

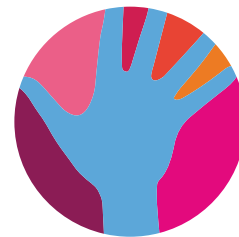


Travel for **impact**

April - June 2025 Newsletter



Introduction



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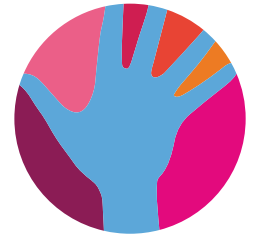


As we reflect on the second quarter of 2025, we're proud to share key milestones that continue to grow our impact in the tourism and creative sectors. From forming new collaborations to expanding into visitor-facing platforms, our focus remains on connecting local enterprises to the tourism value chain in sustainable and empowering ways.

Following the success of The People's Path, we're now implementing "Creating a Conducive Eco/Community-Based Landscape in Northern Botswana Through Strengthening CSOs." Co-financed by the EU, this project supports seven local organisations, facilitates collaboration through roundtable discussions, and delivers capacity building in cooperative development, financial acumen, digital marketing, storytelling, and quality control—tools to help entrepreneurs thrive.

While we drive growth in eco-tourism and community development, we also honour the incredible charitable organisations supporting the communities within which we work – their work is vital, and we are grateful. We hope you enjoy catching up on our latest news – and theirs.

Connecting Tourism to Social Change.



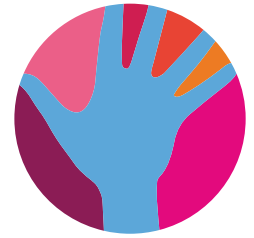
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Maun Immersive Tour Gaining Momentum and Regional Spotlight

The Maun Immersive Tour continues to enjoy steady bookings and great feedback, and we are thrilled there is growing interest in stops like the Shorobe Basket Weaving and Ntlafatso Glass Bead-Making experiences. We're also thrilled to have been featured in [Tourism Update Southern Africa](#), where the tour was highlighted as a shining example of Botswana's move towards community-led, culturally rich tourism.



Building Networks. Uplifting Livelihoods.



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Economic Empowerment Programme – Crafthood

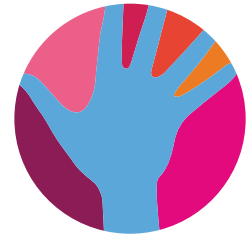
New Partnerships, New Horizons

We're excited to announce a new partnership with Belmond – Savute Camp. Together, we've co-branded a custom tag for Botswana bracelets gifted to their guests, and they've begun sourcing operational items like wooden bowls and woven baskets for their camp.

