



THE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUSTS TAKES FIRST PLACE IN SOUTH AFRICAN CONSERVATION

Start

JOHANNESBURG, Friday 28th September – Last night the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), one of South Africa’s leading biodiversity conservation organisations, was recognised for the world class excellence of its programmes and leadership when its Airport Wildlife Programme was nominated in the Transport category and the organisation as a whole won the Biodiversity Category of the Second Annual Ecologic Awards hosted by Enviropaedia in association with SABC 3.

Said the EWT’s CEO, Yolán Friedmann: “The importance of the work of organisations like the EWT has never been more critical, even as we face not only declining resources to do our work, but increasing pressure as a result of a rapidly escalating environmental crisis. The loss and degradation of South Africa’s biodiversity has serious implications for our society and economy. Natural ecosystems provide many essential services such as the provision of clean water and air, prevention of soil erosion, pollination of crops, provision of medicinal plants, nutrient cycling, provision of food and shelter and the meeting of spiritual, cultural, aesthetic and recreational needs. Much of our economy depends heavily on biodiversity including the fishing industry, game and livestock ranching, horticulture, ecotourism, agriculture, trade and the commercial and subsistence use of medicinal plants.”

The EWT is aware of the importance of integrating the conservation of species, habitats and ecosystems and focuses much of its work on protecting both threatened species and habitats to the benefit of people. Threatened species act as indicators of the health of the ecosystems in which they occur. Successful conservation thus means protecting the habitats that support species – and human beings – and in this way entire ecosystems, communities and socio-economic structures reap the benefits of the EWT’s work.

“Conservation requires a holistic approach to reap true successes. Therefore, through a broad spectrum of partnerships and networks we develop innovative best practice that reduces negative environmental impacts and promotes harmonious co-existence and sustainable living for both people and planet. It is gratifying to have our contributions to the environmental sector recognised and we hope that new partnerships for the betterment of our people and environment will arise from this recognition,” concluded Friedmann.

The EWT is grateful to Enviropaedia, hosts of the annual Ecologic Awards, and the sponsors of the Biodiversity category, the Department of Environmental Affairs, for honouring us with this prestigious award. For further information on the EWT and how you can play your part in the

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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.



preservation of our environment please contact Vanessa Du Plessis at vanessab@ewt.org.za and Nomonde Mxhalisa at nomondem@ewt.org.za.

End

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