



MEDIA RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Giving conservation wheels: donation of a vehicle for seabird conservation

Cape Town, 29 July 2022 – BirdLife South Africa’s African Penguin conservation work has received a boost in the form of a Ford Ranger, the use of which has been donated from Scottfin Finance, a subsidiary of the Halfway Group, for the next year. The vehicle will primarily be used to support the project to establish a breeding colony for African Penguins in the De Hoop Nature Reserve.

African Penguin numbers have decreased by over 60% in the last 30 years, mainly due to a lack of available fish. BirdLife South Africa is working on a number of projects to help conserve this iconic species, including establishing a new breeding colony and research into the movements of penguins outside the breeding season to help protect important foraging areas. The projects frequently require travelling long distances to study sites. Notably, the new colony site is 250 km from Cape Town, with almost half of that on gravel roads. This work requires the transport of, among others, taking juvenile African Penguins to De Hoop for their release.

The Halfway Group and its finance division, Scottfin Finance, and BirdLife South Africa recently formalised an agreement for the provision of a Ford Ranger 4x4 for a year. “This vehicle will help immensely with our conservation work by providing a safe, reliable way to travel to our study sites”, says Christina Hagen, the Pamela Isdell Fellow of Penguin Conservation. “We are delighted to have formed a partnership with the Halfway Group and Scottfin Finance and look forward to working together over the next year, and beyond” says Mark Anderson, Chief Executive Officer of BirdLife South Africa.

Scottfin Finance CEO, Stuart McChesney, said “We are excited and proud to be able to support BirdLife South Africa’s conservation efforts on this initiative. As a company which provides innovative structured finance solutions to the solar energy industry, this partnership is very much aligned to our focus on sustainability.”

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For further information, please contact:

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Notes for the editor:

Scottfin Finance

Scottfin Finance is a financier of vehicles and renewable energy assets, specialising in both developmental credit and structured finance solutions. Scottfin Finance is a proud member of the Halfway Group, which includes Automotive, Finance, Property, Vehicle Rentals, Solar and Insurance divisions.

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BirdLife South Africa

BirdLife South Africa is the country partner of BirdLife International, a global partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, by working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources.

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