

Succeeding with SAWCT

SAWCT is grateful to their generous donors for their continuing and valued support.

Funding education, training and pressing projects in nature conservation, in support of the work of the College in perpetuity, helps to safeguard the future of the region's natural heritage on which the continent depends.

Since inception, SAWCT has awarded 50 Higher Education and Training scholarships and bursaries to deserving students.

Scholarships enabled these top students, Thomas Bwalya from Zambia, Alice Chatikoba and Caroline Katsande both from Zimbabwe, to attend the Advanced Certificate Programme in Nature Conservation – Transfrontier Conservation Management (NQF level 6) in 2014. Bursaries were awarded to two students, Kgomotso Mkwandawire from South Africa, and Mukwa Rollen Sikwana from Namibia/Katima Mulilo, to complete the Higher Certificate Programme in Nature Conservation – Conservation Implementation and Leadership (NQF level 5) in 2014. This equips yet another generation of managers with the skills needed to address the challenges facing conservation today.

The Trust has taken steps to review its fundraising and communication plan. This will ensure it continues to operate successfully and provides that essential element in the sustainability plan for the College, that of an endowment fund.

When the last fundraising contract ended (2014), SAWCT appointed the services of a new part-time fundraiser, Janet Wakelin, to work in conjunction with the Head of Marketing and Fundraising at the College, to meet SAWCT's fundraising goals for 2015.

Pictured are the 2014 Southern African Wildlife College Trust (SAWCT) scholarship recipients (from left): Alice Chatikoba (Zimbabwe), Thomas Bwalya (Zambia) and Caroline Katsande (Zimbabwe), Lesley Richardson, the Chairperson and Charles de Villiers, a Trustee of SAWCT.



The Southern African Wildlife College Trust is endorsed by IUCN (Regional Office of Southern Africa), South African National Parks (SANParks), the World Wide Fund for Nature, South Africa (WWF-SA) and Peace Parks Foundation (PPF).



Letters from SAWCT 2014 scholarship and bursary students

Thomas Bwalya

Zambia Wildlife Authority - Zambia

Allow me to say thank you very much for affording me with an opportunity to study at this wonderful College. I know there are a lot of people out there who were in need of the same help I received, but I was selected amongst many to complete the Advanced Programme...

The subjects we covered at the College are practical examples of solutions that are needed in my protected area in Zambia and many of our SADC countries. I will use the knowledge and skills I acquired from the College to overcome the conservation challenges that we are facing in the Lower Zambezi National Park of Zambia. I will now be able to execute my duties professionally because of the opportunity you have given to me.

The lecturers are very skilful and helpful. They have done everything to ensure that we became professional conservationists in the areas where we help conserve and protect our natural resources.

Kindly continue with this spirit for the betterment of our natural resources. With these few words stay blessed.

Alice Chatikoba

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Authority – Zimbabwe

I appreciate the scholarship that I was offered by SAWCT in the year 2014 to complete my Advanced Certificate. Without your sponsorship I would not have been able to enrol for this programme. You were my pillar of everything in times of my studies.

May you please continue with such a caring heart and offering such scholarships to all students who have the opportunity to further their studies.

Thank you for making my conservationist dream come true.

Caroline Katsande

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Authority – Zimbabwe

Recipient: Best Financial Management Student Award; Distell Foundation Award for the Best Student: Advanced Certificate in Transfrontier Conservation Management.

I would like to express my profound gratitude as one of the fortunate students to have received a scholarship for the 2014 Advanced Certificate Programme.

Through your financial support I acquired a lot of knowledge, skills and changed my attitude towards many aspects of conservation. I now hope to become a leader in sustainable conservation; so that I can improve my reserve, my country and Africa at large.

Once again I thank you for giving me the opportunity of becoming who I am today, A CONSERVATIONIST WHO HAS BEEN WELL GROOVED BY THE COLLEGE. I would also like to encourage you to keep up the spirit and continue helping all the students for the benefit of future generations and stakeholders.

