



Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa

Conservation and Empowerment Fund

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25 January 2019

Attention: The Fundraising Chairperson

CONSERVATION RESEARCH FUND – CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

Dear Sir

The Hunters in South Africa wish to hunt in a way that sustains life and livelihood of our heritage. However due to the lack of scientific data on all carnivores in the country, huge limitations are placed on the ability to legally hunt these animals in a manner that is sustainable and progressive.

It is now time for Hunters to acknowledge their responsibility and give back where they have harvested for so many years. The effort to sustain species has been gravely neglected and now is the time to ensure a bright future for all species. In going along with global opinion and trend, it is recognized that well informed decisions should be made based upon scientific data. As hunters, we have always relied on information available by Government, however it seems the inaccuracy of the data has made us fail to fulfil our duty.

Unfortunately, the Green Movements with different approaches and beliefs, have now started to occupy positions which were previously held by people who were pro legally hunting for sustainability. The negative effect of this has been experienced by Limpopo Hunters Liaison Forum and PHASA (Professional Hunters Association of South Africa) directly regarding Leopard especially, where no quota allocations have been given, for the last couple of years, due to a finding of Non-detrimental Leopard numbers in Limpopo Province and elsewhere. Upon request from Provincial conservation agencies, Panthera has researched the Leopard numbers and have claimed that they are declining. Hunters and landowners do not agree, since we know better. We are constantly and without pause present on tracks of land where the researchers had not even been, nor was it brought into their research.

The Conservation Research Fund (a leg of PHASA Conservation and Empowerment Fund) has once again taken the lead, creating a platform for interested and relevant stakeholders. The Hunters Care project provides unbiased scientific data to question and correct the current erroneous information available.

The PHASA Conservation and Empowerment Fund needs your financial support and commitment to participate in the research and assist in collecting data on all predator species, i.e. Leopard, Civet, African Wildcat, Badgers, Brown and Spotted Hyena, etc.

Responsible hunting for sustainable life and livelihoods



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This research project will have the following Study Objectives:

- Objective 1:** To establish a regional database of the population size, demographics and status of predators firstly in the Limpopo Province, extending then into the rest of South Africa.
- Objective 2:** Establish a regional Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based study to identify stratified density areas for predators inside and outside of protected areas in the Limpopo Province and all other Leopard habitats in South Africa.
- Objective 3:** Readdress the ecological role of predators inside protected areas.
- Objective 4:** Assess the sustainability of predator utilisation in South Africa.
- Objective 5:** Evaluate the socio-economic benefits from predator utilisation.

In order for the project to be viable, funds are required. Please consider donating a minimum of 5% of all South African Hunt Donations auctioned off and sold at annual fundraising projects to the Conservation Research Fund. Alternatively, an \$ 500 contribution from your chapter to the Conservation Research Fund will be very well received and valued. Additional Funding and equipment would also be highly appreciated. Continued support on a minimum of a 3 year basis would also be held in very high regard.

The type of equipment needed would include the following:

- Camera Traps (Trail cams)
- Camera Protective Cases
- Photo Storage Cards (Memory Cards) for Trail cams
- Rechargeable Camera Batteries
- Chargers for rechargeable camera batteries
- External Hard Drives
- Laptops

It is our task to educate our buyers and contributors to the fact that a Fundraiser is where you can show your dedication to the cause we all fight together as hunters and safari outfitters against the Animal Rights Activists. We, as hunters must continue to have the right to hunt wildlife in a sustainable legal manner, that way using a resource paying for itself and its own survival.

For the first time also citizen science will be acknowledged. Camera Trap photos (preferably with date stamps, time and coordinates), sightings recorded with cell phones or cameras, photo evidence of kills, tracks etc. can also be added onto www.catspotter.co.za as part of citizen science that will be utilized in the research project.

Payment options:

Credit card payments – Please contact our office at finance@phasa.co.za

Cheques could be made out to the Phasa Conservation and Empowerment Fund. Funds could also be sent electronically to the following account:

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PHASA CONSERVATION & EMPOWERMENT FUND

First National Bank

Branch code 261550

Account 62024778211

Swift FIRNZAJJ

Reference: CRF / Your business name

Please scan and e-mail the deposit slip to finance@phasa.co.za.

Your positive contribution will be well appreciated and accepted

Best regards

Phillip Bronkhorst

(Chair Person - Conservation Research Fund)

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