The Kirstenbosch Centenary Jewellery Collection could fall into foreign hands if it is auctioned piece by piece.

Join a collective bid to keep it intact and in this country.

Please read on...
APPEAL TO FUND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AT NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

The Kirstenbosch Crown Jewels Centenary Jewellery Collection was created by seven award winning jewellers backed by Anglo American Platinum specifically to kick-start a campaign to raise the R65 million needed to expand and enhance environmental education at South Africa’s ten national botanical gardens over the next five years. It will come under the hammer at The Kirstenbosch Centenary Auction on Tuesday 10 March 2015.

Featuring exquisite combinations of precious metals and gemstones inspired by the flora and fauna of the Cape Floral Kingdom, it constitutes a one-of-a-kind memento of the Kirstenbosch Centenary in 2013/14.

Environmental education programmes are conducted by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) with the support of the Botanical Society of South Africa.**

Funding is required to supplement government grants for various programmes at the gardens - including Kirstenbosch - and alleviate the need for self-funding by the learners, many of whom come from the poorest communities.

It is also needed to ensure that teachers are paid properly. Essential infrastructure for education such as purpose-built environmental learning centres and propagating nurseries require funding as well - and seven buses, four cars and two pick-up trucks are urgently needed to get things up and running – that’s R15 million for the vehicles alone!
We have ten of the world’s most inspiring outdoor classrooms.

But can only afford to fill one of them.

Above is a typical scene at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens in Cape Town, where up to 150 underprivileged school kids and university students enjoy outings for environmental studies every day.

In contrast, there are another nine equally magnificent national botanical gardens around the country where study groups are rarely seen. Without buses or funds for tuition and entrance fees, very few kids get to set foot inside them. What a waste of our natural educational assets!

All of these gardens could be like Kirstenbosch, giving kids from disadvantaged communities the chance to discover the beauty and value of our natural botanical heritage and enabling them to acquire the knowledge and passion to care for the environment from an early age.

You can assist by contributing to a collective bid* to buy the jewellery collection below at auction, the proceeds of which could have a hugely positive impact on the lives of thousands of young South Africans.

Longer term, the objective is to make the national botanical gardens self-sustaining and important contributors to the economy. The effect of providing environmental education to many more young people will help raise the profile of these national treasures, enabling them to stand alongside our superb national game parks as must-see destinations for local and international travellers.
Support this initiative by contributing however much you can to build up the bid before the auction. Your donation will be greatly appreciated and your identity will be kept confidential unless you advise the convener otherwise.

**Deposits can be made to:**

**Bank:** ABSA Bank of South Africa  
**Account name:** Smith Tabata Buchanan Boyes (Registered attorneys)  
**Branch:** Claremont – code 632005  
**Trust A/c No:** 403 570 4865  
**Ref:** Your name/Kirstenbosch/WC030631  
**Swift code:** absazajj

Thanking you in anticipation...

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**Auction catalogue link:**  

**Sponsors:** Anglo American Corporation, Pam Golding Properties  
**Contributing jewellers:** Cari Mari, Kirtikumar Devjee, Peter Gilder, Platandia, Prins & Prins, Vijay Shah, and Uwe Koetter  
**Media Partners:** Gallo Images, Switch Design Company  
**Legal advisers:** Smith Tabata Buchanan Boyes

**Notes:** *The collective bid is intended to exceed all others and will be revealed at the auction. It is also intended to ensure that the jewellery remains intact as a collection, rather than being sold piece by piece, and stays where it belongs – in South Africa. In the event that it is outbid, it will be treated as a donation and added to the auction proceeds.**

**The public/private partnership between SANBI and the non-government, non-profit Botanical Society was formed in 1913 and is the longest-standing public/private partnership in South Africa. It boasts a 100-year track record of cooperation and achievement, strikingly illustrated by Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden – one of the world’s most admired gardens and environmental education centres of its kind.**

The role of the Botanical Society is to augment SANBI’s finances and support its activities with volunteer horticulturists, teachers and guides from its 26 000-strong national member base. Funds raised via the auction will go to the Botanical Society of South Africa’s Partnership Fund.