



PHASA - ADOPTS NEW CONSTITUTION AND RESOLUTION AT 2017 AGM

40th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Professional
Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA)

29th November 2017



*Responsible Hunting for Sustainable
Life & Livelihoods*



Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa

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29th November 2017

To the Editor of Africa Hunting

On behalf of the Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA) we would like to extend our sincere gratitude for the loyal support we as an Association have received from Africa Hunting through your online publications over many years. As a long-term partner and friend of PHASA we are immensely appreciative for the cooperation between our Association and the African Hunting online publication, a cooperation that is valued most dearly.

Our new constitution and resolution adopted at the 2017 AGM has been gravely misreported in the media and social media fuelled by those fellow Associations who instead of communicating with EXCO have decided to lynch PHASA in the public domain. It is for these reasons that as an Executive Committee (EXCO) we wish to give clarity as to why the constitution was changed, and the new resolution adopted at the AGM.

To clarify any misperception; ***PHASA vehemently rejects any and all forms of canned or illegal hunting.***

The PHASA Constitution was changed to facilitate higher standards of good governance and administration of our Association. We cannot allow the inconsistencies or mismanagement of our Association that resulted in the unprecedented Court Case of 2016 to repeat itself.

- The hunting of lions was permitted under the previous PHASA constitution.
- The 2015 Resolution "to distance", did not change the previous PHASA constitution.
- The riders that were added as an after fact to the 2015 AGM in an effort to give consequential action to the 2015 resolution were rejected by the Court in the action of 2016 as being incorrect, misleading and wrong. They formed no part of the 2015 Resolution.
- This court case made it clear that actions by EXCO must be accountable and in accordance with the laws of the land.
- Issues that are subjective or morally selective such as ethics, are not clearly defined and can't supersede the legal parameters of the South African Constitution.
- Captive Bred Lion Hunting continued during 2015, 2016 & 2017 despite the 2015 PHASA Resolution.
- 2017 witnessed the introduction of a mobile app, allowing all members of the Association access to relevant information and access to voting rights. This innovative introduction finally broke the "proxy war" that had a skewed influence on previous AGM's.
- The 2017 Resolution ("***PHASA accepts the responsible hunting of ranched lions on SAPA accredited hunting ranches within the relevant legal framework and/or according to recommendations of the applicable hunting association, such as SCI's fair chase standards.***") was introduced to bring the legal hunting of lions in line with the responsible hunting standards as required by PHASA and International Hunting Association.
- Unlike the 2015 Resolution, consequential actions were now introduced as part of the 2017 Resolution - "***Any member who contravenes this resolution may face disciplinary procedures according to the PHASA constitution***"

- The claim that the New Constitution was introduced to allow for unethical hunting is not true. Our National legal requirement for the hunting of Predators is of a higher standard than the ethics of most other African or International Hunting Associations. South Africa's Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) regulations stipulate that no large predator may be hunted, from or with the use of a:
- motorized vehicle,
 - aircraft,
 - bow,
 - handgun or semi-automatic firearm,
 - artificial lights,
 - dogs,
 - bait,
 - poison, traps & snares
 - luring with sounds or smell.

The newly adopted Constitution and Resolution of 2017 has placed PHASA in a stronger position in terms of accountability and regulating our industry.

It is of little doubt that hunting in general is going through one of the most difficult periods ever. We need to keep calm and steer our hunting industry through these stormy waters. It is not our wish for PHASA's internal affairs be broadcast outside of our association. It has unfortunately become abundantly clear that the facts must now become known, so the hunting community can make an informed decision.

We understand the concerns of fellow Hunting Associations and request that should you require any further clarity or information we will assist and address all concerns. Further, we urge you to abide with us as we strive to ensure that the benefits of this new dynamic at PHASA begin to flow into the South African hunting dynamic. We do not expect any blanket endorsement at this stage, but simply that you remains engaged and observe the process in the near term.

We look forward to our continued cooperation and building a better future for hunting in South Africa.

Yours sincerely



Dries van Coller

PHASA President

Responsible hunting for sustainable life & livelihoods



Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa

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PRESS RELEASE AFTER 40TH AGM

PHASA ADOPTS NEW CONSTITUTION AND RESOLUTION AT 2017 AGM

Pretoria, 24 November 2017 –

At the 40th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA), a bold and brave step was taken by members within the Association to adopt a new constitution, which brings accountability and credibility to the Association. A total of 79% of our members who voted, endorsed the introduction of the new constitution. Under the new constitution the Executive Committee (EXCO), has the freedom to guide and govern the Association on behalf of the members, but remains accountable for their actions, in accordance with terms and good corporate governance.

