and develop high quality, informative and inspiring courses for protected area managers and other parties.
- Strive for recognition as a regional rather than a national institution by working closely with other southern African training initiatives.
- Provide accreditation of training courses that will attain recognition in their own right but will also complement and link into a spectrum of protected area natural resource management training options available in southern Africa.
- Use training as a vehicle for the exchange of ideas, information, and expertise in order to promote cooperation between conservation organisations and cultures.
- Promote an integrated approach to the management of natural resource and protected areas that is appropriate to Africa; focusing especially on the role of local communities and other stakeholders in the sustainable management of resources.
- To train and develop people to manage newly created Trans-frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) in a manner which will be regionally and nationally consistent and will encourage the management of natural resources in a sustainable and culturally acceptable manner
- Offer training which will empower, uplift and capacity-build communities associated with the TFCAs. In doing so, the College will focus on strengthening existing and emerging enterprises within and around the TFCAs in the SADC sub-region. The aim is to make a substantial impact in terms of addressing economic and unemployment issues through the College's involvement with Learnerships and other training projects.
- Be a dynamic, flexible and service-orientated organisation which aims to become a role model for socially and environmentally responsible development.

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