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CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

1 March 2022 to 30 April 2023

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Executive Committee: Chair; Dr. Herman Els, (NHTSA- Natshoot), Vice-Chair; Mr. Stephen Palos (CHASA),
Sec-General; Mr. Dries van Coller (PHASA), Treasurer; Mr. Richard York (WRSA),
Additional Members; Mr. Ron Thomson (TGA), Mr. Trevor Oertel (SAFA), Mr. Pieter Swart (SATTA).



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 I consider it my duty to keep members abreast of SUCo activities conducted up to as close the date of the AGM as is possible. That is the reason for reporting up to the end of April 2023, and not just to the end of the previous financial year (28 February 2023).

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 2.1 SUCo cannot exist without its members. To each and every member association we extend a sincere thank you for your continuous loyal support. Our member associations are indeed exceptional, and we are very proud to always, and everywhere, convey this fact to all we come into contact with on both the national and international level.
- 2.2 A special word of welcome has to be extended to the South African Parrot Breeders Association (PASA) who has joined us as founding member. An occasion which should have been conclude much earlier. Be that as it may, we are honoured to have you in our midst. Welcome PASA !
- 2.3 Also a special word of welcome to Hannes Wessels who has taken over the difficult position of President of SAPA. We have seen a number of very positive outcomes since Hannes has taken lead in SAPA after 20 January 2023. Welcome Hannes !
- 2.4 We also need to welcome Ben Heystek, who end last year was elected President of PHASA. Welcome, Ben ! We know you to be the same staunch supporter of the SUCo ideal and cause, just like your predecessor, Pieter Potgieter was.
- 2.5 Additional acknowledgements for services rendered towards the functioning of SUCo is contained in paragraph 8 below.

3. SUCo-SA

3.1 Founding

- 3.1.1 SUCo-SA was founded on 6 May 2021 and had its first AGM on 1 March 2022. during our first official members meeting.

3.2 **Members**

3.2.1 Founding members alphabetically:

- Confederation of Hunting Associations of South Africa (CHASA):
- National Hunting and Shooting Association (Natshoot)
- Parrot Breeders Association of South Africa (PASA)
- Professional Hunters Association of South Africa (PHASA)
- South African Falconry Association (SAFA)
- South African Predators Association (SAPA)
- South African Taxidermy and Tannery Association (SATTA)
- South African Wingshooters Association
- True Green Alliance (TGA)
- Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA)

3.2.2 Honorary member: Prof Brian Child (internationally renowned ecologist and agricultural economist) of the University of Florida (USA).

3.3 **Executive Committee (Exco)**

3.3.1 Members elected to serve on the first Exco:

- Chair: Herman Els (Natshoot)
- Vice Chair: Stephen Palos (CHASA)
- Secretary-General: Dries van Coller (PHASA)
- Treasurer: Richard York (WRSA)
- Additional member: Ron Thomson (TGA)

3.3.2 In terms of Article 5.2.8 of the Constitution, Exco co-opted two additional members specifically tasked with aspects of SUCo responsibilities for which they are specifically suited:

- Trevor Oertel (SAFA) for coordinating SUCo discussions and submissions to the UK Parliament re the proposed banning of imports of hunting trophies into that country.
- Pieter Swart (SATTA) for coordinating all CITES related responsibilities of SUCo; from Lyon, France, in March 2022, up to COP19 in Panama and beyond.

4. **ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONALITY & FINANCIAL CAPACITY**

4.1 SUCo is in need of a semi-permanent person to take responsibility for day-to-day general administrative management regarding Exco and Coalition meetings, to compile agendas for meetings and to take down the minutes of our member meetings. Exco will discuss this challenge and inform members of outcome before end of June 2023.

4.2 SUCo's financial situation is slowly but surely starting to change for the positive, as will be reported on by our bookkeeper after this report. We have to extend a word of sincere appreciation to Natshoot for assisting with covering our monthly running costs for website maintenance and for SUCo research assistance.

4.3 As of date, SUCo has considerably more funds in its account than was the case at our 2022 AGM. This was caused by member associations paying membership fees and generous contributions from CHASA, PHASA, SATTA, and NATSHOOT, for which we say a very large thank you. A synopsis of our financial statements will be discussed under paragraph 7 below.

4.4 As members would have taken note, Stephen Palos has with assistance from Hardus Fourie of Latreia Technologies, and our bookkeeper, Robert Young, initiated a donorship package to run a debit order facility through Netcash which we hope will assist in acquiring additional funding for SUCo.