The driving factor that necessitated this change was that the previous constitution was no longer aligned with the current Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. PHASA identified an obligation to evolve and accordingly develop the new constitution of the Association in line with modern times. The new constitution is a living document that will enable the development of the Association in conjunction with the relevant Government Departments in a rapidly evolving hunting industry, for the benefit of the South African bio-diversity economy, our communities and our members.

The collective membership acknowledged the importance of being involved in the various segments of the industry. As one of the leading professional hunting associations in the world, we need to take responsibility of our industry and provide guidance in the development of rules, regulations and standards. PHASA cannot merely distance itself from various stakeholders and activities occurring within the industry and expect to be in a position of influence.

A concern was that the new constitution would be perceived to condone the hunting of captive bred lions, which is currently a legal activity within the Republic. Accordingly, a resolution was passed by 65% of voting members at the AGM, in which *PHASA accepts the responsible hunting of ranched lions on South African Predator Association accredited hunting ranches within the relevant legal framework and/or according to recommendations of the applicable hunting association.* This resolution provides for a more comprehensive standard of industry involvement and endorses industry input from both international and local hunting associations. It is the Association's belief that the adopted resolution allows for the continuation and further development of close working relationships with local and international hunting associations.

PHASA reiterates its position in which it vehemently rejects any and all forms of canned or illegal hunting.

PHASA endorses all stakeholders to directly engage with our EXCO through the PHASA Office for further comment and/or clarity.

The PHASA EXCO realized the importance of the decisions to be made and introduced a new mobile app to make all relevant information and voting possible to all members.

PHASA realizes that there is a vast amount of misinformation and falsehoods out there and the EXCO plans to set the record straight with all relevant information within the near future.

We request that members realize the dangers of false information on social media and refrain from commenting on or behaving in an unprofessional manner or making uninformed statements.

For further information we request our members and the public to contact Dries van Coller, PHASA president, president@phasa.co.za or Marianna Louwrens at info@phasa.co.za and Tersia Du Plooy at phasa@phasa.co.za

SOUTH AFRICAN CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORY

HISTORY

South Africa has one of the most unique conservation success stories in the world, considering that in 1960 there were only a 3 privately owned wildlife ranches in the country. In the year 2000 this figure grew to over 5000 and per the latest Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) report in 2014 there were just under 9000 properties conducting business as wildlife ranches in South Africa. The total area occupied by wildlife ranches was 170,419km², this is about 14% of South Africa's land area.

Our phenomenal conservation success story continues to grow annually as more marginal agricultural land is converted into well established and functioning private wildlife ranches. This was achieved through the private ownership of wildlife, properties with certificates of adequate enclosure, (a fenced property of sufficient size per provincial and national ordinances).

THE GAME THEFT ACT 105 OF 1991

The **Game Theft Act 105 of 1991** which was written to **combat theft and wrongful and unlawful hunting** in South Africa states that:

Ownership of game is granted to a person who keeps or holds game or on behalf of who game is kept or held on land that is sufficiently enclosed. Land shall be deemed to be sufficiently enclosed if, according to a certificate of the Premier of the province in which the land is situated, or is assignee, is sufficiently enclosed to confine to that land the species of game mentioned in the certificate.

The South African Conservation Model was founded through the Game Theft Act, provided that the landowner adequately enclosed his land with a restrictive barrier (a high fence) and prevented the movement or confined the game mentioned. This legislature was the single biggest catalyst that turned wildlife from a common animal to a sought after commodity and was the foundation upon which most of South Africa's wildlife success story is build. Unlike neighbouring Southern African countries Fences play a huge role in the South African Conservation model. South Africa has used fences to convert marginal agricultural land into teaming wildlife sanctuaries for all species.

As described by the authors of the South African Conservation Success Story, South Africa's model is based on a three-legged system encompassing:

1. Public sector or government
2. Private sector
3. Free market economy

The greatest driving factors fuelling the land use change through the involvement of the private sector and the free market economy, is the money generated from ecotourism, hunting, live sales of wildlife (from one wildlife ranch to another) and venison production.

The economic incentives provided through the wise and sustainable utilisation of wildlife is the pinnacle driving factor. By giving wild animals a value we have transformed 14% of the South African landscape into teaming, privately owned wildlife, sanctuaries with an estimated population of over 20 million head of game. The success story continues to grow under the guidance and support of the South African Governments Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT).

