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NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

November 2009

NELSON MANDELA SCIENCE LECTURE

Part of the **DARWIN200** series

You are invited to attend a **FREE** Public Lecture

"Charles Darwin, Africa, and Human Evolution"

By Professor Chris Stringer FRS

Research Leader in Human Origins and Director of AHOB, Dept of Palaeontology, The Natural History Museum, London

Date : Tuesday 24 November 2009

Time : 13h00

Venue: GH1, University of the Western Cape,
Modderdam Road, Bellville

RSVP: Linet at 021 557 0246

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For more information go to: www.africagenome.com

In association with



Charles Darwin, Africa, and Human Evolution

This year's Nelson Mandela Science Lecture will be held at the University of the Western Cape in Cape Town and the invited speaker is **Professor Chris Stringer**, Research leader in Human Origins at the Natural History Museum in London.

His theme is ***Charles Darwin, Africa, and Human Evolution***. Charles Darwin was one of the first to suggest that humans probably had their origins in Africa, but at the time, there was no fossil evidence to support this notion. However, since 1921, there has been a tremendous growth in fossil, archaeological and, most recently genetic, data supporting this idea. Although most experts now accept that Africa was our original evolutionary homeland, there is less agreement about whether it was the only place of origin for our own species *Homo sapiens*. In this talk Professor Stringer will discuss our African origins and our eventual spread out of the continent to populate the Earth.

The Nelson Mandela Science Lecture is sanctioned by the Nelson Mandela Foundation. The 2009 lecture is held jointly with the Darwin200 series of lectures, a partnership project of the Africa Genome Education Institute & the Division of Human Genetics at the University of Cape Town.



Professor Chris Stringer has worked at The Natural History Museum since 1973, and is now Research Leader in Human Origins and a Fellow of the Royal Society.

His early research concentrated on the relationship of Neanderthals and early modern humans in Europe, but through his work on the 'Out of Africa' theory of modern human origins, he now collaborates with archaeologists, dating specialists and geneticists in attempting to reconstruct the evolution of modern humans globally. He has excavated at sites in Britain, Gibraltar, Morocco and Turkey, and is currently leading the Ancient Human Occupation of Britain project (AHOB) and its successor project AHOB2, which began in October 2006, both funded by the Leverhulme Trust. AHOB and AHOB2 are major collaborative projects to reconstruct the pattern of the earliest human colonisations of Britain.

His recent books include "The Complete World of Human Evolution" (2005, with Peter Andrews), and "Homo Britannicus" (2006, 2007), which won the Best Archaeological Book Award in 2008.