

Heritage Environmental Management Company

Media release

Date: Wednesday, 8 September 2010

Subject: Motswari Private Game Reserve joins the Heritage Programme and takes an important step to reducing its environmental impacts.

HERITAGE GAINS NEW MEMBER IN THE GAME LODGE INDUSTRY

The Heritage Environmental Management Programme today awarded its Silver Classification to Motswari Private Game Reserve in recognition of its commitment to reducing its impact on the environment.

While many game lodges are actively involved in nature conservation and the protection of the country's scarce wildlife species, few take time to measure and manage the actual impact that their daily hospitality or business operations have on the surrounding environment. This, combined with the rise of an increasingly environmentally aware international tourism market, has resulted in many product owners having to verify their environmental performance credentials in order to attract this increasingly lucrative market.

Motswari Private Game Reserve lies within the Timbavati Nature Reserve, and is part of the Greater Kruger National Park Conservancy. "We see Heritage as an important tool to help us better manage our environmental impacts and, through a series of assisted and measurable management systems, we aim to take Motswari to internationally acceptable standards of environmental stewardship", **says Evelyn Millard, Managing Director.** "To us, it's all about making our guests experience as natural as possible and what better way to enhance their stay then by making it environmentally responsible as well," she adds.

This commitment is already evident in a number of the Lodge's activities including the decision to convert its gardens into natural bush in an effort to reduce the need

for irrigation, the replacement of their lights to energy saving CFL's and the recycling of general lodge waste.

The Lodge has a proud reputation for community involvement and has been at the forefront of efforts to involve the local community in their activities. One such initiative has been to commission a local community artist to personalise mirrors in the guest bungalows using wood, stone, bone and other natural elements.

The Lodge is owned by well-known wildlife artist Marion Geiger and a percentage of her work, which is available for sale at the Lodge, goes to the Save the Elephant Project.

"Environmental stewardship goes so far beyond caring for our needs now – it speaks to ensuring that we do everything possible to manage our impacts so that we leave a lasting legacy for future generations. We welcome Motswari to the Heritage Programme and look forward to working with it towards creating a more sustainable future for the Lodge and its community," says Neal Dickinson, Operations Director of the Heritage Environmental Management Company.

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The Heritage Environmental Programme is a product of the Heritage Environmental Management Company and offers independent certification of the environmental operating practices of tourism-related products. Already in its fourteenth year, the programme, tailored to meet the needs of the local South African travel sector, is based on international best practice standards and programmes and is partnered with Green Globe International.

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