South Africa and Swaziland; how to develop strong global programs

Robert McCleery
The Kingdom of Swaziland Is the last complete monarchy on the continent

Swaziland or eSwatini
Foster landscaping that are conducive to humans and wildlife alike
UF engagement in 8 years

• UF Faculty = 15
• UF Graduate Students = 17
• Undergraduate Students = 116
• Student Interns = 22
• NSF grants = 2
• Manuscripts > 50
• Dissertations = 5
• Theses = 3
Know the language and culture
Embrace the challenges
Embrace the challenges
Develop relationships

Participants in NSF IRES Grant
Strong partnerships

University of Swaziland  Local NGOs
Bring something to the table

Helping rhinos survive in the wild

This conservation scientist left a lucrative job — and her home country — to help white rhinos outpace extinction.
Savanna diversity research

Elephants → Vegetation → Diversity → Function
Vegetation → Functional Diversity

Shrub cover %  Canopy cover %  Heterogeneity

- Grid Scale
- Point Scale
Bring something to the table
Study Abroad
Great work environment
Great work environment

Improved Accommodation

New lab space
Great work environment
Think Big!

Shrub Encroachment  Intensive Agriculture

Biodiversity
Think Big!

- Rhino Conservation
- Elephant Management
- Ecological functioning in landscape mosaics
Institutional support

- Student Interns
- Travel Grants
- Grant development
- Study abroad
- Seed funding
- Student support
- Support of mission
Take the leap!
Thank you!
Questions and Contact Info

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