SUCO
SUSTAINABLE USE COALITION
Southern Africa

Driving Sustainable Use to Enable Biodiversity Conservation through Habitat Rewilding and Species Enhancement

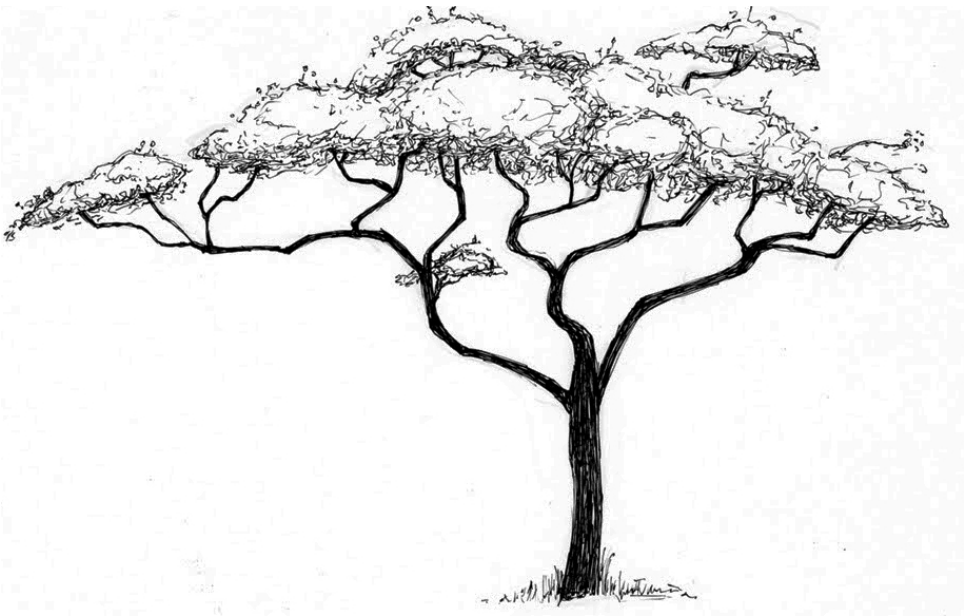
SUCo Fact Sheets

THE SUSTAINABLE USE IMPERATIVE

Wild resources are certainly more difficult to govern because they are complex and fugitive. However, lumping most forests, wildlife, and fisheries as public goods, rather than more correctly as private or collective goods, has ultimately under-valued them and made governance even more difficult. Moreover, they are part of complex systems – and complex systems are not suited to centralised systems of management or, for that matter, to agricultural simplification (p4).

Surely, the alternative to the unsustainable use of wildlife is the sustainable use of wildlife, combined with the educational opportunities to enable people to seek lives away from the drudgery of marginal agriculture. Thus, the pathway to half-earth may not lie in stopping the use of wild species and spaces, or in declaring them public protected areas. It may lie, alternatively, in deliberately governing and using them in better and more sustainable ways, while empowering local people as the custodians and primary beneficiaries of ecosystems that are rightfully theirs (p5).

Child, B. 2019. *Sustainable Governance of Wildlife and Community-Based Natural Resource Management: From Economic Principles to Practical Governance. © 2019 Brian Child; Routledge: 2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN*



Hunting & Wildlife Sector Fact Sheets

1. By 1920 the southern African game population in its entirety for all species was at its worst with less than 300,000 head of plains game calculated to have been within the borders of South Africa (Furstenburg 2021a).

2. Due to intense conservation efforts with the help of a few farmers who protected endangered species on their farms, it is estimated that by 1960, there were approximately 575,000 plains game in South Africa (Prof. W. van Hoven, Centre for Wildlife Management, University of Pretoria).

3. With hunting incentives for private wildlife farming, which slowly started to emerge in the 1960s, the 575,000 head of plains game in South Africa had recovered to >10 million game animals privately owned in 2020. (Taylor et. al. 2020). This is approximately 3 times more game than in government protected areas in the whole of South Africa.