Thank you

Kgomotso Mkwandawire

North West Parks and Tourism Board – South Africa

I would like to take this opportunity to thank SAWCT for helping me to further my studies. The bursary awarded gave me the opportunity to study at the Southern African Wildlife College this year; without you I wouldn't be the person I am today.

I graduated from Southern African Wildlife College, after finishing 16 Modules with a Final Course Mark of 70% in Nature Conservation and Conservation Implementation and Leadership NQF – 5.

I would also like to tell you that I am now so motivated, that I am planning to continue with my studies Level 6 by year 2016.

THANK YOU!!!

Mukwa Rollen Sikwana

Terra Zambia - Namibia

It is with great honour that I communicate my acknowledgement of the assistance you gave me in the form of study aid. The bursary came at the right time and it would therefore be unreasonable of me not to express the real joy of having successfully completed the first year of my study programme.

I know that without your assistance I would not have been able to complete my Higher Certificate programme. I have now been exposed to the skills and knowledge needed as a conservation manager and I would now really like to continue my studies so that I get fully acquainted with the necessary knowledge as far as my field is concerned.

Your consideration will be highly treasured. In good faith



donors

The trustees of the Southern African Wildlife College Education Trust would like to convey their warmest gratitude to all our donors for their generous support.

Donations received from inception to 28 February 2014

BATELEUR EAGLE (R1 million and above)

Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust
Peace Parks Foundation
The Rufford Foundation
The Rupert Family Foundation

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Claude CM, Estate Late
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BLACK EAGLE (R250 000 and above)

Credit Guarantee
Gala Education Trust
Miller, Mr H
The Allan & Gill Gray Charitable Trust
WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature – US

CROWNED EAGLE (R100 000 and above)

Afrisam
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Charl van der Merwe Trust
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Labia, Countess Sylvia (including Hawthornden Summer Celebration 20.11.2010 and Wildlife in Art Lecture by Ed Saunders 8.3.2012)
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AFRICAN HAWK EAGLE (R10 000 and above)

Ackerman, Mrs W
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FISH EAGLE (R50 000 and above)

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southern african
wildlife
college trust

annual report 2014

Nurturing and strengthening conservation leadership for today and tomorrow





college news



message from the chairperson and the founder trustee

We are pleased to share with you, our passionate and dependable partners in conservation, our Annual Report for 2014. We are confident this will give you significant insight into the work being done by the Southern African Wildlife College Trust and its sole beneficiary, the Southern African Wildlife College.

We acknowledge you, our funding partners, for your invaluable contributions. These have escalated the Trust's reserves in the depicted "potjie" to a remarkable R28 million.

With community development, climate change, poverty and the growing demand for protected commodities such as rhino horn impacting Africa's resources, it becomes a daunting task to address the ever-increasing environmental challenges facing the continent.

More than ever we need to equip the custodians of our natural resources with the leadership and skills to tackle Africa's formidable conservation challenges. It is with this in mind that we continue the work of the Trust in growing the "potjie". With your support, the Trust was once again able to award the three annual SAWCT scholarships and two bursaries to deserving students at the College in 2014. It also supported a number of noteworthy projects that influence the quality of education at the College. Please enjoy the personal notes of thanks from these graduates further on in this report.

During 2014 the College developed its 2015 -2020 business plan, in which it detailed steps to ensure its continued success and efficiency. They also move the College along in its quest to financial sustainability whilst staying true to its vision and mission. The Trust

has taken similar steps to review its fundraising, communication, and investment plans, to grow the "potjie" and thereby its capacity to support its beneficiary, the College.

But it is mainly with your continued support that the Trust will continue to grow to meet the increasing need for leadership training in conservation in southern Africa. We thank you for walking this road with us.

Sincerely

Lesley Richardson
Chairperson

Sylvia Labia
Founder Trustee



Lesley Richardson
Chairperson



Sylvia Labia
Founder Trustee

SAWCT investment in the WWF-SA Living Planet Fund

The assets of the Trust are aligned with those of the WWF-SA Prescient Living Planet Fund. Its objective is the delivery of long-term capital growth with a high level of sustainability and environmental integrity.

