

**MINUTES OF THE TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SAFARI OPERATORS ASSOCIATION
HELD AT CHAPMAN GOLF CLUB ON THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2015, COMMENCING AT 08.00.**

PRESENT:

E. Fundira *Chairman*

J. Wright, National Safaris	M. McCallum, CMSafaris	C. Ndondo,
Afro Pride Safaris		
L.Muller, Pro-Safaris/ZPHGA	S. Ngwenya, Ngamo Safaris	M. Russell,
African Hun		
G.Rennie, The Hide	A. Kaschula, Gonarezhou Bush Camps	J. Varden,
Varden Safaris		
H.Gumpo, Tailormade	G. Connear, Nyerezi Safaris	S. Nicholle,
Rosslyn Safaris		
P. Johnstone, Rosslyn safaris	J. Johnstone, Rosslyn Safaris	I. Rutledge,
Dindingwe Safaris		
G. Whittall, Tredelk Safaris	W. Taylor, Zambezi Hunters	W. Van den
Bergh, Nyamazana Safaris		
J. Stander, Hurungwe Safaris	J. Charlton, CM Safaris	M.
Duckworth, Mokore Safaris		
A. Kaschula, Gonarezhou Bush Camps	S. Stead, Amalinda Collection	J. Turner,
Malilangwe		
K. Louw, Mwinilunga	K. Stidolph, Chirundu Safari Lodge	C. Ives,
Wilderness Hippo Pools		
A. Ives, Wilderness Hippo Pools,	K. Higgins, Changa Safaris	G. Seromwe,
Varden Safaris	W.Nhau, Wenhau Safaris	M.Saunders, Malilangwe
M. Harrup, Mana Pools Safari		
S.J. Millar, Natureways	S.Bechinotti, Hippo Pools	V.
Makamure, Stanley & Livingstone		

BY INVITATION:

Mr. Patrick Mavros Guest Speaker	Mr. S. Burger, President of PHASA	Mr. C.
Broomberg, EATSO		
Mr. T. Zimondi, EATSO	Mr. J. Boretsky, SCI	Mr. G.
Pangeti, SCI		
Mr. C. Jonga, Campfire	Dr. Rowan Martin, Consultant	Mr. P.
Lindsey, Panthera		
Mr. F. Ngwenya, President ZCT	Mr. A. Hunter, Chipitani	Mr. I.
Larivers, African Hunter Mag		
Mr. A. Williams, African Hunter Mag.	Mr. E. Chidziya, D-G ZPWMA	Ms.T.
Musonza ,Dir. Commercial		
Mr. G. Matipano, Hunting	Mr. L. Nyaguse , ZPWMA	Ms. O.
Mufute, Scientific		
Mr. P. November, Investigations	Mr. J. Nyasha ZPWMA	

APOLOGIES:

Mr. I. Harmer, African Wanderer	Mrs. Drummond, Drummond Ranching	Mr. G.
Hingeston, HHK Safaris		
Mrs. S. Harrup, Mana Pools Safari Co.	Mr. G. and Mr. C. Stockill, Senuko Lodge	Mr. J. Collett ,
Touch Africa Safaris		
Mr. A. Preston, Changa Camp	Mr. S. Ferreira, Goliath Safaris	Mr.D. Carson,
Kazuma Trails		
Mr. D. McFarland, Mwinilunga	Mr. D. Carson, Camp Hwange	Mr. N. Milne,
Bumi Hills		
Mr. N. Polinakis & B. Nhlovu, African Bush camps		Mr. R.
Goatley, Wilderness Safaris		

PROXIES:

Mr. G. Duckworth to Mrs. Duckworth Mr. Kaschula Mr. A. Preston to Mr. A. Kaschula Mr. A. Kaschula Bumi Hills Lodge to Mr. A. Kaschula Safaris to Mr. A. Kaschula	Mr. D. McFarland to Mr. K. Louw Mr. S. Ferreira to Mr. A. Kaschula Mr. N. Polenakis to Mr. A. Kaschula	Mr. I. Harmer to Mr. D. Carson to Wilderness
4.	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</u></p> <p>The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 21 November 2014, having been circulated were adopted. Proposed by L. Muller and seconded by G. Rennie.</p>	
5.	<p><u>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</u></p> <p>A copy of the speech is attached.</p> <p>The chairman welcomed Stan Burger, President of PHASA. A Minutes silence was observed for those who had died during the past year, Ian Gibson, Quinn Swales and Dr. Don Heath. Mr Heath being a well-known and long-standing figure in the wildlife and hunting industry.</p> <p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</u></p> <p>Mr. Muller enquired whether the appointment of a CEO had been agreed or was still to be discussed. In response it was advised that the Executive Committee members have the constitutional mandate to make changes in administrative aspects during the period between the two AGMs.</p> <p>The handicap is always costs but there are ideas and plans which will be considered by the incoming Committee for implementation.</p>	
6.	<p>There are resources available but these need tom be properly harnessed. For example DSC and SCI contribute significantly to other similar organizations and should be approached.</p> <p>The Chairman's Report was proposed for adoption by Mr. C. Ndondo and seconded by Mr. P. Johnstone.</p> <p><u>Z.C.T. REPORT</u></p> <p>Mr. Francis Ngwenya, President of ZCT, gave his report, which is attached hereto. <i>(This is awaited)</i></p> <p>Mr. Kaschula enquired why Operators applying for Vehicles Duty Free were required to be members of SOAZ. Mr. Ngwenya advised this was a requirement by Ministry of Finance because of abuses in the past where vehicles had been brought in and then used for non-tourism activities. In 2010 they tightened up the requirements to eliminate further abuse.</p>	
7/8		

