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**PRESS RELEASE ISSUE BY WICUS PRETORIUS,
DIRECTOR OF WILDLIFE RANCHING SOUTH AFRICA (WRSA)**

WRSA supports sustainable utilisation of rhinos

The sustainable utilisation of wildlife is a basic principle of Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA), the body representing wildlife ranchers in South Africa. As such WRSA cannot fault the disposal of white rhinos by the Kruger National Park, as was widely reported on recently.

“However, the practice can only be supported if all parties that move, resettle, buy or sell or transport animals meet all regulatory requirements as well as the South African Bureau of Standards regulations in this regard – whether WRSA members or the Parks Board,” says Wicus Pretorius, director of WRSA. “It is not in the interest of the wildlife industry, including our members, if the removal of animals does not occur according to regulations.”

WRSA believes that the Parks Board should seriously consider alternative methods to remove excess rhinos from the country’s national parks, in order to control and manage rhino numbers as a result of ecological considerations among others. One such a possibility is to make these animals available for community projects, developing wildlife farmers and other black economic empowerment projects. Such a strategy can hugely benefit the communities involved and will also support white rhino numbers.

“The judicious management of wildlife numbers based on sound research is to the benefit of the entire wildlife industry,” Pretorius says.

For further information, contact Reinhardt Holtzhausen, manager of WRSA, on tel 012 335 6994, cell 083 611 0467 or e-mail manager@wrsa.co.za.

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