- The Fund is registered and regulated by the Financial Services Board (FSB)
- Investments take place in a balanced manner, through a range of asset classes
- The Fund complies with the Prudential Investment Guidelines for SA Retirement Funds under Reg. 28 of the Pension Fund Act

The performance of the investments is key in meeting the aim of the Trust.

Investment Report for the period ending December 2014:

- Trust assets increased – primarily driven by the exposure to equity markets which appreciated over the period
- The Trust performed well – substantially out-performing CPI inflation and performing in line with the strategic benchmark
- Global equity markets performed well and continue to do so into 2015 - the funds remain fully invested
- SAWCT is well diversified across asset classes (equities, income, cash, local and international) and also across economic sectors
- The investment principles and policy framework's key principles include increasing the fund's environmental integrity and ensuring that the funds are managed according to prudent investment principles. Further progress was made in both areas
- Selective construction and management changes were implemented successfully - further adjustments will occur to enhance the overall quality and integrity of the funds and investments

WWF-SA Managed Trust Funds	2014 ZAR'000	2013 ZAR'000	2012 ZAR'000
SAWCT	25,198	22,932	21,756

Investment Performance	2014 (1 year)	2 years ann.	3 years ann.
SAWCT	9.69%	12.53%	13.08%
CPI Inflation	4.75%	5.43%	5.23%
Strategic Benchmark	9.45%	14.5%	15.4%

Asset Class exposure	LT Strategic position	Current position Proxy
SA Equity	60%	59%
SA Fixed Income	20%	17%
Global Equity	10%	14%
Global Fixed Income	10%	9%

income and disbursements

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2014

	2014	2013
	R	R
INCOME		
Donations and voluntary contributions	139,016	429,158
EXPENDITURE	249,742	149,549
Administration disbursements	200,847	96,321
Fundraising campaign	8,595	15,928
Management services	40,300	37,300
Net surplus before finance income adjustment	(110,726)	279,636
Finance income	714,491	448,667
Investments - change in market value	2,803,511	1,581,309
Total comprehensive surplus/(deficit) for the year	3,407,276	2,309,612

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2014

	Capital Fund	General Fund	Total
	R	R	R
Balance at 1 March 2013	22,031,021	3,440,319	25,471,340
Total comprehensive income for the year	139,016	3,268,260	3,407,276
Distribution to beneficiary	-	(800,000)	(800,000)
Transfer between funds	1,302,615	(1,302,615)	-
Balance at 28 February 2014	23,472,652	4,605,964	28,078,616

Balance at 1 March 2012	20,387,633	3,554,724	23,942,357
Total comprehensive income for the year	429,185	1,880,427	2,309,612
Distribution to beneficiary	-	(780,629)	(780,629)
Transfer between funds	1,214,203	(1,214,203)	-
Balance at 28 February 2013	22,031,021	3,440,319	25,471,340

OVERVIEW

The year under review was a successful, exciting and challenging one for the College. Successful in that student occupancy rates remained similar to the all-time high of 2013 and challenging given the pressure that this has put on current facilities. This will ease now that PHASE 11 of the College's infrastructure development is under way.

STRATEGIC PLANNING & RELATIONSHIPS

In 2014, the College took strategic steps to operate effectively in its quest for financial sustainability, whilst staying true to its vision and mission. The concept of "business units" rather than training departments was implemented which has led to the College being more business driven in meeting its financial targets. Its 2015-2020 business plan follows on from the strategy to consolidate some and diversify others of its training products. This is in line with the national development strategy and with the needs of the conservation sector. In 2014, the focus was on community-based natural resource management to help develop the region's wildlife economy and on field ranger training to help counter the rhino poaching scourge.

Furthermore, the College established and renewed strategic long-term relationships within the sector. MOUs with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and the Kruger National Park (KNP) resulted. This presented business opportunities in the skills development field that resulted in improved efficiencies for the College.

