



**CHANGING LIVES FOREVER  
THROUGH TRAVEL**

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## Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

As the sun sets on 2016, we would like to share a photo of sunset in Savuti, one of the very special wild places in Botswana. As my friend said to me, “Savuti is where you leave a little bit of your soul to come back to.” Personally, I think that is Botswana in general, but, if you were to choose a specific place, then let it be Savuti!

The end of the year has been hectic! Travel for Impact attended BTTE in Kasane where we were able to meet quite a number of you – thank you for stopping by our table and making yourselves known. For those that are just getting to know us, welcome on board and we look forward to working with you.

December always highlights the stark contrast between those that have and those that do not. We are fortunate to be able to work with our partners to ensure that their clients join in the festivities at this time of the year. Travel for Impact, through your donations, has been able to contribute towards many of these and to bring a little bit of joy into people’s lives. The Community Bus has been incredibly busy, not only transporting people to and from celebrations, but also supporting Women Against Rape during the 16 Days of Activism campaign.

Construction at Maun’s Nhabe Museum has finally come to an end with the completion of five artist studios and an auditorium. We look forward to supporting the museum to grow and prosper – putting culture and heritage firmly back on the map. We will keep you posted on their activities!

As always, we look forward to meeting the challenges of a new year with our partners and wish you all happy holidays and all the best for 2017! Most importantly we are delighted that our civil society partners can look forward to the New Year confident of our support in meeting their day-to-day needs.

Best wishes,

Ruth Stewart, Director of Travel for Impact

## Month at a Glance



**BBL Performs Walk to Address Adolescent Rights**



**16 Days Campaign: ‘Women’s Rights are Also Human Rights’**



**AGLOW - Polokong Hosts Annual Christmas Dinner**

## Travel For Impact



Travel for Impact (TFI) is a social enterprise that links the travel industry with local community projects in Northern Botswana. With each night spent with one of our travel partners, at least USD1 is donated to TFI. This money is then used to provide consistent, core funding to four organizations: AGLOW - Polokong, Bana Ba Letsatsi, Maun Animal Welfare Society, and WoMen Against Rape. Additionally, TFI also sponsors independent community projects.

This newsletter highlights the activities these organizations are performing and the wonderful impact they are making throughout our community.

### Travel for Impact Sponsors Tsau 'Family Fun Day'

“Jumping castles, face painting, and a campaign day raising awareness about one of the many issues facing the world today – HIV/AIDS. This was the scene on the last day of school in Tsau, Botswana – a smaller, remote village of about 2,000 people in the Ngamiland District. The kids at Tsau Primary were talking about this event for the full month leading up to it.

No community member could remember a time when a jumping castle had ever been seen here, and none of the kids I talked to had ever gotten to go on one before. This is what made the Tsau Primary Family Fun Day so special: seeing the excitement on kid's faces as they spent the last school day having fun with their friends and enjoying activities many of us have come to take for granted.

The full day event focused on three campaigns: 'World AIDS Day,' '16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence', and 'Know Your Status.' Activity stations were set up around the school, some focusing on these campaigns and some just providing fun activities for the kids and families.

The World AIDS day room walked participants through a dialogue, discussing what we know, what we can do, and what happens if we don't

act. Participants learned about methods of prevention and were also given the space to process the severity of the epidemic – remembering those who have been lost. While the topic may have been heavy, I've never seen the students so engaged in learning before. They were captivated and the line to go through the activity was looped around the building.

Although seeing students and parents alike engaged and interested in learning was a priority of the event, we also wanted to make sure the kids had a fun day to celebrate all their hard work. The jumping castle, face painting, and other kid-friendly activities made this possible.

None of this would have been possible without the support of Travel For Impact as they generously sponsored the supplies for the World AIDS Day room, the face paints, and the jumping castle. The jumping castle was definitely one of the most popular stations and every kid I saw sported a decorative design on his or her cheek.

We here at Tsau Primary can not thank Travel For Impact enough! Without them, the event wouldn't have been the same.”

- Bridget, Tsau 'Family Fun Day' Event Coordinator



## Women



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Crafthood-unite.com

### Crafthood

Crafthood is an independent initiative launched by Travel for Impact with seed funding from Southern African Regional Environmental Program (SAREP). Crafthood is a centralized marketing and sales platform for weavers in the District. The aim is to support weavers in establishing an independent livelihood, and in turn, support immediate needs within their household.

