

WRSA NEWSLETTER NUUSBRIEF



JANUARY 2025

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**ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES
AND EDITORIAL CALENDAR!**

A Message From Our CEO

Dear WRSA Members and Industry Stakeholders,

As we welcome 2025, I wish you a year of success and new opportunities. The wildlife industry thrives on innovation, resilience, and collaboration, and WRSA is committed to driving progress for our members. With advancements like our world-class traceability system, Buffalo Analytics, and our wildlife herd management software, Wildlife Analytics powered by Gamelab, we are strengthening the industry through cutting-edge technology, scientific excellence, and proactive policy engagement.

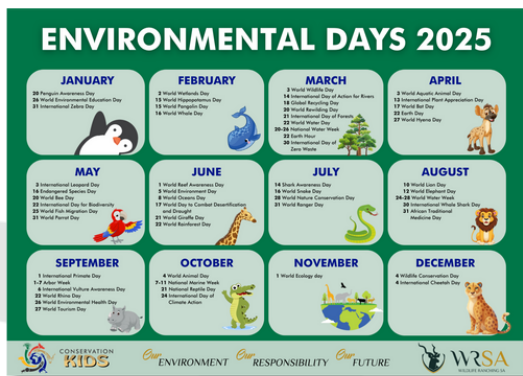
This year, we will continue to advocate for your right to do business, expand our partnerships, and support sustainable business growth. Education and youth engagement remain key priorities, with initiatives like Conservation Kids shaping the future of our industry. Our collaboration with South African National Parks highlights our commitment to fostering a stronger, more inclusive wildlife economy.

I am grateful to our dedicated members, partners, and the WRSA team for their passion and hard work. Your contributions make this industry truly extraordinary, and I am honoured to work alongside you. Here's to a year of innovation, collaboration, and success!



RICHARD YORK
CEO, WRSA

CONSERVATION KIDS' ENVIRONMENTAL DAYS CALENDAR!



DOWNLOAD YOURS
HERE!

JOB VACANCIES & INTERN AVAILABILITY

ASSISTANT FARM & MAINTENANCE MANAGER

Start Date: 1 March 2025

Employment Type: Full-time, On-site

EMAIL CV TO
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OR CALL 083 448 4696

INTERN AVAILABLE FOR INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY - HUSSEIN PHIRI

Diploma in Game Ranch Management (Nelson Mandela University)
Work Experience at Baviaanskloof Wildlife, DELI Spice Shop &
Blauwkranz Farm

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Meet the WRSA TEAM



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BUSINESS

WATCH THIS!
Scan the QR code or visit <https://doi.org/10.1080/17513758.2024.2320000> to watch the video: 'WOLF Back Through Rehabilitation Expansion Project'

LEARN MORE!
Scan the QR code or visit <https://www.buffalofsa.co.za>

WATCH THIS!
Scan the QR code or visit <https://doi.org/10.1080/17513758.2024.2320000> to watch the video: 'Sheep Buffalo Round'

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BREEDING

PREDATORS REWILDING

By Prof. Japie van der Walt
Photographs courtesy of Refilwele. Captioned to truly wild African lion in the wild.

Prof. Japie van der Walt
Affiliated Professor: Animal and Wildlife and Game and Game Management
Faculty: Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Professor Japie van der Walt embarked on his professional journey in 1975 at the then Agricultural Research Institute. In 1986, he earned a Ph.D. (Agric) in Animal Nutrition from the University of Stellenbosch. After transitioning to a profound interest in large African predators in 2005, he founded the African Large Predator Research Unit (ALPRU) at the University of the Free State in 2012. A co-founder of the Conservation Programme (CP) at the WRSA in 2014, he has made contributions that span decades, leading academics with a commitment to wildlife research.

Dr. Phil Bousquet's groundbreaking initiative to release captive-bred lion into a private game reserve in South Africa has defied traditional laws and reshaped our understanding of these majestic species. His journey, chronicled in his published PhD thesis, 'The introduction of captive bred African cheetahs into a private wildlife reserve in the Limpopo Province, South Africa', explores the release of lions into a private wildlife reserve in Limpopo Province, South Africa. This pioneering effort, documented in his book 'Reintroduction: Captive-bred to truly wild', is based on his PhD thesis, which delves into the integration of lion behaviour, his work, and scientific research into lion conservation and the reintroduction of lions into the wild. This is a challenging and rewarding endeavour.

