



WRSA NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

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GYS PITZER MOTORING ... DRIVING THE WILDLIFE INDUSTRY

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WRSA CELEBRATED: 20 YEARS OF GROWTH AND LEGACY

17 MARCH 2026

Founded 20 years ago, WRSA celebrated the occasion with founding members and former Board of Directors (BOD) members, thanking them for all they have done to shape and grow the industry.

WRSA is built on the shoulders of giants. As we stand on those shoulders—reflecting on the past and looking to the future—we recognise that, thanks to your vision, our future is bright.



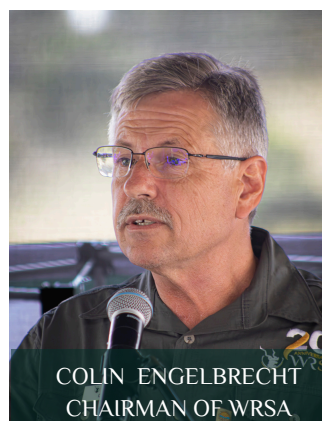
A FEW FORMER LEADERS OF WRSA ARE (FROM LEFT): BORRIE ERASMUS, PEET KOEN, DR GERT DRY, JACQUES MALAN AND COERT STEYNBERG.



RICHARD YORK, CEO OF WRSA



BORRIE ERASMUS FOUNDING CHAIRPERSON OF WRSA



COLIN ENGELBRECHT
CHAIRMAN OF WRSA



NATALIE GOUWS AND KGOMOTSO MAPHAI WRSA MARKETING DIRECTOR

FOR MORE PHOTOS,
CLICK [HERE](#).

FREE STATE: AMANZI INFORMATION DAY FOCUSES ON BIOSECURITY AND ANIMAL DISEASE

10 MARCH 2026 | AMANZI PRIVATE GAME RESERVE, FREE STATE

Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA) hosted an information day at Amanzi Private Game Reserve, bringing together stakeholders, experts, and students for a day of knowledge sharing and engagement. WRSA CEO Richard York provided an update on the organisation's ongoing initiatives, emphasising the importance of industry collaboration and long-term sustainability.

Nick Serfontein, chairman of the Sernick Group, addressed attendees on the current state of agriculture in South Africa, highlighting both the challenges and opportunities facing the sector. He spoke about the resilience and determination of South African farmers, emphasising their courage in navigating an increasingly complex and uncertain environment. Serfontein noted that while agriculture remains a critical pillar of the country's economy and a key factor in food security, many farmers continue to operate under significant pressure, often feeling as though they are standing alone in the face of these challenges. Despite this, their commitment and perseverance remain a driving force behind the sector's continued growth and sustainability.

Dr. Cornelis Pauw, Technical Veterinarian at Afrivet, delivered a key presentation on biosecurity in relation to FMD. He outlined the core pillars of biosecurity, emphasising strict implementation to prevent disease outbreaks. Students from Landboukollege Vrystaat (LBKV) also attended, contributing to a dynamic environment of learning and discussion across the wildlife and agricultural sectors.



RICHARD YORK



NICK SERFONTEIN AND JOHAN SERFONTEIN



DR CORNELIS PAUW, ANKIE STROEBEL AND JOHAN SERFONTEIN



GYS PITZER MOTORING ... DRIVING THE WILDLIFE INDUSTRY



NORTHERN CAPE INFORMATION DAY HIGHLIGHTS INDUSTRY CHALLENGES

11 MARCH 2026 | MATTANU GAME RESERVE, NORTHERN CAPE

At the WRSA Northern Cape Information Day, key industry leaders addressed wildlife ranchers on pressing issues affecting the sector. Jacques Kriek, Provincial Chairman of WRSA Northern Cape, welcomed attendees and stressed the importance of collaboration and information sharing within the wildlife industry.

Wiaan van der Linde, former WRSA President and current vice president of the Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA), provided insight into the state of hunting safaris. He highlighted its critical role in generating income for wildlife ranchers, which supports tourism and the broader economy.

He believes that a major challenge facing the sector is the lack of standardised pricing for safari hunting. According to van der Linde, inconsistent pricing structures can confuse international clients, leading to lost revenue and reduced competitiveness. He also pointed out the growing risk of international competition, particularly from regions such as Texas in the United States, where similar game species are bred and marketed.