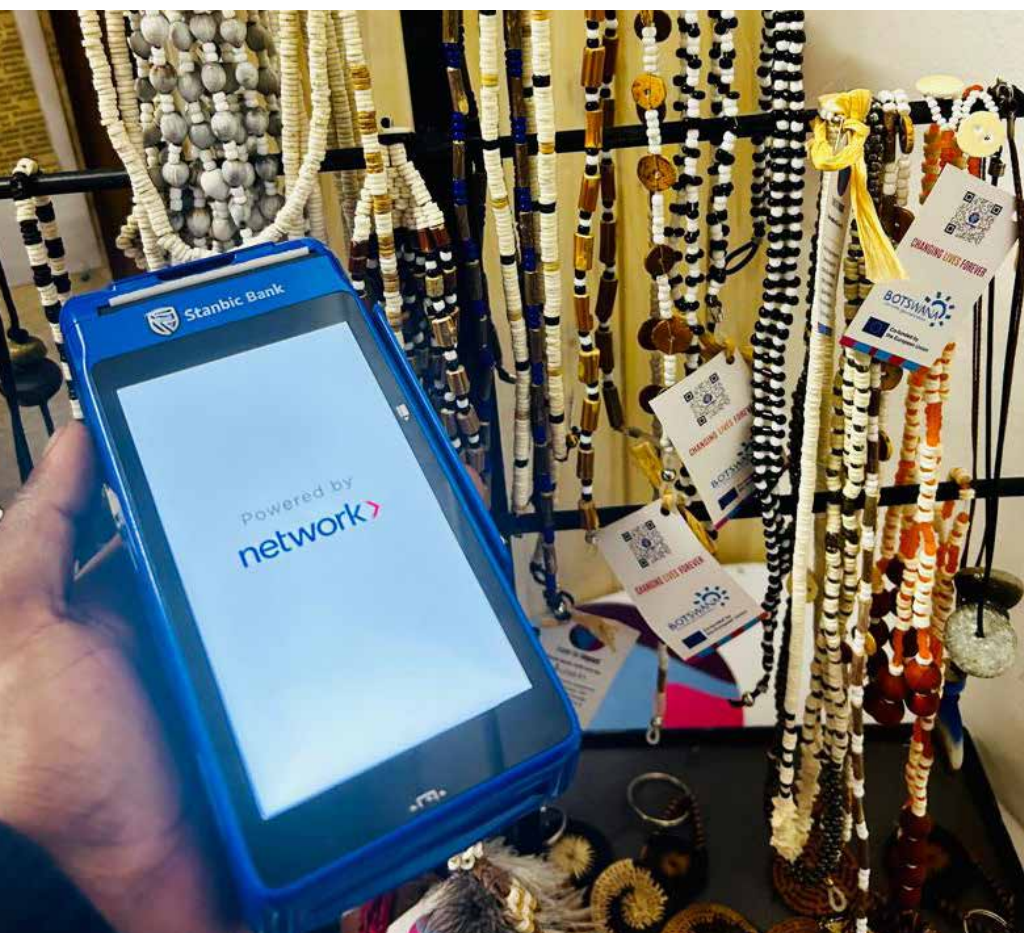
We've also secured a new sales outlet at Helicopter Horizons in the Maun Airport Complex – giving us direct access to a steady stream of tourists arriving for scenic flights. These partnerships mark an important step in expanding our reach and supporting local artisans through meaningful tourism channels.



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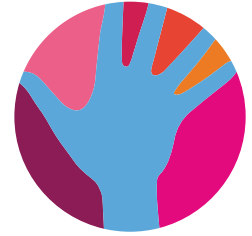
Tapping into Progress: Local Craft Vendors Now Swipe-Ready

Shorobe Baskets, Ntlafatso

Glass Project, and the Maun Immersive Tour have officially joined the digital age with the rollout of Speedpoint payment systems, offering clients a safe, seamless way to support local artisans.

Whether purchasing handwoven baskets, upcycled glassware, or cultural crafts along the immersive trail, guests can now pay with ease—bridging the gap between grassroots creativity and world-class service. This move not only enhances visitors' experiences but ensures our local vendors stay competitive in an increasingly cashless global market.