5. SUCo-SA: NPC & PBO

5.1 SUCo-SA was registered as a Non-Profit Company (NPC) with registration number 2022 / 254767 / 08 on 27 January 2022.

5.2 SUCo-SA was also granted tax exemption and registered as a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) with SARS on 16 March 2023 with registration number 930076831. Our registration includes the advantage that we may issue section 18A(1)(a) tax deductible donor certificates. This presents SUCo with certain advantages in sourcing donor funding.

5.2.1 SUCo-SA has been approved for the following public benefit activities:

- The promotion of, and education and training programmes relating to, environmental awareness, greening, clean-up, or sustainable development projects.
- Engaging in the conservation, rehabilitation, or protection of the natural environment, including flora, fauna, or the biosphere.

6. SUCo-SA ACTIVITIES OVER REPORTING PERIOD

6.1 CITES

6.1.1 Through hard work of Pieter & Susan Swart (SATTA), SUCo-SA was in the last half of 2022, officially accepted as an observer at CITES meetings.

- 6.1.2 Between 7 and 11 March 2022, Dries van Coller in name of PHASA and Pieter Swart in name of SATTAs, represented SUCo-SA at the 74th CITES Standing Committee in Lyon, France. Dries and Pieter were ably supported by the experienced Eugène Lapoint of IWMC in learning the ropes. Functioning with support of IWMC (<https://www.iwmc.org/>) was clearly highly beneficial for our delegates.
- 6.1.3 This introduction for SUCo to the innerworkings of CITES set the route for our delegates, under auspices of their own associations and under name of SUCo-SA to successfully attend and make sensible contributions to discussions and motions at CITES CoP19 in Panama during November 2022.
- 6.1.4 Stephan Palos (CHASA), Dries van Coller (PHASA), Pieter Swart (SATTAs), Trevor Oertel (SAFA), Richard York (WRSA in name of SUCo-SA), Susan Swart (SATTAs in name of SUCo-SA) with the outstanding and knowledgeable assistance of Antonie Meiring (PASA) and support of Christopher Palos for IWMC made up the, what we called, the SUCo-SA delegation to CITES CoP19. These people experienced two weeks of really hard and continuous work with little rest in between sessions or relevant meeting occasions.
- 6.1.5 Delegates reported that it was easier for them to be given an opportunity to speak on matters and motions at the CoP under the name of SUCo-SA than under the name of, for instance, PHASA. Apparently because of the name not being directly associated to hunting. It is also clear that our delegation did us all proud, and we cannot have big enough appreciation for that. Our delegation established outstanding links with other international sustainable use NGOs under auspices of the IWMC (i.e., international fur industry, fishing, pet trade, SCI, Conservation Force, Eswatini, etc.).
- 6.1.6 Quoted from the delegation's report back: *"Susan Swart, who very ably managed our logistics, put us together with IWMC delegates in an appropriate facility, enabling our SA force to collaborate with, and be drawn into a much wider international pro-sustainable use formation, sharing resources, and building relationships which have tremendously elevated our vision and potential.*

These two weeks have possibly been the best news for our cause in a decade or more, and we firmly believe that our newfound friends will benefit as much from our emergence as we have from their long-standing experience.

And we were certainly noticed! As stated earlier, CITES is big; 3,500 delegates register, and two halls, each capable of hosting the entire complement of attendees, run parallel meetings for the bulk of the time, in two committees. The whole lot begins, and then again ends, with plenary sessions where everyone

attends together, with the final plenary ratifying any core business and amending any of the appendices which so influence our lives.

SUCo-SA was very quickly a central element of a much larger collective of fantastic NGOs, representing multiple causes across the globe where wealthy elites would take the food from the mouths of the poor, the local, the able and notably the successful users of biodiversity. We take as a compliment a core statement in the report back of a staunch “anti-trade NGO” the Environmental Protection Agency which wrote: “The pro-trade lobby at CoP19, especially pro-lethal trade, was large, exceptionally well-coordinated and organised. It made its presence and views known at many side events, made several interventions and lobbied Parties extensively. This was especially the case with the Southern African countries, where there is strong support to resume the ivory trade”

We thank them for this gracious acknowledgement of our efforts!

