



NEWS FLASH – SOUTHERN AFRICAN WILDLIFE COLLEGE

FEB 2016 - SOUTHERN AFRICAN WILDLIFE COLLEGE IS AWARDED SUBSTANTIAL GRANT VIA UNITED FOR WILDLIFE SUPPORTED BY THE ROYAL FOUNDATION OF THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE AND PRINCE HARRY

Following the visit of HRH Prince Harry to the Southern African Wildlife College in December 2015, a grant of £370.000 was awarded to the College towards strengthening capacity and increasing training opportunities at this SADC recognised centre of specialization in conservation education, training and skills development.

During his visit Prince Harry met with both the field ranger training students and the graduates of the Wildlife Area Management Qualification Programmes. In a speech delivered to the students, he expressed his love for Africa and concern for its wildlife. In support of this he announced that funding would be made available to help protect some of the World's most endangered species via capacity building.

“The grant, which has been awarded to the College via United for Wildlife through the support of The Royal Foundation of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry, will provide funding over a two-year period – 2016 and 2017,” said Naomi Doak, Project Director, United for Wildlife.

The primary areas of support will include:

A contribution towards the costs of training and workplace exposure of wildlife guardians as part of the National Treasury's, Jobs Fund Project, now in its second year, which will help to ensure that 257 unemployed people from communities receive the necessary training and employment opportunities whilst obtaining a National Certificate: Nature Conservation: Resource Guardianship.

SMART Development and Training which is aimed at combining the use of software and training with the emphasis being on capacity building and best practices which will provide local protected area and wildlife authorities and community groups the ability to empower staff, boost motivation, increase efficiency and promote credible and transparent monitoring of the effectiveness of various wildlife area management efforts in particular the anti-poaching efforts. It is envisaged that ongoing and expanding collaboration by a diverse community of users will help develop a suite of software tools that can be used to capture, manage and analyse various kinds of spatial data critical to the effective management and monitoring of conservation areas.

Supporting Community based natural Resource Management (CBNRM) in Mozambique: The Southern African Wildlife College's vision and mission aims to help empower local communities to manage and conserve their natural resources, whilst promoting socio-economic development. By working with the local communities, using a learning-by-doing approach, a CBNRM plan can be developed that is aligned with each community's unique circumstances.

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This plan will then empower communities in the decision making process when it comes to their natural resources in order to achieve maximum, sustainable benefit to all stakeholders. This in turn will help promote the sustainable sharing of natural resources, help build good capacity for the management of wildlife whilst ensuring beneficiation using a participatory approach.

Providing the funding for a regional school-leaver conservation and environmental education bridging programme in the SADC region. This is a six-month programme, currently open to South African students from historically disadvantaged communities which focuses on building leadership skills, introducing the learner to various aspects of conservation including field ranging and environmental education.

Finally, the funding received will also assist in supporting the College's Wildlife Area Management training programme. These Higher Education and Training programmes are aimed at up-skilling potential managers from across the SADC region and beyond who are already employed in the field of conservation and who are tasked with meeting the challenges facing conservation today.

Commenting on the grant made by United For Wildlife supported by the Royal Foundation, Theresa Sowry, CEO of the College said, "Since its establishment in 1996, the College has trained over 15,000 people from across the region. This funding will provide the necessary monetary injection to help us ensure that our learners are not only properly trained but that they are getting the most up-to-date training and equipment needed. The conservation of Africa's natural resources including its wildlife is facing a number of challenges on so many different levels and we need to ensure that people in the field and within the communities surrounding wildlife areas are able to meet those challenges. As such, we are truly grateful for the help extended."

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The Southern African Wildlife College, which works closely with Peace Parks Foundation, was established in 1996 by the World Wide Fund for Nature in South Africa (WWF-SA). This was done in close cooperation with interested and affected parties in southern Africa, including national and provincial government departments, other conservation agencies and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The College is an independent Private Provider of Higher and Further Education which has gained recognition as:

- *A SADC recognised centre of specialization in conservation education, training and skills development*
- *An appointed Institute of Sectoral and Occupational Excellence (ISOE) for its outstanding contribution to skills development and organisational capacitation by CATHSSETA*
- *A DEA approved project for Social and Economic Development (SED) purposed under the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act 53 of 2003 and the Codes of Good Practice on Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment.*

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