

KwaZulu-Natal Game Auction

5902

Record prices were fetched at the KwaZulu-Natal Game Sale held at Mtubatuba on 21 June 1997

South Africa's premier game auction was once again a huge success with game to the value of R6,6 million being sold to buyers, locally and internationally. Last year's figure of R8,8 million could well have been surpassed had 6 black rhino not been withdrawn and had not about 100 less white rhino been offered.

The top price for a mature white rhino was R115 000 (R86 000 last year) and R12 000 for a giraffe. All prices were up compared to last year.

About 1 000 people, including local and foreign buyers, crowded the huge marquee. The proceedings received local and worldwide media exposure with at least three foreign film crews in attendance.

A considerable number of game could be viewed beforehand at bomas and pens in Hluhluwe and Umfolozi. The animals were all in good condition and the lots clearly marked with information on when and where the animals were captured.

The compact but comprehensive sales catalogue provided buyers with all the necessary information. Apart from the usual information on the conditions of sale of the Natal Parks Board and of the auctioneers, it contained notes on conditions for export buyers; drugs used on animals; care and feeding of animals; carrying capacity of capture vehicles; transport distances and routes; pens and boma fees and a transport instructions slip.

A feature of this sale was the professional way in which the sale was organised, from the pre-auction viewing till after the last fall of the hammer.

Excellent co-operation was evident between the Natal Game Ranchers'

Sale analysis						
Breed	Total offered	Total sold	Highest price	Average price	Turn-over	% sold
Eland	23	23	5 100	4 196	96 500	100%
Kudu	100	100	3 400	1 866	186 600	100%
Zebra	151	141	2 700	1 715	241 800	93%
Ostrich	10	10	3 000	2 760	27 600	100%
Black wildebeest	32	32	3 100	2 625	84 000	100%
Blue wildebeest	395	395	3 000	1 796	709 300	100%
Nyala	415	367	5 200	2 664	977 800	88%
Warthog	150	150	500	500	75 000	100%
Springbok	95	95	500	476	45 250	100%
Red hartebeest	40	40	2 600	2 600	104 000	100%
Impala	569	569	550	480	273 300	100%
Blesbok	226	226	700	545	123 150	100%
Giraffe	26	26	12 000	9 769	254 000	100%
Common reedbuck	96	96	2 400	2 075	199 200	100%
White rhino	39	39	160 000	82 051	3 200 000	100%
Black rhino	6	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2 373	2 309	160 000	2 857	6 597 500	97%

Sellers analysis						
Breed	Total offered	Total sold	Highest price	Average price	Turn-over	% sold
Natal Parks Board	2 196	2 190	160 000	2 827	6 192 150	99.73%
NPB Conservation Trust	2	2	78 000	75 000	150 000	100%
Vergenoeg Nyala Ranch	77	29	4 400	2 628	76 200	38%
Sutton Game Ranch	98	88	4 000	2 036	179 150	90%
Total	2 373	2 309	160 000	2 857	6 597 500	

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Association, under whose auspices the private individuals sold their game; the Natal Parks Board, the major role player; and Stock Owners Co-operative Ltd, the renowned auctioneer. They were there in full force, from Chief Executive Val Field, Game Marketing Manager Frans Ras, auctioneers Dallas Kemp and Brandon Leer, to the auxiliary staff.

Chief Executive of the Natal Parks

Board, Dr George Hughes, having arrived the night before from the CITES meeting in Harare, was also at his post.

