

**TULI CONSERVATION TRUST
DONOR REPORT**

For the Year Ended 30th June 2021



www.tulitrust.org

CONTENTS

Background.....	3
Anti-Poaching Team.....	4
Fence.....	6
Ongoing Community Projects	7
Fundraising Committee.....	9
Other Support.....	10
Future Plans.....	11
Thank You	11

BACKGROUND



Roger de la Harpe

Tuli Conservation Trust (TCT) was originally established in Botswana in 1993 by the Northern Tuli Game Reserve (Notugre) Landowners Association with the current objectives being updated in 2019. The focus of TCT is the protection of Notugre wildlife, and environment and community enhancement.

The Tuli Conservation Trust UK (TCTUK), TCT's UK 'sister' trust, and a registered charity, was originally established in 2006 and re-invigorated in 2019 with the appointment of new Trustees who have a strong focus on fundraising for activities.

TCT original mandate sought to raise funds to support its three priority projects - creating an anti-poaching team, fence upgrade and extension and a community outreach, education, and empowerment program. With the fence upgrade recently completed and the anti-poaching team having been established, going forward the focus of the Trustees is on the third pillar – the community outreach, education, and empowerment program.

Long-term conservation depends on local communities, government and conservation organisations being united in partnerships and finding solutions to enable viable and sustainable human-wildlife co-existence. This report highlights some of TCT's achievements to the end of the reporting period.

ANTI-POACHING TEAM (AP team)

As the frontline defence and deterrent in efforts to combat poaching, well-trained and highly mobile teams of armed rangers act throughout Notugre and the neighbouring areas.

Under the leadership of Rex Masupe, great strides have been made to consolidate the operational effectiveness of the Notugre AP team since the last Donor Report in June 2020.

The ranger and security staff numbers have been supplemented to ensure we have three separate teams covering the area. A unified approach, which is centrally managed, has added significantly to the AP team's efficiency in the gathering and sharing of information, while countering wildlife crime in and around Notugre.

The project has provided:

- The creation of anti-poaching base camps and additional fly camps as well as a centralised control office.
- The reserve gates and the operation and maintenance thereof.
- The recruitment and training of 14 anti-poaching officers to date.
- The employment of 6 gate guards.
- The supply of vehicles and equipment (6 vehicles have been purchased along with various equipment required by the AP team).



Learn more from Rex about the AP team here [- Tuli Conservation Trust \(tulitrust.org\)](https://tulitrust.org)

TULI CONSERVATION TRUST DONOR REPORT



The AP team engages in gathering intelligence, conducting surveillance, and patrolling in both targeted and random operations. In addition to their anti-poaching responsibilities, the AP team also responds to reports of human-induced wildlife injuries or deaths in close collaboration with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (“DWNP”).



Since inception the AP team has removed 6,650 wire snares and completed 1,684 patrols within the Northern Tuli Game Reserve. The AP team is achieving the high end of its target of 25 to 30 patrols per team per month: deploying and executing patrols more effectively in known hot spots by using gathered intelligence more efficiently. As part of its daily operations numerous partial/broken elephant tusks have been collected and handed over to the DWNP. Another area in which the AP team liaises with the DWNP is in the unfortunate circumstance of a terminally injured animal requiring euthanasia. Over the last 12 months the AP team has been instrumental in assisting the local law enforcement agencies with 5 arrests made for criminal activities, 3 for poaching and 2 for illegal entry into the country.

The role of the AP team is constantly changing to meet new challenges and training was undertaken during the early part of 2021 by the AP team on the management of wildlife poisoning scenes - a course which covered wildlife poisoning, scope, methods and substances used; poisoning Response Planning; scene management & investigation; wildlife rescue & emergency 1st aid; collection of samples and data capture & dissemination.



Learn more about the training here - [Tuli Conservation Trust \(tulitrust.org\)](https://tulitrust.org)
Through the astute management of Afzelia (Pty) Ltd¹ and careful budgeting it is pleasing to report that the initial target of establishing an effective APU has been achieved.

- **Capital expenditure granted:** **BWP 2,034,085**
- **Operational expenditure granted:** **BWP 4,626,160**

¹ The Botswana company set up to establish and manage a reserve-wide Anti-Poaching team.

FENCE

When Notugre was created in 1964, landowners agreed to remove internal fences and manage the reserve’s resources collectively. Trans Frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) adopt the same strategy on a much larger, international scale and the ultimate intention is to create a wildlife corridor stretching from Notugre in Botswana and the Greater Mapungbwe TFCA in South Africa through to the Kruger and the Great Limpopo TFCA

The rebuild of the western boundary fence is an important measure aimed at mitigating Human Wildlife Conflict whilst ensuring the reserve is much less vulnerable to poaching incursions. We are delighted to report this was completed in June 2021 with the full 28.8km duly commissioned.



Aubrey Tseleng

A Commissioning Ceremony was held on 7 June 2021 at which the TCT Chairman, Stephen Lansdown CBE, and Afzelia were delighted to welcome members of the community, VIPs and representatives of the fence construction company, Manase Construction to celebrate the completion of this vital project. Listen to our Chairman’s speech at the ceremony here: - [Tuli Conservation Trust \(tulitrust.org\)](https://tulitrust.org)

We are grateful to the Botswana Veterinary Department which fully supported this project throughout.



Aubrey Tseleng

Capital expenditure granted to fence completion: BWP 6,302,220

ONGOING COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Department of Wildlife and National Parks

TCT is currently working in partnership with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) by funding, in the Bobirwa district and areas surrounding Notugre, a) camping equipment for the DWNP's APU team so they may be more effective, b) the construction of safety barriers at livestock water points to reduce elephant-human conflict and c) the provision of training and education workshops for the local communities so they may live in better harmony with wildlife. This project illustrates TCT's wish and intention to work together with the Botswana government, and other qualified partners, to benefit local communities. The first phase of this project, the delivery of the camping equipment, has completed and a handover ceremony of the donation-in-kind took place on 9 July 2021. The project now moves into the second phase.

Amount granted: BWP381,400



Holton Photography

Bobirwa Eye Project

A co-funded project, through a company working in partnership, was supported in early 2020 with a donation to enable vision tests and eyeglasses distribution to schools in six villages in and around Notugre. In this instance the co-funding was undertaken with two other funding partners. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 situation, this project had been necessarily



delayed but we are pleased to announce that the project finally got underway and completed in June 2021.

During the course of a week, approximately 2,300 eye tests were conducted, and approximately 70 pairs of glasses were prescribed. Those that have received glasses were extremely grateful as this seemingly small donation will have a huge impact for those children that previously struggled to see the blackboards at school but can now read clearly. Once the project is completed the eye testing kits will remain at the availability of TCT so to enable an ongoing programme for the area.

Amount granted: USD 2,835



Optima Ballistic Glass

Clinic Project

In turning their focus to a community outreach programme, the TCT Trustees considered and approved a grant for the first stage of a multi-stage, multi-faceted Clinic Project. The aim of the project is to build the capacity of the six clinics that service the medical needs of the villages situated on the periphery of Notugre - mainly Mathathane, Semolale, Lentswe le Moriti, Matlhabaneng, Gobojango and Mabolwe (plus other smaller villages through pop-up clinics) so they may treat more patients, more successfully. The grant has been approved and the project has launched as we go to press. Keep an eye on our website for updates on this project as it progresses.

Amount granted: BWP250,250

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

TCT and TCTUK have constituted a joint Fundraising Committee to seek external funding and market the Trust. This committee has been formed to provide the Trusts with insight, fulfil the necessary governance requirements and undertake the raising of charitable funds from Grant Making Trusts, Corporations and Individuals to support the Objects of TCTUK and TCT. Details of the Fundraising Committee can be found on the website. At the start of 2020 the Fundraising Committee had confirmed plans to hold four major fundraising events. As a result of the Covid-19 situation all events had to be postponed until 2021/2022 and will be re-arranged dependent on governmental guidelines. This moratorium on fundraising activities has naturally impacted the funding program, but reserves built to date fortunately allow all committed grants to continue.

One fundraising event that did proceed in 2020, in conjunction with Afzelia's entry into the Tusk Wildlife Ranger Challenge <https://www.tusk.org/events/wildlife-ranger-challenge/>, was a sponsored walk undertaken in Guernsey, Channel Islands, raising GBP6,508.94 (circa P98,500) which was donated to the Notugre AP team so that they could extend their activities. Over 100 ranger teams competed in the challenge and the Afzelia team did incredibly well to complete the 21kms race in 4 hours 7 mins, all whilst carrying a 22kg backpack. This extraordinary effort reaped the reward of a total of BWP1,096,978 in total sponsorship and Tusk grants.

Afzelia has again entered a team into the 2021 Tusk Wildlife Ranger Challenge so keep an eye on our website for updates on their training progress and in the event itself on Saturday 18 September 2021. We would like to thank Tusk for giving our AP team this opportunity to participate in a very successful, and very necessary, fundraiser.



Holton Photography

In addition to the vital activities of the APU team on the ground, TCT partnered with the African Community & Conservation Foundation (USA) in the Endangered Rangers Event in 2020 which saw the plight of rangers across Africa (with TCT representing Botswana) highlighted to a world-wide audience.

OTHER SUPPORT

The TCT Trustees are assisted by two individuals, part-time, who donate their skills to TCT – an administrator, who acts as Trust Secretary and writes TCT funding applications and a social media officer who updates the TCT website and other social media accounts with the aim of a) attracting further donors and b) highlighting community and conservation issues. Both these individuals are employed by a donor who generously donates their time to TCT activities.

FUTURE PLANS

TCT'S future plans include focusing on healthcare, community education and empowerment.



TCT is looking to work in mutually beneficial partnerships with organisations that align closely with TCT's values and objectives. Through education and empowerment, the local community will not only be able to value pristine wilderness but also share fairly in its benefits. To achieve these objectives, we are aiming to set up a local office in the area to support TCT activity.

THANK YOU

TCT has a long-term vision beyond the initial three-year programme and priority projects and the Trustees (whose details can be found on the website) are very grateful for your generous and continued support. Positive impact can only be achieved when we have the right people in the right roles, from having excellent partners to passionate stakeholders to improve the reach and output of our work. The generosity of donors continues to be invaluable in funding our conservation efforts on the ground and has to date created several jobs in the local communities. This, TCT can achieve only with your donations, so **we thank you**, and hope that you will choose to continue to support us as we strive to achieve more.

Please visit www.tulitrust.org for further information.

Photo credits: Margaret Lansdown except where stated.

