



Grad2013...one/with pics

### **AFRICA'S BIODIVERSITY IN GOOD HANDS**

**December 2013:** This year the Southern African Wildlife College was privileged to welcome His Royal Highness, Senior Chief Inyambo Yeta from the Simalaha Community Conservancy in Zambia to the graduation of its HET Protected Area Management students. In addressing the students who hailed from nine different countries across the SADC region and beyond, Senior Chief Nyambo Yeta said, "Fifty percent of Africa's protected areas fall within trans-frontier conservation areas. This is no coincidence as it reflects the concerted efforts of governments, NGO's, communities, conservation agencies and protected area managers to conserving our natural heritage. The rest of the world is losing land to mining, agriculture, forestry and the like whilst Africa is growing its natural areas."

"The 51 students that graduated are testimony to these efforts. The future of conservation is in good hands. The skills mastered at the Southern African Wildlife College place these students, which hail from nine different countries including Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, in a very advantageous position as they have been equipped to manage the challenges that lie ahead," he added.

This year marked the 16<sup>th</sup> year that the College has been offering its flagship protected area management programmes designed to help achieve long lasting conservation results across the region. In implementing a collaborative approach to conservation and community-based natural resource management and resource ownership, the natural and cultural heritage of the region can be conserved.

"We need to help mitigate the link between natural resource destruction and poverty amongst rural communities," said Annelize Steyn, Head of Academics Affairs at the College. "The College is actively involved in empowering protected area managers not only with the necessary conservation skills but also with the ability to engage various stakeholders so that long term solutions can be found to ensure the biodiversity of the region. The graduates are poised to play an active role in the management and protection of Africa's parks and wildlife. Their enthusiasm and dedication is infectious and gives one real hope for the future of conservation," she said.

During the graduation ceremony, six students were recognised for their outstanding achievements during the 2013 year. The Rosie Sturgis Award for the Most Improved Student went to Manei Bernard Penane - Ministry of Tourism Lesotho, the WWF South Africa Award for the Most Outstanding South African Student was awarded to Khumoetsile Phala - North West Parks and Tourism Board (summa cum laude), the Hans Hoheisen Award for the Best Protected Area Management Student went to Mable Shibata - Zambian Wildlife Authority (summa cum laude), Best Animal Studies student was awarded to Thomas Bwalya - Zambia Wildlife Authority and Simba Sandram from Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management (summa cum laude) was awarded the trophy for the Best Financial Management student.

The two top awards sponsored by the Distell Foundation for the Best Student – Higher Certificate in Nature Conservation and Leadership and the Advanced Certificate in Trans-frontier Conservation Management went to Caroline Katsande - Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management (summa cum laude) and Khumoetsile Phala – North West Parks and Tourism Board (summa cum laude) respectively.

In addition and amidst much excitement, three students from the Higher Certificate were awarded scholarships made available by the Southern African Wildlife College Trust to continue their studies at the Wildlife College in 2014. The scholarship recipients included Caroline Katsande and Alice Chatikobo both from Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management and Thomas Bwalya from the Zambian Wildlife Authority. All three students achieved 29 distinctions between them.

Theresa Sowry, CEO of the Wildlife College, said that apart from the Higher Education and Training students who graduated, over 2000 students were trained across various programmes at the Wildlife College over the past year. As such, the College has demonstrated its potential to identify conservation training needs across the region and to respond accordingly.

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#### **CAPTIONS: SAWC 2013 HET GRADUATION**

DSC 0134: The Southern African Wildlife College Higher Certificate in Nature Conservation Implementation and Leadership graduands which included students from Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



DSC 0147: The Southern African Wildlife College Advanced Certificate in Trans-frontier Conservation Management graduands which included students from Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



DSC 0168: Five female students' from the KAZA trans-frontier conservation areas were sponsored by KfW Stiftung in the 2013 academic year. The graduands included: Viola Sankwasa from the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Priscar Mufungulwa from Mosi oa Tunya National Park - Zambia, Mwendalubi Kalinda Luangwa Management Service- Zambia, Elizabeth Kampengele , Kafue National Park - Zambia and Mable Shibata, Eastern Region Head Office (Chipate) – Zambia.



DSC 0442: The 2013 Southern African Wildlife College graduation award winners are from left: Khumoetsile Phala - North West Parks and Tourism Board (summa cum laude), Mable Shibata - Zambian Wildlife Authority (summa cum laude), Caroline Katsande - Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management (summa cum laude), Thomas Bwalya - Zambia Wildlife Authority, Simba Sandram from Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management (summa cum laude) and Manei Bernard Penane - Ministry of Tourism Lesotho.



DSC 0483: Pictured at the Southern African Wildlife College Graduation are (from left) Chief Phahlela Joas Makuleke, Mr. Misaveni Bios Hlongwani, Chairperson of Makuleke CPA, His Royal Highness, Senior Chief Inyambo Yeta and his wife Ms Lubasi Sitali.





DSC 0514: From left (top): His Royal Highness, Senior Chief Inyambo Yeta (Simalaha Community Conservancy), Mr Paul Zyambo (Training Manager Zambian Wildlife Authority), Prof Andrew Nambota (KAZA), his wife Mrs Kabuku Nambota and Chief Inyambo Yeta's wife Ms Lubasi Sitali, are pictured with some of the Zambian students that graduated.



DSC 0563: His Royal Highness Senior Chief Inyambo Yeta (second left) is pictured with Board Members of the Southern African Wildlife College (from left) Ian Goodwin, WWF South Africa, Theresa Sowry, CEO of the Southern African Wildlife College, Countess Sylvia Labia, Founder Trustee of the Southern African Wildlife College Trust and Mathews Mnisi, Welverdiend Community.



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