“Like a robust and sturdy wooden stool, the highly successful South African Conservation Model rests on three legs. The first leg is provided by the public sector or government, the second leg by the private sector or individuals, and the third is the free market economy which determines the economic value of wildlife and the price of goods and services applicable to it. The cooperative engagement of these three institutions has resulted in South Africa providing the most cost effective and efficient access in all of Africa to a thriving wildlife sector.”

- The South African Conservation Success Story
(Authors Shane P. Mahoney, Peter H. Flack and David Mabunda)



***Our conservation success story is the ownership of
our wildlife and the fences that secure our ownership.
FENCES ARE OUR SOUTH AFRICAN
CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORY!!***

THE CONSTITUTION AND NEMBA

THE SOUTH AFRICA CONSTITUTION

The starting point should be the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 (“the Constitution”), Section 22 states:

➤ “FREEDOM OF TRADE, OCCUPATION AND PROFESSION

Every citizen has the right to choose their, occupation, or profession freely. The practice of a trade occupation or profession may be regulated by law.”

As stipulated above a professional body such as PHASA is governed and must be answerable to the letter of the law and the constitution.

THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: BIODIVERSITY ACT 10 OF 2004 (NEMBA)

This Act was promulgated to provide for the management and conservation of South Africa’s biodiversity within the framework of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998; the protection of species and ecosystems that warrant national protection; the sustainable use of indigenous biological resources; the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from bioprospecting involving indigenous biological resources; the establishment and functions of a South African National Biodiversity Institute; and for matters connected therewith.

NEMBA is applicable to everyone in the country, and industry stakeholders must accept the binding force of NEMBA. That does not however mean that whatever the minister regulates is lawful. Examples of unlawful regulations that have been issued would be those applying to lions in captivity. **Refer to: SA Predator Breeders Association v Minister of Environmental Affairs (72/10) [2010] ZASCA 151 (29 November 2010).**

2010 – THE JUDGEMENT “Supreme Court of Appeal”

SA Predator Breeders Association v Minister of Environmental Affairs (72/10) [2010] ZASCA 151 (29 November 2010).

In the above-mentioned judgement, the South African Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism statutory powers were found wanting and a Supreme Court Judgement went against the minister in favour of Captive-Bred Lions.

The regulation implemented by the minister pertaining to lions were found to be unlawful and the court said:

- ‘It is by no means clear to me how either ethical hunting (whatever its limits may be) and fair chase fit into a legislative structure which is designed to promote biodiversity in the wild. ... nor as I have pointed out was it related to the statutory powers conferred on him (the minister)’

The principle that can be derived from this case was that statutory powers of the minister are directed towards natural ecosystems and animals in the wild and that species in intensive or semi-intensive ranching operations are not the focus of the minister and that he/she is not authorized to make regulations thereto except in certain specified circumstances where activities in relation to the species on ranches may impact on those in the wild like rhino and/or where the conservation value of national importance or that regulation is required to ensure that the species are managed in ecologically sustainable manner. (section 56(1)(d) of NEMBA)

The minister despite arguing ethical and fair chase hunting lost in this court case and this judgment still stands to date, the captive bred hunting of lions in South Africa is a legal activity provided it is done within the constraints of the Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) regulations.

2015 – RESOLUTION

“PHASA distances itself from all captive bred lion breeding and hunting until such time as SAPA can convince to PHASA and IUCN that captive bred lion hunting is beneficial to lion conservation.” – 2015 PHASA Resolution

This position was widely supported in the media, but if read in accordance with the 2010 Supreme Court of Appeals judgment, PHASA did not have any legal grounds to enforce this and drive the required change that was necessary within the industry.

Regardless of the position taken by PHASA to distance itself, captive bred lion hunting remained a legal activity within the letter of the law and continued unabated. The 2015 Resolution has been referred to as “a toothless bulldog” as it had no legal standing or consequential action.

In an effort to give the 2015 resolution teeth the following riders were added, that were never part of this resolution.

THE 1st RIDER

“The above decision is effective immediately and is binding on all PHASA members. If any evidence arises implicating a PHASA members as having participated in the hunting or marketing of captive bred lion such member will be subject to PHASA’s internal disciplinary processes, which will include expulsion if found guilty”

THE 2nd RIDER

“PHASA further resolved that any of its members found to be involved in the breeding, hunting and/or marketing of captive bred lions would face disciplinary actions and if found to be in breach of this resolution would face possible termination of their membership.

