



MEDIA RELEASE

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN WILDLIFE COLLEGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 2016: The Southern African Wildlife College NPC's (1996/005726/08) Board of Directors is proud to announce the appointment of Dr Bartholomeu Filimao Soto, Director General of the National Administration of Conservation Areas (Administracao Nacional de Areas de Conservacao - ANAC) in Mozambique, as Chairperson of the College Board. Dr. Sotho has been a Director of the Board since the College's inception in 1996 and brings a wealth of experience and historical knowledge to the table.

Dr. Sotho takes over as Chairperson from Dr. Isidore Bandile Mkhize who since April 2009 was the Board incumbent for Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. In his place, the Board welcomes Mr. Sifiso Keswa, Senior General Manager, People and Conservation at Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. At the same time, the Board also bids farewell to Mr. Ian Goodwin, who was one of WWF-SA's incumbents whilst also being a member of the College's Audit Committee and a Trustee of the Southern African Wildlife College Trust.

The College's Board of Directors, made up of leaders in the conservation sector, is well positioned to help guide the College as it continues to play a pivotal role in equipping conservation managers with the necessary skills to deal with key challenges facing conservation today. Closely linked to this is the role that nature-based tourism is set to play in the socio-economic development of southern Africa and which in turn allows the College to expand its relevance and reach across borders, greatly impacting on the training of conservationists in Africa. The College also plays a significant role in developing youth access to the sector as well as in assisting on the anti-poaching front by way of its well-established Field Ranger training unit.

"There is no doubt that adequate training is vital if protected areas are to be sustained. A high priority is placed on community-based natural resource management, poverty reduction, alternative livelihoods and biodiversity economy strategies to contribute to biodiversity conservation, socio-economic and tourism development in the southern African sub-region, said Mrs. Theresa Sowry CEO of the Southern African Wildlife College and Board Director.

"We are confident that, with the ongoing support of our Board of Directors, the College will continue to deliver on its mandate," she added.

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Dr Bartholomeu Filimao Soto, Director General of the National Administration of Conservation Areas (Administracao Nacional de Areas de Conservacao - ANAC) in Mozambique has been appointed as Chairperson of the Southern African Wildlife College's Board of Directors

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