



SA Wingshooters — A Profile

The Southern African Wingshooters Association was first formed by Frank Poretti, Barry Kraut and Alister McLean in 1981. It was re-launched by Raoul van der Westhuizen and Costa Halkias during the early nineties in South Africa to ensure that the voice of the wingshooting fraternity was heard at a time when new gun control measures were first mooted and nature conservation responsibilities were being re-allocated at central and provincial government levels.

One of the association's main objectives is the recruitment and development of new bird shooting venues for members. In 2002 the Association launched a database of shooting venues 'The National Gamebird Database' and announced a programme to manage such shooting venues and to interact with landowners to develop the habitats.

SA Wingshooters is accredited by the South African Police Services as a Hunting Association (reg no. 9000002) in terms of the Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000 and is a member of the Hunters' Forum, which meets monthly with senior representatives of the Central Firearms Registry to discuss the implementation of the Act, to identify problems and issues in the licensing and re-licensing of firearms and to represent the interests of hunters and wingshooters i.r.o. the Act.

The Association published the first-of-its-kind handbook WINGSHOOTING and the 'Manual for Dedicated Hunters' (from material provided by the British Association for Shooting and Conservation).

SA Wingshooters has revived the National Gamebird Survey, which is conducted by Dr PJ (Slang) Viljoen and which annually undertakes a national gamebird population survey and monitors the malicious poisoning of gamebirds with agricultural pesticides.

SA Wingshooters' Rural Community Development (RCD) programme is involved in the development and marketing of more than twelve annual Community Shoots in which an estimated R0,5 million is raised each year for the respective local communities. Based on an estimated multiplication factor of ten, this constitutes an economic effect of R5 million per annum for rural communities. A number of new RCD projects are under development in several provinces.

The Association is also the national controlling body for the international clay target shooting sport of COMPAK.

