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SAPS Hunting Association Accreditation Number: 1300018 | SAPS Sport Shooting Association Accreditation Number: 1300104  
NPO Registration Number: 241-187 NPO

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### CHASA Youth Introduce National Hunting Day

Hunting is severely criticized by anti-hunting and animal rights organizations, which, it can be argued, disheartens hunters from sharing their hunting experiences on social media and possibly even discourages young people from participating in hunting activities. To strengthen the argument for the sustainable use of our wildlife resources, hunting organizations need to stand together and effectively communicate the role of hunting in their essential contribution to conservation efforts.

The South African wildlife economy is growing at a fast pace. A report on the State of the Wildlife Economy in Africa indicates that the hunting industry is the most significant contributor to the South African Wildlife Economy, and 85% of this revenue contribution is from the domestic hunter (Snyman et al., 2021). This report also indicates that hunting, as a land-use option, encouraged landowners to invest in the maintenance and restoration (re-wilding) of natural habitats. Therefore, hunting serves as a valuable foundation to promote sustainable use as a conservation strategy in South Africa.

Among hunters, there are many reasons we hunt. However, according to a survey conducted by Madelaine du Plessis through Nelson Mandela University (2020), to profile the local hunter, acquiring meat and to be a part of nature topped the reasons among hunters in South Africa. These reasons can be viewed as more sustainable alternatives to sourcing food and enjoying nature, as hunting has a smaller footprint than ecotourism in terms of carbon emissions and infrastructure development (Di Minan et al., 2016).

Du Plessis (2020) indicated that only 17% of respondents were between 17 and 35 years of age. This suggests that only once hunters have the financial means to hunt, at a later stage of their careers, will they participate in hunting activities. However, this still raises concern about the under-representation of youth among local hunters. The lack of youth representation gave birth to a new portfolio within the Confederation of Hunting Associations of South Africa (CHASA) board. In February 2020, the Youth Development Committee was founded to connect and interact with youth in the hunting industry. Through this Youth Development Committee, the idea of National Hunting Day was established, which is to be celebrated on the first Saturday of May annually.





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CHASA is a federation of 23 hunting, and shooting affiliates across South Africa. CHASA's Vision is to represent the hunter in securing the freedom to hunt. Through the establishment of National Hunting Day, CHASA Youth aims to create positive awareness about hunting and celebrate the spirit of hunting, which will ensure our freedom to hunt as South Africans.

The Youth Development Committee recognized the need for our industry to stand together, embrace our differences and celebrate our achievements. It is time for us to appreciate our efforts towards conservation, our contribution to the wildlife economy, and sustainable livelihoods. Through National Hunting Day, we as hunters can stand together to protect our right and freedom to hunt.

**This day is created for the Hunters by the Hunters.**

Leigh-Ann Kant

CHASA Youth Development Committee

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