Photo © WRS

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ON THE MOVE

Software transforms Testing Efficiency for Ranchers

In a significant stride towards improving wildlife management in South Africa, the buffalo industry is experiencing a wave of innovation aimed at streamlining the testing and movement of buffalo. These changes, under the leadership of Dr. David Pretorius, CEO of Motsum Darts, and driven by the collaboration between The Buffalo Company and Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA), aim to address long-standing challenges in disease management, regulatory processes and strained state veterinary resources. With the successful implementation of the Limpopo pilot project in May 2024 and the launch of the Buffalo Analytics traceability and management system, buffalo ranchers and veterinarians are witnessing a more efficient and reliable approach to managing buffalo movements and recording populations.

The Buffalo Company was established in 2022 in response to the challenges faced by buffalo ranchers across South Africa. Buffalo are a high-valued agricultural species, but they are also prone to diseases such as foot and mouth disease, brucellosis, Cryptosporidium and bovine tuberculosis.

These health risks require strict regulation of buffalo movement, but the existing testing and permit processes have been plagued by delays and bottlenecks. This is caused by the overburdening of state veterinarians who are legally required to present alongside a clinical veterinarian to perform the necessary identification, testing, official registration and issuing of permits to allow movement to take place.

The Limpopo Province, home to over 50% of South Africa's buffalo ranches, is particularly impacted. The colossal workload on state veterinarians previously led to slow processing times, frustrating ranchers who needed urgent movement permits and disease-free certification. It became a crisis to such an extent that the validity of test results of buffalo in- and out- of the province was questioned.

These measures are not just for protecting the health of animals and hence our economic interests for food safety in general but safeguarding human health, and environmental health.

Biosecurity is not just what comes through our gates, it's what we're responsible for crafting and implemented bio-

What is Biosecurity?
Biosecurity refers to the measures taken to prevent, detect and the introduction and spread of organisms (viruses, bacteria, such as ticks and flies, helminths as round worms, Botses and other alien and invasive plants such as the Indian Mynah, invasive mammals such as the black rat).

For MEMBERS By MEMBERS

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FMD FEEDBACK: ZIMBAWE LIFTS BAN

7 JAN '25



The Chief Director of the Zimbabwe Directorate of Veterinary Services, Dr Pious Makaya, has lifted the ban on the importation of cloven-hoofed animals and their products from the following South African provinces to Zimbabwe:

- Gauteng
- North West
- Northern Cape
- Western Cape

This decision was announced following recommendations in the FMD Risk Assessment Report compiled by laboratory experts.

Please note that no import permits will be issued for any of the other South African provinces, as they remain under restriction pending further assessments.

FMD AND VACCINATION: RPO PRESS RELEASE

22 JAN '25

The National Red Meat Producer's Organisation (RPO) has clarified misinformation regarding the availability of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccines for public purchase. Contrary to recent reports, FMD vaccination is strictly controlled by the National Department of Agriculture (NDA) as the disease is state-regulated under the Animal Diseases Act.

Vaccinations are only administered in designated outbreak areas and buffer zones, with strict movement controls in place for vaccinated and infected animals.

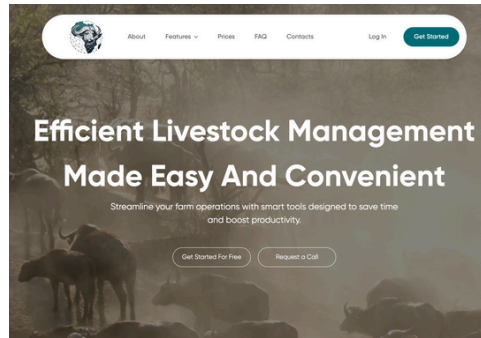
The RPO urges livestock producers to prioritize biosecurity, adhere to movement restrictions, and stay informed through official channels to mitigate the risk and impact of FMD outbreaks.


AFRIKAANS PRESS
RELEASE


ENGLISH PRESS RELEASE

BUFFALO ANALYTICS TRAINING DAY

22 JAN '25



We hosted our first Buffalo Analytics Workshop for over 80 wildlife ranchers!