Members of the founding associations of SUCo-SA can take heart that your leaders have created exactly the right model to look after your interests and will, with your support and encouragement, expand our capacity to make meaningful impact. We cannot defend our cause as part-time amateurs, with knee-jerk reactions to sporadic threats. We need to take the fight to the other side, and we need to up our game even more. Panama 2022 showed us what we as SUCo-SA are capable of. We are the essential “stich in time”.

- 6.1.7 Against this positive background it is also, unfortunately, necessary to note that our delegation thought it prudent to call the South African government’s delegation at CoP19 to action for what was perceived as South Africa’s non-commitment to aspects (issues), which were detrimental to South Africa and to SADC countries at large.
- 6.1.8 Albeit that the South African government delegation did have a meeting with our SUCo-SA delegates during the CoP in Panama, I think it prudent to quote a short piece of a letter written on 21 November 2022 by the SUCo delegation to the SA delegation (letter was on number 99 not delivered before the meeting). This quote explains the dismay the SUCo delegation felt towards the SA delegation’s non-commitment at the CoP: *“SUCo-SA (...is...) dismayed that there remains such reluctance on the part of SA Delegation members and even the collective, to engage us more candidly and strategically towards achieving the best outcomes for our country. Even more perturbing is SA’s inexplicable abstentions from certain proposals made by fellow SADC countries to ensure their specific needs, relating to species key to our own concerns, are supported as a SADC block. These specific proposals, particularly on the need for live elephant export by Zimbabwe and the sale of rhino horn by Eswatini, if successful, would certainly be aligned to*

South Africa's own urgent needs for these species and would set precedents in our favour for future proposals. We simply cannot fathom SA abstaining from these votes, and in the absence of proper communications between your delegation and ours, we are left to inuendo and suppositions to draw our own conclusions. This IS going to lead to us putting out releases, making interventions and otherwise agitating in manners which would not be conducive for good working relationships between us, and in fact could end in hostile and needlessly embarrassing situations.

- 6.1.9 Despite all Ministers responsible for the Environment of SADC countries being present at CoP19, our Minister was noticeably absent.
- 6.1.10 It must, however, be reported that in discussions with individual members of the SA delegation in Panama and later with some DFFE officials here at home, it has become clear that they acted on orders from their political masters and could in actual fact not make any or very few contribution(s). That in itself confirms the political position of political masters of DFFE of being more and more in favour of an anti-use preservationist stance towards wildlife management in our country. But I am quite sure I am not conveying new information to the reader.
- 6.1.11 Pieter Swart (SATTA), Richard York (WRSA), and Antonie Meiring (PASA) will also represent SUCo-SA at eight of the 17 committee meetings at the upcoming 32nd CITES Animal Committee meetings in Geneva between 18 and 24 June 2023.
- 6.1.12 Pieter Swart (SATTA), Richard York (WRSA), Antonie Meiring (PASA), Stephen Palos (CHASA), Susan Swart (SATTA), Dries van Coller (PHASA), and Trevor Oertel (SAFA) will probably attend the CITES standing committees meeting to be held between 5 to 11 November 2023 in Geneva. They will all also represent SUCo-SA at this meeting.
- 6.1.13 We must extend our sincere appreciation for each and every one who represented SUCo so ably at past CITES events and who will continue to do so in future.

6.2 **SCI AFRICAN WILDLIFE CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

- 6.2.1 Dries van Coller (SUCo-SA) and Pieter Potgieter (PHASA) and Richard York (WRSA), attended the SCI Foundation's 20th African Wildlife Consultative Forum in Maputo, Mozambique. They will, with Ben Heystek (PHASA) also attend the 21st AWCF meeting to be held in Namibia in October this year.
- 6.2.2 We have to thank these gentlemen, and also Prof Brain Child for representing SUCo-SA so ably at these important international forum meetings.

