



WRSA NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

CONTENTS

COMMUNITY



2

- WRSA Year End Celebrations
- CK & WRSA Naboom Education Event
- Conservation Kids Leadership Weekend
- WRSA Mpumalanga RIG Day
- Kabelo Matsimbi Presents at NMU
- Agri SA Conference
- Sarah Forsyth Elected to TBCSA Board
- In Memoriam: Dr. Alwyn Venter, Anlo Ferreira & Angelo
- Wildlife Rancher of the Year on 'Groot Ontbyt'

ANIMAL HEALTH

8

- Northern Cape Disease Alert - Ghaap Plateau

INDUSTRY

9

- PMSA Newsletter
- SA Reaffirms Opposition to Ivory and Rhino Horn Trade

Derek Lewitton - The Brutal Rhino Horn Trade
EU Advocates for the Slaughter of Rhinos and
Protecting Criminal Syndicates

UPCOMING EVENTS

11

- Limpopo Brushpacking Workshop
- CITES COP20
- ...And many more!

POLICIES & LEGAL

12

- Government Gazette (No. 53485) - EC
NTCSA Substation & Powerline Planning
Basic Assessment Report for Seismic Surveys -
Public Comment

ADVERTISE WITH US!

**CONTACT MEMBERS@WRSA.CO.ZA FOR
2026 ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES!**

2025 WRSA CONFERENCE, AGM, GALA DINNER, AWARDS CEREMONY AND FUNDRAISING AUCTION

18 OCT '25

The 2025 WRSA Year-End Celebrations brought members, partners, and industry leaders together for a weekend that reflected the strength and spirit of South Africa's wildlife ranching community.

The festivities began with the **WRSA Conference**, where delegates gained valuable insights from a lineup of respected speakers. Prof. Peet van der Merwe unpacked his research on the R44 billion wildlife economy and its continued growth; Dr. Louis Greeff explored homeopathic medicine in wildlife veterinary care; JP Smith from Wildswinkel shared expert guidance on marketing and industry trends; and Johan du Toit, CEO of AWA, provided an in-depth look at auction statistics and future projections for the sector. The conference set the tone for innovation and collaboration across the industry.

The **WRSA Annual General Meeting** followed, offering a moment to reflect on progress and recognise dedication within the organisation. Addresses from CEO Richard York, Chairman Colin Engelbrecht, and Robert Young from Robeli highlighted WRSA's achievements and vision for the year ahead. Members celebrated 20 years of membership with Hannes Maree, honoured Dedicated Service Award recipients, and paid tribute to Ankie Stroebel for her many years of loyal service ahead of her 2026 retirement. As Colin noted in his address, WRSA is its members - the foundation of everything the organisation stands for.

The celebrations concluded with the **WRSA Gala Dinner, Awards Ceremony, and Fundraising Auction**, a black-tie evening themed "Echoes of Africa." The night shimmered with elegance and purpose as members gathered to recognise excellence, raise vital funds, and toast to the future of the wildlife ranching industry. WRSA extends our gratitude to all sponsors and donors for their generosity and continued support, your contributions make our mission possible.



Photo: Chris Burger receives the 2025 WRSA Wildlife Rancher of the Year Award.



WRSA
WILDLIFE RANCHING SA



WRSA NABOOM RIG AND CONSERVATION KIDS AT MODIMOLLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

2 OCT '25

The WRSA Naboom RIG, together with Conservation Kids, hosted an inspiring day at Modimolle Christian Academy on 2 October 2025; teaching the next generation the value of nature and conservation.

From learning about the mighty Spekboom (*Portulacaria afra*), a South African carbon-absorbing superhero, to experiencing a snake demonstration that taught respect and safety around our slithering friends, it was a day filled with curiosity, learning, and fun!

A big thank you to the WRSA Naboom RIG and Conservation Kids for nurturing a love for wildlife and empowering the conservationists of tomorrow.



