



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**ISSUED BY: THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN WILDLIFE COLLEGE**

**November 2017**

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### **SAWC provides access to youth wanting to pursue a career in conservation**

Twenty seven students from the five countries within the SADC region are in process of successfully completing a six month Youth Access: Conservation and Environmental Education Bridging Course offered by the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC). The theoretical part of the course, which also includes practical application in line with the College's applied learning approach, commenced in 10 July 2017 with their graduation from the "classroom" taking place on 27 September 2017. During this time the students, who hail from South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Malawi, engaged in a variety of training modules which included: First Aid Level 1 training, Reptile Orientation, basic Field Ranger training as well as Environmental Education and Leadership.

All learners have now been deployed to their respective countries for work place experiential learning until 24 November 2017. Six of the South African students have been placed at the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), Andover Nature Reserve and one has been placed at Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism Limpopo (LEDET), Letaba Ranch.

The remaining students returned to their home countries on 28 September 2017. The College's sincere thanks is extended to those organisations and donors who make the running of this important bridging course possible namely, Children in the Wilderness, United for Wildlife supported by the Royal Foundation of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry, Friends of African Wildlife and Grounded Media.

The skills and knowledge gained during this programme provides learners, who have expressed an interest in conservation, entrée into the sector. During their training they are provided with the fundamental skills that all Field Rangers and Environmental Educators need in order to effectively enter the job market and perform the required duties. Learners who show leadership skills may qualify for further leadership training.

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*The Southern African Wildlife College, which is located 10km west of the Kruger National Park in South Africa, is a non-profit organization delivering conservation education as well as training and skills development programmes to help ensure the region's rich biological diversity and ensure that its threatened species are conserved and protected. In doing so, the College provide tomorrow's conservation leaders, field rangers and the community with the skills needed to become partners in saving the continent's natural heritage.*

**CAPTIONS: Southern African Wildlife College:-**

(Included are 2 visuals – both available in high res)



Above: Learners in class during one of their lessons



Above: Learners out in the field during a training session