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BUSHCRAFT

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Green Snippets

BOTSWANA INVITES TENDERS TO REVIEW ELEPHANT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Botswana government has invited tenders for a consultancy to review the country's Elephant Management Plan of 1991. The aim is to update this plan and produce an "Elephant Conservation Policy and Strategy". According to the tender notice, preference will be given to persons or companies from within the southern African region. The terms of reference for the consultancy can be obtained from the Department of Wildlife and missions in Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa and Namibia. Alternatively, the terms of reference can be viewed on the official Botswana website at: www.gov.bw/business/tenders.html

For further information, contact Mrs R. Mojaphoko of the Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Tel: 267 371-405, rmojaphoko@gov.bw

SADC RHINO CONSERVATION PROJECT UNDER WAY

The SADC NRMP Bulletin of the Africa Resources Trust reports that the SADC Wildlife Sector Technical Coordinating Unit (SADC WSTCU), World Conservation Union Regional Office for Southern Africa (IUCN-ROSA) and World Wide Fund for Nature Southern African Regional Programme Office (WWF-SARPO) are implementing a regional rhino conservation progr. ... ie within SADC member states. The Italian government is funding the approximately US\$2,4million project, which was launched in 1999 and will run until 2002. The programme will be primarily concerned with fundamental rhino management issues and with clearly relevant aspects of land-use economics, community interaction, applied research and other related issues. The programme will assist in the establishment of proactive measures to protect rhinos from poaching. Private and public sector conservation projects are also included in this programme. For further information contact the programme co-ordinator, Dr. Rob Bret: rob@iucnrosa.org.zw

KZN WILDLIFE CEO-ELECT ANNOUNCED

Mr Khulani Mkhize has recently been appointed KZN Wildlife CEO-elect to succeed Dr George Hughes. Mr Mkhize will become Chief Executive

Officer of KZN Wildlife when Dr Hughes retires at the end of August. Audi South Africa announced in March that Mr Mkhize is also the first nominee for the Audi Terra Nova Award for 2001. The Award is designed to reward South Africans who have been tirelessly working in the environmental sphere without due recognition. For further information contact Jeff Gaisford of KZN Wild-life, Tel: (033) 8451235, e-mail: jeff@kznwildlife.com. Website: www.kznwildlife.com

CASH BOOST FOR MALUTI-DRAKENSBERG TFCA

The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mohammed Valli Moosa, announced that a grant of US\$15,5 million was received from the Global Environmental Facility for the development of the Maluti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA). This TFCA involves a cross-boundary environmental collaboration programme with the government of Lesotho and the detailed agreement will be finalised in August this year. For more information contact Onkgopotse JJ Tabane, Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, 082 465 6166. Website: www.environment.gov.za

WATERBERG DECLARED A BIOSPHERE RESERVE

The Waterberg in the Northern Province has been named a biosphere reserve at a recent meeting of the Bureau of UNESCO's intergovernmental Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme in France. The 415 000 hectare Waterberg Biosphere Reserve serves as a natural water reservoir for South Africa's arid northern region. According to a UNESCO media release, the Waterberg is an attractive location for the development of naturebased tourism and cattle farmers there are increasingly converting their land to nature reserves for safari-type activities. The release stated that the biosphere reserve concept would help balance the pressure of the tourism industry, the need to generate tangible benefits for local communities, and the conservation of these natural assets. The Waterberg now forms part of the World Network of 393 sites in 94 countries. The MAB Bureau is the executive body of the MAB International Coordinating Council and has the function of advising on the development of the programme. including the approval of biosphere reserve proposals.

DE WILDT CHEETAH CENTRE BRINGS NATURE TO THE DISABLED

The De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Centre near Hartbeespoort Dam in North West Province is making great strides in helping the disabled to experience nature first-hand. The first phase of the Centre's Reach for the Wild Sensory Trail, which caters especially for the blind and visually impaired, was opened on March 20. The project comprises a range of interesting exhibits and a unique sensory trail. Visitors will be encouraged to utilise every sense and in the process will discover interesting facts about the Magaliesberg mountains, the animals resident in the range, birdlife and many of the indigenous trees and plants found within this special environment. For more information or to book, contact Vanessa Bouwer, Tel: (012) 504-1921. Website: dewildt.org.za

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