Photo: Ronel Olivier, WRSA Naboom RIG Member



SAVE THE DATE for our 2026 AUCTION!

01
AUG



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CONSERVATION KIDS LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

6 SEPT '25

Conservation Kids held a successful Leadership Weekend where the 2025 activities were reviewed and the 2026 calendar was planned. All the leaders came prepared and made meaningful contribution to discussions had. We are happy to see them growing as individuals.



WRSA MPUMALANGA RIG DAY

8 OCT '25

[READ GARTH'S
PRESENTATION HERE](#)

On 8 October, the Mpumalanga wildlife ranching community came together at Corn & Cob for an insightful RIG Day.

The programme was packed with valuable discussions, from building a credible brand in the wildlife industry to the critical role of feeding, preventing game theft, and an update on the status quo of WRSA. These conversations reflect the strength and resilience of our industry, driven by shared knowledge and collaboration. A heartfelt thank you to the WRSA Mpumalanga RIG, our incredible sponsors, and especially to Sareta Schütte for her generous financial contribution and tireless support in making the day a success. Together, we're building the future of wildlife ranching in Mpumalanga and beyond.



Photo: Sareta Schütte, WRSA Mpumalanga RIG Chair



Photo: Garth Saunders, Owner of Batiki Game & 2024 WRSA Wildlife Rancher of the Year

KABELO MATSIMBI PRESENTS AT NMU - SHAPING THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE USE

12 OCT '25

WRSA proudly celebrates the impact of our young member, Kabelo Matsimbi, who delivered a powerful presentation at the annual Nelson Mandela University Agricultural and Game Seminar.

Speaking to the next generation of agricultural and wildlife professionals, Kabelo highlighted the vital role of game ranching in driving both environmental sustainability and socio-economic growth within South Africa's rural communities.

"Diamond and gold are dug out of the belly of the earth, and we do not have control - but our wildlife is a natural resource that can be reproduced."

His message served as a reminder that Africa's wildlife economy holds immense, renewable potential, if nurtured through supportive policies and responsible management.



WRSA AT THE AGRI SA #ATLASCONGRESS2025

15 OCT '25

WRSA CEO Richard York attended and contributed to the prestigious AgriSA ATLAS Congress 2025 on 15 October 2025.

Key discussions focused on biosecurity and climate change, addressing how collective resilience and coordinated responses are essential to protect both wildlife and livestock industries.

Together with partners like Red Meat Industry Services, SAPPO, SAPA, WRSA and the Department of Agriculture, we're building: Stronger animal health systems, Reliable export standards and Farmer-driven resilience



CONGRATULATIONS TO SARAH FORSYTH FOR BEING ELECTED TO THE TBCSA BOARD

16 OCT '25

We are proud to announce that Sarah Forsyth, owner of Kedar Heritage Lodge, Conference Centre and Spa, has been elected to the Tourism Business Council of South Africa (TBCSA) Board, where she will represent Wildlife Ranching South Africa.

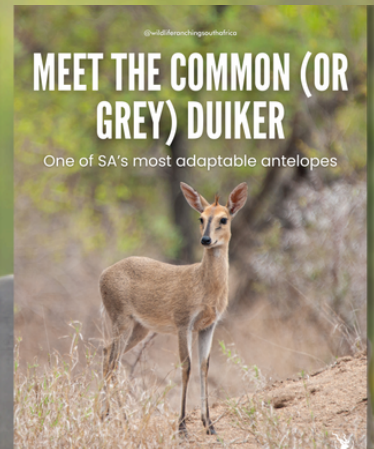
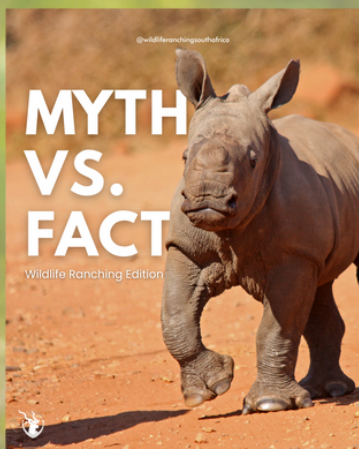
This appointment is a testament to Sarah's passion, leadership, and commitment to driving sustainable growth in South Africa's tourism and wildlife sectors.