4. To put it into perspective, private enterprise owns three times more land and four-fifths of all the game, managed under hugely successful and effective conservation programs, than all the state-owned parks and reserves combined (Taylor et. al. 2020).

5. The absolute majority of game ranches and those farms with mixed game activities, are on marginal agricultural land and the private initiatives have largely contributed to habitat conservation on these lands, as well as making a massive contribution to the rewilding of land on which game is kept (if habitat is not preserved game will not flourish, and hunters will not come hunt on such unsustainable ranches / farms).

6. The land covered by game ranches and mixed game farms in South Africa is estimated 21 million hectares (210,000 km^2) (17,2% of the 1,221 million km^2 of South Africa). Formal conservation (protected) areas constitute 9,2% of the land in South Africa (112,807 km^2) (https://www.statssa.gov.za/?p=14732).

210,000 km^2 equals 87,3% of the land mass of Wales, England & Scotland

7. South Africa is the only country on the Continent to have managed to sustain genetic integrity of **Sable** and **Buffalo** between 2012 and 2018. The scientific study by Rabie (2017) has proven this with the recorded number of quality trophies of buffalo and sable hunted in this period on private game ranches. This indicates the "accelerated" enhanced impact and role that private game ranching and hunting contribute to biodiversity preservation of the continent-wide fragmented and historically depleted species' genetic integrity (Furstenburg 2021).

8. Hunting and consumed wild animal use in Africa pre-dates the Last Glacial Maximum 20,000 years BP (Furstenburg 2021a).

9. Today we have more international hunting tourists travelling to South Africa each year than to any other country on the continent. We have an unrivalled diversity of species, more than 45 major plains game species and the Big Five can be hunted here. South Africa's wildlife and conservation success story remains unparalleled anywhere in the world, and it's almost entirely due to the inputs of the hunting sector (WRSA 2019).

10. International hunting is larger in South Africa than in any other southern African country (Lindsey et. al. 2007). In 2020 it was calculated that international hunters contribute ZAR 1,9 billion and national hunters, ZAR 12 billion to the country's economy. Game auctions contribute ZAR 4,3 billion, while game meat production contributes ZAR 600 million per annum (Taylor et al 2020). Clearly the larger contribution to the hunting & wildlife economic profile in South Africa comes from hunting. Obviously, the ban on the import of hunting trophies into the UK and further possibly into Europe will have a major negative effect on these economic scenarios.

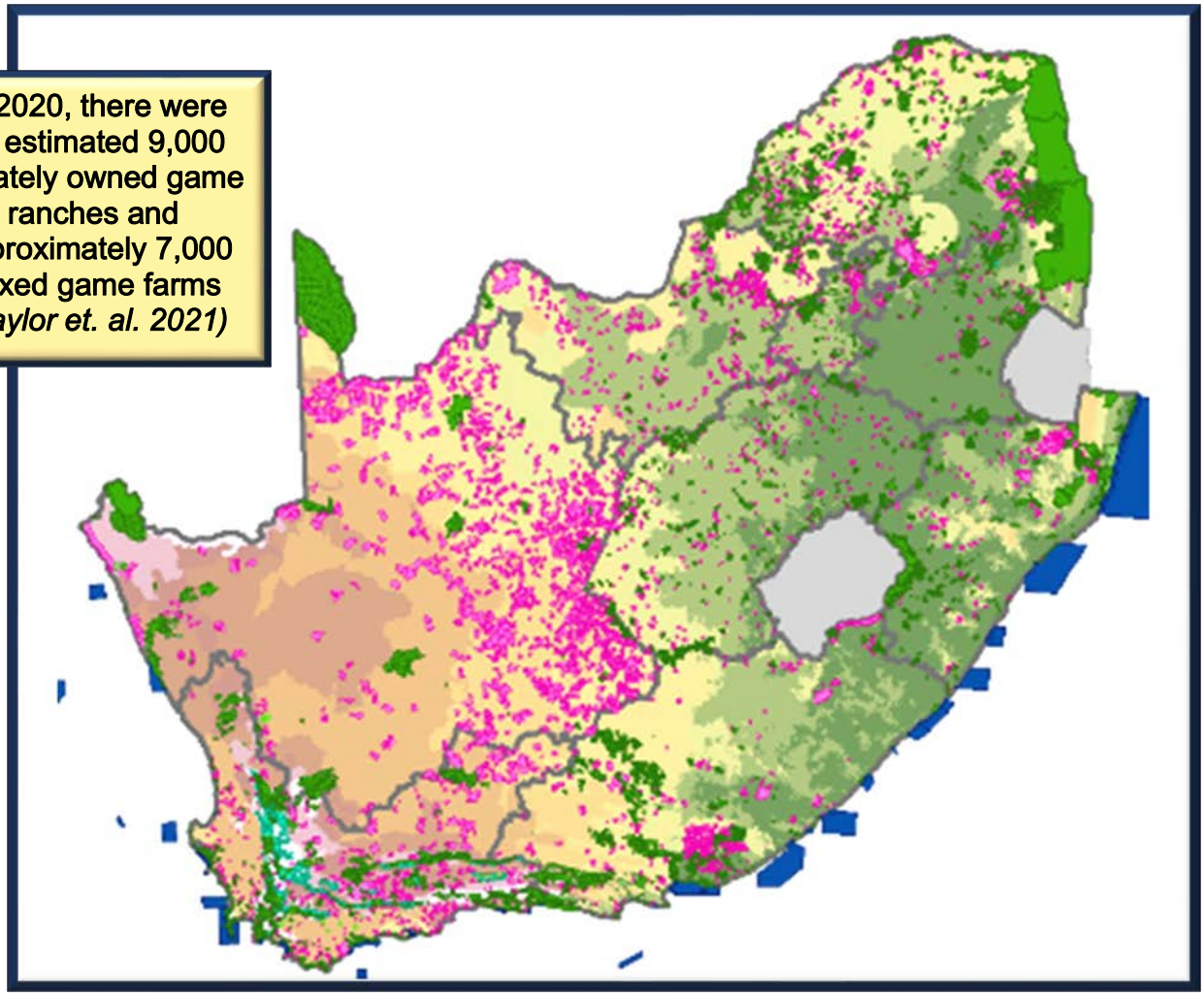
11. The largest percentage of monies spent by international hunters is spent on game hunted (47%), then transportation (18%), followed by accommodation (13.2%) and lastly, shipping costs of trophies (10.1%). The implication is that more than 60% of these monies are paid to the game rancher (Saayman et. al. 2018).

12. More than 65,000 people work in the hunting and wildlife sector, with ranch and farm labourers earning a median salary of ZAR 3,441 a month (Taylor et. al. 2020).

13. Hunting further contributes between 31,000 and 87,000 tonnes of game meat per annum, making a large contribution to food security in the form of healthy, free-range, lean protein (Taylor et. al. 2020) - free of all the harmful growth stimulants found in meat from animals raised in feeding lots.

All Literature referred to in these Fact Sheets can be accessed on this Web Page:
https://natshoot.co.za/natshoot/huntfacts-lit

In 2020, there were an estimated 9,000 privately owned game ranches and approximately 7,000 mixed game farms *(Taylor et. al. 2021)*



South African Game Ranchers & Species Enhancement: Growing numbers of Game Animals through hunting <1950 to 2015

Flack 2011
WRSA 2015

- Black Rhino	- from	± 30	> 1,960	- 23,0 % private owned
- White Rhino	- from	± 40	> 17,000	- 30,0 % private owned
- Mountain Zebra	- from	± 80	> 2,790	- 32,1 % private owned
- Bontebok	- from	± 19	> 7,800	- 87,5 % private owned
- Roan antelope	- from	± 150	> 2,500	- 92,0 % private owned
- Sable antelope	- from	± 450	> 5,000	- 90.0 % private owned
- Black Wildebeest	- from	± 500	> 17,700	- 88,7 % private owned
- Blesbok	- from	± 2,000	> 250,000	- 90,0 % private owned
- Blue Wildebeest	- from	± 7,000	> 570,000	- 75,0 % private owned

