

MEDIA RELEASE - 4 March 2002

BACK TO AFRICA: THE RELEASE OF SABLE ANTELOPE

On Tuesday, March 5th, South African National Parks will officially receive four Sable antelope, that have been given to the Vaalbos National Park, as part of the Back to Africa project. The project, led by Dr Hamish Currie, aims to take wild animals held in captivity, and reintroduce them into a free ranging situation in the wild. The antelope, one male and three females, were donated to SANParks by the Blijdorp Zoo in the Netherlands. They arrived at JHB International Airport a month ago and have been in quarantine in Kimberley since then. Sable from other zoological institutions in Europe will follow in the near future. Back To Africa targets any animals in zoos that are in surplus, or kept in unsatisfactory conditions, these are then taken and reintroduced to their natural habitat.

The four antelope from the Netherlands will form part of a breeding programme at Graspan, SANParks' breeding facility at Vaalbos National Park, in the Northern Cape.

For more information on this release, please contact

Deon Joubert
Park Manager
Vaalbos National Park
Tel: 053 561 0088
Cell: 082 806 8070

Issued by:

Florence Masebe
Media & PR Manager
SANParks
Tel. +27 (0)12 426 5013
Mobile +27 (0)82 560 8043
E-mail: florencem@parks-sa.co.za

[<back>](#)