



PHASA Foundation Chairman's Report

By Pieter Potgieter, Foundation Chairman

I joined the PHASA Exco three years ago as a complete rookie. At our first meeting, I was handed the reins of the Foundation. What a ride this has been! With the tremendous support and hard work from my fellow board members and specifically the Vice Chair, Tonie du Bruyn, I have learnt so much. It has been an enormous honour and pleasure to serve you, our PHASA members, and our industry.

Thank you to all the directors for their excellent work, dedication, and for thinking out of the box; our office staff and the PHASA Exco members that often gave valuable input. In particular, I want to express my gratitude to Sybil Schoeman for taking care of the finances of all the Foundation's fundraising projects during the past few years. Thank you Sybil!

Our sincerest gratitude to all our donors. You are the reasons that the Foundation could continue its vital role within PHASA for the benefit of the hunting and wildlife community. I wish to thank you for your support during these trying times, especially, our own members that reached deep into their pockets to help the less fortunate in our midst. With the ban on international travel shutting down trophy hunting and our ability to earn a living, our members stood up and shared the little they had with those around them.

In December last year, it was decided to rebrand and rename the PHASA Conservation and Empowerment Fund to the PHASA Foundation to follow the *new PHASA* into the future. The rebranding was very well received, thanks to our media company Adbrand. They did a tremendous job in rebranding and marketing the Foundation. Thank you all for the long hours and hard work you put in.

To date, the Foundation has raised in excess of R19 million for worthy projects. This year alone, we raised another R2million worth in food, meat, clothing, blankets etc.

Our projects this year were:

Hunters Care for Hunger

The Hunters Care for Hunger project was established when COVID-19 hit us in March 2020. We realized that there would be a much bigger need for everyday essentials among fellow citizens. Unfortunately, this need will be with us for quite some time. The Foundation achieved a lot with this project and was able to hand over clothing and blankets donated by our members and their

family and friends to thousands of people across South Africa. We were absolutely overwhelmed with the generosity. Just to give you an idea of how much we had collected: We drove to Filadelfia Ark near the Brits/Hartbeespoort Dam region with a fully loaded 6t truck, two Landcruiser, a 3t and a 2t trailer, an SUV, and a double-cab to deliver essentials to those in need. It was rewarding and heart-warming to see the thankful faces.

Filadelfia Ark is a small-holding that is the home of about 550 people. Another 2000+ people are being taken care off from that facility. It is a humbling and eye-opening experience to witness how well Filadelfia Ark is managed with strong Christian beliefs to look after the needs of others. Here people are trying to help themselves with nothing more than basic tools, a positive attitude, hard work, and their Christian beliefs.

During the lockdown, the PHASA Foundation also delivered food to Filadelfia Ark and needy families in the Thabazimbi and Lephalale area. This included approximately 27t potatoes, 40t pumpkins, 1t onions and 4t mixed vegetables, which provided about 180 000 meals equal to 400g per person. Approximately 7t meat (and there is more that we are not even aware of) were donated. Without the regular contributions from trophy hunting, our fellow hunters shot animals to provide much needed protein. At about 250g per meal it adds another 28 000 meals. Therefore, the Foundation provided 208 000 meals through the help of our members. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart for these generous donations.

Amy Bell Foundation

The Foundation donated blankets to the value of R10 000 to the Amy Bell Foundation, a charitable organisation in Cradock, that looks after the less privileged community in the region.

Abraham Kriel Children's Home Nylstroom

The Foundation delivered toiletries, meat, snacks, and other food items to one of our long-term beneficiaries, the Abraham Kriel Children's Home, that looks after about 170 children. In March, just before the lockdown, PHASA members took 10 of these children to accompany them on an annual hunt. During that hunt, the children were introduced to hunting, tracking, shot placement, and appreciation of nature. Over a tonne of meat was hunted and donated to the children's home for all to enjoy. Little did we know we would soon be confined to our homes!

Our own PHs and their families

Unfortunately, among our own members are families that are struggling and for whom we provided food and money to cover medical expenses. Even professional hunters that are not PHASA members, were helped. I appeal to our own members and other professional hunters that are experiencing difficult times, to contact me. We do not want you to go hungry. All requests will be kept confidential. Do not let pride stand in your way. Our assistance is restricted to food only. We cannot help with other expenses, such as car payments.

The PHASA Video

I'm sure you have all seen the PHASA video that explains the Association's activities in South Africa and what we offer members and hunters. If you have not seen it yet, it is available on the website. The video was very well-received with compliments coming in from all over the world. The Foundation financed the video to demonstrate what South Africa has to offer for our international visitors, despite Covid-19.

Leopard Research project

In 2016, the Department of Environmental Affairs (now the Department of Environment, Forestry, and Fisheries - DEFF) announced a zero-leopard hunting quota. This decision came as a shock to stakeholders and conservationists involved in the global hunting and safari industry.

This decision was proof that government statistics and available scientific data were inadequate and questionable. It was evident that authorities made decisions without considering science-based evidence.

PHASA took ownership of the research aimed at compiling a reliable and credible data base. The PHASA Foundation and other role-players in the wildlife sector established the National Leopard Monitoring Project to assist DEFF.

The project gathered data on 12 blocks off approximately 160 000ha with approximately 9 leopards (needs to be verified) identified per 10 000ha block.