To ensure compliance with this resolution and the PHASA code of conduct we request you to complete the affidavit and return to PHASA by 15 November 2016.”

All members were informed that should they wish to retain their PHASA membership they had no choice but to sign and return this affidavit. A small group who asked for legal opinion concerning the validity of the affidavit and the introduction of “THE RIDER”, were suspended without due process by the then EXCO on the 4th November 2016 before the deadline of the 15th of November 2016.

Only about 70 of the over 1000 PHASA members signed and returned the Affidavit. No action was taken against the huge number of members who did not comply and were then exempted from doing so. The only exception being those members who questioned the legality of the affidavit and remain suspended. It is believed this was done to prevent them from participating in the 2016 AGM.

2016 – THE COURT CASE

The suspended 13 PHASA members including some of which had never bred or hunted lions had no choice but to appeal to the High Court in order to resolve their suspension from PHASA without due process.

At this stage PHASA EXCO had the belief that they had acted in accordance with the constitution of the Association. The High Court Judge disagreed with EXCO and referred to their actions as follows:

- *The riders were referred to by Judge Prinsloo, as incorrect, misleading and wrong, as they formed no part of the 2015 Resolution at all.*
- *“The fact is that the membership of the applicants, which they now seek to restore in this urgent application, was suspended not because they were caught out indulging in this practice of breeding and then hunting the lions but because they did not return the affidavit which I (Judge Prinsloo) have said, is incorrect, flawed and misleading”*
- *“This is a very fine example in my view of adding insult to injury and amounts to completely unreasonable and unacceptable conduct.”*

During the 39th PHASA AGM, the president Stan Burger had no choice but to reinstate the membership of those who were unconstitutionally suspended.

FROM THESE COURT PROCEEDINGS IT WAS CLEAR THAT PHASA’S 2015 RESOLUTION HAD NO LEGAL STANDING AND COULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED.

PHASA EXCO HAD DONE WHAT THEY PERCEIVED TO BE “ETHICALLY” CORRECT (ACCORDING TO THE PREVIOUS PHASA CONSTITUTION), BUT THIS ACTION WAS “LEGALLY” FLAWED.

IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT IT WAS PARAMOUNT FOR THE PHASA CONSTITUTION TO BE REWRITTEN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE LAND.

2016 – RESOLUTION

In 2016 at the 39th AGM PHASA members voted for the Association to engage in discussion with key role players, such as the South African Predator Association (SAPA), to address the challenges this apex predator faces. A lion task team was formed, and due diligence was followed to evaluate the current situation regarding the captive bred lion industry.

2017 – NEW CONSTITUTION

A total of 79% of our members who voted, endorsed the introduction of the new constitution at the 40th AGM.

Under the new constitution EXCO, has the freedom to guide and govern the Association on behalf of the members, but remains accountable for their actions, in accordance with good corporate governance.

As previously discussed, the previous constitution was no longer aligned with the current Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The new constitution is a living document that will enable the development of the Association in conjunction with the relevant Government Departments in a rapidly evolving hunting industry, for the benefit of the South African bio-diversity economy, our communities and our members.

A concern was that the new constitution would be perceived to condone the hunting of captive bred lions, which is currently a legal activity within the Republic.

The 2017 PHASA constitution was **NOT** introduced to allow for a lower ethical hunting standard. It was introduced to ensure that mutual respect between our members and the elected leaders of our democratic organization is enhanced. This constitution ensures that hunting ethics which are often subjective or morally selective, can't be used as an excuse for elected leaders to institute unlawful or unjust action against PHASA members.

Accordingly, a resolution was passed by 65% of voting members at the AGM endorsing a new 2017 Resolution, concerning the hunting of ranched lions. This resolution promotes a legal standard which is higher than those previously prescribed and will now be discussed.

2017 – RESOLUTION

“PHASA accepts the responsible hunting of ranched lions on SAPA accredited hunting ranches within the relevant legal framework and/or according to recommendations of the applicable hunting association, such as SCI's fair chase standards.”

