

Community News Letter



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

Wow, 2018 is upon us and what a year it is panning out to be!

We were delighted to have become members of the Sustainable Tourism Programme of the 10 – Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP STP) and we look forward to raising our members' profiles through this platform.

Our economic empowerment programme has secured its first orders and production is in progress. We are always looking for new product lines so if you have any good ideas up your sleeve please get in touch.

As always we cannot thank you enough for your on going support. We look forward to bringing you news of the impact you are enabling throughout 2018 and wish you a great year.

Best wishes, Ruth



Farewell Ceremony at the Maun Kgotla for the President of Botswana



AGLOW Shelter making progress



Feed A Child launches new campaign



AGLOW Christmas lunch a success





Travel for impact

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

Think

WAR

Women Against Rape
Education, Support & Action



**CRAFT
HOOD**

inspire
live
unite

AGLOW
INTERNATIONAL
BOTSWANA

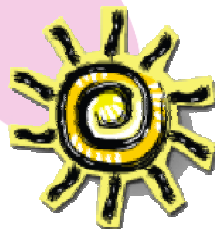
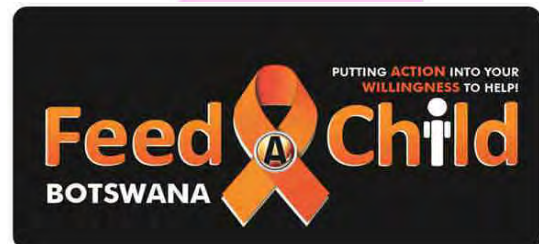


Polokong
an effort to assist Maun's destitute elderly

MAUN ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY



Protecting Botswana's wildlife through domestic animal care



Bana Ba Letsatsi

— SUNSHINE CHILDREN —

Travel for impact



Safari Destinations & AGLOW team up for Food Drive



MAWS welcomes Vet Nurse to its team



BBL tutors young girls and boys on Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health



Gosa shows products from our Civil Society Organisation Partners at BTT Expo.

Community in Action



WAR raising awareness on social injustices .



Newly appointed Museum Coordinator Salani Gambule.



Island Safari in partnership with the Junior Rangers program launch book on Trees of the Okavango.



Some of our community partners making place mats to sell.

COMMUNITY IN ACTION

His Excellency bids the Batawana Farewell



The President making his farewell remarks

Thursday 25th of January saw the President of Botswana, His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Seretse Khama Ian Khama, bid farewell to the people of Maun. The community at large came to witness this momentous occasion. In his speech his Excellency expressed joy at the warm welcome he received from the people of Maun and further thanked them for the gifts they presented him with which included money and livestock amongst other things. The President also stated that although he would be stepping down from office, he would continue his work of helping to uplift the communities of this country. The youth of Maun also thanked His Excellency for the initiatives inspired under his leadership that have been aimed at providing them with opportunities to nurture their talents and establish livelihoods.

AGLOW Christmas Lunch brings smiles to the faces of the Elderly



The 16th December, which seemed like any other day was anything but and not just because it started with a cool breeze! The day promised to be an eventful day for Maun's senior citizens, who usually spend most, if not all their time, under trees and / or in their houses or huts feeling lonely. This is largely because with the passage of time they have lost certain abilities such as mobility, strength, speed and energy to go wherever they wish. So for most of them, the Christmas Lunch is a treat and an opportunity to go out and spend time with friends, who they have not seen for a long time. Despite the fact that some live in the same neighbourhood, the issue of reduced mobility makes it difficult to visit each other.

All roads on this day led to Botswana Guides Association property. A convoy of vehicles, including the Community Bus, carried our frail men and women to the venue for them to interact, share, catch up and enjoy a great meal. It was a beautiful sight to see them being helped in and out of the vehicles by committed volunteers. The smiles on their faces were priceless and their gratitude was touching. Comments such as: "I wish you could bring us together like this, even if there is no food, so we can see our friends", were rampant and expressed in so many different ways. There was singing, dancing and laughter amongst the elderly. It was a busy yet peaceful day with volunteers from different organisations and walks of life, working hard to serve the elderly.

The lunch has immense support from the Maun community, in terms of the delicious meal, transport, volunteers and goodies in the form of hampers. At the end of the day the elderly were truly celebrated and they did not hide their happiness.

AGLOW shelter for the Elderly making progress



In January the TFI team were delighted to be given a tour, by Beauty Bogwasi, the Chairperson of AGLOW, of AGLOW's shelter construction. This visit comes after the ground breaking ceremony that happened in October 2017 and we were impressed with the progress. The shelter is being done in phases and this phase includes the kitchen, dining area, office space and ablutions. Once completed the next phase will include a communal area with shade plus planting of trees to provide a lovely garden area. This is where the oldies can relax and enjoy each others company as well as participate in some fun activities. Everyone is super excited about this building, a first in the Maun community, but no-one more so than the elderly themselves who are looking forward to have somewhere to go that specifically caters for their needs.



Feed A Child Launches #OrangeOnFridays with the support of Tshilli Farm Stall and Safari Specialists



Feed A Child, in collaboration with Tshilli Farm Stall and Safari Specialists, kick started 2018 with the launch of #OrangeOnFridays. Feed A Child focuses on providing effective nutrition for children below the age of 5 years. Each child attending the Feed A Child program receives a Nutri-Meal, a fully fortified porridge, easily prepared by mixing with water, in order to provide sufficient nutritional nourishment. Nutrition is hugely important in the development of a child and one which is often not realised. Feed A Child is bringing the importance of nutrition and child development to the community. In addition to being fed, Feed A Child engages children in fun activities like singing and colouring and enjoying each other's company.

The Tshilli Farm Stall, a well known establishment in Maun, always vibrant and ready to support local initiatives, provided the space to setup a stall in support of #OrangeOnFridays whilst Safari Specialists have been long time sponsors of the programme. A big thumbs up to the Tshilli Farm Stall and Safari Specialists for their on-going support.

Bana Ba Letsatsi (BBL) continues to raise Awareness to Teens about Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health in local Schools.



Bana Ba Letsatsi has been continuing its work of distributing Girl Kit products for its females beneficiaries. The recipients of this kit are teens who have reached the age of puberty and experience their monthly menstrual cycle. BBL leaders give the girls tips on how to maintain their hygiene especially during their cycle. Alongside this the team have been holding educational talks for male and female teens on Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health (ASRH). These talks encourage the teens to be able to open up and talk freely about what concerns them when it comes to issues of sexual intercourse and its consequences such as teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The youth are also taught communication and decision making skills as well the safe use of contraceptives. BBL is currently working with 6 Primary schools and 4 Junior schools around Maun but plan to cover a wider area as time and budget allows.

MAWS welcomes Vet Nurse to its Team

MAWS recently welcomed Vicky Elliot to its team. This lively lady with a kilowatt smile has been a vet nurse for over 20 years and has travelled the world doing what she loves. Vicky has experience with not only domestic but also wild animals. Before coming to Africa she lived in China for some years where she got to work with all kinds of animals including the exotic ones, making her more knowledgeable than most. Vicky's love for travelling and new opportunities is how she came across and was willing to take up the Vet Nurse post with MAWS. She was in South Africa when a friend of hers recommended she apply for the position and the rest, as they say, is history.

Vicky beautifully explained the importance of treating domestic animals as a conservation strategy. Domestic animals (especially dogs and cats) do come into contact with wild animals and if they are not vaccinated there is a risk of disease spreading—a so called ripple effect. This is why Vicky loves what she does because treating one animal has benefits not only for that animal but the environment as well.

She is a great addition and will be invaluable to MAWS. With Vicky and the centre's clinic assistants, the animals will be in good hands!



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

Boscia Albitrunca is the scientific, Latin name for a precious tree that is also known, commonly, as Shepherd's tree (in English), Witgat (in Afrikaans) and Mohlôpi, Makgolela, Ntopi, Motopi or Motlopi in the various languages of Botswana. Motopi (in Setswana, the national language of Botswana) is an evergreen, medium sized tree found throughout Botswana. It has been nicknamed "Tree of Life" because it provides a range of food and water for local people and their small stock.

The Motopi tree grows on different soil types but it favours sandy, loamy and clay soil. It is also common and widespread in woodlands. Nutritionally this tree is immensely important in Botswana. The fruits and roots are eaten by people as well as animals. Dried roasted and ground roots make a substitute for coffee and sugar can be made from the tap roots. A type of porridge may also be made from dried, pulverized roots, as well as keeping milk and butter fresh for longer.

Motopi has cultural importance as some ethnic groups believe the wood must not be used for firewood or else the cattle will breed male calves only. There is also the belief that if the fruit withers before the millet crop is ripe, then the harvest will fail.

The Motopi trees are held in great regard and every effort is made not to destroy them as they are so useful. Ecologically the species has a number of pollinators and is a source of food for various mammals, birds and insects. This really is the "Tree of Life" and all efforts should be made to help sustain it.



The Motopi fruit appeals to both the humans and wildlife when its ripe.

WAR Gets Ready to Launch Anthropolgy Book

The launch of the Anthropology book written by adolescent girls is what WAR is looking forward to this coming month. The book tackles four themes, HIV/AIDS and Treatment Adherence, Teenage Pregnancy, Parent to Child Communication and Gender based violence.

Forty girls, chosen from 10 districts around the country, attended a workshop with their teachers. This workshop was held in Francistown with the aim of teaching girls creative writing and how to take real life issues and compile them into readable stories, allowing modern day issues to be discussed in an accessible way.

This book is sponsored through the Global Fund Project with the support of the Ministry of Education who in turn have encouraged the boy child to be included in upcoming projects. The official launch of the book will take place as soon as all the parties involved are satisfied with the final product.



TFI becomes a member of the Sustainable Tourism Programme

We are proud to become members of the 10Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP STP). This partnership is a great move for TFI since our vision and goals go hand in hand with the programme which is based on bringing to life the United Nations Development Goals within the tourism sector, specifically Goal 12, Consumption and Production, but also Goals 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth, Goal 13 - Climate Action, Goal 14 - Life Below Water and Goal 15 - Life on Land. By promoting cross sector collaborations between the private sector and the local communities we hope to advance the 10YFP STP goals and objectives. This membership will provide Travel for Impact partners with visibility at the international level. We look forward to this new venture and showcasing the work you are enabling on a wider scale.

Travel for Impact Update:

Rose:

FEED A CHILD successfully launched #OrangeOnFridays with Safari Specialists and Tshilli Farm Stall.

Bud:

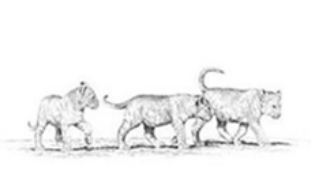
Nhabe Museum has a new Co-ordinator in place, Salani Gambule. We look forward to supporting him in his role!

Thorn:

Delay with the delivery of bricks for the AGLOW shelter.

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](#)



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[Madibe.de African Inspiration](#)



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[Safari Essence](#)



[Safari Specialists](#)



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[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:

