

## South Africa leads in biodiversity conservation

**KUCHING:** South Africa gives high priority to biodiversity conservation and has many success stories for the rest of the world to emulate.

University of South Africa Prof Dr Callie Loubser said they had many animals in the wild that were close to extinction but their scientists had done a great job in reviving their population.

He added that some of these animals now had become abundant and plentiful.

Dr Callie told The Borneo Post on Monday that he believed that educating the people continuously about nature was the right way to conserve biodiversity in the world.

"South Africa looks after its nature conservation well because there are many games reserves in the country in the first place and it is successful because biodiversity conservation is very close to the heart of many people," said Dr Callie.

Education on biodiversity conservation plays a big role in South Africa success stories in reviving their animals and they have many scientists studying this biodiversity conversation who come up with positive solutions.

He agreed that Malaysia could learn from South Africa about conservation as the people here had the same interest in nature.

Dr Callie believed that Malaysia was catching up since producing the white paper on biodiversity conservation.

Malaysia might be a little behind in environmental education but he noticed that the country had advanced a lot in the last 15 years and that the country was in the right direction with their conversation programme.

However, Dr Callie would like to see the Malaysian government to be more strict on logging activities as animal habitats were destroyed and it would not help much especially when their natural environment had disappeared.

Dr Callie is one of the keynote speakers for the Best of Both World on Biodiversity Conservation that is held in Malaysia for the second time in Kuching from Nov 8 to 10.