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MONTH AT A GLANCE

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



BBL Ministerial Visit



Basket Weavers at ITB Berlin



WAR Pilots mobile application



Behind the Scenes at MAWS

Dear Friends,

2017 started with a bang for all at Travel for Impact as you will read throughout this newsletter. Women Against Rape celebrated the launch of the iMonitor+ app. We were delighted that Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO) contacted us to assist them in raising the profile of Botswana's cultural heritage through profiling basket weaving at ITB. We hope at least some of you managed to meet Mosipidi and Moruledi in Berlin as they demonstrated the art of weaving. Lastly, we were delighted to be able to help the Khwai community who suffered enormously as a result of the recent rains.

Best wishes,

Ruth Stewart



Vision: To see community initiatives supported through responsible

Mission: Through partnerships in the tourism industry, TFI aims to promote responsible tourism in Botswana by providing core services and funding to community initiatives.

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



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. WAR has been an active voice for over 20 years and is a leader in the fight against gender-based violence.

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womenagainstrape.co.bw

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.



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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 disease from domestic animals to wildlife.



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Crafthood-unite.com

Crafthood is an independent initiative / programme 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.



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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 counselling, 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.

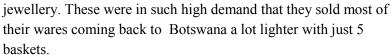
COMMUNITY IN ACTION

Crafthood Weavers at ITB Berlin

Moruledi and Mos were proud to represent the Crafthood basket weavers as well as Botswana at ITB (International Travel Bourse) held in Berlin ,Germany from 7-11 March 2017.



They went there with over 30 baskets and a wide variety of crafted



"They loved the exhibitions. Some of them thought the baskets were made by machines but were pleasantly surprised to see it done by hand." Mos says.

Moruledi added that ITB gave her valuable experience of public speaking and international marketing.





Moruledi(left) and Mos demonstrating weaving

Behind The Scenes at MAWS



Vasco (left) and Kenny at the MAWS Clinic

Little is known of the people who make MAWS such a hospitable place for the many animals that visit the clinic every year. Kenny and Fasco, who're in their second year with MAWS, are just some of the dedicated staff who ensure that MAWS continues to be a safe haven for domestic animals.

"People are supportive and like what we are doing here at MAWS. My experience with MAWS has been good", says Fasco, as he enthusiastically does his morning checks on the animals who seem happy to see him. Kenny added that he enjoys the school outreach programs as kids use the knowledge to encourage their parents to utilise the services offered by MAWS.

Khwai Flood Relief







WAR Benchmarks on the Reporting of Gender-Based Violence

Gender Based Violence (GBV) remains an issue within Ngamiland District and with some of our communities having poor access to services, reporting on time can be a challenge. To counteract this, Women Against Rape (WAR) is piloting iMonitor+ in Maun and surrounding areas. This is a user-friendly free mobile application that allows the instant reporting of gender-based violence.

"We are bridging the gap whereby one has to travel a long distance to the police, WAR or other stakeholders for assistance." Chalebgwa explains.

Reports are instantly received on the dashboard at WAR who monitor notifications 24 hours a day. iMonitor+ also has features for mapping the location of local services and interacting with other users. Chalebjwa said that they currently have 100 registered users but they expect this number to increase as WAR carries out more outreach activities.

Minister of Agricultural Development & Food Security Visits BBL







Taboka showing Hon. Ralotsia the BBL garden

From Left: Taboka, Mr Mafela & Hon. Ralotsia

On Friday February 17 2017, the Minister of Agricultural Development and Food Security, Honorable Patrick Ralotsia and his delegation paid Bana Ba Letsatsi (BBL) a visit. The Minister was ecstatic about the role BBL was playing in the community and commended them for all their efforts. He also donated a box full of fresh meat. The Minister and his delegates toured BBL and were thrilled to find that they had a garden and a chicken hawk within the premises. He also applauded the organizations that are supporting BBL. He ended his tour by celebrating the Chairperson of the Board Mr. Mafela and Ms Taboka Rotsi, the BBL Execute Coordinator, for formidable leadership skills. He also extended his praises to the staff members for their hard work.

NGAMI HIGHLIGHTS

Ker & Downey Botswana Hosts Bana Ba Letsatsi



Every year, Ker & Downey Botswana offers a free safari to Bana Ba Letsatsi (BBL) children. Twenty of the children and four BBL

staff members went on this trip. This was an exciting and highly anticipated adventure by the children. Upon their arrival at Moremi Game Reserve, the children were greeted by an enormous herd of game as they neared Ker & Downey's Okuti Camp. The welcome from the staff at the lodge put them at



ease and they had a hearty meal before they went on a boat cruise. They were so excited they couldn't help but squeal with joy looking at all the animals around them. Some even covered their



mouths just to contain their noise in order not to scare the animals away. Their guides, Moses, Noah, Solly and Opie were patient and very enthusiastic about answering all the questions posed to them. A day in

Okuti made them feel alive again.



Flora of the Okavango Delta

Brought to you in partnership with The Peter Smith University of Botswana Herbarium in Maun, Desert & Delta Safaris and Sustainable Land Management Programme

Savannah Gardenia is known as Morala, Monyapula or Nnala in Setswana depending on the dialect. Its also known as Kavangu by the Sibiya speaking people commonly found in the Chobe Region of Botswana. Savannah Gardenia is a small, rigid multi-stemmed tree that often has a dense, rounded crown. It grows to be 3–7 m tall at which point it would have arching branches. The glossy green leaves are usually in groups of three and crowded at the end of short branches

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The leaves are spoon-shaped with a broadly rounded tip and a tapering base.

The flowers are solitary, large and showy with a sweet scent. The trumpet-like flowers are white, turning yellow with age. Savannah Gardenia grows



in a wide variety of habitats: open woodland, bushveld and even occasionally inundated floodplains. The hard, grey pithy fruit are eaten by monkeys, baboons, elephants and large antelope. The leaves are browsed by both livestock and game which may give the whole tree a stunted appearance.

All parts of the tree are reported to be used medicinally in various ways: as a cure for intestinal worms, to induce vomiting, to treat pneumonia, for headaches and for ear-ache. The wood is very hard and suitable for carving ornaments. This tree is also believed to protect against lightning and evil spirits.

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.







The Elephant Trails Safari Co.

Endeavour Safaris

Ker & Downey Botswana

Khuduga Safaris





Letaka Safaris







Natural World Safaris









Rainbow Tours



Safari Destinations



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Safari Specialists



Sense of Africa



The Africa Safari Co.



Yoga Safari

'BED BANK FOR CHARITY' PARTNERS

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:





