A BIG thank you to Dr. David Pretorius and his team for training over 80 wildlife ranchers on using this groundbreaking software that will digitise their buffalo breeding operations and speed up their buffalo movements.

We'd also like to thank our generous sponsors, Kyron and Wildswinkel for making our aspirations for this day a reality!

GYS PITZER

MOTORING



TRADING QUALITY. GUARANTEED.

GROOT PLAAS INTERVIEW WITH CEO, RICHARD YORK, CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT'S CONTINUED ADMINISTRATIVE FAILURES IN THE SETTING OF HUNTING QUOTAS

24 JAN '25

WRSA issued a media release in December 2024 titled, "Administrative Failures Plague Department" in reaction to the legal proceedings against the DFFE, regarding their failure to set yearly hunting quotas.

In an overwhelming response from the media, WRSA CEO, Richard York, took part in an interview for Groot Plaas that aired on Kyknet on the 24th of January 2025.

GET THE FULL
INTERVIEW HERE



PRONTUIT INTERVIEW WITH DEON FURSTENBURG CONCERNING THE IMPACT OF ELEPHANT NUMBERS IN SA

23 JAN '25

In a Prontuit Interview discussion on elephant population management in South Africa, experts examined their role in biodiversity, human-wildlife conflict, and the impact of climate change on this contentious issue. The panel featured Dr. Bernard Coetzee from the University of Pretoria's Conservation Ecology Research Unit (CERU), ecologist Deon Furstenburg from Afri Wild Services, and Dr. Audrey Delsink from Humane Society International/Africa.



VIEW THE INTERVIEW
HERE



WRSA AT SCI CONVENTION IN NASHVILLE, USA

22-25 JAN '25

WRSA CEO, Richard York, proudly represented Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA) at the Safari Club International (SCI) Convention in Nashville, Tennessee this year from 22-25 January.

The SCI Convention is one of the world's largest gatherings of hunters, conservationists, and industry leaders. It's a hub of innovation, networking, and conservation-focused discussions that shape the future of sustainable wildlife management.

Richard had the incredible opportunity to share South Africa's expertise in wildlife ranching while also gaining valuable insights from international industry leaders. The knowledge and connections brought back will help strengthen and grow sustainable wildlife conservation efforts in SA.

WRSA also extends their deep gratitude for Quagga Safaris for making this opportunity a reality!

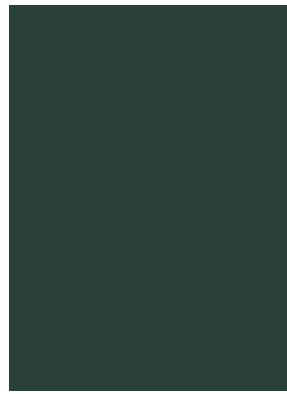


Photo: In honour of the Amy Bell Foundation



Photo: (From Left) Eon Kok, Erik Visser, Etienne Higgs, Richard York & Neil Steyn

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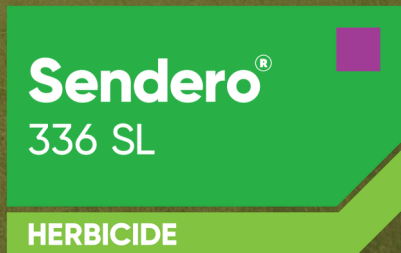
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Purchase Period:
1 September 2024 - 1 September 2025
T'c & C's Apply

Upcoming Events

CITES

1-8 February, Geneve



Africa Land Use Training

4-6 February, Modimolle

NWWT Golfdag

4 February, Mooinooi

CPD Training for Vets (Buffalo Company)

