



Community Conservation Fund Africa Presents Prize at Conservation Lab during 'We Are Africa 2019'

CCFA will award \$25,000 to a community-based conservation project at CONSERVATION LAB, which is taking place in Cape Town on 12 & 13 May 2019

CAPE TOWN, WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA, May 10, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- It is often forgotten that across Africa more than 70% of wild animals live outside national parks. As a result, human-wildlife conflict becomes a daily occurrence for rural communities leading to a disregard for wildlife conservation efforts.

This issue alongside others will take center stage at Conservation Lab taking place from 10 – 12 May in Stellenbosch, South Africa, as part of We Are Africa 2019,. As part of this year's involvement in the Conservation Lab, the Community Conservation Fund Africa (CCFA) will sponsor the attendance of 10 community leaders representing rural communities from five African countries, as well as award USD \$25,000 to the winning project from Conservation Lab. This prize will recognize the effort of a local organization that tackles issues as animal poaching, diminishing water supplies, wildlife conservation as well as the wellbeing of people and their communities.

The CCFA was created in 2018 as part of a partnership between Accor and Mantis to reinforce wildlife conservation efforts in Africa. Over the past year alone, it has already donated more than \$500,000 to approved community projects across the region. Members of the CCFA board include Adrian Gardiner, Founder of Mantis and long-time conversationalist, Graham Boynton, leading UK journalist and environmental activist, Craig Erasmus, Vice President, Operations Sub Saharan Africa for Accor and Mark Willis, Chief Executive Officer Middle East & Africa Accor.

'Conservation Lab' is an invitation-only event held annually in South Africa, which brings together 150 leaders from key sections of conservation, travel, technology, behavioral sciences, philanthropy and government, to encourage creative thinking and collaborative partnerships.

ABOUT ACCOR

Accor is a world-leading augmented hospitality group offering unique and meaningful experiences in more than 4,800 hotels, resorts, and residences across 100 countries. With an unrivalled portfolio of brands from luxury to economy, Accor has been providing hospitality savoir-faire for more than 50 years.

Beyond accommodations, Accor enables new ways to live, work, and play with Food & Beverage, nightlife, wellbeing, and coworking brands. To drive business performance, Accor's portfolio of business accelerators amplify hospitality distribution, operations, and experience. Guests have access to one of the world's most attractive hotel loyalty programs—Le Club Accor.

Accor is deeply committed to sustainable value creation, and plays an active role in giving back to planet and community. Planet 21 – Acting Here endeavours to act for positive hospitality, while Accor Solidarity, the endowment fund, empowers disadvantaged groups through professional training and access to employment.

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ABOUT MANTIS

Mantis is a unique collection of extraordinary destinations spanning every continent on Earth. Whether small and intimate or vast and complex, on a sweeping African plain, bustling city, private tropical island or frozen snow scape, each is an exceptional place for guests to find themselves. While uniquely different in the experiences they offer, all are linked through a collective obsession to be extraordinary, to be rare in a world that mass-produces sameness. Mantis constantly curates, collects and discovers destinations and experiences that stir the soul, defy expectation and live in the heart forever. We will do anything in our power to advance the cause of sustainability and to promote further appreciation of the land, its creatures and our communities. We believe that the truly rare needs to be looked after and protected for future generations and are wholly committed to Legacy Creation.

ABOUT COMMUNITY CONSERVATION FUND AFRICA

Community Conservation Fund Africa (CCFA) is a registered NPC founded in 2018, borne out of the merger between Mantis and Accor Hotels. These two global hospitality groups recognise the urgent need for community upliftment which will benefit Africa's wild animals and wildernesses at a time when both are under threat.

CCFA is both a fund-raising & a grant-giving organisation that is active in educating and empowering local communities to implement sustainable wildlife management systems on the ground. These solutions are funded by CCFA and its commercial partners. Community Conservation Fund Africa (CCFA) was set up to help put the spotlight on rural African communities that live among the wild animals but by large have received few benefits from this often-difficult privilege.

CCFA's mission is to address these inequalities and investigate ways of giving rural African communities a greater role in wildlife ownership and management. We envision local African communities who are educated and empowered and can manage wild animals and wilderness areas sustainably. We believe that this change will have a direct impact on the preservation of wild animals and wilderness areas.

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