



THE EWT WINS PRESTIGIOUS UNESCO SULTAN QABOOS PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION!

2nd December 2013

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The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) was recently awarded the 2013 UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation. The highly coveted prize was presented to Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert, the EWT's Head of Conservation Science, during the opening of the World Science Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The purpose of the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize is to afford recognition to outstanding contributions by individuals, groups of individuals, institutes or organizations in the management or preservation of the environment, consistent with the policies, aims and objectives of UNESCO. The EWT was recognised for its work in protecting South Africa's Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO World Heritage sites. In particular, its efforts to protect the Mapungubwe World Heritage Site and buffer zone from the threat of coal mining. The EWT catalysed enormous global interest in the region, developed a multi-party Coalition which engaged members from local communities, archaeological and heritage associations, biodiversity NGOs and legal experts, to hold commercial mining interests to account. The EWT liaised with local, regional and international bodies, including UNESCO, to support its efforts to protect the region and has maintained an active presence in the area, monitoring impact and ensuring compliance.

In the Kruger 2 Canyons Biosphere Reserve, which encompasses part of the world-renowned Kruger National Park, the EWT has contributed to the fight against rhino poaching by assisting rhino owners and managers to improve security and prevent rhino poaching on their properties. The EWT has taken the lead in protecting several endangered species, most notably through our efforts to conserve birds of prey and large carnivores. The Trust led the establishment of the International Vulture Awareness Day in 2006 to create awareness of the plight of vultures and to highlight the work being done to save these birds. Due to the success of this event, International Vulture Awareness Day now has a global footprint comprising 152 partner organisations from 45 countries. The EWT's innovative project on African Painted Dogs in Kruger National Park enlists the help of tourists as citizen scientists, enabling close monitoring of South Africa's last viable population of this Endangered species.

In the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve, the EWT is lobbying for the strategic and pro-active mainstreaming of biodiversity into the development of the Waterberg Coal Corridor, a strategic infrastructure project approved by the South African Presidency. The EWT is continually striving to engage relevant stakeholders to develop collaborative approaches and incentives to minimize

Physical Address: Building K2, Ardeer Road, Pinelands Office Park,
Modderfontein 1609, Gauteng, South Africa

Postal Address: Private Bag X 11, Modderfontein 1645, Gauteng, South Africa

Tel: +27 (0) 11 372 3600 **Fax:** +27 (0) 11 608 4682 **E-mail:** ewt@ewt.org.za **Web:** www.ewt.org.za

The Endangered Wildlife Trust is a non-profit, public benefit organisation dedicated to conserving species and ecosystems in southern Africa to the benefit of all people.

NPO Number: 015-502, **PBO number:** 930 001 777, **Member of IUCN** - The International Union for Conservation of Nature
The Endangered Wildlife Trust is US 501(c)(3) compliant under **US IRS Registration number:** EMP98-0586801.



biodiversity impacts, improve practices especially in terms of mining, and leverage biodiversity outcomes through rehabilitation, off site mitigation and investment in ecological infrastructure.

“We are incredibly honoured that we were chosen as recipients of the prize and are excited that our leadership in managing environmentally sensitive areas and our initiation of a variety of conservation activities and approaches that have had lasting positive impacts for southern Africa’s biodiversity and the wellbeing of its people have been recognised and rewarded on this prestigious international platform. This is also an amazing birthday present for the EWT as we are celebrating our 40th Anniversary of conservation in action on the African continent,” commented Dr Davies-Mostert.

The recipients of the prize are decided by the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, on the recommendation of an independent jury. As of 2013, the financial Prize reward is USD 70,000, a donation graciously made by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman. On this occasion, the EWT shared the prize with State Forests National Forest Holding of Poland, an agency responsible for the management of Poland's vast forest reserves. For further information about the prize and about the EWT please contact Dr Davies-Mostert on harrieta@ewt.org.za

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Contact: Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert
Head of Conservation Research
Endangered Wildlife Trust
Tel: +27 11 372 3600
harrieta@ewt.org.za

and

Nomonde Mxhalisa
Communications Manager
Endangered Wildlife Trust
Tel: +27 11 372 3600
nomondem@ewt.org.za

Physical Address: Building K2, Ardeer Road, Pinelands Office Park,
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