

TULI CONSERVATION TRUST DONOR REPORT

For the Year Ended 30th June 2022



www.tulitrust.org

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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's 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. To this end, a Community Engagement Programme was established in early 2022.

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.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

As a result of the increased focus by the Trustees on community outreach, education, and empowerment, a pilot Community Engagement Programme ('CEP') was launched in early 2022 under a service level agreement with Safari Ranches (Pty) Ltd ('Safari') and Dopotta Reserve (Pty) Ltd ('Dopotta') whereby Safari and Dopotta kindly allocated, on a cost basis, one day a week each of Annie Peatling and Emmah Ditiso to act as Community Liaison Officers, representing TCT in the communities surrounding Notugre. TCT funds this arrangement from reserves and the Trustees have appointed a Community Engagement Trustee who leads on the project, reporting regularly to the board of Trustees.

The CEP has already resulted in the delivery of a major community healthcare project (see below) and other potential projects are being investigated and scoped, dependent on the relevant criteria being met. As a result of the activity created by the CEP, grant enquiries have increased and whilst each enquiry and/or application is generally considered on its own merit, the Trustees have agreed in principle that no faith-based or political projects will be supported, and neither will projects that are not scalable (i.e. no one community will be shown significant preference).

The Trustees wish to formally thank Safari and Dopotta for allowing Annie and Emmah to undertake the roles newly created and, at the time of writing, it is anticipated that the CEP pilot will be extended under mutual agreement.

COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICERS

Meet Annie and Emmah!

Annie Peatling (on the left below) and Emmah Ditiso (on the right below) are our energetic, dedicated, and enthusiastic Community Liaison Officers ('CLOs').



Craig Lord

Operating under formal role descriptions, Annie and Emmah have been engaging with the six communities surrounding Notugre to understand the needs of those communities and to assess priorities and sustainability of possible solutions, so to identify where support from TCT may make the most impact. The CLOs' role encompasses, amongst other duties:-

- Identifying potential projects for TCT to support and, after due evaluation and if appropriate, assisting applicants in completing a Grant Application Form for submission to TCT.
- Providing oversight on successful projects, evaluating their sustainability, and ensuring comprehensive reporting from grant recipients is received by TCT in a timely manner - quality assuring the reporting prior to submission to TCT Trustees.
- Where required, project-managing TCT funded projects.

Annie and Emmah have regular update meetings with the TCT Community Engagement Trustee whereby they provide a summary of activities, undertake an initial review of any grant enquiries received, and propose possible projects for TCT to support.

When out and about on TCT activities, Annie and Emmah proudly display the TCT branding so are visible to the communities in which they work.

To find out a bit more about Annie and Emmah, use the links here:

For Annie - [Tuli Conservation Trust \(tulitrust.org\)](https://tulitrust.org)

For Emmah - [Tuli Conservation Trust \(tulitrust.org\)](https://tulitrust.org)

Amount granted: BWP6,500.00 per month + expenses

ONGOING COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Clinic Project

Over the period of many months, our CLOs, Annie and Emmah, undertook an enormous amount of work collating information about healthcare needs in the villages surrounding Notugre. In February 2022 we were very excited to start this project with the first donation being benches and desks.

When asking the clinics what they felt was most important regarding small improvements, all six clinics included hand washing basins and laundry sinks on their wish lists. Pre-Covid the clinics did not offer sanitisation facilities to visitors, but after the pandemic took over it was clear there was a desperate need for these facilities. Having small hand washing basins on entry to the clinics with running water allows for patients to thoroughly clean their hands with soap and water before entering the facility, significantly reducing the spread of germs. The employees of those clinics now also have access to running water through a double laundry sink which contributes greatly to keeping the clinic areas clean as well as being able to wash the linen from patients' beds. In some cases, the drainage pipes were so damaged that dirty water was not draining, creating an unhealthy backlog that was unhygienic. As part

of the sink installation the drainage pipes were assessed and fixed to make sure all drainage points are working correctly.



Before



After

Annie Peatling/Emmah Ditiso

In March 2022 we continued with the building and maintenance work needed to install handwashing basins and laundry sinks, all these items being an integral part of daily life within the village clinics which will enhance their hygiene facilities.

Whilst this work was taking place, we had ordered a large number of medical supplies including, but not limited to, thermometers, scales, first aid kits, batteries, beds, pots and pans for the maternity ward - items that are vital to run and provide healthcare services. It was decided that once all equipment had been received and checked, handover presentations would be held with each village.

Over 25, 26 and 27 April 2022, Annie and Emmah made appropriate arrangements with each village and a group of government officials and community members to convene the handovers. Mathathane hosted a more substantial ceremony than the other clinics, which members and stakeholders from different organisations and villages were invited to attend. Two TCTUK Trustees attended this event as representatives of TCT, taking part in the formal proceedings and viewing the donated equipment and facilities.