>10 million game animals of different species on game ranches - 2021

Taylor, WA; Child, MF; Lindsey, PA; Nicholson, SK; Relton, C & Dabies-Mostert, HT. 2021. South Africa's private wildlife ranches protect globally significant populations of ungulates. Biodiversity and Conservation 22 September 2021.

South African Game Ranchers: Species Enhancement
Growing the numbers of Endangered Species

97% of Oribi on rewilded farmland

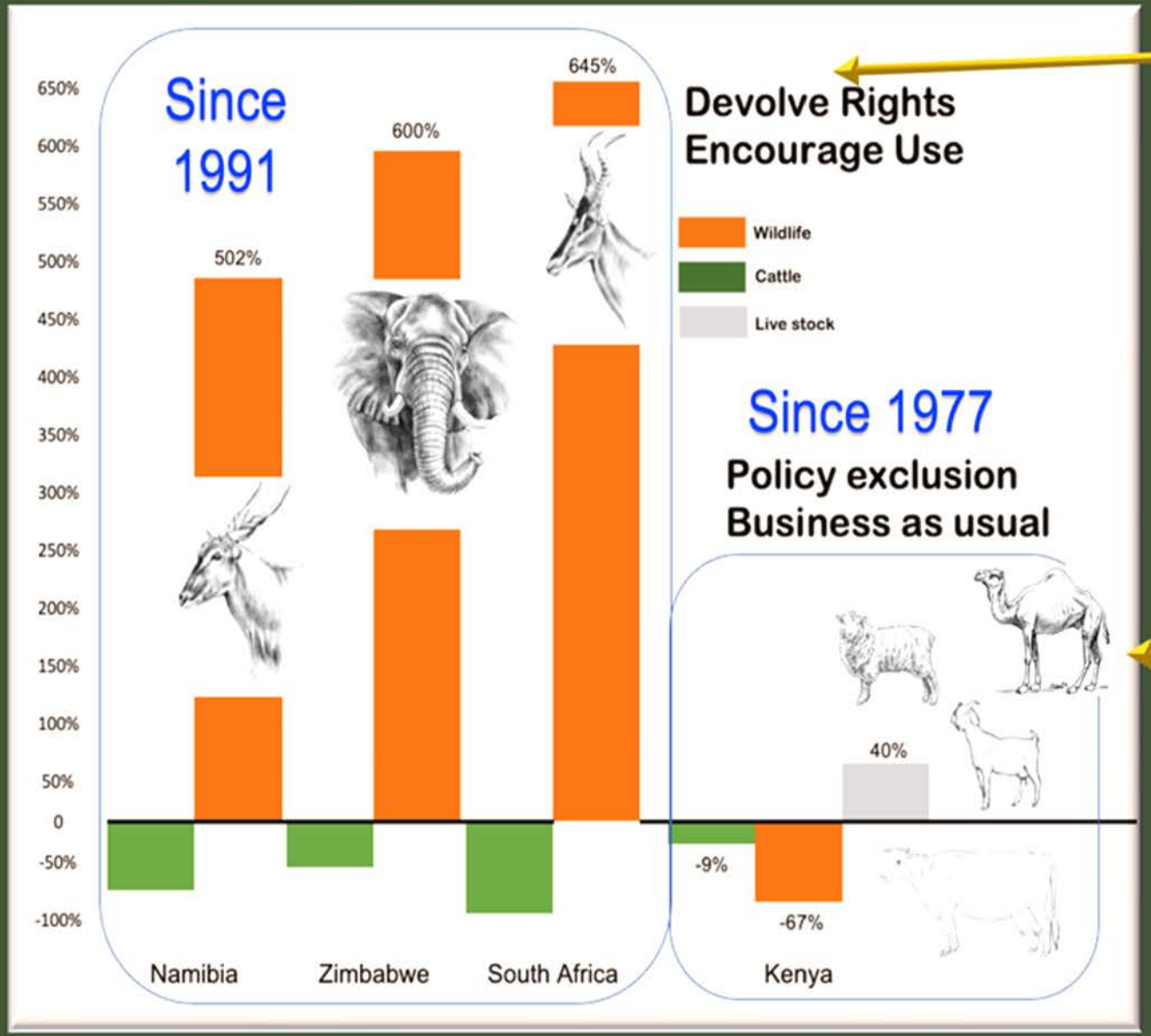
87% of Black Wildebeest on rewilded farmland

