

## PRESS RELEASE:

For immediate use

### Experts gather to plan a future for South Africa's most threatened parrot

*From 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> September 2019 experts from around the world will come together in Hogsback, Eastern Cape to discuss the future of conservation for Cape Parrots. The iconic green and gold birds are only found in South Africa and are among the most threatened of all African parrots.*

The workshop will bring together government agencies, landowners, forestry companies, conservation organisations, bird guides, students and academics to prioritise threats and to develop a plan which will guide future conservation efforts for the species. The event also provides an opportunity for participants to share the latest scientific findings and draw on international expertise in parrot conservation.

Last year, Cape Parrots were placed on the Red List of Globally Threatened species and concerns are growing over a number of emerging threats including infectious diseases, climate change and the arrival in South Africa of an exotic wood-boring beetle. The Cape Parrots are restricted to patches of Mistbelt forests in South Africa which cover only 0.15% of the country's land surface, much of which has no formal protection.

The workshop is being coordinated by a coalition of national and international conservation groups including the Wild Bird Trust, The World Parrot Trust, The Cape Parrot Working Group and BirdLife South Africa and is being facilitated by the Conservation Planning Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Funds to support the workshop have been provided by the World Parrot Trust, Wild Bird Trust and BirdLife South Africa.

Ends.

Photos for media use are available at this [link](#).

Further information on Cape parrots and the Conservation Planning Workshop may be obtained from:

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