- ***This resolution replaces the 2015 resolution***
- ***The 2016 resolution remains in place, where PHASA, SAPA and likeminded people continue to engage in open discussion through the Lion task team.***

Definitions:

- **PHASA**
 - Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa

- **Responsible hunting**
 - Conducted within the parameters of applicable legislation and,
 - Conducted in a manner which protects and promotes the sustainable utilisation of wildlife.
- **Ranched lions**
 - Lions that are managed for sustainable utilisation purposes.
- **SAPA**
 - South African Predators Association
- **Accredited hunting ranches**
 - Hunting ranches which comply within the official accreditation process in accordance SAPA Norms and Standards and in possession of a valid accreditation hunting ranch certificate
- **Legal framework**
 - National and provincial legislation.
- **Hunting association**
 - A PHASA recognised hunting association to which the client belongs, either foreign or domestic.

Prescribed Minimum

- ***In accordance with PHASA's 2017 Lion survey, the majority of members indicated a preferred minimum release period of 30 days. This is recommended as the PHASA minimum standard.***
- ***A longer release period may be adhered to where a client so requires such, as when desirous of hunting in accordance with his/her own hunting associations standards.***

Consequential action

- ***Any member who contravenes this resolution may face disciplinary procedures according to the PHASA constitution.***

This new resolution places PHASA in a much better position to bring accountability and credibility to the industry. This Resolution is aligned with the laws of the land, and addresses the requirements of both local and international Hunting Associations.

WHY MUST PHASA BE PROACTIVELY INVOLVED WITH RANCHED LIONS

The 2010 Court Ruling in the Supreme Court of Appeal, makes the ranching and hunting of captive bred lions a legal activity within South Africa. As the largest Professional Hunting Association in the world, it is exceptionally irresponsible to merely distance yourself from a legal activity within your country and expect a positive outcome for lion management and/or conservation. The 2015 resolution played a pivotal part in bringing about change within the professional hunting industry. Regardless, that during this timeframe in which PHASA distanced itself from captive-bred lion hunting, this practice continued.

There are over 6000 Lions in private ownership in the country and it is paramount that PHASA be involved in guiding a collective process which brings accountability to the industry.

The resolution taken at the 2017 AGM provides for a more comprehensive standard of industry involvement and endorses positive input from all concerned. It is PHASA's belief that the adopted resolution allows for the continuation and further development of close working relationships with Local and International Hunting Associations. PHASA has facilitated a process where hunting associations such as Safari Club International (SCI) can even implement stricter regulations on their members wishing to hunt lions should they deem it necessary.

RANCHED LIONS

PHASA only accepts the hunting of lions in private ownership if they are wild managed or ranched lions. Currently the South African Predator Association distinguishes between two types of captive bred lions namely:

- Working Lions:
 - Lions bred for commercial purposes. These lions are used for educational purposes and tourism related activities such as walking with lions etc.
 - **THESE LIONS MAY NEVER BE HUNTED AND ARE STRICTLY MONITORED**
- Ranched Lions:
 - Lions that are managed for sustainable utilisation purposes. (lions which are not hand reared and have minimal human imprinting) to be hunted on accredited South African Predator Association (SAPA) Ranches.

PHASA continues to engage with SAPA and welcomes all role players (such as your own Hunting Association) to contribute in discussion regarding SAPA's norms and standards for the management and hunting of South African Ranched Lions

PRESCRIBED SAPA REGULATIONS:

1. Minimum interaction with the human environment from birth
2. No hand rearing, bottle feeding or petting

3. General “hands off” management techniques with regard to feeding, husbandry, medical care and environmental enrichment
4. Identification of animals bred and raised for hunting purposes is compulsory
5. No hunting of human imprinted animals.

SAPA ACCREDITED HUNTING RANCHES

There are an estimated 200 lion breeding facility in the country, of which only 8 (4-5%) are currently accredited as SAPA Hunting Ranches. Five of the eight hunting ranches were accredited by PHASA members of which the former president Mr Stan Burger did most of the approvals.

PHASA is by no means condoning widespread captive-bred lion hunting but is taking a fundamental step to become involved and guide a process of making the industry accountable.

Table of SAPA accredited ranches

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Farm Name	Reitzdale Game Ranch	De Klerk Safaris	Warthog Safaris	Mankwe Lion Safaris	Pamaenons	AAA Serapa Safaris	Woodbourough	Tinashe
Province	North West	North West	Limpopo	North West	North West	North West	North West	North West
Size (Hectare)	2600	4107	1100	3500	1500	12000	2700	2250
Size (Acre)	6425	10149	2718	8649	3707	29653	6672	5560
Wildlife numbers on the Ranch	900	3000	1000	1100	900	1500	800	700
Different Species	15	30	14	22	18	16	40	18
Did a PHASA member accredit your farm	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
if yes, who?	J Senekal	Stan Burger		Stan Burger	Stan Burger	Stan Burger	Stan Burger (apologized)	

The general misconception that PHASA is supporting the hunting of lions in small enclosures is false. The 8 properties that are accredited are all well above any prescribed minimum size and collectively represent the following:

- Average Land Size = 3720 ha or 9192 acres
- Average wildlife numbers on the ranches = 1 238 with 21 different species

Accredited hunting ranches must comply with the following legal requirements

1. Comply with Nature Conservation (certificate of adequate enclosure).
2. Hunting area must contain:
 - Natural veld area.
 - No cultivated land
 - Diversity of habitat
 - Sufficient wild prey or game species available.
 - Water
 - Minimal unnatural structures

PREScribed MINIMUM & ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Our National legal requirement for the hunting of Predators is of a higher standard than the ethics of most other African or International Hunting Associations. South Africa's Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) regulations stipulate that no large predator may be hunted, from or with the use of a:

- motorized vehicle,
- aircraft,
- bow,
- handgun or semi-automatic firearm,
- artificial lights,
- dogs,
- bait,
- poison, traps & snares
- luring with sounds or smell.

Any hunter wishing to hunt a ranched lion has to do so using **“the walk and stalk”** method. All of the other above methods are legally prescribed against.

In accordance with PHASA's 2017 Lion survey, the majority of members indicated a preferred minimum release period of 30 days. This is recommended as the PHASA minimum standard after discussion between SAPA and PHASA members at the 2017 AGM.

Any PHASA member who contravenes this set standard and who doesn't hunt on SAPA accredited ranch is liable to face disciplinary procedures.

Furthermore, **all hunting Associations are welcome to submit their own norms and standards concerning the hunting of ranched lions, which will be applicable to their membership.** PHASA commits itself to implementing these requirements of behalf of the Association provided the hunt is conducted with a PHASA member on a SAPA accredited hunting ranch.

CONSEQUENCES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO ACT

The 2015 Resolution had no legal standing and was not enforceable.

The 2017 Resolution has a consequential action as accepted and voted for by the PHASA members at the AGM. This Resolution is enforceable and as stated **“Any member who contravenes this resolution may face disciplinary procedures according to the PHASA constitution.”**

INDUSTRY MISPERCEPTION

It is very sad that a few Hunting Associations and individuals, have made hastily and irrational public statements without proper consultation or consideration of all the facts. The loss of any sponsorship and ill-informed suspension is of course concern but as an Association, we have a broader responsibility to the South African biodiversity economy, the socio-economic development of our communities and most importantly our members.

PHASA understands that information can be misconstrued, especially with the difficult and emotionally charged topics, such as the lion debate. Once clarity is reached and a better understanding by fellow hunters and Associations is achieved, PHASA intends to work with rather than distancing ourselves from those who have reacted against PHASA. This will be in the best interest of the industry.

As an Association it is paramount that we engage with all stakeholders to address the ill-informed public perception about lions and the position in which PHASA has taken to be an industry leader.

INDUSTRY SUPPORT

PHASA endorses two of the most important principles that support responsible and sustainable hunting:

- Hunting Laws and Governance should be scientifically informed, rule based, predictable, transparent and accountable.
- Well managed hunting should also be underpinned by scientific and local knowledge.

Leading role players within the South African Wildlife Industry have voiced their support for the efforts made by SAPA, concerning the pioneering work they have achieved for Ranchered Lions.

Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA) and the Confederation of Hunters Associations of South Africa (CHASA) have both supported the hard-collective effort SAPA has made in developing Norms and Standards for the breeding (WRSA) and hunting (CHASA) of Ranchered Lions in South Africa.

EXCO would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to the members who have supported PHASA and held the name of this association high on numerous social media platforms. PHASA welcomes the abundant new members who have joined since the AGM. According to our records 3.4% of our previous membership have decided to resign since the AGM. As an Association, which is membership driven, we acknowledge the decisions of those who have left, but would like to assure them that they will always have a home at PHASA, should they so wish.

CONCLUSION

PHASA looks forward to continuing the positive working relationship with all industry stakeholders in finding meaningful and lasting solutions for the challenges facing our wildlife and hunting industry.

For further information we request our members and the public to contact Dries van Coller, PHASA president, president@phasa.co.za or Marianna Louwrens at info@phasa.co.za and Tersia Du Plooy at phasa@phasa.co.za