## Arts for Africa

Arts for Africa, a non-profit organization based in the Netherlands, was established in 2015 with a mandate to work together for a better, greener, and more independent future through the sale of art products. Arts for Africa has been instrumental in supporting Crafthood, and in turn, women within the Ngamiland District, by marketing their unique products in the Netherlands. It does so by seeking out collaboration with individuals, retailers, and other businesses.



Erick and Sylvia, two of the founders of this organisation, say that they focus on facilitating fair and ecologically responsible trade of African arts & crafts. Over the past year, they concentrated their efforts almost exclusively on Botswana baskets because of their broad appeal in the Netherlands. The unequalled quality and cultural significance of Botswana baskets gives them enormous potential to contribute to the improvement of livelihoods in the region.

However, working with basket weavers in rural Botswana has its challenges. Due to their beautiful designs and high quality, Botswana baskets are in high demand and as a

result, production is often unable to keep up. Furthermore, delivery delays and high import taxes present challenges in pricing the baskets. However, Arts for Africa is determined to appropriately compensate workers and ensure they are making a living wage.

Despite these challenges, the Arts for Africa team are happy that in August this year they got the opportunity to meet some of Crafthood's basket weavers. "We had a very warm welcome and we have learnt a lot from them," Sylvia says, "It was wonderful to be able to share ideas and challenges we are facing and think about possible solutions together."



Furthermore, Arts for Africa has found great success in finding retailers who want to collaborate with them and work towards creating sustainable income for the weavers. They even managed to sell quite a few baskets at several trade fairs.

Sylvia says the support from Travel for Impact has been marvellous and

they believe that we can help create a 'better Africa for People to live' as long as we work together. "They are more than partners," Sylvia says, in reference to Travel for Impact, "we have come to consider them as an extension of our team."



She adds that TFI's understanding of life in the rural communities has enabled Arts for Africa to work alongside hundreds of crafters; it has also allowed them to move forward on a basis of trust, a sense of common purpose. "We now know the traditional stories behind each basket design, the name of the weaver and the village she lives in. This adds much more meaning to the baskets we sell in the Netherlands," Sylvia says.

If you are interested in learning more information about Arts for Africa or would like to purchase some of the beautiful baskets illustrated, please check out their website at: [www.artsforafrica.nl](http://www.artsforafrica.nl)

Women



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womenagainstrape.co.bw/

WoMen Against Rape (WAR)

WoMen Against Rape (WAR) was established in 1993 in response to a prevalence of gender-based violence in the district of Ngamiland. WAR is a crisis centre that deals with society’s most vulnerable: women and children. Since their inception, they have handled over 600 cases of violence and shelter women and children.



16 Days of Activism: ‘Women’s Rights are Also Human Rights’

“From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All”

2016 marks the 25th anniversary of the social movement, ‘16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence.’ ‘16 Days’ is a global event in which countries unite and fight for women’s and girl’s rights. To commemorate this movement, WAR has been busy with a line-up of activities to sensitise people and promote awareness of gender-based violence (GBV).



Students from Maun Secondary

“This is an inequality issue,” says Peggie, WAR’s Coordinator. “We are bringing everybody together to stand up in one voice and say, enough is enough! We want women to be equal!” Starting November 25, WAR began their campaign throughout Maun. Below are the landmark events WAR has been leading and/or participating in.

22 November

WAR Hosts ‘What can the churches in Maun do to raise Awareness and Prevent Gender Based Violence?’

As a country that is predominantly Christian, the role of the church in issues affecting society cannot be denied. The event was a moving and heartfelt discussion that ended with all church leaders pledging to raise awareness and set-up activities within their respective churches during 16 Days.



Peggie addressing the churches



Churches standing in unity

25 November

WAR Leads Activity at Tsau Family Fun Day

WAR combined fun with learning at Tsau village where kids and adults alike had an amazing time filled with lots of activities – activities aimed to address and prevent Gender Based Violence.

[For more information, see ‘Travel for Impact Sponsors Tsau ‘Family Fun Day’ above.]



Tsau activities

Women



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16 Days of Activism: ‘Women’s Rights are Also Human Rights’ Cont.

1 December

*WAR Participates in ‘World AIDS Day Walk’*

December 1<sup>st</sup> is the internationally recognised day when nations remember those affected and infected by HIV/AIDS. In commemoration, WAR collaborated with other community organisations such as Bana Ba Letsatsi, Ngamiland District Health Management Team, community leaders, and the public to mark this day.



2 December

*WAR Participates in Maun Police Crime Prevention Walk*

The activities started at 6am with a walk from four points BDF junction to Moeti Cross Road followed by Maun Sports Complex and Boseja all the

way to the Main Kgotla. The event drew attention to the positive impact local police have made in preventing and addressing crime. WAR gave out anti-violence ribbons and their booth spread awareness of GBV.



6 December

*WAR Hosts Event at Thamalakane River Lodge to Empower Girls*

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1989, 12 female engineering students, 1 nursing student and member of faculty were murdered at École Polytechnique in Montreal, Canada by a young man believed to be ‘anti-feminist.’ In remembrance, WAR organised a session with school-going girls to empower them to stay in school and discuss issues affecting them such as gender based violence.



10 December

*WAR Hosts Seminar Urging Community to Take Action*

On this closing day, WAR gave a call to action and implored community leaders, stakeholders, and action groups to participate in a seminar for the ‘Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children.’ The event was attended by Bana Ba Letsatsi, NCONGO, police, and other community organizations who all pledged to take an active role in reducing GBV.

## Culture & Heritage



**Polokong**  
an effort to assist Masari's destitute elderly

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aglowpolokong.org

### AGLOW - Polokong

Despite tremendous efforts to provide social security to the country's most vulnerable populations, hindrances such as walking long distances, and some day-to-day activities present many challenges for the elderly. AGLOW-Polokong aims to change the lives of these individuals by making home visits, providing basic necessities, and giving loving attention.

### AGLOW Hosts Annual Christmas Lunch

"I am so happy," says one of the attendees at this year's AGLOW Christmas Lunch. On December 10, 2016, AGLOW – Polokong hosted their annual Christmas Party. This event was attended by over two hundred elderly people from throughout the community. Every year, the elderly look forward to this event (some even showed up at 6 AM!) and it's no surprise why. The event had music, singing, dancing, and most importantly, food!



However, with so many people in attendance, AGLOW faced some challenges. Large numbers resulted in some food delays. In the meantime, attendees listened to music, sang, and mingled.



Destination Management Company, Safari Destinations, who sponsored this year's food, was also in attendance. "It's just so great to be here!" Chantal, the General Manager of Safari Destinations exclaims. "It's great fun; it's good to hear the laughter and the singing," she says. In addition to sponsoring the food, staff from the Destination Management company were hard at work chopping, dicing, and mixing. It is all part of their '500 hours' initiative in which employees volunteer 500 man-hours to the community.

Despite this setback, attendees were still very excited to come together and celebrate. "When we arrived, we were so excited to see our fellow age-mates," one attendee remarked. "We may have eaten late, but we were happy to have come here to enjoy ourselves."



## Children



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### Bana Ba Letsatsi

Bana Ba Letsatsi (BBL) is a rehabilitation centre that offers a place of safety and support for vulnerable children. The organization provides daily meals, clothes, transport, medical attention, and hygiene facilities, as well as counseling, skills training, and also reintroduces children to the structure of education. BBL has helped many children reintegrate and it continues to be a safe-haven for children throughout the community.



### Colour Brings BBL Grounds to Life!

BBL, the rehabilitation centre which works with over 100 kids daily, added some much-appreciated colour to their grounds. With help from Standard Chartered Bank Botswana, the grounds were painted vibrant colours of green, yellow, and red.

Both kids and staff from BBL volunteered for the day and were joined by employees from the bank. Standard Chartered Bank Botswana not only donated the paint needed, but they also participated in several activities and games with the kids.

### Let's Talk! BBL Walk Brings Awareness to Adolescent Rights

‘A re bueng!’ That translates to ‘Let’s talk!’ That’s exactly what Bana Ba Letsatsi is doing. On Thursday, November 24, Bana Ba Letsatsi, in cooperation with NCONGO, conducted a walk. This event brought together over a hundred kids from all over Maun. The purpose was clear: to reduce teenage pregnancy, STIs, HIV/AIDS, and Gender Based Violence (GBV) amongst youth in the community.



