

## Ethical professional hunting

The Natal Parks Board is to undertake an investigation into any possible connection between KwaZulu-Natal and the "canned lion" hunts which have been reported as having taken place in other provinces of South Africa.

"The Natal Parks Board abhors any form of "canned" hunting and will apply the full measure of the law to ensure that this absolutely unethical and indeed, unlawful, activity does not take place in KwaZulu-Natal," said Dr George Hughes

"The Board subscribes to the philosophy of sustainable utilisation of natural resources and in terms of this philosophy, recognises the value of ethical sport hunting and we support this industry through appropriate action and legislation," he said.

The Board is a member of The South African Professional Hunters Committee which is chaired by Mr Gary Davies, a Natal Parks Board staff member charged with the sport hunting portfolio.

## NPB response to SABC allegations

The Natal Parks Board rejected the SABC television news item broadcast at 20:00 on 10 June 1997 implying that the Board was involved in illegal activities involving rhinoceros horns.

"The Board has a stock pile of rhino horns collected from naturally dead animals and breakages during translocation operations within KwaZulu-Natal. This is considerably less than the estimated 60 000 claimed in the SABC TV broadcast", said Dr Hans Grobler, Natal Parks Board Deputy Chief Executive.

"These horns are mainly from white rhino and there certainly has never been more than 10 000 of these animals in South Africa since the turn of the century," he added. The Natal Parks Board has a very solid, international reputation as a successful nature conservation organisation that has been built up over the past fifty years with the support of the people of the KwaZulu-Natal and of South Africa as well as a very considerable number of individuals and professional organisations in other countries.

It is therefore regrettable that the SABC TV news broadcast questioned the integrity of the Board and its staff in spite of overwhelming proof to the contrary and without any apparent investigation to verify the facts.

## News Flash

### Counter poaching operation in the Kruger National Park receives sponsorship

A recent presentation was held by Ramrod Manufacturing and their overseas principals, Tasco Optics, Maglite Flashlights, Spyderco Knives and Ram Accessories to the Kruger National Parks Honorary Rangers Counter Poaching unit. This involved over R400 000 in equipment being supplied to the Honorary Rangers and the Game Scouts in the Kruger Park.

The equipment will be used by the highly trained Counter Poaching Rangers and Game Scouts in the field making their job a lot easier under difficult conditions.

"This huge R400 000 equipment sponsorship from Ramrod and their overseas principals is, we hope, the start of huge things to come in the way of funds and equipment for our Honorary Rangers and Game Scouts," said Robin Fisher, Chairman of the Honorary Rangers Counter Poaching Committee.

The committee members of AROA would like to thank the following organisations for their support of Daan Buijs' attendance at the recent CITES:

- ◆ Du Toit Wilddienste
- ◆ Sable Ranch (Pty) Ltd
- ◆ Sandringham Private Game Reserve

## The Rubbing Post

As a service to AROA members, *Rhino Watch* publishes all requests from those interested in buying or selling rhinos. We invite our members to make use of this service and to fax the details to Lucinda Scholtz at (011) 453-9834.

For purposes of confidentiality, reserves will not be named when disclosing details of the availability of rhinos in our advertising.

Editor: Lucinda Scholtz