The TBCSA plays a pivotal role in uniting the private tourism sector, engaging in national policy, and advancing economic opportunities.

We wish Sarah every success in this important leadership role and thank her for representing our sector with excellence and integrity.



HAVE YOU MISSED ANY OF OUR INFORMATIVE POSTS THIS MONTH?



IN MEMORIAM: DR. ALWYN VENTER, ANGELO ROBBERTSE AND ANLO FERREIRA

WRSA was deeply saddened to learn of the fatal accident near Daniëlskuil, Northern Cape, in which three individuals lost their lives: Dr Alwyn Venter, his assistant Angelo Robbertse, and the pilot Anlo Ferreira.

Their loss leaves an emptiness across the community. WRSA extends its heartfelt condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of Alwyn, Angelo and Anlo. We mourn together with you and honour their memory,

their service, and the legacy of care they leaves behind in our wildlife ranching sector. May they rest in peace, and may we carry forward their commitment to the conservation and responsible stewardship of our land and its wildlife.



Photo: Dr. Alwyn Venter and his assistant, Angelo Robbertse



Photo: Anlo Ferreira

HAVE YOU READ THE WRSA SEPTEMBER FEATURE ARTICLE?

THE TINY 10

South Africa's most elusive antelopes - biology, hunting challenge and rural economic benefits



[READ HERE!](#)



WILDLIFE RANCHER OF THE YEAR, CHRIS BURGER, FEATURES ON THE 'GROOT ONTBYT.'

31 OCT '25

WRSA is proud to share that Chris Burger, the 2025 Wildlife Rancher of the Year, was featured on Groot Ontbyt on Channel 147.

During his interview, Chris shared his journey, passion for wildlife ranching, and the dedication that earned him this prestigious title. We thank everyone who tuned in and showed their support for one of our industry's finest ambassadors.

WATCH HERE 



NORTHERN CAPE DISEASE ALERT - GHAAP PLATEAU

24 OCT '25

The Kimberley State Vet Office has confirmed an anthrax outbreak in the Ghaap Plateau region (Siyancuma District), affecting wildlife such as eland and kudu.

Members are urged to:

- Avoid handling or opening any dead animals.
- Ensure all livestock and wildlife are vaccinated against anthrax annually.
- Report any sudden animal deaths to your local vet immediately.

Anthrax is fatal to both animals and humans, so please exercise extreme caution and follow veterinary guidance.

See official communication from the Kimberley State Vet Office for full details.



agriculture, environmental affairs,
rural development and land reform
Department
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rural development and land reform
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

KIMBERLEY STATE VET OFFICE

224 du Toitspan Road, Kimberley, Northern Cape, South Africa, 8300, Tel: 087 630 0351.
E-mail: mgayakaya@daerl.co.za, web: www.agrinc.gov.za

Our Reference: Anthrax outbreak

Enquiries: Dr M Gayakaya

Your Reference:

Date: 24 October 2025

To: All farmers and individuals around the Ghaap Plateau

This communication serves to inform all farmers and individuals in the Ghaap Plateau region of Siyancuma District of the Northern Cape Province of a confirmed anthrax outbreak in the region. Currently, the outbreak has been detected in eland and kudu. However, anthrax affects cattle, sheep, goats, horses, donkeys, pigs, ostriches and wild game.

Anthrax is caused by a spore-forming bacterium, *Bacillus anthracis* and may result in sudden death in infected animals. Sometimes the dead animals have blood oozing from the nose, mouth and anus. Farmers and individuals are advised not to open such dead animals. The bacterium has the capacity to form spores which are resistant to many disinfectants when a carcass is opened and these spores are capable of surviving in the environment for several years.

