



PHASA Conservation & Empowerment Fund

HUNTERS CARE

2018 Conservation and Empowerment Fund Chairman's Report

Opening

The Conservation and Empowerment Fund's previous chairman said in his report, "2017 has been a difficult year and will most likely close as the most difficult year of PHASA's 40 years of existence". He obviously could not have predicted what lay ahead in 2018.

This has been a long year with many challenges. Personally, it was my first year on the PHASA Exco and then I won the lucky prize of becoming the Fund Chairman. As I was trying to assess the lay of the land, our fundraising contractor, Mrs Retha van der Merwe, resigned, leaving the board to take up the baton.

I wish to thank everyone on the board for their excellent work, as well as the ladies at the office and the PHASA Exco members who helped, regardless of whether they were on the board or not.

Our sincerest gratitude and thanks go to all our donors for their willingness to support this worthy cause. We will be awarding certificates to you as a small token of our appreciation. Without your continued support, the Fund could not continue its important role within PHASA and the communities around us.

Logo

We realised that the Fund did not have its own logo, as only the Hunters Care logo existed. Now, the Fund has designed its own logo with 'Hunters Care' as its slogan.

Fundraising

The Fund generates income through voluntary conservation contributions made by clients hunting with PHASA members and donations from a variety of sources, including our members, international and local affiliates, and corporate sponsors. Since its inception, the Fund has raised more than R16 million for worthy projects.

Without funds, we cannot support PHASA, our communities or our wildlife.

A few of our main income sources are:

1. *Voluntary contribution booklet*

This is probably the easiest way for the Fund to earn a sizeable income with minimum effort. You buy the booklets, each containing 50 certificates, at R1 500, and hand the certificates out to your clients, who pay 10 US dollars per animal hunted. You can then voluntarily pay the nett amounts collected over to the Fund, after deducting the cost of your booklet.

If only half of our PHASA outfitters (150 outfitters) each pay the amounts for 100 animals, we are looking at an income of R2.1 million.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE. It does not cost you anything and, from personal experience, I can assure you that clients gladly pay the requested amount.

2. *Online auction*

We received 37 donations of different plains game hunting packages that were put up for an online auction run by an international auction house. Only five were not sold. Many said we would fail, but we proved them wrong. In the pilot project, we had a gross turnover of R500 000 and nett income of R450 000. Our members were able to recruit new clients and South Africa as a preferred destination will be introduced to many new hunters and tourists. I would like to thank everyone who donated hunts and helped to make this possible. We will certainly do this again.

3. *PHASA gala auction*

We received R80 000 from donated hunts and physical items sold at the auction. This year's auction promises to be very exciting with huge potential for the Fund.

4. *Donations from individuals and companies*

These are people with whom we share a common goal, who donate cash or goods to be utilised for specific projects.

The Four Pillars of the Fund and its Projects

As many of you know, the Fund is based on four pillars: conservation, research, empowerment and social responsibility. I would like to share some of our projects of the past year where we lent a helping hand. Since the Fund lost its only paid employee, the decision was made to phase out smaller hands-on projects and rather focus on projects that were more manageable.

1. Conservation & 2. Research

Conservation and Research Fund

The Fund signed a MOU with Tshwane University of Technology at the beginning of August. There is currently a pilot programme on leopard running in the Magaliesberg, which will extend into the North West province because it is closer and more cost-effective for the research team to address challenges. They are currently gathering research data from other projects mainly carried out in protected areas, from where they can expand to unprotected areas. The current budget is around R465 000 per annum to keep the project running, excluding start-up costs of around R550 000 plus a vehicle.

Conservation Force

An international organisation with the main objectives of wildlife conservation, education and research. They receive an annual grant.

True Green Alliance

An organisation that protects and advocates sustainable utilisation of living resources (both wild and domestic) for the benefit of mankind; supports and embraces the animal welfare philosophy; and rejects the animal rights doctrine.

Lions to Angola

The immense value of the hunting industry as a guarantor of the future of Africa's premier predator, the lion, has once again been conclusively demonstrated by a reintroduction project run by member Tienie Bamberger of Warthog Safaris under the auspices of PHASA. Six lion cubs were airlifted to Angola where they will eventually be released into a large private wilderness area near the Bicuari

National Park in the Lubango region, which has become completely devoid of lions after decades of civil war. Now the king is poised to return. This introduction venture follows two similar projects initiated earlier in Limpopo. These proved to be very successful with the newly released lions thriving, hunting and procreating in large wilderness areas. This is once again proof that as long as the lion has value invested in it by the hunter, it will survive in Africa.

3. Empowerment

In our current political environment, empowerment is not a “nice to have, but a need to have”. We should embrace it and become involved, as we are currently doing.

What is empowerment? It is a multidimensional social process that helps people gain control over their own lives. It is a process that fosters power in people for use in their own lives, their communities and their society. This is exactly what we are trying to accomplish with the following projects:

Makuya Nature Reserve

The 13 800ha reserve is situated just south of the Pafuri Gate and shares a fenceless border with the Kruger National Park. We are very excited to be part of this community-based project and will help the reserve in an advisory capacity with furthering their sustainable utilisation policy and financial management. I want to express my sincere thanks to Esther Netshivongweni, who negotiated a donation of three buffalo, one nyala and one elephant to be auctioned off by PHASA at the gala dinner for the benefit of the Fund and the Makuya community, depending on the 2019 quota. I am asking you all to please support these auction items, in aid of hunting in a vast open area with the free-roaming Big 5.

Mozambique projects

Donations of maize meal, meat spices, used clothing and children's story books were received. The purpose is to teach the children English, so that they will be able to obtain good employment and not resort to poaching when they grow up.

Sanctuary of Hope

A few black ladies from the community are giving lessons on sewing, and making uniforms and school clothes for an income.

4. Social Responsibility

Abraham Kriel Children's Home, Nylstroom

This is a safe home to around 170 children and a project very close to my heart. The Fund and several of its members, as well as their clients, are very involved in donating meat, clothing, toys and money. Several of the older boys had the opportunity to hunt after undergoing a short hunters' training course and the meat went back to the children's home.

Angels projects

These projects were initiated to feed needy families at Hennopspark and Magalieskruin primary schools.

Dudley Rogers

Dudley Rodgers, a well-known Zimbabwean PH, was seriously ill in a South African hospital and needed a medivac back to Zimbabwe. We contributed towards making this happen.

Mel du Plessis

A very well-known and respected member needed urgent medical care, and through contributions by the Fund and our members, we could lessen the burden on them.

Munsieville project

In Munsieville squatter camp on the dumping ground outside Krugersdorp, there are some 297 adults and 129 children living, with numbers growing daily. We provided daily meals to the children. They normally do not have any food, electricity or running water at the squatter camp. The lunch we provide is usually a home-cooked meal with meat and vegetables, and we also provide the children with used clothing, school necessities and stationery.

Booyens Beertjies

This nursery school is in a very poor area of Pretoria and 100 toddlers attend the school daily. The Fund supplied them with porridge for breakfast, meat and vegetables for lunch, and used clothing. Since the school is closed during school holidays and many of these children depend on meals from school, we make up grocery hampers for the children to take home over the holidays.

Elandspoort Child Welfare

This is a welfare centre for the poor children of Danville and Elandspoort, where some 170 children come after school to do their homework and eat lunch. The Fund donates meat and vegetables for their lunches.

Kuierkidz

Some 35 autistic and other physically handicapped children come here to receive daily care, and we help them financially, as well as providing them with toiletries and cleaning materials.

Residence@work

This care centre looks after 30 physically handicapped and mentally disabled children, of which some are autistic. They do arts and crafts, which they try to sell to raise funds, but the children have limited abilities. We gave them a pottery oven, a sewing machine, cleaning products and materials to help them with their projects.

Kungwini Centre

Some 200 adults and 30 children who are physically impaired and/or have brain damage live at this centre. Many of these people need special care. They rely on government grants, which are not enough by any means. We donated meat, spices and vegetables to them.

House Eljada

We gave a donation of meat to this house in Booyens, where 39 poor families and homeless people can enjoy a meal once a day.

Gauteng Down Syndrome Organisation

In December 2017, we held a Christmas party for the organisation at the zoo, with 120 people attending. With the help of donors, we arranged transport, food, entrance fees and gifts.

The total contribution of professional hunting to community upliftment in South Africa has been significantly understated and PHASA's ability to give a full assessment of the industry's humanitarian impact has been hampered because of the diverse nature of its members' contributions.

In the midst of increasing criticism levelled at the hunting industry – taking place against a background of general misunderstanding of what the industry actually does, and how this benefits both conservation and empowerment, we as Outfitters and Professional Hunters are doing a great deal for the communities in and around the areas where we hunt, but we generally keep it to ourselves. I urge you again to send us photos and details of what you are doing, whether it is donating meat to the community, or your clients donating stationery to a local school. We want to know about it, so that we can share such information with the public to address the misconception that hunters are only there to kill. By sharing our social responsibility programmes with them, we can prove to them that 'Hunters Care'!

We make a living by what we get ... but we make a life by what we give.

– Winston Churchill

Fund Chairman

Pieter Potgieter