



THE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST SCOOPS KUDU AWARDS

22nd October 2015

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The Endangered Wildlife Trust's (EWT) Skills Development Programme (EWT-SDP) scooped a Kudu Award during the prestigious South African National Parks 2015 Kudu Awards ceremony held on 16 October 2015 in Midrand, Johannesburg. The award, presented by the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Edna Molewa, was in recognition of the EWT's sterling efforts to build capacity among law enforcement officials to tackle illegal wildlife trade.



The annual Kudu Awards recognize individuals and groups that have contributed to the conservation of nature. "This award is a great achievement for the EWT and shows our ongoing commitment to fight illegal wildlife trade", says the EWT's Skills Development Programme Manager, Adam Pires.

The EWT's Skills Development Programme is all about nurturing and upskilling people who are involved in the protection and conservation of our biodiversity. Since 2011, the EWT-SDP has implemented 25 critical wildlife trade enforcement training programmes targeting close to 500 enforcement officials representing the South African Police Service, the South African Revenue Service, provincial conservation agencies, and the State Security Agency. These training programmes have provided critical skills and knowledge, as well as intra-agency networking opportunities, to fight the trafficking of wildlife. "Our current focus is on catalysing law enforcement officials to do their work more effectively." says Pires.

Another award recipient of the Kudu Awards is the Wild Dog Advisory Group of South Africa (WAG-SA), a conservation group affiliated to the EWT. The advisory group won an award in the "Corporate Contribution (Non-Profit Making Organisation)" category for the management and conservation of the endangered African Wild Dogs over the past 17 years. WAG-SA has been chaired and coordinated by the EWT since its inception.

The group acts as a platform for reserve managers and interested parties to present and discuss wild dog issues and to, together, recommend solutions. "Through the highly collaborative efforts of the members of WAG-SA we have

doubled the population of Wild Dogs in South Africa, and significantly increased their range", says Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert, Chairperson of WAG-SA and Head of Conservation at the EWT. "This award is testimony to the hard work and dedication of WAG-SA members, and provides motivation and inspiration to ensure the future survival of South Africa's most endangered carnivore", she continues.

For further information about the Skills Development Programme visit www.ewt.org.za and www.wagsa.org.za for the Wild Dog Advisory Group.

NB: Images available on request:

*Image Captions: EWT's Dr Harriet Davies Mostert, receiving the Kudu Award2015
EWT's Adam Pires, receiving the Kudu Award*

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