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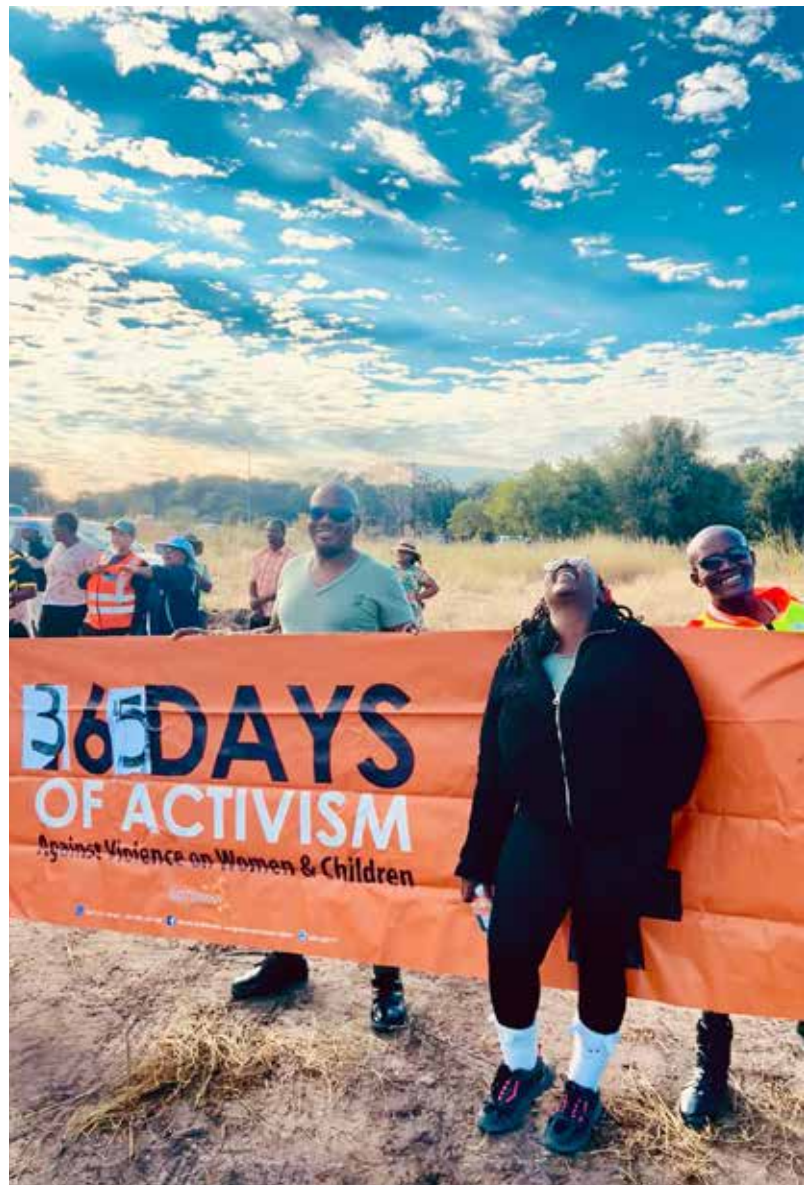
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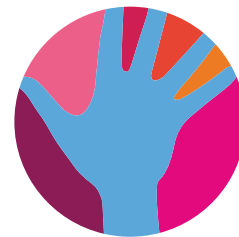
WAR Leads GBV March

This quarter, our team proudly took part in the nationwide volunteer march against Gender-Based Violence in Maun orchestrated by Women Against Rape (WAR) and its partners. Walking alongside passionate community members, law enforcement, and tourism stakeholders leading up to Parkview Grounds, the march was a powerful display of unity and a reminder that ending GBV requires collective action and shared responsibility.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the organisers for championing this vital cause and to everyone who raised their voice in support of safer, more just communities.



Shared Learning. Shared Inspiration.



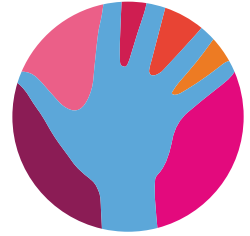
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Ntlafatso Glass Project

The Ntlafatso Glass Project continues to grow from strength to strength this quarter. In addition to their exciting new partnership with Sunway Safaris, which brings guests to their workshop for a hands-on bead-making experience, the project was recently featured in The Telegraph as a must-see creative hub in Maun. The project remains a shining example of sustainable creativity and community empowerment through craft.



Shared Learning. Shared Inspiration.



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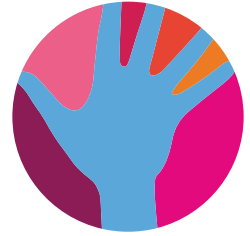


Innovation and Opportunity in Maun

The Innovation Kgotla has welcomed AbariCom as a key collaborator in providing internet services at the new Maun Innovation Centre, where students are already engaging in hands-on programmes designed to build youth capacity and spark local innovation. Alongside this, the third annual Data Science Scholarship programme has launched, aiming to enroll over 1,500 Batswana this year. The scholarship is now open to youth across 11 SADC countries, including Malawi, Zambia, and Namibia – expanding access to in-demand digital skills across the region.