9.	<p>ZCT had engaged ZIMBISA , an organization which funded a project to ascertain a reasonable VAT level for the industry.</p> <p>Regarding VAT most African countries are charged VAT at varying levels ranging from 2% - 15%. The EU VAT ranges from 2% - 20%. Those countries that have lowered their VAT experienced an increase in jobs. Most tourists shy away from a 15% increase in price, but do not mind 5%. ZCT are hoping to review the situation in discussion with Ministry of Finance.</p> <p>The Report was adopted, proposed by Mr. G. Rennie and Seconded by Mr. A. Kaschula.</p> <p><u>NATIONAL PARKS REPORT</u></p> <p>The Director-General, Mr. E. Chidziya, presented the Parks Report. A copy is attached.(<i>This is awaited</i>)</p> <p>Many of the items had been covered by the previous speakers.</p> <p>The Hunting Workshop, 22-23 June, had been attended by 60 delegates and covered three main areas:</p> <p>The Key Challenges Proposed Solutions Plans to implement the solutions.</p> <p>Regarding the 2016 Quotas current campaigns has resulted in the reduction of revenue to the Authority.</p> <p>There was a decline in the trophy quality in certain areas and it was necessary to reduce quotas in such areas.</p> <p>The weakening SA Rand, VAT, the Cecil aftermath, Fall in Tourism arrivals, Bans and Restrictions in Trade of Ivory and Rhino horn, and Poaching using dangerous mining chemicals, had all had a negative effect on wildlife.</p> <p>Self-policing was necessary as the Authority cannot be everywhere, and some of the measures introduced after Cecil are necessary to restore confidence in Zimbabwe.</p> <p>Parks hope to have approved Quotas before Christmas, in time for the marketing shows.</p> <p>Livingstone & Stanley raised the issue of their rejected application to move rhino as they were over populated and the males were fighting. There were 9 rhino on an area with a carrying capacity for 5. Originally they were to be sent to Matobo but that was cancelled. The original intention was to re-populate Sinamatella but due to challenges this was not done. Some were also to be moved from Imire. They are now considering sending some to Botswana.</p> <p>Mr. Johnstone asked for clarification on the requirement to have a Game Scout on every big game hunt. He suggested that after viewing some videos on photographic game drives showing animals being teased and attacking the vehicle, it should also be a requirement on photographic vehicles.</p>	
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10.	<p>Ms. Ngwenya supported this and asked for clarification of the rate to be charged. Bulawayo charged \$78 per day plus rations and transport and this increased the cost of a hunt extensively. She requested a reduction in the daily rate for a scout. Mr. Muller pointed out this would amount to \$1 000 for a ten day hunt. Most hunters have to carry the cost in order to compete. He asked how long this requirement would be in place.</p> <p>In addition there was the current ban on a 2 x 1 hunt, requiring each hunter to have a PH and a Game Scout. Often two friends, or father and son, or husband and wife, wanted to hunt together. The current requirement greatly increased the cost of a hunt.</p> <p>There was also the matter of applying for two areas on the same dates, so that a hunt could proceed smoothly from one area to another if the animal moved into the second area. Parks currently insisted on each area having different dates.</p> <p>Mr. Chidziya advised that after the Cecil incident various measures were implemented at Government level. We need to be seen to be taking the correct measures. Only once self-policing was in place and working satisfactorily would they be removed. Parks need to satisfy themselves that all loopholes are closed.</p> <p><u>CAMPFIRE REPORT</u></p> <p>The Director, Mr. C. Jonga, made his report. A copy is attached.</p> <p>From thirteen districts a total of \$2.1m had been generated. The most hunted species was elephant and 54% is directly related to elephant hunts.</p> <p>When distributing this income 52% went directly to the communities.</p> <p>A member believed that Campfire areas had lost most of their species and needs to look at the fact that their animal populations are reducing. They cannot carry 52 Wards. There has been human encroachment with settlers moving from their areas to Kariba. Operators need to review how they relate to specific Campfire areas.</p> <p>Mr. Fundira noted that since there were Government officials present, it would be possible to refer the matter of encroachment of settlers to Government. Mr. Mundoka was asked to refer the matter to Ministry and to see how Parks can be assisted.</p> <p>Mr. Mundoka advised that Ministry were aware of the re-settlement taking place. Steps are being taken but they had observed that it is not possible to have a blanket solution which fits all situations.</p> <p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>Mr. Kaschula raised 2 points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Whether there was any way Government could contribute to the National Parks resources; How Operators could approach Ministry and how to address Ration Hunting in the parks. He requested channels to address ration hunting. <p>The Chairman noted that these questions should have been directed to the</p>	
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	<p>Director-General first so as not to by-pass the procedure. For Photographic tourism they do not want to see blood or carcasses in evidence on tracks used for game drives. Photographic members would request Parks to take some action as this is destroying the integrity of the non-consumptive sector.</p> <p>The D-G advised Ministry had made representation to Finance. The amount received in the fiscus is inadequate to support Parks. They are trying to ensure some resources are made available in the coming Budget and continue to encourage international donors to assist with grants. An amount of \$2.4m to provide vehicles and other equipment to assist parks was provided by Sino-Zimbabwe Association.</p>	
11.	<p>Mr. Matipano advised Ration Hunt was raised at the Hunting workshop in June and was captured in the final document that was presented to Ministry. It has been passed by the Board and is now with Ministry and will be dealt with.</p> <p>Mr. G. Whittall asked how Parks would rehabilitate certain parks that were now depleted and are no longer generating an income.</p> <p>Mr. Matipanpo advised there was a plan. The previous Board had proposed a plan and it will be submitted to Ministry and the results communicated in due course.</p> <p>The Report was adopted, proposed by Mr. McCallum and seconded by Mrs. Stead.</p> <p><u>SCI REPORT</u></p> <p>Mr. John Boretsky made his report.</p>	
12.	<p>He emphasized the necessity to desist from exaggeration on the social media. International animal rights bodies create artificial situations. The common factor uniting Consumptive and Non-Consumptive sectors are the animals. It was necessary to work together more closely to a common goal.</p>	
13. 13. 1	<p>He reviewed the achievements over the past year and the assistance rendered in taking a delegation from Parks and Private Sector to Washington for a meeting with members of Congress.</p> <p>A decision is awaited on exactly how the USFWS interpret the status of lion trophies. It is now listed as Threatened, which gives USFWS time to set requirements on interpretation of trophies.</p> <p>South Africa has advised they were told a decision would be made before January.</p>	
13. 2	<p>Whether or not lion should be uplifted is the subject of a special WCF meeting in July in Mozambique in preparation for Cites 17. There is supposed to be a periodical review by the range states. Kenya has said there should be no hunting at all but the other countries do not agree.</p> <p>Regarding transportation of trophies SAA are now accepting them for shipment. WCF in Dallas and Houston are filing suit against Delta.</p>	
13. 3	<p>A unified approach from the Associations around the world is needed. A three day</p>	

