

**MEDIA RELEASE - 28 June 2005**

## **SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL PARKS LAUNCHES AN AWARD TO HONOUR EXCELLENCE IN CONSERVATION**

South African National Parks (SANParks) will on Friday (24 June 2005) honour those individuals who have made a meaningful contribution to conservation in the country, during a gala function to be held at Gallagher Estate in Midrand.

The gala event will also mark the official launch of the annual SANParks Kudu Awards. The awards will be in the form of a Kudu statue – derived from the organisation's emblem, the Kudu head.

Essentially, SANParks' Kudu Awards aim to recognise and reward those people who have made a meaningful contribution towards conservation in South Africa. The awards will be held for the first time this year in what is envisaged will be an annual event.

Recipients of the Awards were nominated in the following categories:

- **Corporate Contribution to Conservation Award**  
This category recognises individuals or companies that have significantly contributed to SANParks' conservation projects and initiatives monetarily or otherwise
- **Media Award**  
This category recognises a journalist who has contributed to conservation reporting in a fair and socially responsible manner
- **Community Contributor to Conservation Award**  
This award recognises a community member or group that has been active in matters pertaining to conservation. It may also be considered for a community member or group who has made significant contributions to environmental education and awareness in their, or other communities.
- **Environment Education Award**  
This award will be given to an educator who has contributed towards environmental education. It may also be considered for a volunteer who has ensured the education of young people or even adults on matters pertaining to the environment.

"As an organisation, we are very pleased that there are individuals and companies who, over the years, have contributed immensely in helping us fulfil our conservation mandate. Through these awards, we would like to honour their dedication while appealing to others to help us in this regard," says Dr David Mabunda, SANParks Chief Executive.

He added that coupled with the external awards, internal awards will also be given to those SANParks employees who have performed exceptionally well within the organisation in the last year.

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Issued by:  
Lulama Luti  
South African National Parks  
Tel: 012 426 5203 or 082 905 4645

Enquiries:  
Wanda Mkutshulwa  
South African National Parks  
Tel: 012 426 5201 or 082 908 2692

## **KUDU AWARDS – EXTERNAL WINNERS**

<b>NOMINEE</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>CORPORATE CONTRIBUTION TO CONSERVATION AWARD</b>	
Endangered Wildlife Trust	Corporate Kudu Award
Ernie Blom (ex chairman of Honorary Rangers)	Individual Kudu Award
KPMG - Mr Pierre Delaney	Corporate Kudu Award
Sasol Limited - Richard Hughes	Merit Corporate Award
Pieter Paulus Johannes Heymans (Piet Heymans)	Merit Individual Award
<b>MEDIA AWARD</b>	
Tumelo Matloha (SABC)	Kudu Award
Eve Gracie	Merit Kudu Award
<b>COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION TO CONSERVATION AWARD</b>	
Zanethemba Non Profit Organisation (Masicoce Project)	Kudu Award
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR AWARD</b>	
Cheryl Ogilvie	Kudu Award
Mr TC Naick	Merit Kudu Award
Mikia Matimba Baloyi	Merit Kudu Award
<b>DECISION TAKEN</b>	
KPMG	Corporate Contribution to Conservation: Corporate Award
ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST (EWT)	Corporate Contribution to Conservation: Corporate Award
ERNIE BLOM	Corporate Contribution to Conservation: Individual Award
TUMELO MATLOHA	Media Award
ZANETHEMBA NON PROFIT ORGANISATION	Community Contributor to Conservation Award
CHERYL OGILVIE	Environmental Educator Award

## KUDU AWARDS – INTERNAL WINNERS

INTERNAL AWARD NOMINEES	AREA OF WORK/PARK	CATEGORY	AWARD	CITATION
Helen Mmethi & Solly Temba	KNP (People & Conservation Division)	Best Constituency Builder	Award (Joint Trophy)	Helen Mmethi and Solly Temba are awarded the Chief Executive Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Constituency Builder'</b> for their role in facilitating meaningful participation and understanding of the issues for the communities surrounding Kruger National Park in the formulation of an Elephant Management Strategy for South African National Parks.
Priscilla Magerman	Namaqua	Best Constituency Builder	Merit Award	Priscilla Magerman is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Constituency Builder'</b> for her exceptional efforts in building a successful People & Conservation unit in Namaqua National Park, thereby fostering better relations with the park's stakeholders.
Mphephu Chauke	KNP	Best Constituency Builder	Merit Award	Mphephu Chauke is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Constituency Builder'</b> for her excellent conduct, positive representation of the organisation in her community and amongst her peers and willingness to perform duties of a community service nature without complaint.
Immy Serakalala	KNP	Best Constituency Builder	Merit Award	Immy Serakalala is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award in the category <b>'Best Constituency Builder'</b> in her efforts to include surrounding communities in economic opportunities in the Kruger National Park.
Ezrom Mathumbu	KNP	Best Hospitality Manager	Merit Award	Ezrom Mathumbu is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Hospitality Manager'</b> for having successfully managed the Pretoriuskop rest camp through making tourists' experiences and stay in the Kruger National Park pleasant.

INTERNAL AWARD NOMINEES	AREA OF WORK/PARK	CATEGORY	AWARD	CITATION
Samson Motlana Mekwa	Tourism (call centre) - Head Office	Best Improved Performance in the Workplace	Award	Samson Motlana Mekwa is awarded the Chief Executive Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Improved Performance in the Workplace'</b> for having managed in a limited space of time to improve his performance from working in the reservations front desk to being a trainer and administrator on the RoomSeeker Reservations system.
Patrick Munyai	KNP	Best Improved Performance in the Workplace	Merit Award	Patrick Munyai is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Improved Performance in the Workplace'</b> in recognition of outstanding performance of his duties in his supporting service to the Kruger National Park Executive Director.
Poverty Relief Unit	Parks Division	Most Improved Business Unit	Award	The Poverty Relief Unit is awarded the Chief Executive Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Improved Business Unit'</b> for turning around the Poverty Relief Programme, and for bringing a major infrastructure and socio-economic development programme to a successful conclusion.
RoomSeeker Team	Tourism Division	Best Performing Business Unit	Award	The RoomSeeker Team is awarded the Chief Executive Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Performing Business Unit'</b> for having successfully delivered a reservations system with a potential of turning around the fortunes of the organisation.
Addo Elephant National Park	Parks Division	Best Park	Award	Addo Elephant National Park is awarded the Chief Executive Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Park'</b> for having achieved the effective implementation of the Triple Bottom Line approach with a 13% growth in visitor numbers against an additional average of 3,7%, successfully expanding the park and introducing wildlife and having built a productive relationship with surrounding communities through the Mayibuye Ndlovu Trust.
Robert Alexander Milne	Tsitsikamma	Best Ranger	Award	Robert Alexander Milne is awarded the Chief Executive Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Ranger'</b> for his successful prevention of illegal fishing, abalone poaching and illegal low flying aircraft in the Tsitsikamma National Park.

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Steven Whitfield	KNP	Best Ranger	Award	Steven Whitfield is awarded the Chief Executive Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Ranger'</b> for his dedication to his work which has seen several poachers, gun runners and car smugglers using the Kruger National Park as a conduit apprehended, and for willing assisting in the removal of alien fauna in other national parks.
Thomas Macie	KNP	Best Ranger	Award	Thomas Macie is awarded the Chief Executive Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Ranger'</b> for doing his work with pride in a career spanning over thirty years, highlighted by his discovery of unknown ruins of earlier inhabitants of the Kruger National Park along the Olifants River and having repeatedly recovered elephant tusks which would have been lost deep in the veld in his area of work.
Tom Toni	Addo Elephant National Park	Best Ranger	Merit Award	Tom Toni is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category 'Best Ranger' for having proved himself in this field through his dedication and loyalty to the organisation.
Ms Vuyiswa Sidina	Bontebok	Best Ranger	Merit Award	Buyiswa Sidina is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Ranger'</b> for taking up the efforts of People & Conservation in Bontebok National Park through the facilitation of activities for school groups and neighbouring communities.
Dirk van Schalkwyk	Namaqua	Best Ranger	Merit Award	Dirk van Schalkwyk is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Ranger'</b> for extending his work to encompass the People & Conservation efforts in Namaqua National Park.
Joe Nkuna	KNP	Best Ranger	Merit Award	Joe Nkuna is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Ranger'</b> for having successfully managed his section and extending his amiable personality beyond the borders of the Kruger National Park.

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Lucius Moolman	Addo Elephant	Best Regional Manager	Award	Lucius Moolman is awarded the Chief Executive Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Regional Park Manager'</b> for having successfully led his team in achieving success in all the three core business areas of SANParks.
Ben van Eeden	KNP	Best Regional Manager	Award	Ben van Eeden is awarded the Chief Executive Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Regional Manager'</b> for his true professionalism in the execution of his duties through implementing creative means of solving challenges in the Northern Region of the Kruger National Park and for being a true and inspiring leader to his employees.
Dr Peter Novellie	Conservation Services - Head Office	Best Specialist Service	Award	Dr Peter Novellie is awarded with the Chief Executive Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Specialist Service'</b> for his leadership role in the execution of a consultative process in the draft of an Elephant Management Strategy for South African National Parks
Gavin Bell	TMNP	Best Specialist Service	Merit Award	Gavin Bell is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Best Specialist Service'</b> for the successful removal of alien fauna on Table Mountain, thereby facilitating re-introduction of indigenous fauna.
Victor Magakoa	KNP	Best Specialist Service	Merit Award	Victor Magakoa is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Specialist Service'</b> in appreciation of his outstanding service, commitment and professionalism in his work.
Don English	KNP	Best Specialist Service	Merit Award	Don English is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Specialist Service'</b> in appreciation of his outstanding service, commitment and professionalism in his work.
Dr Freek Venter	KNP	Leadership Development	Award	Dr Freek Venter is awarded the Chief Executive Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Leadership Development'</b> for exhibiting true leadership qualities by building a strong team of committed officials, showing consistent professional conduct and a willingness to learn and improve and caring for those he works with.

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Orbet Mathebula	KNP	Leadership Development	Merit Award	Orbet Mathebula is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category ' <b>Leadership Development</b> ' for his outstanding leadership to the research team and dedicated assistance provided to visiting researchers in the Kruger National Park.
Sam Priya Mudramuthoo	Tourism (Marketing) - Head Office	Outstanding Service in the Workplace	Award	Sam Priya Mudramoothoo is awarded the Chief Executive Award for Excellent Performance in the category ' <b>Outstanding service in the Workplace</b> ' for her efforts in delivering a sterling service for the organisation and in constantly performing well above her allocated position in the Marketing Department.
Million Masinga	KNP	Outstanding Service in the Workplace	Award	Million Masinga is awarded the Chief Executive Award for Excellent Performance in the category ' <b>Outstanding Service in the Workplace</b> ' in recognition of his outstanding service rendering, putting the customer first and the delivery of exceptionally high standard of electrical maintenance.
Phineas Nobela	KNP	Outstanding Service in the Workplace	Award	Pheneas Nobela is awarded the Chief Executive Award for Excellent Performance in the category ' <b>Outstanding Service in the Workplace</b> ' for his efforts in attempting to make relations with contractual reserves work.
Elizabeth Mahlangu	Chief Executive's Office	Outstanding Service in the Workplace	Merit Award	Elizabeth Mahlangu is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category ' <b>Outstanding Service in the Workplace</b> ' for upholding the image of the CE's office and that of the organization through her very professional, unassuming and very friendly manner. Her unbiased approach to all customers, both internal and external, makes her an excellent ambassador for the organisation. Her commitment to excellence is noteworthy.
Albertus Hermanus Vilander	Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park	Outstanding Service in the Workplace	Merit Award	Albertus Hermanus Vilander is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category ' <b>Outstanding Service in the Workplace</b> ' for his notable effort in performing tasks outside of his area of work and contributing towards an enjoyable stay for the tourists in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

