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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 15/05/2020

Media Release

Sabi Sand Wildtuin names Oscar Mthimkhulu as the new Chief Executive Officer

The Sabi Sand Wildtuin has officially welcomed Mr Oscar Mthimkhulu as the new Chief Executive Officer for the protected area that spans over 62 000 hectares and is world-renowned for its leopard sightings and as a sanctuary for all the Big Five mammals and more than 250 bird species.

The Sabi Sand Wildtuin (SSW) management announced that the Executive Committee had appointed Mr Oscar Mthimkhulu as the Chief Executive Officer. The leadership appointment is effective immediately as of May 2020.

“Mr Mthimkhulu has extensive experience in conservation, ecotourism and protected area management. He also has proven skills in the financial sector and personnel management. He has been involved on a day-to-day basis in anti-poaching measures within various Protected Areas in South Africa – including top positions with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife – where he was responsible for the oversight of tourism and conservation of more than 100 Protected Areas. Mr Mthimkhulu has also been involved in the Community Management of Protected Areas for Conservation (COMPACT) which we believe will add great value to our community-based initiatives and projects.”- said an ecstatic Iain Olivier who is the Sabi Sand Wildtuin’s Assistant Warden & Acting Reserve Manager.

Mr Mthimkhulu succeeds Mr Dave Powrie who was the SSW Warden. With the new CEO leading the reserve, there has already been tremendous community reach during the COVID-19 pandemic that has seen close to 1000 households benefiting with food parcels through the Sabi Sand NPO Forum. To date, 23 communities have been assisted through the partnering NPO’s in the Protected Area.

“COMMENTS BY MR. MTHIMKHULU ABOUT HIS NEW JOURNEY AS A CEO”.

“It is a privilege and an honour to be afforded an opportunity to lead SSW, a formidable and world-renowned entity that has contributed greatly to tourism and conservation practice in South Africa. I look forward to the rewarding challenges and new horizons that we as SSW will chart in this new dawn, in partnership with all our valued stakeholders – including our neighbouring local communities”.

With the appointment, Mr Mthimkhulu now joins the pride of the SSW for being the oldest private game reserve in South Africa. Driven by conservation, SSW has pioneered a host of wildlife and conservation management practices over the years and is managed by a dedicated and highly skilled team of professionals.

This voluntary association of landowners who are members of the reserve make up the Sabi Sand Wildtuin Association. These members are managing the shared interests of landowners for the combined protection of the reserve’s wildlife.

Management comprises of different departments that ensure the safety, upkeep, maintenance and preservation of the reserve as a whole. Lodges on the reserve are privately owned and managed – and they are also keen on seeing this much-anticipated CEO appointment even during such a time.



Contact Info:

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Note to editors

ABOUT THE SABI SAND NATURE RESERVE – REVISED DRAFT VERSION (BOILER PLAT)

The Sabi Sand is a declared nature reserve in terms of the South African protected areas legislation. It is managed by a voluntary association of landowners and forms part of the Greater Kruger National Park open ecosystem.

The Sabi Sand protected area spans over 62 000 hectares and is world-renowned for its leopard sightings and as a sanctuary for all of the Big Five mammals and more than 250 bird species. Home to a number of iconic safari lodges, the reserve owes its name to the Sabie River, which flows along its southern boundary, and the Sand River, which flows through it.

Throughout its long history, the collaboration of land owners has developed an identity based on the ongoing and passionate conservation of wildlife and wilderness areas, as well as the development of surrounding communities [through the Sabi Sand Pfunanani Trust](#).

The Sabi Sand is globally recognised for its successful rhino and other endangered species anti-poaching initiatives, and actively partners with government, research and conservation bodies, multinational technology companies, local communities and neighbouring game reserves to collectively protect and preserve this unique treasure of African wilderness – for the present and future generations.