6.3 **BAN ON IMPORT OF HUNTING TROPHIES INTO UK**

- 6.3.1 Despite serious and widespread international reaction against imposing the ban from all SADC countries and from Ghana (which we are aware of), as well international hunting associations in Nordic countries, and in USA, Canada and Europe and hunting associations in Britain itself, the UK Parliament still voted for the ban after a process which was started on 17 March 2023.
- 6.3.2 SUCo-SA efforts and inputs to get science to carry the day, a process ably managed by Trevor Oertel (SAFA), for SUCo-SA, with high level support of Me Ellie Goodchild (Scotland UK Parliament), Ron Thomson (TGA), Prof Adam Hart (University of Gloucestershire) and Jens Ulrich Høgh (Nordisk Safari Club), could not change the emotion attached to the issue. Trevor also had tremendous support (and is in constant touch) from both Dr Dilys Roe (Chair of the IUCN CEESP-SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULi) and Prof Amy Dickman Director Oxford University Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU).
- 6.3.3 If we understand the processes correctly the House of Lords still has to have its say, but it seems the Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill will be voted into UK law.
- 6.3.4 We have to extend our gratitude to Trevor for hard and diligent work in trying his level best to get scientific and reasonable information to British politicians to take an informed decision. Alas, emotion, and half-truths again carried the day in what was a serious and concerted animal rights drive to have the Bill voted into UK law.
- 6.3.5 What we can say, is that after this process, it is clear we are not alone in this fight on the international level anymore and that international heavy weights like SCI, Dallas Safari Club, and the likes of FACE in Europe have stood into the fight. This step by the UK Parliament could be the tip of a serious intensified fight against all that hunting and sustainable use stands for, on an international scale.

6.4 **DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT (DFFE)**

- 6.4.1 I will not pain the reader with the well-known detail of each of the challenges we have faced over the past 12 months from especially the political leadership of DFFE or from animal rights organisations. For the sake of being complete I shall just mention the relevant court cases, proposed legislation, and programmes initiated by DFFE to which we as individual SUCo-SA members had submitted extensive comments or in implementation of which, we had been intricately involved in, either as individual associations or as a collective through direct participation or through litigation.

- 6.4.1.1 **26 March 2022:** the Western Cape High Court, on submission by the Humane Society International - Africa, stopped the Minister of DFFE to issue the 2022 hunting quota of endangered species (leopard, elephant, and black rhino). The judgment in essence read that DFFE must make public the Minister's Record of Decision that informed the quota announcement. Council will review all relevant documentation and a court will review the substantive matters basis of the quota of 10 vulnerable leopard, 150 endangered elephant and 10 critically endangered black rhino in 2022. Needless to say, this judgment had a massive impact on the hunting of these species by mainly international hunters.
- 6.4.1.2 **24 June 2022:** Act No. 02 of 2022: National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Act, 2022, in Government Gazette no. 2203 dated 24 June 2022.
- 6.4.1.3 **8 July 2022:** South Africa's Biodiversity 2022: Consultation on the Draft White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use, in Government Gazette no. 46687, dated 8 July 2022 (76 pages).
- 6.4.1.4 **18 July 2022:** Game Meat Strategy for South Africa, 2022, Government Gazette no. 47024 of 18 July 2022. This strategy is to be approved by Cabinet for implementation during 2023.
- 6.4.1.5 **12 August 2022:** Appointment of the Ministerial Task Team to Identify and Recommend Voluntary Exit Options and Pathways for the Captive Lion Industry, in Government Gazette no. 46706, dated 12 August 2022.
- 6.4.1.6 **28 October 2022:** Revised Draft White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity, in Government Gazette no. 47378, dated 28 October 2022 (39 pages)
- 6.4.1.7 **2 December 2022:** Consultation on the Draft Multi-Species Biodiversity Management Plan for Vultures in South Africa, in Government Gazette no. 47632, dated 2 December 2022.
- 6.4.1.8 **24 January 2023:** the Parliamentary Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment presented a session titled: *Management of handling, breeding, hunting and trade of lions in SA: stakeholder engagement; with Ministers & Deputy Minister*. Applicable and quality presentations for the lion sector were presented by Dr Paul Booyens for SAPA and by Richard York for WRSA. Severe negative and emotion centred reports were presented by SPCA and by Four Paws.
- 6.4.1.9 **3 February 2023:** National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (10/2004) in Government Gazette no. 47984, dated 3 February 2023.

- Regulations pertaining to threatened or protected terrestrial species and freshwater species (TOPS Regulations),
- The National Norms and Standards for the Management of Elephants in South Africa,
- Norms and Standards for the Trophy Hunting of Leopard in South Africa
- List of terrestrial species and freshwater species that are threatened or protected, restricted activities that are prohibited, and restricted activities that are exempted
- Repeal of the notice amending the alien and invasive species list and list of critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable and protected species, and amendment and commencement of the notice prohibiting the carrying out of certain restricted activities involving rhino horn, and the regulations pertaining to trade in rhino horn.

Note: Congratulations must be extended to WRSA and PHASA for diligent litigation against the implementation of the proposed amendments to the existing TOPS Regulations on 1 April 2023. This litigation caused the Minister to withdraw all four sets of Regulations published in this Government Gazette.

6.4.1.10 **6 April 2023:** Draft White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa’s Biodiversity submitted for Cabinet approval in February 2023 (42 pages) and approved by Cabinet on 6 April 2023.

6.5 **ADDITIONAL LITIGATION**

6.5.1 The North Gauteng High Court on 3 March 2023 set aside the inclusion of 45 game species in the Animal Improvement Act (Act 62 of 1998), on submission of a court application by SA Hunters and EWT.

6.6 **CONTINUED RESEARCH ON HUNTING AND WILDLIFE SECTOR**

6.6.1 SUCo-SA has in cooperation with PHASA Foundation (at the time, Tonie de Bruin) again launched research through Prof Peet van der Merwe of Potchefstroom (TREES) to gather much needed additional scientific data on our sector. Relevant and recent data on the benefits of sustainable use of renewable resources must be put across to policy makers and the broader public in a serious effort to balance the perceptions scale, which is at present, not “hanging” in our favour.

6.6.2 There is an electronic survey from Prof van der Merwe currently being forwarded to individual member association’s members, which we have requested to please complete

6.6.3 We again have to make mention of the fact that we have gained the exceptional skill and scientific knowledge of Deon Furstenburg (wildlife ecologist & zoologist) of Afri-Wild Services who on a continuous basis assists us with needed research and

compilation of in-depth scientific documentation on topics we identify as areas on which we need scientific and expert advice.

6.7 LEAD-BASED AMMUNITION AND PURPORTED LEAD POSIONING OF VULTURES

- 6.7.1 As members are aware there is a constant and growing discussion to enforce the use of only monolithic ammunition (copper and steel-based). The biggest component of voices against the continued use of lead-based ammunition comes from the Lead Task Team, which is a sub-committee of the National Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Working Group operating under auspices of DFFE.
- 6.7.2 In this task team the most vocal individuals are the people working with vultures who openly blame hunters for the increase in the level of lead in blood samples of vultures they work with. Even though they are not able to state the numbers of vulture deaths due to secondary lead poisoning as opposed to the large numbers of vultures which are annually killed by poisoning in SADC countries. These “voices” are also the instigators of the inception of the Draft Multi-Species Biodiversity Management Plan for Vultures in South Africa, as mentioned under 6.4.1.7 above.
- 6.7.3 For SUCo-SA to pro-actively counter any possible increase in the severity of the drive to stop the use of lead-based ammunition, which is according to the Lead Task Team and Bird Life SA (including SA Hunters) the cause of high levels of lead in South Africa’s vultures, André van der Westhuizen (SA Wingshooters) has graciously stepped up to the plate to manage his own team of scientific experts to counter any possible move in a negative direction on this issue. Thank you, André, for your constant appropriate work in this regard.

6.8 TRANSFORMATION

- 6.8.1 As was reported in my previous annual report, we had opened discussions with the African Community Conservation NGO; better known for its link to the Makuya community adjacent to the Kruger National Park (in the North-West corner on the Limpopo River).
- 6.8.2 Through this contact CHASA, NATSHOOT, PHASA, SATT and WRSA were able to draw up and sign a MoU on 10 November 2022 with the leaders of the National People and Parks Community Association (NPPCA). The NPPCA consists of members of communities with reserves in collaboration with SANParks, which border or are close to national parks nationally. NPPCA is in part funded by DFFE.
- 6.8.3 Drawing up of a MoU and signing such document came about through a workshop organised by Barry York (PHASA) and Richard York (WRSA) on 24 August 2022 in

Pretoria with the leaders of NPPCA, to assist them in understanding and answering the context and implications of the Draft White Paper on Biodiversity.

Subsequently to the submission of the NPPCA in respect of the Draft White Paper on Biodiversity, DFFE was forced to extend the time line for submissions of NPPCA comments to the Draft White Paper as well as the contact of NPPCA with the mentioned sustainable use driving associations, was not something DFFE experienced very positively.