Along the way, they stopped to present a written message to the Honourable Member of Parliament. The message was read out loud by a Junior Secondary Student and given to the office; its purpose was to solicit more visual support on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR).



Wearing matching shirts, carrying signs, and filled with energy, the participants started their march at Maun’s bus ring. With police escort and the kids leading the charge, the group marched along Maun’s main street.



Arriving at Bana Ba Letsatsi, participants were treated to a debate competition, light refreshments, and motivational speeches by community members. Movements like this illustrate just one of the ways that Bana Ba Lestatsi is directly addressing and protecting Ngamiland’s adolescents.



## Children

## Desert &amp; Delta Safari Sponsor Student Safari Trip

*“This trip was great for the body, mind and soul; we got time to make face to face conversations. It was also great to relax, get away from the internet and all our electronics”*

Three years ago, Desert & Delta Safaris started a partnership with Tsodilo Junior Secondary School. Every year, the safari company sponsors an annual motivational trip to Leroo La Tau Camp for 20 students (10 top academic achievers and 10 disadvantaged).

Travel for Impact was at Tsodilo JSS to meet these excited faces as they arrived back from their 3 day trip on Monday 5 December 2016. As tired as they were, their joy was seen and felt.

“It was a great experience,” says one of the students, “I thought we were just going to spend the whole time in the camp site. To my surprise, we went for a game drive and the experience was out of this world!” They said that they enjoyed every moment of this experience, learnt a lot, and even saw some of the animals they have never seen like the wildebeest which they described as a “a weird looking animal.”

First timers were nervous because they did not know what to expect. They were scared of being in the bush with all the animals. These fears were amplified by stories of how wild animals are scary, dangerous, aggressive, and can attack you for no reason. To their surprise, the animals were calm and had no problems with their presence. “The animals were so at peace and at one point we saw a pride of lions,” says another student, “they were calm and laying under a tree as they watched the cubs play. They were so cute, you just wanted to pet them.”

The students said the excursion was amazing. The food, accommodation, and hospitality were exceptional and the smiling faces of the staff made the



kids feel welcome. They were so happy about this trip and described how it was great to get to know students from other classes. “This was a great place to mingle and make new friends,” a student says.

“It was awesome!” said another student, “we got the chance to get to know our teachers in a relaxed environment. Surprisingly, we found them to be easy-going and down-to-earth people. We talked, laughed, and had a fabulous time.”

This trip gave the students an amazing opportunity to see firsthand Botswana’s amazingly diverse wildlife. In total, the group saw elephants, lions, wildebeest, zebras and many other animals. They said the wilderness is a peaceful place and are sad the trip came to an end.

However, the benefits of the trip are two-fold. Not only does this trip give kids the opportunity to see the wildlife, but the trip also provides academic incentive for students. “This has created competition amongst the students,” says Guidance & Counselling teacher, Mr Lubinda, “everyone wants to go and experience being in the wilderness. This competition has also increased the academic results of the school.”

In addition to sponsoring the motivational trip, Desert & Delta Safaris also annually provides uniforms, bags, stationery, and school supplies for 10 underprivileged students. It is all part of Desert & Delta’s mission to give back to the community and promote sustainable ecotourism.



*The kids arriving back from safari*



*The view from Leroo La Tau*



*Leroo La Tau Game Drive*

#### Fast Fact:

Leroo La Tau is situated on the western bank of the Boteti River, northwest of Khumaga Village and about 140 kilometres southeast of Maun. The eastern bank of the Boteti forms the boundary of the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, which stretches away from the riverbank towards its interior of scrubland and mineral-rich grasslands.

Photo + Fact Source

## Children

### BBL Fun Day: The Smiles Tell the Story

“We have no words. No words can express how happy we are!” Taboka, the Coordinator at Bana Ba Letsatsi, exclaims. On November 26, 2016, Bana Ba Letsatsi had their ‘BBL Fun Day!’ This event, sponsored by *Safari Destinations*, invited BBL’s kids and their parents to participate in a variety of games and activities such as a bouncy castle, cupcake decorating, egg walks, tug of war, and face painting.



