

US varsity fetes Kenyan conservationist

By **NATION Correspondent**

A Kenyan researcher and conservationist has been awarded the prestigious world ecology award by a US university.

Dr David Western (left), a former Kenya Wildlife Service director and the founder of the African Conservation Centre in Kenya, will receive the 2010 World Ecology Award from the Harris World Ecology Center at the University of Missouri,

St Louis. He becomes the second Kenyan to receive the award after Dr Richard Leakey, his predecessor at KWS.

The World Ecology Award is presented to an eminent individual who has raised public awareness about global ecology and made significant contributions to environmental protection and biodiversity conservation.



In a party held in his honour on Tuesday evening at a city hotel, Dr Western was praised for his continued efforts to sensitise the public on global ecology.

Dr Western has spent more than 42 years in research, studying the interactions between livestock, wildlife and humans, with the aim of developing conserva-

tion strategies applicable at an ecosystem scale.

During his helm at KWS, he is credited with having introduced an eco-tourism concept named "parks beyond parks" policy which was to have residents live in harmony with the animals as they benefit from the proceeds from the parks.

The award will be presented at a gala dinner to be held on May 7 at the Missouri Botanical garden in the US.