Dr JP Cilliers, a State Veterinarian from Kimberley, addressed the impact of FMD on wildlife, specifically buffalo. He discussed the disease and explained the huge risk FMD poses to disease-free buffalo herds and how ranchers can improve their biosecurity. With vaccination not permitted in buffalo, Dr Cilliers stressed that prevention through strict biosecurity and controlled animal movement remains the most effective strategy.

Richard York further highlighted WRSA's role in supporting the industry and emphasised the importance of educating the next generation. He also introduced a Political, Economic, Social, and Technological factors (PEST) analysis for the industry as a strategic tool to help wildlife ranchers navigate challenges across all five pillars of South African wildlife ranching, which include mixed farming, products, hunting, breeding, and ecotourism.



JACQUES KRIEK, CHAIRMAN OF WRSA NORTHERN CAPE, DR JP CILLIERS, A STATE-VETERINARIAN FROM KIMBERLEY AND RICHARD YORK.



DR JOHAN KRIEK, OWNER OF MATTANU GAME RESERVE, WIAAN VAN DER LINDE, FORMER WRSA PRESIDENT, JACQUES KRIEK, PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN OF WRSA NORTHERN CAPE AND RICHARD YORK.

ANNUAL INDUSTRY MEETING REFLECTS SECTOR GROWTH AND STABILITY

12 MARCH 2026 | BEDFORD CLUB

The annual industry meeting was held in Bedford and co-hosted by WRSA, the Eastern Cape Game Management Association (ECGMA), the Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA), the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency, the South Eastern Cape Sectors Communication Forum (SECSICOM), the Wildlife Industry Transformation Forum, the Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC), Custodians of Professional Hunting and Conservation, Amatola Hunters, Agri Eastern Cape, and the Eastern Cape Conservancies Management Association.

Johan du Toit, CEO of African Wildlife Auctions, spoke about the strong growth of the wildlife industry since 2020. He said the industry's post-COVID recovery had largely been completed by 2023. The following served as a year of consolidation and reset, while 2025 marked a structural shift, with quality animals and superior genetics being repriced.

He noted that the scarcity of mature animals has intensified bidding pressure, contributing to a compound annual growth rate of 34.63% in auction values over the past five years.

Dr Gary Bauer, a member of the Ministerial Task Team on FMD, emphasised the importance of coordinated action, biosecurity, and collaboration as the country continues to manage the disease.

With the recent successful delisting of the Bontebok from CITES Appendix II, it was an honour for WRSA to recognise those who had the vision to begin this process many years ago. Noel Ross was one such key individual. His pioneering vision for the Bontebok played an instrumental role in achieving this important milestone.

It was a privilege to listen to Ross with the support of Walter and Jenny Currie, as they told the audience about the history behind the work that was done and to acknowledge a true stalwart of our industry for his commitment and tireless efforts.



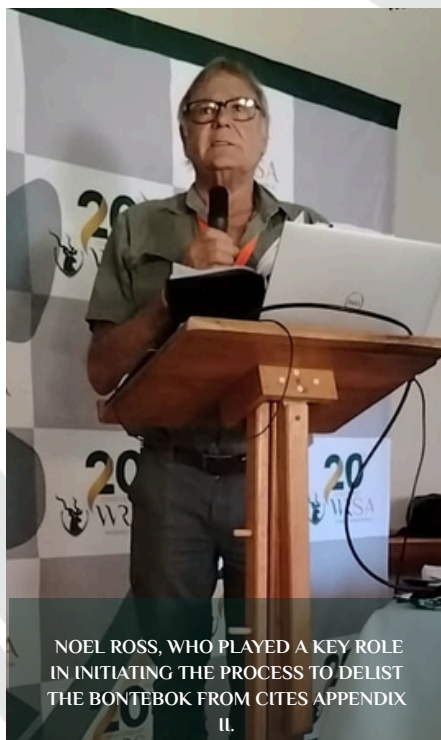
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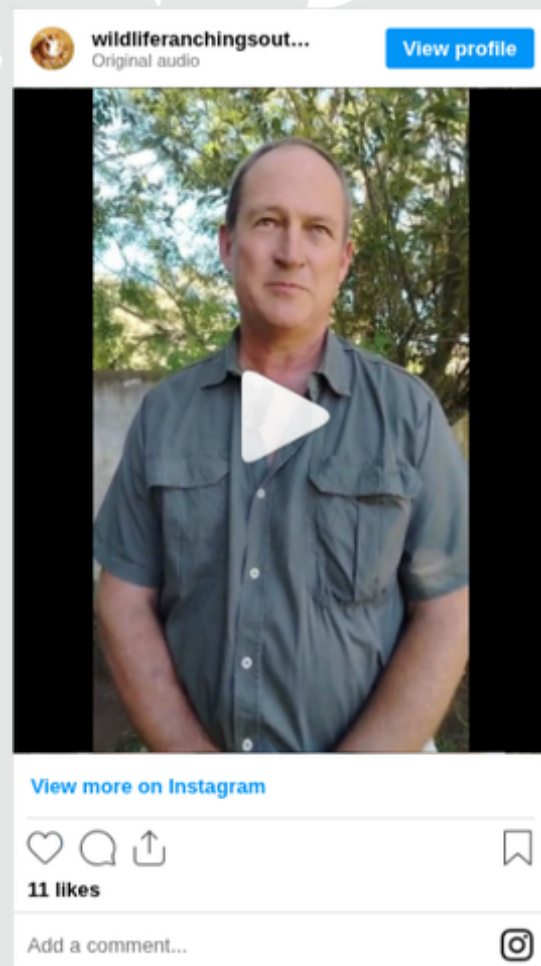
DR. GARY BAUER, A WILDLIFE SPECIALIST VETERINARIAN, AND RICHARD YORK.



JOHAN DU TOIT, CEO OF AFRICAN WILDLIFE AUCTIONS



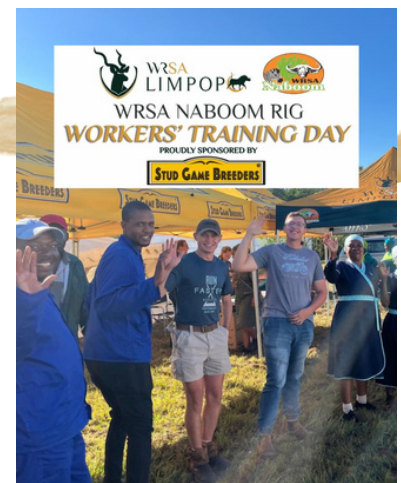
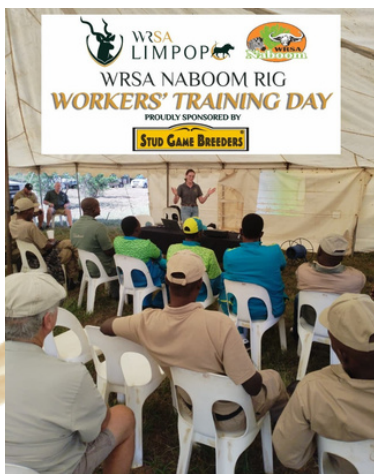
NOEL ROSS, WHO PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN INITIATING THE PROCESS TO DELIST THE BONTBOK FROM CITES APPENDIX II.



WRSA INVESTS IN SKILLS AND THE FUTURE OF THE INDUSTRY

18 MARCH 2026

On 18 March, the WRSA team attended the Naboomspruit Workers' Day Training Event. It was inspirational to witness the enthusiasm of those attending and their desire to learn new skills. With FMD protocols carefully in place, the focus of the day remained clear— sharing practical skills, building knowledge, and supporting the people who form the backbone of the industry. Training sessions covered a wide range of essential, hands-on skills, including hunting etiquette and capping, basic welding (steel work), FMD and broader biosecurity measures, as well as fundamental food service health and safety practices. The event highlighted the importance of continuous learning and hands-on training, ensuring that those working within the sector are equipped to navigate both current challenges and future opportunities. WRSA would like to thank Stud Game Breeders for sponsoring the event.



STRONG MOMENTUM AT BONA BONA WILDLIFE PLATINUM

AUCTION

21 MARCH 2026 | DIE OLIFANT VENUE



The WRSA and the WRSA Foundation had the privilege of attending the Bona Bona Wildlife Platinum Auction, an exceptional event that truly showcased the strength and potential of our industry.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Ernst family for their warm hospitality and generous ongoing support of WRSA. Their commitment continues to play a meaningful role in advancing the wildlife sector.

While the Super 9 auction lots drew significant attention, the true highlight was the extraordinary quality of animals on offer across the board. The auction truly featured the best of the best wildlife available, which was clearly reflected in the impressive total turnover of nearly R60 million across both the live and silent auctions.

It was truly inspiring to witness the renewed energy within the industry, as well as the passion and dedication of wildlife ranchers from across the country who invested in our sectors future.



INDUSTRY UPDATE: CHASA BOARD MEETING 2026

20 TO 22 FEBRUARY 2026

Richard York attended the first 2026 CHASA Board Meeting, held from 20 to 22 February 2026 at Haga Haga Beach Hotel in the Eastern Cape. The meeting was hosted by the Amatola Hunters & Conservation Association, whom we thank for their warm hospitality and for hosting such a well-organised event.

CHASA continues to play an instrumental role in supporting and advocating for sustainable use. It is indeed an honour for WRSA to be part of CHASA and to work alongside its dynamic member associations across the country.

The event was a resounding success. We also extend our appreciation to Dr Gary Bauer, former president of CHASA, who addressed delegates on FMD and outlined the correct procedures for hunters to help minimise its spread.

INDUSTRY UPDATE: TOURISM PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE MEETING

24 FEBRUARY 2026

South Africa's tourism sector has officially moved beyond its COVID-19 recovery phase, with more than 10 million international visitors recorded in 2025—3% higher than 2019 levels. This milestone was highlighted at the National Tourism Stakeholder Forum (NTSF) held in Sandton on 26 February.

Tourism spending reached approximately R102 billion, reflecting an 11% increase from 2024 and sitting 25% above 2019 levels. Visitors are also staying longer, with an average stay of 15 nights.

WRSA was represented by Sarah Forsyth, who, on behalf of WRSA, serves on the Tourism Business Council of South Africa (TBCSA) Board, and Ilzaan Muller, WRSA journalist.

For more information on the day, click [here](#).



INDUSTRY NOTICE: NEW LIMPOPO HUNTING SEASON REGULATIONS MAY IMPACT WILDLIFE SECTOR

13 MARCH 2026

On 13 March 2026, the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) announced the open season and catching of wild and alien animals in a Provincial Government Gazette in terms of the Limpopo Environmental Management Act (Act 7 of 2003). This communication was circulated to WRSA members.

These regulations outline the approved hunting seasons, bag limits, and conditions applicable to various species across specified districts and farms. The notice is important for the management and sustainable use of wildlife and may have implications for the wildlife ranching sector. [Read more](#)



INDUSTRY NOTICE: EASTERN CAPE HUNTING REGULATIONS

16 MARCH 2026

An announcement was made on 16 March 2026 through the publication of a Provincial Government Gazette by the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism regarding hunting seasons, bag limits, and permit requirements in terms of the Nature and Environmental Conservation Ordinance (Ordinance 19 of 1974). [Read more.](#)



PMSA
NEWSLETTER

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
SEND US YOUR STORIES
MEDIADSK@WRSA.CO.ZA

Upcoming Events

11/04/2026: Kriek Wildlife Group Auction

13/04/2026: Kriek Wildlife Services & WIRU Timed Auction

14/04/2026: Naboom & Ellisras Career Orientation

18/04/2026: Signature Wildlife Auction

24–27/04/2026: HUNTEX

28/04/2026: Benchmark Game Breeders Trophy & Hunt Timed Auction

01-03/05/2026: Vuur & Agri Fees

02/05/2026: Kalahari Genetics Auction

05-06/05/2026: Sekgweng Auction – Steenbokpan

12-16/05/2026: NAMPO

15/05/2026: Robedi Safaris & Friends Live Online Auction

23/05/2026: Valley Venture Stud & Friends Auction

05/06/2026: Bloodline Africa Auction

13/06/2026: WIRU Wildlife Services Timed Auction

08/07/2026: Naboom RIG day Romaco

18/07/2026: Wildlife Legacy Live Online Auction

25/07/2026: WIRU Wildlife Services Timed Auction

01/08/2026: Classic Game Breeders Auction

01/08/2026: Jag en Wildskou

15/08/2026: Benchmark Game Breeders Auction

22/08/2026: Pymat Game Breeders Auction

05/09/2026: Stud Game Breeders Auction

12/09/2026: Kroon Stud Wild Auction

14/09/2026: Kroon Stud Wild & WIRU Timed Auction

19/09/2026: Thaba Tholo Auction

IF WE MISSED YOUR EVENT, PLEASE CONTACT US
[MEDIADSK@WRSA.CO.ZA](mailto:MEDIADESK@WRSA.CO.ZA)



CONFERENCE, AGM, GALA DINNER, AWARDS CEREMONY
& FUNDRAISING AUCTION

Save the Date

Date

Saturday, 17 October 2026

Time

08:00 - 23:00

Venue

CSIR

Meiring Naudé Road, Lynnwood, Pretoria

AUCTION DATE UPDATE

WRSa sincerely thanks Jacques and Louis Malan of Lumarie for rescheduling their Lumarie & Friends auction to avoid a clash with the WRSa Conference, AGM, and Awards Evening.

Their cooperation and ongoing support of the industry are greatly appreciated. The Lumarie & Friends auction will now take place on 24 October 2026.

Lumarie & Friends
Home of Superior 50"+ Ankoles
Genetics available 24 October 2026
on Lumarie & Friends Premiere Auction

Pedigree
51 1/8"
6y 11m

Kilimanjaro
50"
5y 4m

Emperor
50"
7y

One of these 50" bulls
on Auction

Jacques Malan *Louis Malan*
082 551 9038 082 379 8776

[CLICK HERE](#)

Free copy of Wildland magazine !

WILDLAND
FIRST FOR THE HUNTER | ERSTE VIR DIE JAGTER

FMD WEBINAR RECORDING NOW AVAILABLE

9 MARCH 2026

In case members missed Dr Gary Bauer's YouTube video on FMD, here is a [link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuraKPpPVyo). The focus was specifically on FMD's impact on local South African hunters and the broader wildlife and livestock industries. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuraKPpPVyo>

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ANNOUNCES CITES NDF FOR CERTAIN SPECIES...

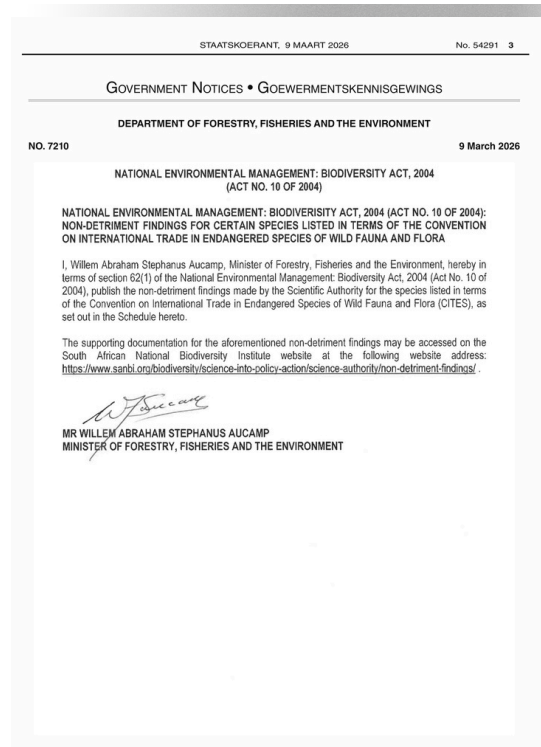
9 MARCH 2026

As published on 9 March 2026 in Government Gazette No. 54291, Notice No. 7210, the WRSA notes the Department's publication of Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) for certain species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The Gazette includes over 1,164 species, comprising 40 complex NDFs and 1,124 simplified assessments

These findings are important for the management and sustainable use of listed species and may have implications for the wildlife ranching sector.

Members who wish to submit comments are encouraged to do so by contacting info@wrsa.co.za.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Yejlyl-phHNKcjuh4QmvOw3Pjy9tDzV9/view?usp=sharing>



GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT: CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR SHORT-TERM RENTALS

13 MARCH 2026

An important notice was published in the [Government Gazette](#) (No. 54320, 13 March 2026) by the Department of Tourism, inviting public comment on a proposed Code of Good Practice for short-term rentals in the tourism sector. The Code sets out guidelines for responsible conduct across the short-term rental industry, including hosts, guests, and accommodation platforms. It aims to promote ethical, lawful, and transparent operations, while supporting a safe and positive experience for both visitors and local communities.

Key focus areas include responsible hosting practices, guest behaviour, compliance with legal and municipal requirements, and the importance of health and safety standards. The Code also emphasises the role of platforms in supporting compliance, communication, and data protection. The initiative forms part of broader efforts to ensure that the growth of short-term rentals contributes to sustainable tourism, economic development, and community well-being. Members of the public and industry stakeholders have been invited to submit written comments within 60 days of publication.

WRSA will continue to monitor developments and assess any potential implications for the wildlife and tourism sectors.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fvrymKjRTeuqxbXUTXJUgo9XzW8ZCFkW/view?usp=sharing>