



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Wild Tomorrow Fund Announces the Mfuleni Conservancy, South Africa**



**NEW YORK, NY** – May 17, 2019 –Today, Wild Tomorrow Fund announced its latest habitat protection project, the **Mfuleni Conservancy**, which will expand habitat for elephant, critically endangered black rhinoceros, cheetah and other species.

The 1,171 acre Mfuleni Conservancy is located in the KwaZulu-Natal Province of South Africa in one of the world's 36 recognized biodiversity hotspots. By protecting this corridor of land, Wild Tomorrow Fund is preserving the ability to expand and reconnect two existing protected areas: the 73,900 acre Mun-Ya-Wana Conservancy and the 886,000 acre iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The Mfuleni Conservancy protects a section of critically endangered dry forest type while its riverine habitat provides an important freshwater source for wildlife, providing climate-change resiliency. It also creates a protective buffer along the Msinene River for neighboring iSimangaliso Wetland Park, the largest estuary system in Africa, home to South Africa's largest hippo population and over 500 bird species.

With the current rate of global species extinction accelerating, scientists around the world are warning that up to 1 million species are threatened with extinction – many within decades. A critical part of any solution to this crisis is to protect, restore and connect natural habitats.

“We are delighted to contribute to global efforts to save and restore habitat for wildlife. We hope to see elephants crossing over into this riverine habitat soon, expanding their herds and rediscovering land to which they have been blocked access for 80 years” said Wild Tomorrow Executive Director, John Steward.

The Mfuleni Conservancy is Wild Tomorrow Fund's second habitat conservation project on the south bank of the Msinene River, following the launch of the Ukuwela Conservancy in June 2017. Mfuleni is situated next to the Mdhuku Community, an important neighbor and partner in conservation. This project will create additional community employment opportunities through our all-women “Green Mambas” team, skilled at alien plant removal. Wild Tomorrow Fund will also be by hiring additional staff from the community to assist in land management and anti-poaching patrols.

“Because the biggest threat to endangered species is habitat loss, land conservation has been a key focus for Wild Tomorrow Fund” said Board Chairman, Seth Hendon. “In addition to being a potential wildlife corridor, the area we are protecting is considered by Conservation International to be situated in one of the world’s biologically richest and most endangered regions. Having acquired control of this critical property, we will now turn our focus to protecting and rewilding, thereby expanding the safe, natural habitat and population sizes of the wildlife in KwaZulu-Natal.”

Wild Tomorrow Fund thanks its generous partners, donors and foundations for making this project possible as well as Mr. Norman Baggaley, the former controlling owner and Wild Tomorrow Fund’s partner in the conservation of Mfuleni.

**About Wild Tomorrow Fund** [www.wildtomorrowfund.org](http://www.wildtomorrowfund.org)

Wild Tomorrow Fund is a registered wildlife conservation charity both in the United States and South Africa. Wild Tomorrow Fund is dedicated to the protection of threatened and endangered species and the habitats they depend on for survival.

**Additional Media:** See [Dropbox](#) for maps and additional photos.

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