



THE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST – MENTORING AND TRAINING NEW CONSERVATION LEADERS

19th March 2012

Start

The Endangered Wildlife Trust's (EWT) Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) will be hosting a five day Vegetation Survey Techniques Camp for Nature Conservation Diploma students from previously disadvantaged communities at the De Beers Diamond Route Telperion Nature Reserve. The camp will run from Monday the 19th to Friday the 23rd of March and forms part of the CLP's Conservation Training Project. This is the second camp in 2012 thus far, and is part of a series of experiential and skills development practical camps. Each camp will contribute approximately 1584 supervised learning hours towards the students' academic requirements.

The EWT's Conservation Training Project has been running since 2000 and is the single largest and most diverse Work Integrated Learning (WIL) provider of UNISA Nature Conservation Diploma students in the country. The Project aims to train and mentor at least 22 previously disadvantaged students enrolled for a National Diploma in Nature Conservation this year. The students are provided with WIL experiences where they participate in specially designed and sited week-long practical sessions.

By participating in these practical sessions, the students are able to complete the mandatory practical project requirements of the diploma, which they would otherwise have no means of achieving. Included in the year's programme, and in-line with the students' diploma requirements, the Project will also be conducting training activities within the Telekishi community in the Waterberg and these will be to the direct benefit of that community as well as the EWT's students. Furthermore, the programme is designed to develop well-rounded professionals by encouraging debate and lateral thinking while focusing on life and social interaction skills.

"This camp will build on the students' identification and analytical skills by introducing them to and practicing various vegetation survey techniques. In addition to this main focus there will also be a guest lecture provided by Nigel Willmott from motivate/today who will be introducing the concept of personal financial planning to the students. We hope that this financial guidance will enable students to address their personal financial challenges better," commented Dr Mariëtte Wheeler, the EWT's Conservation Leadership Programme Manager.

The work accomplished by the Conservation Leadership Programme fulfils the EWT's commitment to explore and develop opportunities for mentorship and capacity building for aspiring conservationists, within the conservation sector. According to 2011 Conservation Training Project

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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.



Merit Award winner, Cassius Mmetle, “The EWT’s Conservation Training Project has afforded me opportunities and experiences that would not have been possible otherwise. I will always be grateful for the dreams they have helped me to make a reality.”

Said Dr Wheeler: “Very often people misunderstand conservation and see the work of saving the environment as being in competition with addressing the needs of people. There is no competition however. The environment and its health and wellbeing impacts every single person because life would not be possible without the natural systems that provide our life-giving resources. By providing these focused experiential camps, the Conservation Training Project is investing in future conservation leaders today, so that they too may leave a conservation legacy for tomorrow.”

The EWT’s Conservation Leadership Programme is sponsored by Afrox, the Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Organization and Bakwena.

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