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## **UCT appoints Lewis Pugh as Adjunct Professor**

World renowned Ocean Advocate and endurance swimmer, Professor Lewis Pugh is continuing his battle for ocean conservation by accepting the position of Adjunct Professor in International Law at UCT.

The quest for ocean protection is about getting nations to agree to put their different agendas aside and cooperate for the greater good. For Prof Pugh, this quest might start with high-profile swims but it quickly transfers on to convincing government officials at the highest level to sign enforceable international agreements.

"I was always pulled by the world's waters. As a young boy I was fascinated by naval exploration; as a young man I was drawn to swim in some of the world's most challenging seas. But if I hadn't put my head down and studied law, I would not have been able to do what I do for the oceans.

"Law taught me how to argue passionately and rationally – a balance that is key to being an environmental campaigner. I look forward to sharing my experiences in the field with students and colleagues at UCT's Law Department, the place where my legal education began." says Prof Pugh on his new role.

Prof Pugh continues to stress the importance of education and how the art of negotiating at international level is about cultivating respect, being open to points of view that are different from your own.

"Education in South Africa has never been so vibrant and so urgent. Today's world presents significant challenges – poverty, environmental degradation, racism, gender inequality, lack of education and illiteracy, terrorism, disease, hunger, climate change ... I am excited to be part of this nexus where law, politics, and the environment intersect so dynamically, to help the next generation of lawyers and campaigners take on these issues."

The Dean of Law, Professor Penelope Andrews, says having Lewis as part of the faculty is a valuable asset "Having a graduate like Lewis Pugh makes us enormously proud at UCT Law Faculty. Now that he is joining us as an Adjunct Professor, the staff and students will

have the opportunity to engage with him on a regular basis. We will all benefit from his enormous experience and commitment to our planet and all who inhabit it.”

**Additional information:**

Lewis Pugh is an endurance swimmer and an ocean advocate.

He frequently swims across vulnerable ecosystems to draw attention to their plight. He is the only person to have completed a long distance swim in every ocean of the world, and has pioneered more swims around famous landmarks than any other swimmer in history.

In 2007 he undertook a long distance swim across an open patch of sea at the North Pole, equipped just in a Speedo swimming costume, to highlight the melting of the Arctic sea ice.

He followed this up with a swim across a glacial lake on Mt Everest in 2010 to draw attention to the melting glaciers in the Himalayas.

Last year he helped negotiate the creation of the largest protected area in the world in the Ross Sea off Antarctica. The negotiations required consensus among 24 countries, a number of which had long standing disputes with one another. The media dubbed his efforts, shuttling between the nations to secure the agreement, as "Speedo diplomacy".

The Ross Sea Marine Protected Area is 1.5 million square kilometres - approximately the size of South Africa and Zimbabwe combined.

Lewis studied law in South Africa and the UK. He has a BA, LLB, LLM (in Maritime Law) from UCT and an LLM (in International Law) from Cambridge University.

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