Mpumalanga Parks and Tourism Agency (a government agency) approached the PHASA Foundation to assist them with funding to continue with its leopard research because they had no funds in their budget for research. The PHASA Foundation offered to support them from our own limited resources by donating 40 complete camera stations (trail cams, SD cards, protective casings, batteries etc.) to ensure that the research project could continue. All the data gathered will be shared with our scientists. Therefore, PHASA can benefit from the research done in Mpumalanga without having to cover the operational costs.

The Leopard Research Video

The purpose of the Leopard Research Video was to explain the importance of research, and to encourage people to become involved. This was yet another successful video production that PHASA will use in its liaison with our international and national sponsors.

PHASA Knives

The PHASA Knives project comprises a limited edition of 20 handmade collector's knives to be sold as a fundraiser activity. The knives will include PHASA's logo on one side with blank space on the flip side to add a company brand name or an individual's name. The handle is carved from giraffe bone. Nestled in a beautifully engraved solid teak box, the knife will be a much-appreciated gift or collector's item. The knives are also individually numbered and each number will be entered into a draw for a crocodile hunt donated by Pat Loots. The PHASA knife project will be launched early in 2021. Two of these knives, no 1 and no 20 with the year 2020 engraved, will be available on the PHASA auction.

Robbie Joubert

Robbie Joubert, the 21-year old son of Leon (Spyker) and Ilse Joubert, was found in his room with a bruised C5 vertebra that left him paralysed from the neck down. It is not yet clear what happened. Our members came to the rescue and opened their wallets and their hearts to help Robbie with his medical expenses. Reinhardt Heuser and Paul Els arranged for an online auction of various accommodation packages to raise much needed funds. This auction was a huge success and together with cash contributions raised R100 000 rand to help cover his medical expenses.

Robbie is doing much better but a long road of rehabilitation and hard work lies ahead. From his family: *“Thank you all for your support. We read all the messages and appreciate all the phone calls. Keep on praying, in God we find our strength.”*

Waterberg Lions

In 2019, the PHASA Foundation became involved with the Waterberg Lion Project and have since made an enormous impact on the legitimacy of the project. Support for this research project as well as the academic studies pertaining thereto have been more than generous over the past year. Although we have been experiencing a difficult year, we remained true to our commitments and donated R94 000 for a new satellite collar, which was fitted to one of the sub-adult female lions; tuition fees; travelling costs for the principle investigator; camera equipment; and measuring tools. Initially, five lions were released. Since then, 21 cubs were born and another male was introduced. During the past year, several lions had to be relocated due to over-population, leaving 12 lions currently roaming the reserve. What a success story! It proves that ranchered lions can adapt in the wild.

Free State Fire Fund

We are aware of the devastating fires that destroyed more than 100 000ha of land in the Free State. PHASA and WRSA took hands and collected about 20 truckloads (approximately 400t) of fodder, grass and lucerne bales for the farmers in need. The cash donations of R256 000 was used to cover transport expenses. All the feed was donated but the transport costs had to be paid in most instances.

Vroue van Hoop

The *Vroue van Hoop* project was the brainchild of Jorika Prinsloo and Anneke van der Merwe who wanted to strengthen the invisible bond between women that demonstrates an understanding of each other's fatigue, despondency and sadness, but to give them hope and courage to support their husbands and families. Hence, the project *Vroue van Hoop*. The PHASA women joined in and packed hundreds of boxes for the women whose lives had been affected by the devastating veld fires in the Free State. These parcels differed from many other box projects around the country. They were specifically packed for the women of these farming communities to show grace and bring hope. The parcels included personal items to spoil them in these challenging times and to remind them that they are not alone.

PHASA Wildman National Shoot

The PHASA Wildman National Shoot was a successful day that is bound to become an annual event. Because the AGM in Hartenbos was cancelled, PHASA organised this shoot to bring together members for a fun-filled day. There were lots of fun and laughter as 20 teams comprising four shooters each competed in anything from slingshots to big bores shooting competitions. Prices valued at R40 000 were up for grabs. Together with exhibitors and guests, 110 people joined in the fun. A nett amount of R39 000 was raised.

Online hunting auction

Our annual auction was held from 21 - 28 September 2020, under the watchful eye of Anneke. We were concerned about the impact of Covid-19, but we are grateful for the nett amount of R222 000 that had been raised. Thank you to all the outfitters that supported us and especially the new donors. PHASA sincerely appreciates each donation.

Drought relief

We started a drought relief project last year to provide much needed animal feed to the farmers in the drought-stricken Northern Cape. This project continued into this financial year.

Other organizations supported by The Foundation

Kuierkidz

Kuierkidz, one of our long-standing projects, is an establishment that cares for autistic and physically disabled kids. This facility nearly closed its doors because the sponsor of the rental premises was unable to continue due to Covid-19. PHASA stepped in and paid the rent to keep their doors open. We also donated additional funds for other expenses.

Conservation Force

Conservation Force, an international organisation that focuses on wildlife conservation, education, and research, receives an annual grant from the Foundation.

True Green Alliance (TGA)

The True Green Alliance (TGA) is a regular beneficiary of the PHASA Foundation. The TGA aims to protect and advocate 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. The TGA is devoted to bringing common sense principles back into the wildlife arena. PHASA is a member of the TGA.

“Happiness doesn’t result from what we GET but from what we GIVE!” - Ben Garson

How blessed will we be if we can make this our motto in life?

Thank you for the privilege to stand at the helm of this wonderful organisation for the past three years, to serve you - our members - and to strengthen the three pillars of the Foundation namely:

- Research
- Conservation
- Livelihoods