



THE EWT AND WESSA - PROUDLY WORKING TOGETHER TO ENHANCE CONSERVATION OUTPUTS

6th November 2013

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The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) are proud to announce a formalised strategic collaboration to expand on the number of areas in which these two organisations are already working. The EWT and WESSA are among the oldest, most established conservation NGOs in the country and have a long history of collaborating on a number of successful initiatives such as rhino conservation, the Eco schools initiative and the development of *Environment Magazine*.

“The working relationship between the EWT and WESSA evolved organically because of our history of collaboration and our different yet complimentary roles within the environmental sector. WESSA focuses on implementing high impact conservation projects that promote public participation in caring for the environment while the EWT is dedicated to conserving threatened species and habitats to the benefit of all people. As a result we decided that it would make strategic sense to work together to conserve our valuable biodiversity and so the EWT/WESSA collaborative working relationship was formed,” said Dr Thommie Burger, CEO of WESSA.

The EWT and WESSA will collaborate on a range of programmes, projects, data collection, training and skills development and environmental and media campaigns in order to leverage off of and maximise the expertise and resources of both organisations. This will lead to a pooling and sharing of resources and the result will be greater gains for all South Africans and our environment.

Yolan Friedmann, CEO of the EWT, concluded: “It has always been our policy to work with other organisations – to turn relevant stakeholders into supporters and colleagues - and our collaboration with WESSA is one that has, previously reaped enormous benefits for the conservation cause. In today’s world, where environmental pressures are increasing but the resources to address them are declining, partnerships are key to ensuring effectiveness and impact and the EWT and WESSA are proud to be working more closely than ever. We are certain that this formalised collaboration will result in even further gains for the two organisations and the people and ecosystems we seek to conserve.”

For further information about the partnership please contact Dr Thommie Burger on tburger@wessa.co.za and Yolan Friedmann on yolanf@ewt.org.za

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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.



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