There are many people to thank for the success of this donation - Annie and Emmah for organising the procurement of the medical supplies and the handover ceremonies, and a huge thank you to Jwala Game Reserve and Dopotta Reserve for donating Annie and Emmah's time to this project. *Below: Annie Peatling/Emmah Ditiso Clinic Handover Ceremonies*



Amount granted: BWP273,000.00

Bobirwa Eye Project

Back in July 2021 TCT co-funded a project whereby eye tests and glasses were provided to the children of Bobirwa schools. Following the success of this, and in wanting to ensure ongoing support, our CLOs Annie and Emmah initially revisited three of the six schools for further testing and general support to the community, using the glasses and frames remaining from the 2021 project. The remaining three schools will be re-visited in the coming months.

In addition to testing the sight of the new school-intake, a review was undertaken of pupils who had received glasses last year and any that had lost/broken their glasses were dispensed new ones.

We have several stories of the impact the glasses have made to the lives of the receiving children, and these can be found on our website via this link: - [Tuli Conservation Trust \(tulitrust.org\)](https://tulitrust.org)

Annie Peatling



Amount granted: USD2,835

Protecting watering holes and livestock – safety barriers and workshops

Also back in July 2021 we were delighted to donate camping equipment to the Department of Wildlife & National Parks ("DWNP") as part one of a three-part project. The second part of this project was to construct safety barriers at livestock water points and where possible to recruit builders from the relevant villages. The first elephant protection barrier was completed in February 2022 and the second was completed in April 2022. This opportunity was also used to deliver the third part of the project - training 60 villagers/farmers on how to construct and deal better with the threat of elephants.

Amount granted: BWP314,074.95



Francois du Toit

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.

It has been a year where functions of daily operations have had a chance to become embedded. The pressure on the teams has not eased and ongoing challenges facing conservation areas here and indeed world-wide do not show signs of abating, but under the leadership of Rex Masupe, the AP team are standing its ground in combatting poaching and wildlife crime in Notugre and has a marked effect on the reserve's protection.

The team compliment currently consists of: -

- 14 x anti-poaching team members
- 4 x fence maintenance team members
- 6 x gate security team members
- 1 x watchmen/security

Currently there are two permanent anti-poaching camps in Notugre. One situated in the east and the second in the central area. Equipment is also in place and used on a regular basis for a mobile camp which is used when patrolling more remote areas. One manned reserve gate is currently in place with a second gate in the process of being completed.



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

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 9,393 wire snares and completed 2,345 patrols within the Northern Tuli Game Reserve. Foot patrols are a vital tool to keep abreast of trends on poaching and illegal movement into and across the reserve. Hotspots are monitored and changes made in the teams’ patrolling patterns on an ongoing basis to give the best possible chance to gather information on poachers and their activities.

Many activities to assist local communities in dealing with Human Wildlife Conflict have taken place in the year under review, which range from driving a pride of ten lions back into the reserve after it chased an eland through the backline fence, to gathering evidence on the reports of a sighting of a lone hippopotamus entering one of the neighbouring villages with the hope – unsuccessful – of tracking and assessing the condition of the hippo.

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 and investigation; wildlife rescue and emergency 1st aid; collection of samples and data capture and dissemination. This training was repeated in November 2021.

Through the astute management of Afzelia (Pty) Ltd¹ (‘Afzelia’) and careful budgeting it is pleasing to report that the initial target of establishing an effective AP team has been achieved.

- **Capital expenditure granted:** BWP2,034,086.43
- **Operational expenditure granted:** BWP4,955,771.00

FENCE

A request from community leaders to re-build the southern section of the Notugre backline fence to address continued Human Wildlife Conflict issues was communicated at the opening

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

ceremony of the TCT funded central and northern section of fence. In response Afzelia submitted a funding request for funding for the re-build.

After considering the funding request, the TCT Trustees successfully sought co-funding for the project from Tuli Conservation Trust UK, also in turn co-funded by a UK-based charitable foundation. We are very thankful for this co-funding – an example of successful partnership working, with multiple stakeholders, meeting the needs of the community by helping address and enhance conservation issues at grassroots level.

The project commenced on 16 November 2021 and was successfully completed on 1 June 2022. A few snagging items and additional works were attended to in July 2022.

Amount granted: BWP2,792,843.82

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

TCT and TCTUK have constituted a joint Fundraising Committee to seek external funding and to market the Trusts. 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. As a result of the ongoing Covid-19 situation all events have been postponed until 2022/2023 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 2021, in conjunction with Afzelia's entry into the Tusk Wildlife Ranger Challenge <https://www.tusk.org/news/the-wildlife-ranger-challenge-is-back/> , was a sponsored walk undertaken in Guernsey, Channel Islands, raising GBP17,749 (circa BWP272,500) 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 a very credible time, all whilst carrying a 22kg backpack. This extraordinary effort reaped the reward of BWP977,722 in sponsorship and Tusk grants.

Afzelia has again entered a team into the 2022 Tusk Wildlife Ranger Challenge so keep an eye on our website for updates on their training progress and in the event itself on Saturday 17 September 2022. We would like to thank Tusk for giving our AP team this opportunity to participate in another very successful, and very necessary, fundraiser.



Francois du Toit

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 continuing with the Community Engagement Programme and 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.



Annie Peatling/Emmah Ditiso

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.