seminar to communicate the consumptive side of the story is to be arranged and is hoped to provide a unifying approach.

SCI are holding a Round Table meeting on 2 February and an OPHA meeting on 5 February. This will be an open meeting.

The report was adopted, proposed by Mr. McCallum and seconded by Mr. Johnstone.

Address from Mr. Stan Burger, President of PHASA

A copy of this address is attached. (*This is awaited*).

He advised that the issue of canned hunting has tarnished the industry in South Africa. Some countries had banned the import of lion trophies. Decisions made in these countries were based on emotional influences and not on facts.

A Media Hunt in which journalists participated, was held which had a positive effect and journalists now come direct to PHASA for information.

Hunters Care is an organization into which hunters contribute time and money for the benefit of communities. Six million Rands a year are given away. There are 1300 paid up members and finances are sound. An amount of R1.35m was raised at the Gala Auction.

The 38th PHASA meeting was difficult with the captive lion issue being discussed. Members of PHASA have to distance themselves from the captive lion programme, until the breeders can prove how it benefits the lion population.

Mr. Burger wished SOAZ well and confirmed SOAZ and PHASA would continue to work together towards common goals.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Accounts for the year to 31 September 2015 were presented. These were adopted, proposed by Mr. L. Muller and seconded by Mr. C. Ndondo.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Craig Broomberg, Vice President and Administration Manager of EATSO, the representative body for the Tourism Industry Employers, gave a brief overview of what EATSO does for its members.

The NEC Tourism is made up of 50% employers and 50% employees and provides a platform to negotiate terms and wage structures. If Operators want a say in how their businesses are run it would be advantageous to support EATSO. Labour is one of the highest costs in business.

On the website members will find a lot of useful downloads, Acts, Template contracts, etc.

The email for EATSO is eatsozimbabwe@gmail.com.

Motion to amend Section 14 of the Constitution of Safari Operators Association of Zimbabwe

It is proposed "Chairman" and Vice Chairman" be changed to "President" and "Vice President" to align with similar Associations in the southern Africa region. The

change to be applied throughout the Constitution.

The Motion having been circulated to all members prior to the AGM, a show of hands was called for and the Motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to create a separate Association to SOAZ for the Non-Consumptive Sector

Proposed by A. Kaschula and seconded by G. Rennie.

Non-consumptive members of SOAZ are proposing (via a vote by non-consumptive members present or through proxy, at the 2015 SOAZ AGM) that a new and entirely autonomous association to SOAZ, under ZCT, is formed to represent the non-consumptive tourism industry at large.

Motivation:

Since its inception, SOAZ has been and continues to be an organization dominated by consumptive operators.

Consumptive and non-consumptive industries are as compatible as oil and water.

Issues affecting each industry are different and need to be handled differently.

Regionally, other Southern or East African countries with vibrant consumptive and non-consumptive industries have separate associations representing each industry.

Non-consumptive tourism is one of the fastest growing industries promoting economic transformation and requires its own representation.

With a growing global anti-hunting sentiment; many non-consumptive operators feel that it is not in their business interests to be associated with or represented by an organisation that is perceived to be consumptive dominated in its membership and viewpoint.

Two separate associations, each with strong membership will have greater success at working towards a common goal i.e. conservation and sustainable use of our nation's wildlife and wild landscapes for the overall benefit of the people of Zimbabwe.

The President, Mr. Fundira, noted that SOAZ is cited in the Statutory Instrument and when ZCT was formed the three pillars of Tourism to be represented were Access, Accommodation and Activities.

Both Consumptive and Non-Consumptive are lumped together under Activities.

When discussing this matter, members need to be cogniscent of the requirement to satisfy all members. Because we are a voluntary organization not all Operators are members but nevertheless they benefit from achievements of the Association.

Government encourages Associations because they do not want to deal with a number of different groups.

Mr. Johnstone pointed out that the instigators of this proposal had said they were not anti-hunting yet their messages on public media indicate they want all hunting stopped.

Mr. Van den Bergh asked whether ZPHGA would also be split.

Mr. Jonga of CAMPFIRE noted members have to be mindful of the timing. We are

14.	<p>talking about benefits to the communal people, and it should be considered “what does the consumptive sector bring to the situation and what benefits does non-consumptive sector bring?”</p> <p>Mr. Muller asked if the proposal was that there should be a completely new organization. There were many organizations in the Tourism sector, and he wondered if this would be fragmenting it too much.</p> <p>A mention had been made that clients would not book with some non-consumptive operators because they are aligned to consumptive. Zimbabwe cannot have clients dictating how to run our conservation.</p> <p>Mr. Burger noted that SOAZ seemed to have the ear of Government judging by the guests attending this meeting. He urged non-consumptive and consumptive sectors to find common ground and to reconcile.</p> <p>Ms. J. Johnstone suggested the formation of two Sub-Committees to attend to the consumptive and the non-consumptive matters.</p> <p>Mr. Fundira clarified that SOAZ had an Executive Committee of eight, four non-consumptive and four consumptive. This platform was created for that. The non-consumptive members were Gavin Rennie, Anthony Kaschula, Sharon Stead, and Sarah Harrup.</p> <p>Mr. Pangeti noted that with the current strong invasion into the country if we do not stand united there is likely to be a collapse of both consumptive and non-consumptive.</p> <p>Mrs. Ngwenya advised we have to sort out our differences and act as one. As Forestry Ngamo run hunting and photographic activities and we iron out our differences.</p> <p>Mr. Wengai Nhau noted he had seen signs of this a few years ago. We need to sit down and engage ZTOA, ZPHGA and SOAZ. There are still some disagreements between PHs and PGs, and a fragmented organization does not survive.</p> <p>Mr. Muller advised ZPHGA had held their AGM the previous week, and members voted not to split. One of our main mandates is Education and ZPHGA intend to focus on this.</p> <p>Mr. Nyaguse noted that it was obvious Parks is working at the moment with an Association which represents both sectors. He felt if the sectors fragmented any further there was a danger of one sector failing to attract the attention it hopes for. It depends on the way the Association wishes to engage the Authority.</p> <p>Mr. Mark Saunders emphasized the need to stop the polarization of the sectors and to work actively to achieve our common goals.</p>	
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15.	<p>Mr. Kaschula said 80%-90% of all issues discussed today concerned the consumptive sector and this was also so with the ZPHGA and Parks meetings.</p> <p>The President, Mr. Fundira reminded members they were in a SOAZ AGM and the membership is voluntary. There is nothing to stop anyone who wants to form their own Association from doing so, without speaking to anyone.</p> <p>We cannot discriminate against members who are not present. Those non-consumptive members who wish to form their own association are free to do so.</p> <p>Mr. Kaschula said it was important for both sectors for members to see what the non-consumptive sector wants. If an open vote was held the majority group would swamp the non-consumptive members.</p> <p>Mr. Fundira advised that he had withheld some information. There is damaging and discriminating information posted on social media by some non-consumptive members. Mrs. Stead had left the meeting but she had posted statements openly fighting the Association, yet she was a member of the Committee.</p> <p>Mr. Fundira read out clause 19 of the SOAZ Constitution:</p> <p><u>19. COMMUNICATION.</u> No member or employee of the Association, other than the Chairman or Vice Chairman, save with the express written permission of the Executive Committee shall act, speak, behave, or cause to be printed anything which might, or could be interpreted as representative of the opinion of the Executive Committee or the Association as a whole.</p> <p>We are accountable to this Association for what we are doing. We cannot have voices making statements completely contrary to the Association's goals. We have to remain responsible on these issues. Much of these statements are petty and damaging to the Association. There is nothing to stop the non-consumptive members starting their own association.</p> <p>Mr. Kaschula repeated his explanation that consumptive and non-consumptive did not mix well and many non-consumptive operators were not members of SOAZ because of the perception that it was dominated by the consumptive sector.</p> <p>Mr. Rennie advised he was fully in support of ethical, legal, hunting. In every organization there will be extreme views which need to be brought in line. Working together will create two strong Associations. He envisaged meeting every two months to discuss and work out challenges internally in order to achieve the same conservation goals.</p> <p>Mr. Kaschula complained of the logo on the ZPHGA website, stating that agents would not use this logo.</p> <p>He thought this subject is sufficiently important for Zimbisa to assist both organizations.</p>	
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Mr. Burger noted that it was clear that the proposal that only non-consumptive members vote was unconstitutional. The non-consumptive members should simply go out and form their own Association.

Mr. Kaschula repeated that the Association had not heard what the non-consumptive members wanted.

Mr. Fundira again advised that SOAZ was a voluntary organisation and non-consumptive members were free to form their own association. The way the Committee was constituted currently was intended to bridge the gap between consumptive and non-consumptive, but we cannot stop you from forming your own organization.

Ms. Ngwenya pointed out that some members needed both sectors represented such as Ngamo, and they appreciated what was happening at SOAZ.

Mr. Saunders noted that non-consumptive members do have representation on the committee, and did not know what led up to this confrontation. You cannot allow only one sector to vote on the matter.

Mr. Muller asked why it was even necessary to vote. Non-consumptive should just start their own Association and let members choose. If it does not work out SOAZ will welcome them back.

Mr. Pangeti suggested setting up a small committee of members from both sides to investigate the perceived differences. This proposal was supported by Mr. L. Muller and seconded by Mr. M. McCallum.

After extensive and robust discussion the meeting resolved to maintain the status quo and ensure the Executive Committee is balanced and represented by both sub-sectors and that the new Committee should work on reconciling the perceived differences.

ELECTION OF 2016 COMMITTEE

_Those nominated for the 2016 Executive Committee were:

(Hunting)

Mr. E. Fundira

Mr. M. Russell

Ms. S. Ngwenya

Mr. M. McCallum

Ms. J. Johnston

Mr. C. Ndondo

Mr. W. Taylor

(Photographic)

Mr. M. Saunders

Mr. Rennie

Mr. V. Makumure

Ms. C. Ives

Mr. J. Turner

Mr. G. Seremwe

The nominees were all elected onto the committee.

The Constitution allows for other committee members to be co-opted as and when

	<p>necessary.</p> <p>The President declared the meeting closed. Members were invited to partake of snacks and enjoy a cash bar.</p> <p>CONFIRMED THIS.....DAY OF.....20.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>PRESIDENT</p>	
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