



Custodians of Professional Hunting & Conservation – South Africa

AGM 2019

The 2nd conference and AGM of the Custodians was held at the Champagne Sports Resort in the Drakensburg on the 19th and 20th November 2019.

Once again it was a very successful and enjoyable occasion for all who attended. 115 attendees

The presentations by guest speakers was of exceptional interest and relevance and addressing threats and opportunities to hunting and conservation.

Of particular interest are the possibilities that 3D scanning and printing brings to hunters. This allows skulls of trophies to be accurately scanned to 100th of an inch, uploaded to the cloud and printed in the USA exactly the same as the original. No permits, no import duties and no long-time delays. This is a manner to get around threatened boycotts by importing countries.

Another important issue was the formation of a Shadow Exco to ensure continuity of leadership. It was encouraging to see the number of members who put up their hand to stand on the Shadow Exco. The members are John Luyt, Alex McDonald, Clive Curtis, Dave Davenport, Craig Maartens and Sean Kelly. Hans Vermaak stepped down from exco and was replaced by Willem Theron. Congrats to all the above on stepping up to the plate. I'm sure we will continue to grow from strength to strength.

Another initiative is the introduction of our apprenticeship program for young PHs wishing to gain experience. Many outfitters present at the meeting have volunteered to take on an apprentice for a couple of hunts. The idea is to pass the young PH from outfitter to outfitter to gain different experiences for a 5-month period. We will start off with 3 lucky apprentices and see if we can grow this program.

Our gala dinner was a success beyond our most optimistic dreams. Once again, we raised over R1m for the association. Special thanks to our main sponsors DSC who again donated a booth and hotel room for their convention. They too were the main sponsors of the conference and AGM. SCI also came to the party on the night and donated a booth for their show. Rovos Rail donated a trip on their luxury train, James Reed donated 2 advertising pages in Sports Afield, the Timbavati once again donated a buffalo hunt, and Krieghoff donated a custom-made double rifle of choice that sold for R170 000.

The Basie Maartens PH & Ian Goss Conservation & Sustainability Awards were presented for the first time. Congratulations to the worthy winners, Hans Vermaak and Stan Burger. Coenraad Vermaak Distinguished Service Award, recipient Stewart Dorrington.

It was a fun evening enjoyed by all.