



MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo: Immediate

Oceans of Life Retrospective photographic exhibition

**Casting our eyes over the past seven years of beautiful,
ocean inspired images**

Cape Town, 27 September 2016: BirdLife South Africa and Iziko Museums of South Africa will once again host the annual *Oceans of Life* photographic exhibition. In previous years, this exhibition has showcased the winners of the international *Oceans of Life* photography competition, where the only criteria was to celebrate the diversity in our oceans. For the 2016 exhibition, the exhibition will take the form of a retrospective presentation of the top 40 images from 2009 to 2015.

Dr Ross Wanless, manager of the Seabird Conservation Programme at BirdLife South Africa says "The 2016 Oceans of Life exhibition will display the interconnectedness of conservation, love and knowledge. The exhibition aims to inspire through beautiful photographs as well educate by providing information about the subjects of the photos."

The exhibition will be dedicated to Dr Roelof van der Merwe, a brilliant photographer and avid supporter of conservation work, who passed away in December 2015. The exhibition concept has been built around a well known quote by Baba Dioum, a Senegalese forestry engineer. In 1968, he coined the now famous phrase: *"In the end, we will conserve only that which we love, we will love only that which we understand, and we will understand only that which we are taught."*

The exhibition opens on 6 October in the Kings Map Room at the Iziko South African Museum. The opening is part of the "First Thursdays" initiative and the public are welcome to attend. The exhibition will run until 25 November and will be open to the public daily from 10h00 until 17h00.

End

For further information:

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Notes for the editor:**About Iziko Museums of South Africa (Iziko)**

*Iziko operates 11 national museums, the Planetarium, the Social History Centre and three collection specific libraries in Cape Town. The museums that make up Iziko have their own history and character, presenting extensive art, social and natural history collections that reflect our diverse African heritage. Iziko is a public entity and non-profit organisation that brings together these museums under a single governance and leadership structure. The organisation allows *free access to all individuals on commemorative days, (*excluding the Castle of Good Hope and Planetarium). Visit our webpage at www.iziko.org.za, join our online community on Facebook (www.facebook.com/IzikoMuseums) or follow us on Twitter (@Iziko_Museums) for regular updates on events, news and new exhibitions.*

About BirdLife South Africa

BirdLife South Africa strives to conserve birds, their habitats and biodiversity through scientifically-based programmes, through supporting the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources and through encouraging people to enjoy and value nature. Seabirds are one of the most threatened groups of birds in the world - almost one third of all seabird species are threatened with some extinction risk. BirdLife South Africa's Seabird Conservation Programme is at the forefront of seabird conservation, nationally and globally. The acclaimed Albatross Task Force successfully works to reduce seabird mortality in fishing operations. The programme also runs significant African Penguin conservation projects, working to save this iconic species. BirdLife South Africa also has a strong presence globally through Regional Fisheries Management bodies, working to save seabirds around the world. BirdLife South Africa contact details: Isdell House, 17 Hume Road, Dunkeld West, 2196, Private Bag X5000, Parklands, Johannesburg, South Africa, Tel. +27-11-7891122, Fax +27-11-7895188, e-mail address: info@birdlife.org.za, website: www.birdlife.org.za

First Thursdays:

On the first Thursday of every month, explore art galleries and cultural attractions in Cape Town and Johannesburg until late. For more information visit: www.first-thursdays.co.za/