



Member of the IUCN – World Conservation Union

Media Release

1 July 2008

Starts

ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST'S CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP GROUP WINS SANPARKS KUDU AWARDS

The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Conservation Leadership Group (CLG) was recognised for its outstanding work in capacity building, environmental education, and its contribution to conservation in rural communities, at the prestigious Kudu Awards ceremony on 26 June 2008. The CLG was the overall winner in the category of "Group Environmental Education and Capacity Building" and won a Merit Award in the category "Group Community Contribution to Conservation".

The Kudu Awards were established by the South African National Parks (SANParks) in 2003 to recognise and reward external stakeholders for excellence in conservation. The kudu-head trophy was designed by Phil Minaar. The kudu is a stately and majestic animal that presents itself with pride, and the trophy thus signifies that winning a Kudu Award is an achievement to be proud of.

The **Environmental Education / Capacity Building - Group** category of the Kudu Awards acknowledges the contribution of educational programmes that further the conservation of our biodiversity and cultural heritage. The CLG received this award for its four educational programmes: the Rural Eco-Warriors, the Tracker Training Programme, the Leadership Training Programme and the Conservation Training Programme. The award reads as follows: "This group has established various community based education programmes which also allow for aspiring conservationists from previously disadvantaged communities to take their education at a tertiary level. The Conservation Leadership Group has designed programmes to assist students from disadvantaged backgrounds in their tertiary Nature Conservation studies, internship programmes for senior conservation students in order to cultivate practical skills and work ethics, rural-based training programmes to train students in tracking and field guiding and the Rural Eco-Warriors programme which involves members of local communities who engage their community members in the interest of conservation. The impact of the work done by the Conservation Leadership Group is far-reaching and has made a difference in people's lives and on the environment."

The **Community Contribution to Conservation Award – Group** is granted to a group that has advanced the cause of sustainable conservation of biodiversity and cultural heritage in their own and/or other communities. It is awarded to programmes that are active in the conservation of biological and cultural diversity matters and that have a proven record of involvement in community-based conservation, which should advance community-based

Page 1 of 2

EWT Vision:

"A healthy planet and equitable world that values and sustains the diversity of all life"

Private Bag X11, Parkview 2122, South Africa. Telephone +27 (0) 11 486-1102; ewt@ewt.org.za;
www.ewt.org.za

The Gold Fields Environmental Centre, Johannesburg Zoological Gardens. Fax +27 (0) 11 486-1506
Member of IUCN, The World Conservation Union
Fund raising number: 015-502 NPO PBO Registration No 930 001 777

approaches to conservation. Winning projects should demonstrate good project management and implementation, contribute to positive attitudinal and behavioural changes and encourage community and stakeholder participation. The CLG Rural Eco-Warrior Programme received a Merit Award in this category, as follows: “A special merit award in this category is awarded to a group who has done tremendous work in rural communities to preserve the natural environments they live in. The Conservation Leadership Group’s Rural Eco-Warriors programme was implemented in recognition of the fact that while rural communities literally live off the earth and are in danger of impacting negatively on the environment, they also have the potential to become custodians of their natural areas. The Eco-Warriors come from within these communities and are therefore able to understand the local situations and engage the people more effectively in order to find solutions to the environmental issues they face. These individuals have made significant contributions to the sustainable development of their respective communities across the country. Their projects range from developing vegetable gardens which create income along with protecting the natural environment, educating people about the dangers of river pollution and engaging local authorities about waste management among other things. This is a dedicated group who deserve this special recognition for their contribution to conservation.”

On 5 June this year, the CLG Rural Eco-Warriors also won the Mail & Guardian’s Greening the Future Awards, in the category of ‘Water Care’. Here the judges commented that: “The warriors provide role models in their communities that capture the essence of this water-care award.” These multiple wins bear testimony to the CLG’s commitment to **conservation in action**, and to its continued successes despite the challenges facing the planet and the communities with whom the group works.

For their ongoing support, the CLG thanks AFROX, Bakwena, Cape Storm, The Darwin Initiative, The Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation, Investec, the Mazda Wildlife Fund, Nash Memorial Fund, PPC Cement, Rand Merchant Bank, Sabi Sabi, SASIX, The Tony and Lisette Lewis Foundation, Welgevonden and XTRATA.

Ends

Photos are available on request.

Contact: Kirsty Brebner
Endangered Wildlife Trust
Resource Development &
Administration Leader
Tel: +27 (0)11 486 1102
E-mail: kirstyb@ewt.org.za



Issued by: Hayley Komen
Conservation Programme Developer
Endangered Wildlife Trust
www.ewt.org.za
Tel: +27 (0)11 486 1102

Page 2 of 2

EWT Vision:

“A healthy planet and equitable world that values and sustains the diversity of all life”

Private Bag X11, Parkview 2122, South Africa. Telephone +27 (0) 11 486-1102; ewt@ewt.org.za;
www.ewt.org.za

The Gold Fields Environmental Centre, Johannesburg Zoological Gardens. Fax +27 (0) 11 486-1506
Member of IUCN, The World Conservation Union
Fund raising number: 015-502 NPO PBO Registration No 930 001 777