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Daniel Hollander	Karoo National Park	Outstanding Service in the Workplace	Merit Award	Daniel Hollander is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Outstanding Service in the Workplace'</b> for his notable effort in performing tasks outside of his area of work and contributing towards an enjoyable stay for the tourists in the Karoo National Park.
Mirinda Cronje	Tourism (call centre) - Head Office	Outstanding Service in the Workplace	Merit Award	Mirinda Cronjé is awarded with the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Outstanding Service in the Workplace'</b> for proving her abilities in the Call Centre by constantly exceeding the weekly target of R500 000.00 sales.
Marilize Engelbrecht	Tourism (call centre) - Head Office	Outstanding Service in the Workplace	Merit Award	Marlize Engelbrecht is awarded with the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Outstanding Service in the Workplace'</b> for proving her abilities in the Call Centre by constantly exceeding the weekly target of R500 000.00 sales.
Lerato Mathole	KNP	Outstanding Service in the Workplace	Merit Award	Lerato Mathole is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Outstanding Service in the Workplace'</b> for her dedication and selfless attitude towards her work as well as the outstanding results that she always achieves in her projects.
Simione Mulhovo	KNP	Outstanding Service in the Workplace	Merit Award	Simione Mulhovo is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Outstanding Service in the Workplace'</b> for being a good example to his peers.
Samuel Takadzini	KNP	Outstanding Service in the Workplace	Merit Award	Samuel Takadzini is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Outstanding Service in the Workplace'</b> in appreciation of his consistent outstanding performance and dedication to his work.
Patson Makhubela	KNP	Outstanding Service in the Workplace	Merit Award	Patson Makhubela is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category <b>'Outstanding Service in the Workplace'</b> in recognition of his outstanding consistent performance of his duties.

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Andrea Mabunda	KNP	Outstanding Service in the Workplace	Merit Award	Andrea Mabunda is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award in the category ' <b>Outstanding Service in the Workplace</b> ' in recognition of her consistent outstanding tour guiding work in the Talamati Bush Camp, Kruger National Park.
Solomon Sithole	KNP	Outstanding Service in the Workplace	Merit Award	Solomon Sithole is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award in the category ' <b>Outstanding Service in the Workplace</b> ' in appreciation of his outstanding tendering to the Biyamiti Bush Camp garden, Kruger National Park.
Flora Hlatswayo	KNP	Outstanding Service in the Workplace	Merit Award	Flora Hlatswayo is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category ' <b>Outstanding Service in the Workplace</b> ' in appreciation of her excellent performance in keeping the Stevenson-Hamilton Library in the Kruger National Park spotlessly clean at all times.
Gcinaphi Matsebula	KNP	Outstanding Service in the Workplace	Merit Award	Gcinaphi Matsebula is awarded the Chief Executive Merit Award for Excellent Performance in the category ' <b>Outstanding Service in the Workplace</b> ' in appreciation of her excellent performance throughout the year.
Nedret Saidova	Communications Division	Overall Best Performer Award	Award	Nedret Saidova is awarded the Chief Executive Award for Excellent Performance in the category ' <b>Overall Best Performer</b> ' for having exceeded the target of a 20% growth in visitor numbers to the SANParks website by 345% from 307 366 in November 2004 to 11 227 973 visits in March 2005 [correction: figures reflect number of "hits". Visit numbers increase from 75 119 to 94 343 for the period] and for having contributed to raising the public profile of the organisation.
Antoinet van Wyk	Parks Division	Overall Best Performer Award	Award	Antoinet van Wyk is awarded the Chief Executive Award for Excellent Performance in the category ' <b>Best Overall Performer</b> ' for having ensured the completion of the 2001/04 Poverty Relief Programme, which represents one of SANParks biggest ever infrastructure development programmes, and which has made a major contribution to government's efforts to address socio-economic challenges in South Africa.

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Howard Langley	Cape Cluster	Lifetime Contribution Award	Award	Howard Langley is awarded the Chief Executive Award in the category ' <b>Lifetime Contribution</b> ' for his lifetime of contribution to conservation and having dedicated himself to making SANParks a better performing conservation organisation by introducing concepts like 'Touching the Earth Lightly'.

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