

August 2017

Community News Letter



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that we are already heading towards the end of the year! As you will see from this newsletter, Travel for Impact and our community partners have been extremely busy. One of the recent highlights in the Maun community has been the opening of the Nhabe Museum's new buildings. It was a pleasure to see some of our travel partners at the celebrations. We do hope that the travel industry will help the Nhabe Museum become a feature of the Maun landscape and a go to place for tourists, both domestic and international.

For on-going, 'live' information please remember to log onto our facebook page and follow our website blog. You will be amazed at the breadth of the work going on. Please remember to like and share as a means to celebrate the difference that you are making .

Thank You,

Ruth Stewart



First Aid Instructor demonstrating mouth to mouth resuscitation



First Aid Training



MAWS Outreach



WAR Graduation Ceremony



Boys' Leadership Training



**Nhabe Museum's New Buildings
Officially Opened**



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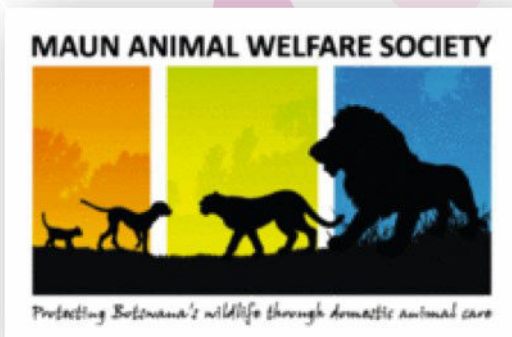




Vision: To see community initiatives supported through responsible tourism

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



Bana Ba Letsatsi

SUNSHINE CHILDREN

Travel for impact



First Aid Training



Qualified First Aiders after training



WAR & BONELA Outreach at Old Mall, Maun



Tsodilo Secondary School & TFI Motivating Students

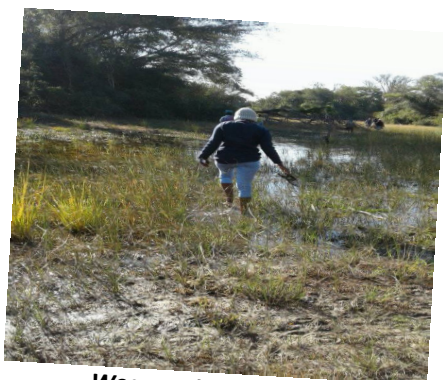
Community in Action Snapshots



Nhabe Museum Official Opening By the Minister of Nationality, Immigration & Gender Affairs , Hon. Edwin Batsho



Nhabe Museum's New Artists' Studios



Weavers harvesting



MAWS Outreach

COMMUNITY IN ACTION

WAR Parent-Child Communication Graduates



Proud Graduates Showing off their certificates

WAR in Partnership with PEPFAR (The United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) have been facilitating a series of workshops on Parent-Child Communication over the last 6 weeks across 3 wards in Maun. 27 July 2017 was a joyous and memorable day as the proud parents graduated. Bontle Radipitse from Kgosing ward gave a word of encouragement to her fellow graduates. "I loved this project and hope that it continues. Those of us who graduated today should continue practicing what we learnt". The guest speaker, US Ambassador to Botswana, His Excellency Earl Miller, thanked the parents and WAR for their hard work. He

also thanked the Chiefs for allowing use of the Kgotlas (traditional gathering place) for these workshops to happen.

Crafthood Weavers go Harvesting



Weavers getting geared up to harvest in the bush

Last month the Travel for Impact Team visited the Craft Centres at Gumare and Etsha. The purpose of the visit was to check on orders for baskets that the weavers are busy with and hear from them the challenges they face and work together to identify solutions. Manjodi and Mos, who are lead members of Etsha 2 and Ngwao Boswa Craft Centre at Gumare respectively, both pointed out that their main challenge was a lack of raw materials as the weavers have to travel far to harvest the natural dyes and palm tree leaves. In response to this, the following week we organised a harvesting trip for the weavers to support them to continue producing the beautiful Botswana baskets the Ngamiland region is famous for.