20-25 February

Musina RIG Day

25 February

Gravelotte RIG Day

26 February

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



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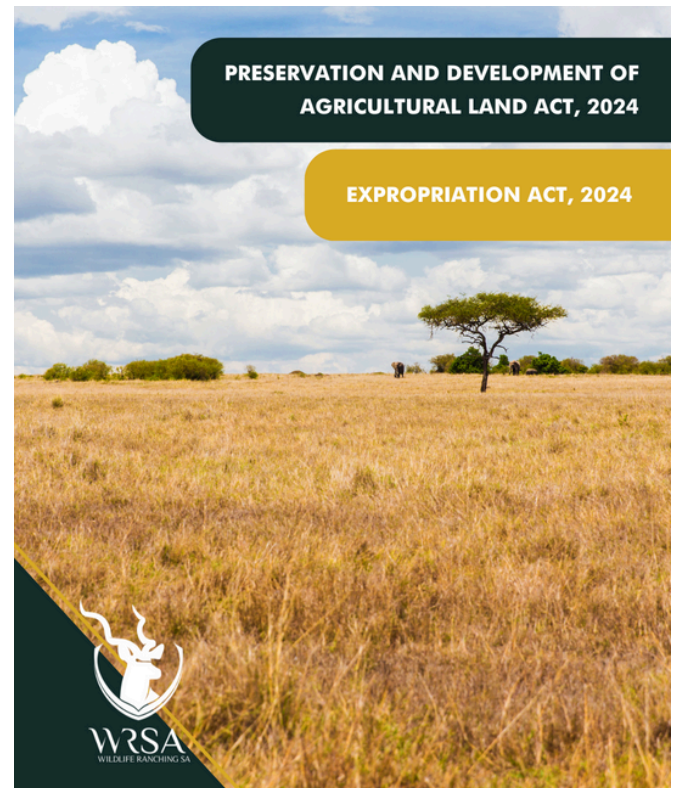
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NEW LEGISLATION AFFECTING WILDLIFE RANCHERS: EXPROPRIATION ACT, 2024 & PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL LAND ACT, 2024

5 DEC '24

Two new laws - the **Expropriation Act, 2024** and the **Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land Act, 2024** - could have major implications for wildlife ranchers. The Expropriation Act outlines conditions for land expropriation in the public interest, including cases where nil compensation may apply. The Agricultural Land Act seeks to protect high-value farmland, prevent fragmentation, and regulate land use, potentially impacting wildlife ranching operations.

WRSA is analysing these laws and engaging with various organisations to **protect members' right to private ownership and to do business**. We urge all members to review the attached legislation and stay informed. Further guidance will follow as we assess the full impact on the industry.



AGRICULTURAL LAND
ACT

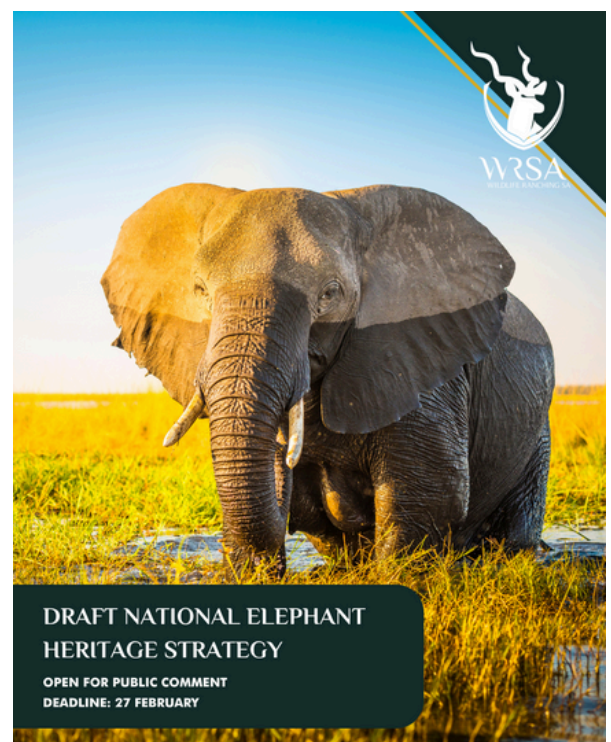
EXPROPRIATION ACT

HAVE YOUR SAY: DRAFT NATIONAL ELEPHANT HERITAGE STRATEGY

29 NOV '24

ACCESS THE DRAFT
STRATEGY HERE

The Draft National Elephant Heritage Strategy (2024-2034) is open for public comment and could impact elephant ownership, trade, hunting, and management on private reserves. While the strategy promotes conservation, socio-economic benefits, and community participation, it fails to address the ecological damage caused by elephant overpopulation or propose culling as a management tool. WRSA urges members to review the draft and submit feedback to ensure practical, science-based policies.



Deadline: 27 February 2025