Proper disposal of carcasses is encouraged. Traditionally, we encourage burial of carcasses in a 1.8m deep hole and cover with lime to discourage scavenging. We take note of the challenges in disposing the carcasses through burial given the hardness of digging in the Ghaap plateau. Burning the carcasses is also a great risk in starting wildfires.

Farmers are encouraged to vaccinate their animals against anthrax. Remedies registered for vaccination of anthrax are available at your nearest coop (Douglas, Kimberley). Farmers are reminded that the Animal Diseases Regulations require that all cattle be vaccinated against anthrax once every twelve (12) months. Farmers and individuals are also encouraged to report any animal deaths to their local private or state veterinarian.

It is also important to note that anthrax also **affect humans** and may result in death. The people handling carcasses must wear protective clothing. Individuals displaying suspicious signs such as flu-like symptoms, fever, fatigue or sores on the skin must report to the nearest health-care facility.

Kind regards

Mcdonald Gayakaya (Dr)



MEDIA STATEMENT : SOUTH AFRICA REAFFIRMS OPPOSITION TO IVORY AND RHINO HORN TRADE

31 AUG - 5 SEPT '25

Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA) notes with concern the recent statement by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) reaffirming the country's opposition to any reopening of the ivory and rhino horn trade. While WRSA supports the protection of our wildlife and condemns illegal trade and poaching in all forms, we are deeply disappointed that government continues to dismiss sustainable utilisation as a legitimate and science-based conservation strategy.

South Africa's wildlife ranchers have, for decades, demonstrated that responsible, regulated trade can drive species recovery, create rural employment, and fund conservation efforts that benefit both wildlife and people. The DFFE's stance disregards the economic realities and proven conservation successes of private wildlife custodians who invest daily in protecting these species.

[READ THE DFFE MEDIA STATEMENT HERE](#)

ARTICLES ON IMPORTANT INDUSTRY CHALLENGES

INSIDE THE BRUTAL RHINO HORN TRADE: DEREK LEWITTON'S STORY



[READ HERE](#)

EU ADVOCATES FOR THE SLAUGHTER OF RHINOS AND PROTECTING ANIMAL SYNDICATES



5. Cerecherian (Southern, Square, Biped Rhinoceros, Southern Rhinoceros)	Amend the annexation of the population of Cerecherian simian (Southern, Square, Biped Rhinoceros, Southern Rhinoceros) listed in Appendix II for the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade in:	5. Cerecherian (Southern, Square, Biped Rhinoceros, Southern Rhinoceros)	Amend the annexation of the population of Cerecherian simian (Southern, Square, Biped Rhinoceros, Southern Rhinoceros) listed in Appendix II for the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade in:	5. Cerecherian (Southern, Square, Biped Rhinoceros, Southern Rhinoceros)	Amend the annexation of the population of Cerecherian simian (Southern, Square, Biped Rhinoceros, Southern Rhinoceros) listed in Appendix II for the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade in:
a) live animals for in situ conservation only;	b) bearing trophies; and	c) trade in rhino horns	a) live animals for in situ conservation only;	b) bearing trophies; and	c) trade in rhino horns

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Upcoming Events

SATTA Conference
3-4 Nov, Ndlovu Lodge



Agri EC Chamber Meeting
11-13 Nov

PHASA Convention
14-15 Nov


Brush Packing Workshop
20 Nov, Limpopo

CITES COP20
24 Nov - 5 Dec, Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Contact Ankie at members@wrsa.co.za for any enquiries regarding upcoming events.

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PMSA NEWSLETTER!**



CALL FOR COMMENT: NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DECLARE CERTAIN PROPERTIES IN THE EASTERN CAPE AS A NEW NATIONAL PARK

8 OCT '25

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment has published Government Gazette (No. 53485, Notice 6717 of 8 October 2025) in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act for public consultation.