- 6.8.4 The reason why the MoU was not drawn up in name of SUCo-SA is because the members of NPPCA present at the workshop were uncomfortable to sign a document with people they had not seen and met (meaning representatives of all SUCo member associations). The relevant SUCo member associations who are signatories of the MoU, could all attend the Pretoria workshop.
- 6.8.5 NPPCA aims to economically benefit community land claimants; communities who own game farms and nature reserves and those who are living adjacent to those areas.
- 6.8.6 The parties who signed the MoU wish to formalize the alliance with respect to knowledge-sharing regarding: wildlife management, business management, hunting and technical skills through mentoring, coaching, market linkages, financial support through cooperative fundraising, networking, and other related support that may be identified as essential to ensure meaningful transformation and growth within the inclusive wildlife economy.
- 6.8.7 The parties also aim to form a collective unit to ensure sustainable wildlife economies through a strategic partnership of inter-industry peers that will build strong Agro-Sustainable Biodiversity Wildlife business models and enterprises. The focus of these initiatives is to bolster wildlife economy programme initiatives which promote community landowners, communities, community participation social and economic benefits with a shared goal of sustainable wildlife conservation through responsible utilisation. This will be done with full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, in full respect of their rights and in recognition of their responsibilities.
- 6.8.8 Individual leaders of the NPPCA attended CITES CoP19 through funding from DFFE.
- 6.8.9 Continuous interaction exists with the leaders of the NPPCA. Further progress will be reported to members.

6.8.10 Pieter Swart (SATTA) is busy setting up links with indigenous healers in Gauteng to further investigate the possibility of bioprospecting of indigenous medicinal plant material. Progress on this initiative will be reported.

6.9 **SUCo DATA LIBRARY (SUCo-DOKVAULT)**

6.9.1 SUCo-SA has been afforded the opportunity to share in the extensive search capacity of documents and data in Natshoot Dokvault, which is a powerful electronic search engine.

6.9.2 Formulating search terms and building search paths on the framework for the SUCo Dokvault will be finalised within the next 2 months. There are already more than 1,000 documents captured on the SUCo Dokvault. However, the relevant content can only be sourced if search terms, and search stages are setup correctly.

6.9.3 Members will be informed when the SUCo-Dokvault is operational. Members will be requested to submit all documents they would want to have stored in such a search engine.

6.10 **IUCN MEMBERSHIP**

6.10.1 As was reported in last year's annual report, SUCo-SA cannot yet register with IUCN as we must first have 5 years of operation. Dries van Coller has taken initiative to register PHASA with IUCN and awaits feedback from IUCN. When that happens PHASA will be the mouthpiece of SUCo-SA at the IUCN until SUCo-SA can apply for and be awarded IUCN membership.

6.11 **SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN AND COMMUNICATIONS**

6.11.1 We once again need to thank Annie Sprag for diligently driving a social-media campaign on our behalf.

6.11.2 Despite us declaring that the intensity of the campaign must be stepped up in my previous report, it has not materialised due to a number of reasons of which funding was one of the more pressing issues.

6.11.3 As was indicated in the morning session of this year's Congress, I shall take responsibility to put a small team with capacity together to manage this important function of the Coalition. For implementation as soon as possible.

6.11.4 As was also indicated the team will follow a two-pronged approach. The first will be focussed on a soft approach in making as much information available in short bursts of the need for sustainable use as only realistic conservation imperative in the world we live in (Southern Africa). The second approach will be a more

“aggressive” approach focussed on the animal rights brigades in short bursts challenging them to put their money where their mouths are in respect of the conservation of their so-called iconic species (i.e., stop killing bush babies through elephant habitat destruction – help save the white rhino which will soon be extinct because of a persistent block in trade in horn).

- 6.11.5 Members will be kept abreast of this initiative and will be called upon to please assist in formulating short burst messages when the need arises.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

