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### **SCB Africa Section hits a sixer for e-mentoring!**

Tsholofelo Lori

The e-mentoring program of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) Africa Section began in 2007 for capacity building of African students and early career experts in conservation science. This was the first ever mentoring effort developed by a group within the SCB, and a trendsetter for other SCB groups as well. The e-mentoring program has had seen five phases (2007/2008, 2008/2009, 2009/2010, 2014/2015, and 2018/2019) and paired over 80 mentees with mentors who volunteered from around the world. Mentors supported their mentees in multiple thematic areas in conservation science including research and experimental designs, grant writing, and manuscript preparations. Over the years, mentees have had success with publishing scientific papers and winning research grants. Thus, e-mentoring has emerged as a flagship program to disseminate conservation science in Africa, as envisioned by the SCB Africa Section.

The SCB Africa Section launched the sixth e-mentoring phase on May 26, 2022, with calls of applications from mentors and mentees widely publicized. The program received 24 mentee applications, and 23 applicants were paired with 16 volunteer mentors. Two mentors volunteered to support multiple mentees during this sixth mentoring phase. The mentors are experienced conservation experts working in universities, research institutions and conservation organizations across the world. The mentees, however, are mostly graduate students at universities from six African countries viz., Rwanda, Tanzania, Cameroon, DRC, Kenya, and Ghana. The mentoring goals identified for this sixth phase range from research grant proposal writing,

research design, manuscript writing and career support to English language improvement for non-English speakers.



An early mentor Mark Hulme, RSPB with mentee Alain Senghor K. Ngute

Mentors were encouraged to meet at least twice a month with their mentees, while the program coordinator will have monthly check-in with each group. Furthermore, a midway survey will be administered to measure mentoring progress. The sixth mentoring phase is expected to conclude by the end of November 2022 with an exit survey of both mentors and mentees. Successful mentees will receive a certificate of completion, while each mentor will receive a letter of acknowledgment of their service and a two-year SCB membership. Tsholofelo Lori provides oversight to the e-mentoring program with support from Margaret Owuor, Science & Education Officer, and Israel Borokini, President of SCB Africa Section.

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Dr. Tsholofelo Lori is a lecturer in Biology at the BA ISAGO University, Gaborone, Botswana, and the coordinator of the e-mentoring program.