

University of Fort Hare's African Primate Initiative for Ecology and Speciation (A.P.I.E.S) wins the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) **Chair in Past and Present Primate Diversity** announced by the Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor.



The University of Fort Hare's South African Primate Initiative for Ecology and Speciation (A.P.I.E.S) was awarded the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) **Chair in Past and Present Primate Diversity**. The South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) is a flagship programme of the National Research Foundation and is supported by the Department of Science and Technology and the National Research Foundation (NRF). The award was announced by the Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor during the 2011/12 and 2013/14 Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

University of Fort Hare's A.P.I.E.S group was awarded one of the 60 research chairs, selected by the independent Adjudication Committee from a pool of 406 applications, submitted by researchers from various South African universities.

A.P.I.E.S is a research group under the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, Department of Zoology and Entomology and consists of 6 members; Two senior researchers, **Prof. Judith Masters** and **Dr. Fabien Genin**, a post-doctoral researcher, **Dr. Laura Bidner**, a doctoral student, **Mr. Hajarimanitra Rambeloarivony**, masters students, **Mr. Ntuthuzeko Makhasi** and **Mr. Curswan Andrews**.

The APIES was established in 2009 by Prof Judith Masters and Dr Fabien Genin and focuses on research on primate diversity and conservation of species of non human species. APIES researches issues related to evolution and ecology in primates. More students are encouraged to participate.

"The award will go a long way in building research and financially assisting students through bursaries in the institution" said Prof Masters. She also highlighted that there were only in the first phase of the process and much is to come in the next phases.

The institution is proud of the APIES and the APIES have received congratulatory messages from the offices of the Dean of Research and the Deputy Vice Chancellor.