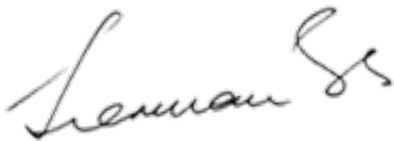
- 7.1 A summary of the income and expense account for the 2022 / 2023 book year was sent to members via email.
- 7.2 The comprehensive financial report for the book year 2022 / 2023 will be presented by our bookkeeper, Robert Young (Jnr.) and will not be fully discussed here.
- 7.3 In summary, our main income and expenses for the book year 2022 / 2023 is reflected as an income from recoveries, donations received (SAPA, PHASA, PASA, SATTA, and NATSHOOT) plus membership fees, amounting to R945,657.00.
- 7.4 Our expenses for the 2022 / 2023 book year came to R957,239.00 of which the major expenses were for CITES at R241,159.00, for research, R222,400.00 and for social media and website maintenance at R207,050.00. This left us with a deficit of R11,582.00 at end of book year 2022 / 2023.
- 7.5 Through membership fees paid since 1 March 2023, and through a generous donation of R100,000.00 received from CHASA, our bank balance after 1 March 2023 was much more positive. The monies advanced for CITES Cop19 by NATSHOOT, which was paid back into the SUCo-SA account after CoP19, was graciously also donated to SUCo-SA. This brought our balance in books on 11 May 2023, to R260,529.77.
- 7.6 The membership fee structure for 2023 was kept as was agreed upon on 1 March 2022 at the SUCo-SA AGM, and remains as follows:
As from 1 January 2022 annual membership will be R10 000 per member, with the following exceptions:
- i. Member associations with annual membership revenue between R500,000.00 and R1,000,000.00; membership fees set at R5,000.00 per annum
 - ii. Member associations with annual membership revenue between R200,000.00 and R500,000.00; membership fees set at R2,500.00 per annum

- iii. Member associations with annual membership revenue of less than R200.00.00; membership fees set at R1,000.00 per annum
- 7.7 Sincere appreciation is extended to Robert for hard and meticulous diligent work in getting SUCo registered as NPC and as PBO with SARS. Also, for the technical and frequently frustrating work of getting the SUCo business account linked up with Netcash so that the donorship programme initiated by Stephen can function seamlessly (last mentioned was not an easy task).
- 8. APPRECIATION FOR WORK IN NAME OF SUCo-SA**
- 8.1 It remains my responsibility to extend a sincere word of appreciation for hard and diligent work done by members of the Exco in name of SUCo which spanned the time from 1 March 2022 to today, 13 May 2023. Work in this period, *inter alia*, consisted of no less than 27 zoom-meetings, frequently to Exco members' ire, after 17:00, and four physical meetings. Exco members are also in constant contact and conversation on a WhatsApp group on a daily basis via.
- 8.2 In this context we have to extend a sincere word of appreciation to Stephen Palos (CHASA), Dries van Coller (PHASA), Richard York (WRSA), Ron Thomson (TGA), Trevor Oertel (SAFA) and Pieter Swart (SATTA), for continuously being there when needed and constantly doing work in name of SUCo. Working after hours has been a common occurrence. A big thank you to each and every one of you gentlemen !
- 8.3 One can also not neglect to specifically mention the contributions to the work of SUCo, and the leadership role fulfilled by Gerhard Heyneke (WRSA), Pieter Potgieter (PHASA), and Barry York (PHASA). Contributions made without question when asked to assist in any matter. Thank you Gerhard, Pieter and Barry !
- 8.4 A sincere word of appreciation must be extended to Annie Sprag for her quality work pertaining to creating and maintaining the SUCo website and Facebook page and for other delicate graphic work done with diligence and no question (and more often than not on very short notice). Thank you Annie !
- 8.5 We cannot neglect to also thank Antonie Meiring (PASA) for the massive contribution he has made in sharing his extensive knowledge and experience of CITES function and inner workings. Thank you Antonie for sharing without question and for your continued unwavering support for the SUCo cause.
- 8.6 A special word of appreciation must also be extended to Deon Furstenburg for the outstanding scientific base he brings to SUCo. Thank you, Deon, for sharing your wealth of knowledge and experience to our benefit. We can probably never say

thank you enough in monetary terms for your outstanding work and diligence in tirelessly furthering our collective cause

- 8.7 A special word of appreciation also to Susan Swart (SATTA) for her extensive contribution in facilitation of much needed administrator assistance in taking minutes and arranging this AGM without “missing a step” (and for all arrangements for our CoP19 delegation – no mean task). Thank you, Susan, for outstanding work and for the fact that I in person, could “misuse” your capacity and “oversize” abilities, to the extent you have allowed me to do.
- 8.8 To all SUCo members I extend a sincere word of appreciation for diligently and continuously supporting the SUCo ideal and common cause on all levels of their respective association’s engagements. Working for a cause is not the general norm these days. I say as I said last year: with you all by my side I will at any time go to any war (in the real Irish context of “shoulder to shoulder”).

In Sincere Appreciation.



Dr Herman Els

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