From morning to afternoon, BBL was buzzing with energy. “I think you can even see the mood around the centre. Everybody has something to do,” says Taboka, “it’s just super amazing!”



Although everybody was having fun, the BBL Fun Day was not solely to celebrate the holidays; it was an opportunity to celebrate the hard work performed by both the staff and the kids. As such, the festivities were followed with certificates and awards given to BBL kids who were graduating.

“It’s a historic graduation,” Taboka states, “usually the kids are qualified to graduate at a certain age but today we are even having 8 year olds graduating because they have been doing so well, they are now able to go back to school.” To close, participants were treated to food, cake, and Christmas gifts.

*“they are teaching our kids, directly and indirectly, that giving back to the community is essential”*

Though it ended, the impact of this event will live on. Safari Destinations is setting an example and showing them that it is important to give back. “As a company, they are teaching our kids, directly and indirectly, that giving back to the community is essential,” Taboka explains. “As our kids grow and start their own companies, I believe that they will learn and be able to give back their community...it’s not all about taking, it’s about giving as well...We thank you!” she states.

The smiles tell the story.



## Children

### Safari Destinations and Travel for Impact Sponsor ‘Adolescents and Psychological Trauma’ Counseling Seminar

It all started with recognizing a need. This November, in a joint initiative, Safari Destinations and Travel for Impact sponsored 17 community workers to attend an ‘Adolescents and Psychological Trauma’ counseling seminar. Employees from Bana Ba Letsatsi and Women Against Rape were treated to presentations, group discussions, and activities; all put on by Lynn & Ruby Johnston of LAMB International.

*“I’ve learned that children can talk to you in different ways”*

The event was facilitated and hosted by Bush Ways Foundation. Maria Ramsden, the Coordinator, describes how this event came to be. “We saw a lot of needs,” she says, “these conferences are to help us understand how to deal with these kids.” Based on the comments from participants, this event is addressing those needs.



“I’ve learned that children can talk to you in different ways,” Tracy, a counselor from Bana Ba Letsatsi (BBL), states. As a child rehabilitation centre, BBL is directly dealing with kids from many different backgrounds, some of which have dealt with tremendous trauma. This

training has shown Tracy that kids can show signs of trauma in many different ways. Sometimes kids will act out and it’s easy to just assume that they are just doing it for attention.

“Now I have realized that this child is speaking to me. She or he is saying ‘here I am, I have a problem...’ I’ve been equipped with more skills. Something that I didn’t have before.”

*“It is part of learning as a caregiver”*

Not only did this event teach about how to recognize the impacts and consequences of trauma, but it also gave attendees an opportunity to share ideas and experiences. Tuaejele, the Head Counselor at Women Against Rape, was particularly excited about this opportunity. “We get to learn from others how they do trauma counseling,” he says, “It’s great because we don’t have the forum where we can meet regularly to debrief and share... It is part of learning as a caregiver to children or GBV survivors.”

Travel for Impact is proud to partner with Safari Destinations and sponsor initiatives that truly impact the community.

[Photo Source](#)



## Conservation



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### Maun Animal Welfare Society (MAWS)

Founded in 1998, MAWS aims to protect Botswana's wildlife through domestic animal care. To accomplish this goal, MAWS offers free veterinary services to low-income villagers across Botswana. In addition, they also reunite and rehabilitate lost, found, and stray animals. MAWS is actively preventing the transmission of diseases from domestic animals to wildlife.



#### Fast Fact:

Lions live in large groups called prides, similar to wolves (unlike most other cat species). A pride consists of multiple related females and their dependent offspring along with two or three unrelated males. A typical pride has about 15 members, although some prides as large as 40 members have been observed.

[Source](#)

### Jack and Jill

So many dogs and so many stories attached to each and every one, making it hard to choose which one to write about. So I have chosen two, Jack and Jill, named by me for no other reason than the names just popped into my head when I saw them.



Rescued from the Kalahari Desert by, Tana, head of the clinic at MAWS, and brought in by Nation, in the trusty MAWS Bakkie. Jack and Jill quickly settled into life here.

Very thin and scraggy, lifting with fleas and ticks, they were definitely rescued just in time. We thought they had probably been hunting dogs and had escaped and then got lost. Jack was immediately friendly but Jill took some working on but steady & predictable love, food, and exercise won her over eventually.