TRAINING AIMED AT LONG-LASTING CONSERVATION RESULTS

Training includes the protection of the rights of ordinary people in buffer zones, who are the ultimate stewards of land and natural resources. The new Business Plan will contribute to the goals and objectives of the National Biodiversity Economy Development Strategy and targets of DEA's Vision 2024. Projects developed in partnership with and funded by the Department of Environmental Affairs and the National Treasury's Jobs Fund are indicative thereof.

The College's flagship Protected Area Management programmes, designed to achieve long-lasting conservation results across the region, are now in their 17th year: The Higher Certificate in Nature Conservation - Implementation and Leadership; and the Advanced Certificate in Nature Conservation - Transfrontier Conservation Management. Fifty full-time and two part-time students enrolled for these programmes in 2014. The students hailed from seven different African countries (including Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Lesotho) and eight different national, provincial, private and community organisations in South Africa.

Graduation heard from a number of speakers who made a call to combine efforts for conservation in Africa to succeed. Mr Ernest Mokgane, director of TFCAs in the South African Department of Environmental Affairs said, "It is up to all the stakeholders, including the students operating in the transfrontier conservation areas to raise awareness of wildlife crime, improve conservation effectiveness and promote community benefits, without which conservation and anti-poaching efforts cannot succeed."

Apart from the Higher Education and Training students, over 1,500 students were trained in 2014. This brings to over 12,000 the number of students trained at this SADC-recognised centre of specialisation in conservation education, training and skills development.

LIAISON – SADC INSTITUTIONS & ORGANISATIONS

Two successful student and alumni workplace visits were completed. The workplace visits determine the strengths and weaknesses of the training provided and its relevance in the current SADC conservation milieu. It is important to know what challenges alumni face on returning to their jobs, to establish any emerging patterns. The feedback was addressed within the relevant modules.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

The College hosted another successful rhino crime prevention workshop. Attendees met with identified technology partners to discuss the development of the Rhino Crime Scene Simulator, and the Manyeleti Game Reserve fence, early-detection crime prevention project. An extended workshop and rhino marking operation followed this. The draft proposal was submitted at a meeting with the Department of Environmental Affairs.

DEVELOPMENTS

Apart from the year-long certificate programmes supported by SAWCT, the College's business units focus on Protected Area Integrity including wildlife guardianship field ranger training and aerial patrols, Youth Access and Community Development as well as Sustainable Use and Field Guiding. Focal points, which link into all the College's training programmes, include Academic Compliancy and Quality Management as well as Innovation, Development and Environmental Best Practice, together with Community-based Natural Resource Management and the development of the Wildlife Economy.

In addition, the College has been awarded various projects by the Department of Environmental Affairs and the National Treasury's Jobs Fund, which include a two-year Enterprise Development Project and a three-year Community Ranger's project.

The College has also now partially paid back the loan to the Trust which enabled the acquisition of African Field Ranger Training Services (AFRTS), which has bolstered its field ranger training capacity.

AWARDS

In June, the College won the prestigious Mail & Guardian 'Greening the Future' award in the newly established category 'Skills for Sustainability'. The College was also a runner-up for the 2014 Rhino Conservation Awards in the category 'Best Awareness, Education and Fundraising' for rhino protection and conservation.

SUPPORT

Sincere thanks go to donors and stakeholders who support the work of the College. Success depends on the support and collaboration of conservation groups and organisations, government agencies, as well as stakeholders and partners such as WWF South Africa, Peace Parks Foundation, SAWCT and the donor community.

Trustees (as at 28 February 2015)

Ms Lesley Richardson (Chair)
Private capacity

Mr Ian Goodwin (Vice Chair)
WWF-SA

Countess Sylvia Labia
WWF-SA and Founder Trustee

Mr Werner Myburgh
Peace Parks Foundation

(Vacant)

Peace Parks Foundation

Mr Guy Broucke
IUCN Regional Office for Eastern & Southern Africa

Mr Charles de Villiers
Private Capacity

Dr Teya Teferi
Conservation Programme Director, WWF Eastern Africa Kenya

Mr Leonard Sefu
Private Capacity

(Previously with the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife & Parks – Malawi)