



**CONSERVATION
OUTCOMES**



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

**BirdLife South Africa and Conservation Outcomes partner to conserve KZN's
threatened habitats and species:**

New conservation partnership fledges in KZN

Howick, March 16, 2018

Conservation Outcomes and BirdLife South Africa have initiated a partnership to promote and support the conservation of KwaZulu-Natal's natural heritage. The partnership will support private and communal land holders to conserve and manage areas essential for bird conservation. It will initially focus on the Critically Endangered Blue Swallow and its threatened mistbelt grassland habitat. There are less than 30 pairs of Blue Swallow left in South Africa while only 2% of the Grassland Biome is conserved in formal protected areas. The mistbelt grasslands and forests in southern KZN have been systematically destroyed over the last hundred years, and it is therefore essential that the remaining fragments are protected and managed to ensure the survival of the threatened Blue Swallow, Cape Parrot, other threatened species, and to secure the natural water production in the region.

Conservation Outcomes (www.conservation-outcomes.org) and BirdLife South Africa (www.birdlife.org.za) expect this long-term partnership to enhance the conservation of key biodiversity areas and is providing assistance and support to land holders who would like to contribute to conserving Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs). Already the partnership, in cooperation with the land owners, is in the process of proclaiming two sites where Blue Swallow breed, along with the associated mistbelt grasslands. The Conservation Outcomes-BirdLife South Africa partnership in KZN is thereby supporting Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife to meet their conservation targets, to monitor threatened bird populations, and by providing land owner support.

About Conservation Outcomes

Conservation Outcomes is a registered non-profit organisation created to provide support to land that is being developed and managed for conservation outside of traditional state protected areas. The focus of the organisation is on securing remnant biodiversity, ecological integrity and resilience whilst contributing to poverty alleviation and meaningful socio-economic development in rural southern Africa through the development of the conservation and wildlife sector.

About BirdLife South Africa

BirdLife South Africa is a registered non-profit and public benefit organisation whose aim is to see a country and region where nature and people live in greater harmony, more equitably and sustainably. BirdLife South Africa's mission is to strive to conserve birds and their habitats and biodiversity through scientifically based programmes. BirdLife South Africa supports the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources and encourages people to enjoy and value nature.

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Photo: KZN mistbelt grassland and forest

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Photo: Blue Swallow