



Society Name

June 2022

Dear Members,

As noted in the first letter circulated earlier this week, 2022 is not a “voting year”, requiring no nominations or deliberations of new Committee members. However, we do have at least one proposal to consider, which will require tabling at the 2022 AGM for voting. If supported, it will also lead to updating of the Society Constitution.

Matter at Hand

The matter involves a proposal to address and improve on the current name of the Society. It is being proposed that the Society name be changed to a more appropriate title.

Reasoning

In 2014 it was proposed that the name of the Society be changed to Shell Collectors SA. The reasoning behind the new name was to change it to something that would make it more approachable and easier to understand for the general public and the youth – as a means to try and increase membership and draw in younger people. The Committee agreed that this has not contributed notably in this regard, and may have led to a reduction in local and international regard, particularly within the scientific community.

Proposal

The Committee proposes that the name of the Society be changed to be more aligned with our primary mandate, which is to further the study of Conchological and Molluscan sciences. It is also proposed that the new title be simplistic enough to be easily articulated during conversation with the public.

To this end, the Committee is proposing to change the name of the Society to: **Conchology SA**.

Request to Members

The above is a proposal only, not a decision. Proposals of this nature need to be voted on at the AGM and penned into the Constitution. If accepted, para 1.1 of the Constitution will be updated to read as follows:

“The name of the Society shall be The Conchological Society of Southern Africa or any other name or names the Society may from time to time agree upon, and specifically including “Conchology SA”, or the acronym “CSA”, and hereinafter referred to as “the Society.””

In addition, the Society name does not belong to the Committee, but to our Members. All Members are therefore encouraged to propose additional titles. All suggestions will be considered and be voted on at the AGM. Suggestions must please reach the Committee by no later than 1 August 2022.

Conclusion

Our Society needs to remain relevant. Our name is the starting point for relevancy, as this is the first thing mentioned in conversation and correspondence. It is therefore imperative that we amend the current situation and realign our Society with its mandate, which is foremost the promotion of Conchological sciences and also matters relating to the preservation of our marine ecosystems.

Having a name which is closer related to the above will help us to achieve these goals.

ERRATA

In the first 2022 AGM letter it was erroneously stated that the 2021 AGM was held in September. This is obviously incorrect, as it was held in November last year.

The Exhibit Guidelines mention the 2018 AGM, and this was correct at the time of writing, but they are also applicable to all AGMs following on from this, including the 2022 AGM.

Until next time, happy shelling!



President, SCSA
28 June 2022