The notice concerns the proposed declaration of certain properties in the Eastern Cape Province as a new National Park, that will be named "Grassland National Park." This is a significant development that may impact landowners and wildlife ranchers in the region.

Members are encouraged to review the notice carefully and submit their comments to ensure that their interests are represented.

Comment deadline: 7 December 2025

Should you need assistance with drafting your submission, please contact John Hurter, the WRSA Eastern Cape Chairman at +27 (0)82 487 0348.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE](#)

NTCSA SUBSTATION & POWERLINE PLANNING (EC)

10 OCT '25

NTCSA is planning a new substation and loop-in/loop-out power lines near Makhanda, affecting areas within Makana, Blue Crane Route, Raymond Mhlaba and Ngqushwa Municipalities.

The Draft Environmental Screening Report is out for comment until 29 October 2025. It covers proposed alternative sites and corridors (A2, E, and others), with further realignments under review.

Please have a look at the documents and maps and share any comments, concerns, or suggestions before:

Date: 29 October 2025

For attention: Mrs Sonja van der Merwe

Email address: vandermerwes@jgafrika.com

[VIEW REPORT HERE](#)



WRSA EASTERN CAPE

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

THE NATIONAL TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF SOUTH AFRICA (NTCSA) IS IN THE PROCESS OF PLANNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW 400KV SUBSTATION AND ASSOCIATED LOOP-IN AND LOOP-OUT POWER LINES WITHIN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE TOWN OF MAKHANDA

CALL FOR COMMENT

PRIOR TO:

OCTOBER 29

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KAROO GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH PROJECT- CALL FOR COMMENT

21 OCT '25

A draft Basic Assessment Report for seismic surveys in parts of the Eastern and Northern Cape is open for public review until 17 November 2025.

Download the report below. Hardcopies are available at local libraries (Graaff-Reinet, Middelburg, Cradock, etc.).

Kindly submit written comments before the deadline. For any queries, contact Donovan Henning at donavanh@nemui.co.za or 082 891 0604.

[VIEW REPORT HERE](#)

WRSA EASTERN CAPE **WRSA NORTHERN CAPE**

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

KAROO GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH PROJECT: SEISMIC SURVEYS WITHIN THE SARAH BAARTMAN, CHRIS HANI & JOE GQABI DISTRICTS, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE AS WELL AS PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Request for comment **PRIOR TO:**

NOVEMBER 17

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WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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[MEDIA@WRSA.CO.ZA](mailto:media@wrsa.co.za)

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LEGAL GUIDANCE

Through a partnership with Pèter Wassenaar, of Kriek Wassenaar & Venter Inc (KWV), WRSA members can access a **complimentary consultation** for legal matters. In 2024 KWV assisted WRSA and our members with various matters including PAIA requests, permit disputes, legal challenges, and criminal charges.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTISE & ANIMAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Deon Furstenburg is available to support or to provide guidance on scientific research and environmental compliance matters, such as Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs). **Dr. Richard Burroughs**, a renowned veterinary expert, is available to assist with disease management and animal health concerns.

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

Representing members on important industry bodies including National Wildlife Forum, National Animal Health Forum, Predator Forum, various provincial forums and international forums such as CITES.

NATIONAL CO-OPERATION

WRSA is a proud member of the **Sustainable Use Coalition (SUCo-SA)**. WRSA works closely with like-minded interest groups, and is currently registered as a special interest group with CHASA.

PERMIT APPLICATIONS

WRSA has partnered with experts nationwide to assist members with **permit application requirements**. This initiative ensures members receive accurate guidance, up-to-date information, and support in following the correct application procedures, streamlining the process.

THERE'S MORE!

WRSA NEWSLETTER, BREAKING NEWS REPORTS, MEDIA REPRESENTATION, NATIONAL RIGS COMMUNITIES, FREE ACCESS TO WILDLAND MAGAZINE & THE WRSA JOURNAL.

For more info visit our website at wrsa.co.za or contact members@wrsa.co.za / +27 (0)82 441 1822