95% of Roan Antelope on rewilded farmland

97% of Sable Antelope on rewilded farmland

88% of Bontebok on rewilded farmland

90% of Blesbok on rewilded farmland



OWNERSHIP:

- *Private management systems*
- *Economically sustainable*
- *Habitat rehabilitation*
- *Biodiversity conservation*

1977 Ban on all hunting

"King's Game"

- *Government control*
- *Neo-colonialist*
- *Protectionism*
- *Habitat & biodiversity destruction*
- *Devaluation of wildlife*

Child, B. 2021. Building a sustainable multi-billion dollar wildlife economy. Presentation at SCI AWCF, 8-12 November, Kasane, Botswana 2021

RESULTS OF UNSUSTAINABLE USE OF RENEWALBLE NATURAL RESOURCES

The cautionary approach and the continuous ban on the international trade of Rhino horn results in the loss of billions of ZAR which can be used for conservation.

Right, a graphic ranger's depiction of ± 6,000 Rhinos poached in Kruger National Park in 2020 and 2023.

Loss of 67% of Kruger National Park's Rhinos already officially estimated in 2020.

In 2021 Rhino horn sold for US$ 65,000 / kg. That is US$ 1,840 / ounce.

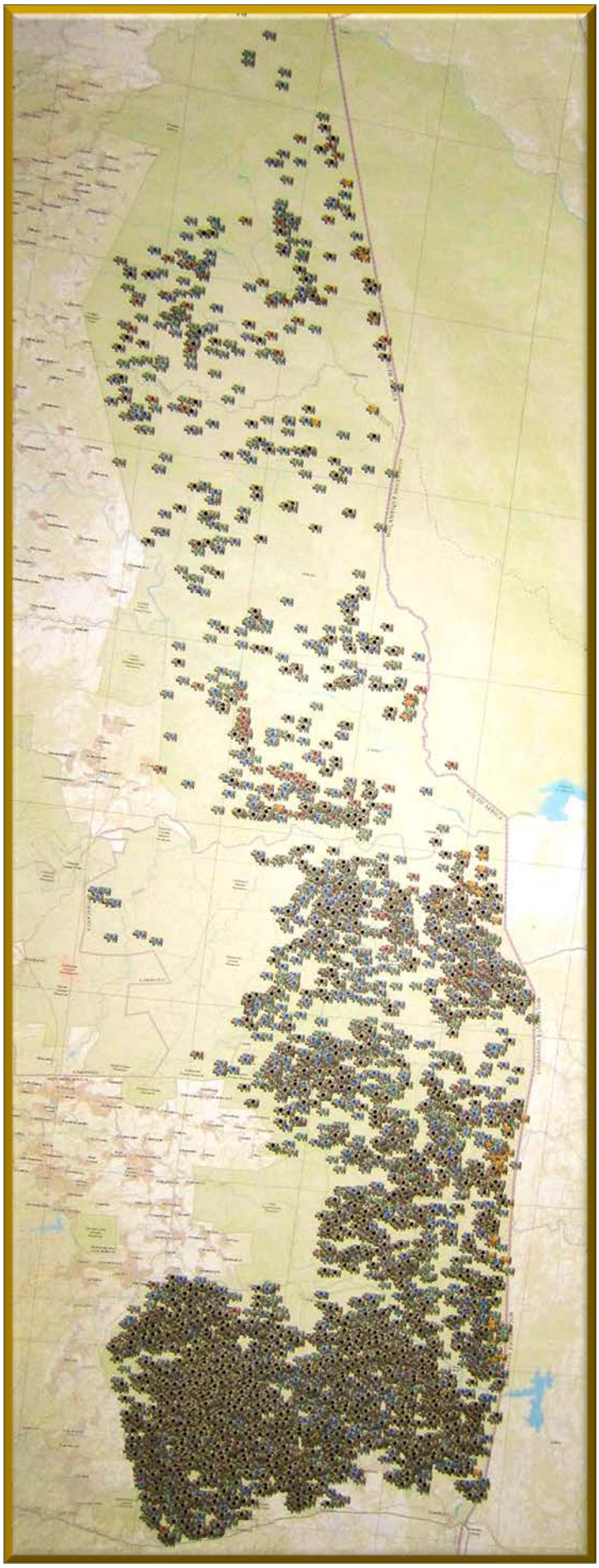
At the same time Gold sold for US$ 1,609 / ounce.

Thus, the calculated loss of potential income from the sale of Rhino horn comes to 6,000 sets of horns @ conservatively 1,5 kg per set times US$ 65,000 per kg.

Potentially 6,000 sets of horns x 1,5 kg / set = 9,000 kg of horn @ US$ 65,000 / kg = potential loss of US$ 585 million.

US$ 585 million equals ZAR 9,36 billion potential loss for SanParks @ the exchange rate of US$ 1 = ZAR 16.00.

PLUS, the loss of >400 human lives - poachers and rangers - which nobody seems to care about.



SUCo-SA OBJECTIVES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SUCo-SA understands ***Sustainable Use*** to mean the wise and responsible use of renewable biodiversity and the elements which support it, including where wildlife resources are positively managed for production and/or profit, which does not lead to depletion of the resource.

Our main thrust is to stand in solid, unified, protection of all forms of legal sustainable use including the responsible production and management of renewable natural resources.

SUCo-SA's main focus is on the endeavour to ascertain our members' right to practice their chosen profession to its fullest potential in accordance with section 22 of the South African Constitution, and to, as a collective, affect our right to be heard in this context in accordance with section 24 of the South African Constitution.

In the SUCo context our section 22 rights are to be able to continue our practice of economic viable and sustainable wildlife production systems on the more than 21 million ha of rewilded marginal agricultural landscapes on the more than 9,000 game ranches in our country and on all the legal lion breeding facilities…

…and to continue to make a living from our chosen professions, which are linked to the value chain suggested by the production of wildlife on said game ranches and lion breeding facilities, be that in respect of all aspects of taxidermy or in the perpetuation of our hunting heritage.

In terms of our section 24 rights, SUCo has the right to be heard and to participate in the formulation and implementation of practical and sensible legislation which continues to enable our members to successfully execute their section 22 rights.

THE SUSTAINABLE USE COALITION-SOUTHERN AFRICA (SUCO-SA) WAS FOUNDED ON 6 MAY 2021 BY 9 LIKEMINDED FOUNDING MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS, WHICH AT THAT TIME, AS A COLLECTIVE, REPRESENTED >85,000 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS.

Alphabetically the Founding Members are:

CHASA Confederation of Hunting Associations of South Africa

Natshoot – NHSA National Hunting and Shooting Association

PASA Parrot Breeders Association of South Africa

SAFA South African Falconry Association

SAPA South African Predators Association

SATTA South African Taxidermy and Tannery Association

South African Wingshooters Association

TGA True Green Alliance

WRSA Wildlife Ranching South Africa

A Publication of the
Sustainable Use Coalition-southern Africa.

SUCo-SA

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