MAWS Outreach at Shakawe and Tsau



MAWS Volunteer Vets & Nurses with MAWS staff

Last month MAWS went to the villages along the Western part of the Okavango Delta for an outreach. This is their experience as told by the MAWS Volunteers: We left on Saturday morning with one vet and three nurses to do outreach work in Shakawe and Tsau. All surgeries were very successful. We managed to sterilise 40-50 dogs in Shakawe. On the way back we stayed for a couple of days in Tsau which was also very successful. We sterilized close to 20 dogs and came back with a carload full of puppies who will be rehomed to loving new families. The outreach experience is what volunteering is all about. Everyone is so thankful for MAWS going there to help out with the dogs, which makes it a very rewarding experience!

Kick-Start to the Bednight Bank Initiative: Community Partners Receive First Aid Training



Travel for Impact community partners, WAR, MAWS, AGLOW and Bana Ba Letsatsi took part in Basic First Aid Training held on 25 July 2017. It was an informative and interactive session which the participants enjoyed. Lesang from AGLOW expressed her gratitude for the training. “I am very happy about this training. As someone who works with the vulnerable elderly, it has improved my knowledge on the proper use of personal protective clothing.”

Gontle, from WAR said the training has been an eye-opener for her as she’s always been curious about CPR and now she knows how she can save lives. Suthunya and Sipho from Bana Ba Letsatsi added that they learnt how to assess critical situations and prioritise looking at the extent of the injuries.



Bana Ba Letsatsi Hosts Boys’ Leadership Training



Thato Moalosi giving the boys a talk



Bana Bana Letsatsi hosted a Boy’s Leadership Training on 24 June 2017 for 20 junior and senior secondary school students from Maun as part of the on-going Bana Ba Letsatsi initiative, “MEN and BOYS against teenage pregnancy.” The objective of the training was cross-generational learning and involvement between the facilitators and youth on topics such as masculinity, femininity, sexual negotiation, gender-based violence, power dynamics, and healthy relationships.“ This was ground-breaking because these days you don’t often hear of initiatives targeting young men. We were able to hear their thoughts and concerns.” said One Burroughs, who is the Peace Corp Volunteer coordinating this initiative. She added that they invited older men from the community who motivated and guided the boys. In future, Bana Ba Letsatsi hopes to hold these workshops at the schools as suggested by the young men.

NGAMI HIGHLIGHTS

Tsodilo CJSS: More than Teaching



The guidance and counselling team at Tsodilo Junior Secondary School in Maun have realised that students need more than just the basic teaching they get in the classroom. Mr. Lubinda, the Guidance and Counselling teacher, said him and his team have taken it upon themselves to organise motivational talks to keep their students upbeat and determined. Travel for Impact was invited to motivate a group that was hand picked based on their results from their previous mid-term exams. The group ranged from position 21 to 80 from the top hundred. Tumie from Travel for Impact went to speak to them about not giving up and embracing their fears. She shared her failures and successes. She also pointed out that they are responsible for every action they take and that the results they got today is a result of the actions they took. The motivational talk ended with the students pledging the marks they will attain in the next exams.

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



Distinctive shape of the Motsaudi Tree

Garcinia livingstone, known in Setswana as **Motsaudi**, has the common name of African mangosteen. The fruits are almost round, about 2.5cm in diameter and orange-red when ripe. The delicious fruit of the Matsaudi (plural of Motsaudi) are eaten by people, animals and birds despite their sticky yellow juice. The distinctive whorl growth of the branchlets, in three prongs, makes a perfect impromptu whisk for cooking. This style of whisk is ideal for cooking mealie meal in Setswana 'phaletshe'. This traditional staple food is prepared by stirring the dry coarse powdered maize meal into boiling water. This must be done vigorously and continuously until a stiff porridge is made. The strength of the branchlet and the natural prongs of its structure make this cooking process much easier than a wooden spoon!

Travel For Impact Update:

Rose:

Nhabe Museum in partnership with Travel for Impact, has officially opened its new buildings on 1st August 2017.

Bud:

The Economic Empowerment Program for our community partners powered by the Bednight Bank has now commenced.

Thorn:

We are looking for sponsors for the Artists' Studios at the museum. Please e-mail us for more details on how you can support local artists!

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.



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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:

