

**TULI CONSERVATION TRUST  
DONOR REPORT**

**For Period Ended 30 June 2020**



[www.tulitrust.org](http://www.tulitrust.org)

## **BACKGROUND**



Tuli Conservation Trust (TCT) was originally established in Botswana in 1993 by the Northern Tuli Game Reserve (Notugre) Land Owners Association with the current objectives in place since 2000. The focus of TCT is the protection of the 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 to include those which may be proposed by TCT.

TCT is seeking to raise funds to support its three priority projects creating an anti-poaching unit, fence upgrade and extension and a community outreach education and empowerment program.

TCT is growing a core of support from various individuals and organisations and we hope to see this continue. Two years ago it was agreed by Notugre members to contribute a total of BWP6.73million, over a three-year period, towards the priority activities of TCT. These funds are matched by a private individual to whom we are extremely grateful. With funds committed, and raised by both trusts to date totalling circa BWP15million these very generous donations have enabled TCT to establish each project, build momentum and deliver real change - with more still to achieve.

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 UNIT (APU)**

Afzelia (Pty) Ltd has been set up to establish a reserve wide APU which is managed with a coordinated, centralised and professional approach. As the frontline defence and deterrent in efforts to combat poaching, these well-trained, highly mobile teams of armed rangers act throughout Notugre and the neighbouring areas.

Under the leadership of Rex Masupe, who is also a director of Afzelia, great strides have been made to improve operational effectiveness and success of the Notugre APU since the last Donor Report in July 2019.

The ranger and security staff numbers have been supplemented by four additional APU members and all departments are working together in a unified manner which is centrally managed. This has added significantly to the APU's efficiency in respect of gathering and sharing of information to counter wildlife crime in and around Notugre training of the APU members is ongoing.



*Janet Kleyn, C4 Mashatu*

The project covers:

- The creation of APU base camps, additional fly camps and reserve gates and the operation and maintenance thereof as well as the centralised control office and the Western Gate.
- The recruitment and training of 12 APU officers.
- The employment of 6 gate guards, with the recruitment and training of a further 6 gate guards to take place.
- The supply of vehicles and equipment (3 vehicles have been purchased along with various equipment required by the APU).

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



*Janet Kleyn, C4 Mashatu*

APU members have shown both resilience and good work ethics since inception of the unit.

Since inception the APU has removed 4,277 wire snares and completed 1,115 patrols within the Northern Tuli Game Reserve. The APU 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 APU liaises with the DWNP is in the unfortunate circumstance of a terminally injured animal requiring euthanasia. Dogs used for poaching have also been destroyed when found in the Reserve. Over the last 12 months the APU team has been instrumental in assisting the local law enforcement agencies with 16 arrests made for criminal activities including poaching and illegal entry into the country.

<b>Capital expenditure granted to end of reporting period:</b>	<b>BWP 2,100,000.00</b>
<b>Operational expenditure granted to end of reporting period:</b>	<b>BWP 3,318,709.50</b>

## FENCE

Afzelia has implemented the first 15km of circa 28.8km of boundary fence, an important measure aimed at mitigating Human Wildlife Conflict whilst ensuring the reserve is much less vulnerable to poaching incursions. The Botswana Veterinary Department has given its support for this project. The project has been conducted in phases with Phase 1 & 2 (first 10km) completed and commissioned; Phase 3 (next 5km) is partially completed and will be commissioned by end July 2020; and Phase 4 (additional 5km) has been fast tracked to commence as soon as possible (currently awaiting materials).



*Janet Kleyn, C4 Mashatu*

Although the project has been badly delayed by the effects of Covid-19, it is pleasing to report that the fence re-build is 50% of the way to completion.

Two additional fence maintenance staff have recently been employed and the fence team now consists of: -

5 x Fence Maintenance (3 deployed on the southern section & 2 deployed on the central section)

**Capital expenditure granted to end of reporting period: BWP 4,040,334.94**

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS

In 2019 TCT granted funds to the Botswana National Museum to fully assess the archaeological remains at Motlhabaneng village close to the reserve. These remains include rock paintings, stone walls, a variety of artefacts together with geological formations.



The site was assessed and is being administered by the Botswana National Museum and is deemed protected by the Monuments and Relics Act (2001) in partnership with the community of Motlhabaneng and TCT. This is a great example of partnership working - with the charitable, community, public and private sector working together. The Botswana National Museum has finalised its report which has been handed over to the Government for gazetting the site and an update is awaited. In the interim, there has been ongoing communication with Botswana Tourism

Organisation as the long-term goal is to establish the area as a community-based, community-operated, tourism attraction which would bring much needed employment to the village.

Human-wildlife conflict is an ever-present dilemma in, and around, Notugre and was identified by the TCT Trustees as an issue that TCT could contribute towards finding a solution. As a result, a grant to a company working in partnership with TCT enabled Elephant Safety and Mitigation workshops to be delivered to 248 members of the local community across six villages. Attendees included kgosi, councillors and elders and it has been projected that for



every person attending a workshop information will have been disseminated between a family of between six to ten members. In addition to the presentation on behaviours of elephants and safety guidelines on how to prevent and/or avoid conflict with elephants, brochures with this information in Setswana were distributed to the villages. These workshops were the first step in what is hoped to be an ongoing programme of educational workshops.

*Isabel Wolf-Gillespie*



*Holton Photography*

A grant request from Motlhabaneng Village Development Committee to renovate the community hall which had fallen into disrepair was approved and TCT became a co-funder in the renovation project. The hall is central to the community as one of the few suitable places to hold events which include festivals, conferences and church services and, as such, plays a key role in bringing together members of the village and developing and maintaining a real sense of community.

A second co-funded project, again through a company working in partnership, was supported 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 has been necessarily delayed until further notice. Once the project is underway and completed the eye testing kits will remain at the availability of TCT so to enable an ongoing programme for the area.

To better understand the community needs in and around Notugre two Community Liaison Officers and a Community Liaison Director - all three roles part-time and based in Notugre - have been appointed by TCT and funded by a donation in kind. Regular meetings have taken place with various groups to understand what the communities need and would like to see from TCT. The main meetings have taken place with the Department of Wildlife & National Parks, the kgosi of the various communities and the Village Development Committees.

Since the last Donor Report TCT has formalised an MoU with Children in the Wilderness (CITW) to support their Eco-Clubs and leadership development programs in Bobirwa District, once circumstances allow. In the interim, TCT has assisted CITW with the procurement and distribution of foot pedestal sanitiser dispensers and additional thermal thermometers to the Molema and Masego schools to help tackle the Covid-19 situation.

**Amount granted to end of reporting period:**

Motlhabaneng Heritage Site	<b>BWP23,813.00</b>
Elephant Workshops	<b>BWP10,111.98</b>
Motlhabaneng VDC	<b>BWP26,697.00</b>
Eyeglasses tests and distribution	<b>USD2,835.00</b>

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

TCT and TCTUK have constituted a joint Fundraising Committee to seek external funding. 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 have been postponed until 2021 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.



## FUTURE PLANS

TCT'S future plans include completing the fence, expanding the APU and importantly focusing on 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.



*Photo by Rebecca du Toit. Football shirts kindly donated by Manase*

## 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 25 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.

*Photo credits: Margaret Lansdown except where stated.*