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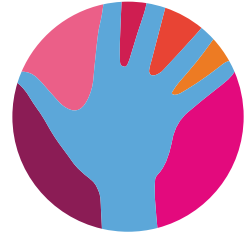


MAWS Extends Animal Care services across Ngamiland

In recent weeks, MAWS—alongside Equine Assist Maun and sponsor SPANA—delivered vital veterinary outreach to Khumaga, Xhoo, and Ghanzi, sterilising over 70 dogs and cats, vaccinating more than 160 animals, and treating 130+ donkeys and horses for parasites, wounds, and other health issues. With support from community champions like Leroo La Tau, Kukama Bush Camp, and Paratus Botswana, these clinics are protecting animal welfare and strengthening conservation through creating and maintaining a buffer zone between wild animals and domestic animals. Follow their journey on Facebook or visit maunanimalwelfare.com.



Shared Learning. Shared Inspiration.



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Bana Ba Letsatsi Strengthens Support for Maun's Children through Renewed Partnership

Bana Ba Letsatsi has renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with Chobe Holdings Limited for a further five years, reaffirming Chobe Holdings' ongoing commitment to supporting vulnerable children in Maun. This extended partnership ensures the centre can continue delivering essential care and programs that uplift and protect at-risk youth in the community.



Farewell and welcome



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This quarter, we bid farewell to Maria, our Queen's University intern from Brazil, who joined us through the International Development program. A Global Development major with a Psychology minor, Maria had to cut her two-month stay short due to medical reasons but continues to support us remotely from Canada. Her insight and dedication left a lasting mark, and we wish her a full recovery.

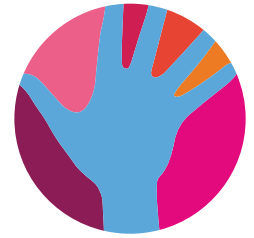


Please join us in warmly welcoming Mariam Mohammed to the team!

A Queen's University student with a double major in Global Development and Film, Mariam joins us through the Queens Program for International Development with a passion for storytelling and social change. She's already diving into an impactful film series we know will leave a lasting impression. With her creative eye and development insight, we're excited to see how her work will uplift the voices and stories that matter most. We're thrilled to have her on board and look forward to all the good she'll do—both with us and far beyond!



Travel for impact other news

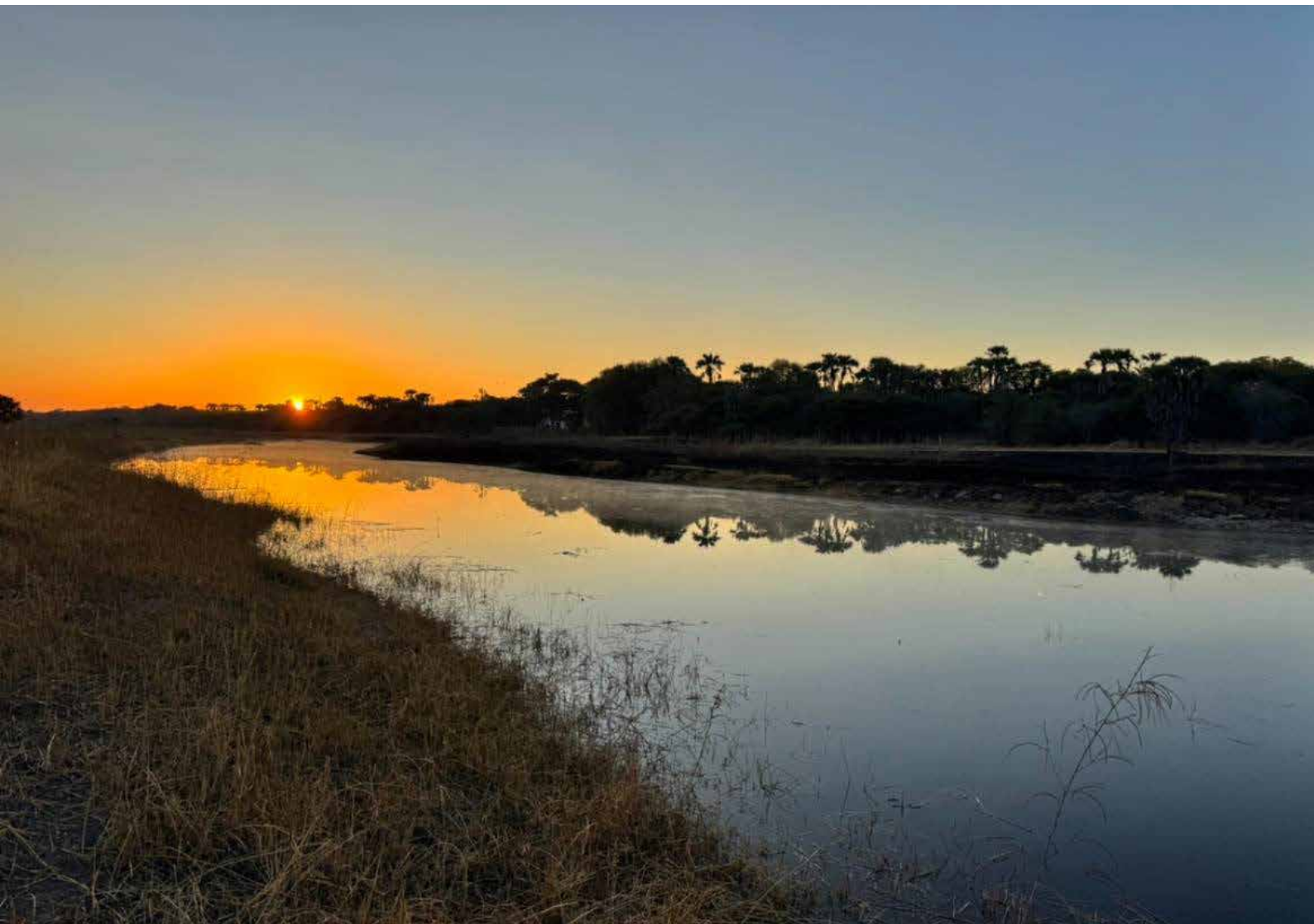


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Kindness in Full Flow

This year's arrival of the Thamalakane River was a beautiful reminder of what happens when a community comes together with heart. Thanks to the passionate leadership of Hennie and Jake Rawlinson, and through the generosity of Natural Selection, Helicopter Horizons, Mack Air, and many others who contributed in various ways, over P88,000 and \$5,682 was raised for Polokong Elderly Care Centre and Women Against Rape (WAR).

More than numbers, this campaign reflects the heart of Maun—where compassion, creativity, and community meet to uplift the most vulnerable.



Thank you to our partners!



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We're pleased to offer a secure, convenient way to support our community partners via PayPal. You can now donate directly through



our [Donate Page](#) or purchase handcrafted products on [Crafted Botswana](#) making giving simpler, safer, and more impactful by connecting global generosity with local change.

A big thank you to our Travel Partners whose support enables us to do what we do.

1USD Partners: Africa Pride, Africa Voyages (\$5), Botswana Holidays, Capricorn Safaris, Capture Africa, Desert & Delta Safaris, Drumbeat Safaris (\$2), The Elephant Trails Safari Co, Endeavour Safaris, Ker & Downey Botswana, Letaka Safaris, Madiba, Miyaka Travels, Africa Inspiration, Outback Africa, Rainbow Tours, Safari Destinations, Safari Essence, Safari Specialists, Sense of Africa, Explorations Company, Yoga Safaris.

Kindly note that all partners are welcome to contribute more than the suggested \$1 per bednight, as this greatly enhances our ability to support the communities we live and work with.

Bednight Bank Partners: & Beyond, African Bush Camps, Belmond Safaris, Bushways Safaris, Cresta Maun, Great Plains Conservation, Helicopter Horizons, Karangoma Camp, Letaka Safaris, Lodges of Botswana, Machaba Safaris, Mack Air, Maun Lodge, Mma Tsebe Camp, Natural Selections, Ngamiland Adventures - Jao Camp, Okavango Expeditions, The Maun Garden Studio Bed & Breakfast, Sanctuary Retreats, Setari Camp. Thamalakane River Lodge, Xigera.

Donor Partners: European Union, UNESCO-International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD).

CHANGING LIVES FOREVER

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