



Invitation

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S OPEN LECTURE



The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town,
Dr Max Price, invites staff, students and members of the public to attend the following
Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture.

GUEST SPEAKER
Sir David Attenborough

Topic: "Alfred Russel Wallace and the Birds of Paradise"

Sir David Attenborough's distinguished career in broadcasting now spans more than 50 years. It began in 1952 when he joined BBC Television Talks Department at Alexandra Palace. In 1954 he launched the first of his famous *Zoo Quest* series which, over the next 10 years, took him to the wilder parts of the world. In between times, his activities included political broadcasts, archaeological quizzes, short stories, gardening and religious programmes.

In 1965, Sir David became Controller of BBC2 and was responsible for the introduction of colour television into Britain. In January 1969, he was appointed Director of Programmes with editorial responsibility for both of the BBC's television networks.

Then, in 1973, he resigned to return to programme-making, claiming "I haven't even seen the Galapagos Islands". First came *Eastwards with Attenborough*, a natural history series set in South-east Asia, then *The Tribal Eye*, examining tribal art. An estimated 500 million people worldwide watched the 13-part series *Life on Earth*, written and presented by Sir David. At the time it was the most ambitious series ever produced by the BBC Natural History Unit. Its sequel, *The Living Planet*, came five years later in 1984 and in 1990 the final part of the trilogy, *The Trials of Life* was broadcast. He also wrote and presented two shorter series, *The First Eden*, on the long history of humanity's relationship with the natural world in the lands around the Mediterranean, and *Lost Worlds, Vanished Lives*, about fossils.

In 1993, Sir David presented the spectacular *Life in the Freezer*, a celebration of Antarctica and in 1995, he wrote and presented the epic *The Private Life of Plants*. In 1996, *Attenborough in Paradise* fulfilled a lifelong ambition to make a special film about the elusive but beautiful birds of paradise. In 1997, he narrated the award-winning *Wildlife Specials*, marking 40 years of the BBC Natural History Unit. In 1998, he completed an epic 10-part series for the BBC, *The Life of Birds*. In Autumn 2000 he presented *State of the Planet* and in Autumn 2001 he narrated *The Blue Planet*. In 2002 he worked on the innovative new BBC1 series, *The Life of Mammals* and in 2005 he fronted *Life in the Undergrowth*.

In 1985, Sir David was knighted, and was given the Order of Merit in 2005. Over the years he has received honorary degrees and a number of prestigious awards including Fellowship of The Royal Society. He has been a Trustee of the British Museum, and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and President of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation.

Date: Wednesday 13 April 2011

Venue: Baxter Concert Hall, Baxter Theatre Centre, Rondebosch

Time: 19:30 (Guests to be seated by 19:25)

TICKETS

Due to limited seating in the Baxter Concert Hall, this event will be ticketed and tickets can only be collected in person from the Box Office at the Baxter Theatre Centre. The tickets will not be available at any other Computicket outlet, nor on-line. The tickets are free and will be available on a first-come-first-served basis. **A maximum of two tickets can be collected per person.** There will be no reservations of tickets. Tickets can be collected from **Thursday 7 April until Saturday 9 April 2011.**



University of Cape Town

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