They were both sterilised and vaccinated against, Rabies, Parvo and distemper viruses as per MAWS protocols. Additionally, they were defleaded and had ticks removed. Then

came the long wait for new owners. We wanted them to remain together as they were brother and sister. Many people came to see them but nobody could take them both on.

Meanwhile John and I went on outreach for two weeks and on our return found both dogs still there and bouncing up and down with excitement that we were back.

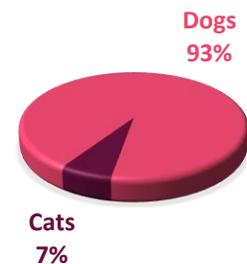
Time moved on once more and we were preparing to leave when Tana appeared with a big grin on her face. She had found a potential owner and was on her way to check them out.



Jack and Jill were given big hugs by me and put back into Nation's Bakkie and are now living with Derek and his mother. They are checked on regularly, as is the MAWS protocol, and will appear in a year to have their vaccinations updated.

Helen,  
Volunteer at MAWS

### NOVEMBER PATIENT BREAKDOWN



This month, MAWS vaccinated and/or sterilized 221 dogs and cats, helped 35 walk ins, and facilitated 540 inpatients!

## Our Community

### 'It was a Dream Come True:' Neo Mothao

We caught up with Desert & Delta Safaris (DDS) 'Future Leaders Scholarship' beneficiary, Neo Mothao, to hear what she's been up to since she started her BA in International Hospitality Management at Botswana Accounting College in Francistown.

Neo was selected in May 2016 as the first recipient of the DDS Scholarship programme. It targets youth from tourism areas in which DDS operates and aims to develop their knowledge of tourism.

Neo's love for tourism stems from little more than an elephant toy from her childhood. She loved it so much she found herself drawing not just any elephant, but imagining a real-life elephant hotel! "I kept on wondering how it will be like to have such kind of building in Botswana, especially at the Okavango Delta," she explains.



To make her dream a reality, she realised that she needed to equip herself with the right education and skills to make it happen. This is where DDS came in. "DDS has not only given me a chance to live and pursue my dreams but they have directly helped my family, community and future lives that will benefit from the success of my dream business," Neo says.

Neo will be completing her degree in May 2019. Upon completion, she will work with DDS on a two-year contract as part of the scholarship agreement but she hopes to continue with them for an extra 3-5 years. In the spirit of giving back, during her



employment, she wants to donate a portion of her salary to the DDS Future Leaders Initiative.

To be fully equipped with the right knowledge and skills before embarking on her next stepping stone, she wants to acquire further tourism experience by working an extra 7 to 10 years. Afterwards, she hopes to start her own tourism business in partnership with DDS, who are her inspiration.

"My aim is to run a line of hospitality establishments with a similar mission to that of DDS, having the welfare of people at its heart, be it within or outside Botswana's borders."

Neo says the scholarship has provided her with the platform to have a positive influence on not just the youth, but the whole community. She hopes that her actions will inspire people to be motivated and believe that dreams can come true. "That alone is a great privilege and honour indeed," she adds.

Neo's last words before getting back to her books: "I want to tell everyone that whatever their passion is, if they follow it without losing focus, they too can make it. DDS has made me an influential public figure and I am more than grateful for that [...] we need more companies who recognise the importance of passion and dream fulfilment, especially to people who cannot do it on their own."



### Travel for Impact Attends Botswana Travel & Tourism Expo!

This year, team members, Thoto 'Mista Tee,' and Josh represented Travel for Impact at the Botswana Travel & Tourism Expo (BTTE). The event, held in Kasane, gave the TFI team an opportunity to meet people from all over the world and share our story.



Not only that, but the team got to experience the beauty of Kasane and the iconic Chobe River! For those of you who stopped by our booth, it was a pleasure to speak with you. We look forward to some exciting new partnerships!



## Our Community

### Poetavango: Arts Activism in Action

Maun is internationally renowned as the tourist capital of Botswana and the gateway to the awe-inspiring Okavango Delta. However, this rapidly growing village is also home to Poetavango, a non-profit organisation of performing artists who combine their love of arts with philanthropy. Poetavango is an amalgamation between two words Poet and Okavango, which means Poets of The Okavango.

Juby Peacock, a Clinical Social Worker by profession, volunteers as the Public Relations Officer for Poetavango. Ironically, she says this is also part of their challenge as most of their artists work full time which makes it difficult for them to push the mandate of the organisation to its maximum potential as they can only work after-hours and on weekends.

Poetavango's mandate is to empower performing artists with life skills, entrepreneurship skills and expose them to avenues that can help them grow and explore their artistic endeavours. This is evidenced by Juby's involvement in well-known international projects which have been eye-openers. "One of my most inspiring experiences is representing Poetavango Spoken Word Poetry internationally through the YUCULT project that was a collaboration of four African countries with four European countries and also recently representing Poetavango through the Mandela Washington Fellowship program." Juby says.

Poetavango has also made a name for itself internationally through the Maun International Arts Festival and having their work featured on websites such as Badalisha Poetry and The Kalahari Review. Juby however aspires for Poetavango to have an even bigger profile with access to better resources that will allow artists to practice their



arts full time, make a good living from it on par with international artists and to be social entrepreneurs.

"We encourage artists to get involved in the community as catalysts for change and engage in arts activism" she says.

The result of this activism can be seen in the local schools where Poetavango has been coaching students and promoting a culture of reading and writing. Juby says this has resulted in a better pass rate for schools in the Ngamiland region and has promoted more innovative ways of learning using computers.

Although Poetavango has support from various organisations such as Botswana Tourism Organisation, embassies (American and Indian) and Maun businesses, she says more is required to achieve all that Poetavango aspires to do. In addition, further support from local residents would go a long way through better attendance of their paid shows.

Apart from encouraging other artists to join Poetavango, Juby would like all artists out there to work hard on their art and take advantage of Botswana's rapidly growing arts industry.

"The Poetavango movement does not only provide a platform for artists to explore their talents but it fosters opportunities for artists to collaborate and even different art forms to collaborate. For example, the fine art meets poetry," Juby says.

## Local Events



### BotsColourRun - Maun Edition

Date: December 17

Venue: Country Farm, Maun

Time: 7:30 am

A vibrant paint race to promote healthiness, fun and raising funds for charity.



### Gaborone African Food Festival

Date: December 17

Venue: Bojanala Water Front

The Gaborone African Food Festival (GAFF) is an annual African Food and Cultural experience.



### Maun Colour Festival

Date: December 31

Venue: Maun

Time:

2-6 PM: Family Fun Day

7 PM – Late: Music Festival

Tickets: Available at Computicket, Shoprite, Checkers, and U-Save stores.



### The Cookout: Fun Day Edition

Date: December 31

Venue: Futsal Eco Park, Gaborone

Time: 10 AM

A cookout in the heart of Gaborone where all the culinary experts will be selling dishes to satisfy your tastebuds.

*If you would like your event featured in our 'Local Events' section, please contact us.*

## Our Travel Partners

Our travel partners are the cornerstone of TFI and without them and their extraordinary generosity, TFI would have just remained a dream. Our partners represent every aspect of travel to Botswana and each offer an unforgettable holiday in this breathtakingly beautiful part of the world.



[Africa Pride Botswana](#)



[Africa Voyages](#)



[Capricorn Safaris](#)



[Desert & Delta Safaris](#)

THE ELEPHANT TRAILS SAFARI CO.



[Endeavour Safaris](#)



[Ker & Downey Botswana](#)



[Khuduga Safaris](#)

[The Elephant Trails Safari Co.](#)



[Letaka Safaris](#)



[Liquid Giraffe](#)



[Nxamaseri](#)



[Outback Africa](#)



[Rainbow Tours](#)



[Safari Destinations](#)



[Safari Essence](#)



[Safari Specialists](#)



[Sense of Africa](#)



[The Africa Safari Co.](#)



[Yoga Safari](#)

## ‘Bed Bank for Charity’ Supporters

The bed bank encourages suppliers to donate bed nights to Safari Destinations, who in turn sell these bed nights on, passing the proceeds to Travel for Impact to support charities with their core costs. Both Travel for Impact and Safari Destinations would like to express their gratitude to the following companies for their generous support of the bed night bank:

