

6. Lake Xau Management Trust

The Trust was established in 2016 comprising three CBOs in Boteti west, surrounding Lake Xau being Lenao La Ga Kwalabe (Kedia), Boteti Rural Development (Rakops, Mmadikola, Xhumo, Toromoja) and Mokopi (Mopipi and Mokobaxane) Trusts. The Trust intends to have one community based organisation managing Lake Xau, reduced conflicts among CBO's utilising Lake Xau, effectively distribute resources among communities using Lake Xau and protect and manage Lake Xau resources.

Project Title: *Capacity building through legalizing the proposed Lake Xau Management Trust*

Lake Xau has considerable potential for birding tourism and fishing, and can thereby contribute to diversification of Botswana's existing tourism product, and improve livelihoods and economic development in the area. The Lake is currently used by different Community Based Organizations (CBOs) creating a conflict in the same resource use. The project was funded to the tune of P50,000.00 in 2017 to register a single CBO that will effectively manage Lake Xau through (1) To capacitate the communities on natural resources use, (2) To equip board of trustees with CBO governance skills (3) To ensure the availability of an agreed legal document governing the use of Lake Xau resource.

7. TOPMAK Conservation Trust

TOPMAK Conservation Trust was established in 2016 covering the villages of Motopi and Makalamabedi (population:2098) in Boteti Sub-District. The Trust is intended to drive the conservation of natural resources in the area and embark on sustainable development for the benefit of the community.

Project Title: *Community mobilisation and trust registration; empowering communities in protection of biodiversity.*

Human-wildlife conflict in Boteti region is one of the main threats to both wildlife and human livelihoods. Major forms of human wildlife conflict in the area include crop raiding, livestock predation, increased risk of livestock diseases and direct threat to human life, as well as overexploitation of fish resources leading to a significant reduction of fish stock. In order to address these threats, communities of Makalamabedi and Motopi wish to develop collective responsibilities towards management of their natural resources by forming a Community Based Organisation. The Trust was funded in 2017 by an amount P50,000.00 for registration of the

Trust, constitution drawing, capacitate board of trustees on governance, capacity building for communities on Community Based Natural Resource Management.

ABOUT GEF/SGP

Established in 1992, following the Rio Earth Summit, the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP) is a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility. The GEF/SGP is implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the World Bank, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNDP: executed by United Nations Office for Project Service (UNOPS). The Programme supports local communities at the grassroots level to undertake projects that are aimed at restoring and conserving the environment while at the same time enhancing people's wellbeing and livelihoods. .

ABOUT BIRDLIFE BOTSWANA

BirdLife Botswana, is the BirdLife International (BLI) partner in Botswana. It is a non- profit conservation society, formerly known as Botswana Bird Club and it has been in existence since 1980 to fill a void in knowledge and interesting surrounding birds of Botswana. BirdLife Botswana aims to conserve birds and important bird habitats by creating awareness, carrying out applied research and promoting beneficial relationships between birds and people. The Organization work aligns its work to the four pillars of the BLI strategy: Species, Sites and Habitats, Ecological Sustainability and People.

CONTACTS

The GEF Small Grants Programme
UN Building, Government Enclave
Corner Khama Crescent And President Drive
P.O. Box 54
Gaborone, Botswana
Tel: 3633700
Fax: 3956093
Email: abigail.ingleton@undp.org

BirdLife Botswana
P. O. Box 26691
Gaborone, Game City
Tel: 3190540
Fax: 3190541
Email: blb@birdlifebotswana.org.bw



GEF/SGP FUNDED COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS PROJECTS UNDER OPERATIONAL PHASE 6 WITHIN MAKGADIKGADI WETLAND AREA.

BACKGROUND

Community Based Organisations (CBOs) within the Makgadikgadi Wetland Area (MWA) landscape have been funded by the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP) to initiate or establish start-up community livelihood improvement projects that also aims at save guiding the integrity of the environment. There are 15 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) within the Makgadikgadi Wetlands Area (MWA), seven of which have been funded by the United Nations Development Programme through the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP). The GEF/SGP effort is to meet the goal of 'global environmental benefits secured through community-based initiatives and actions this effort corroborates the Botswana Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) policy whose mandate is to provide incentives for local communities to conserve and manage natural resources in their immediate environments by providing them special user rights and associated benefits from the resources through delegation to legally registered CBOs. This brochure summarises CBO led projects supported by GEF/SGP under its Operational Phase 6 (2015 to 2019).



1. Boteti Rural Development Trust

Boteti Rural Development Trust which represent the populaces of Rakops (population:6296), Mmadikola (population: 5000), Xhumo (population: 1684) and Toromoja (population: 710) in Boteti Sub-District was formed in 2014 to take up a position as a stakeholder in rural development and “Active community participation in Natural Resources Management.” The Trust is engaged in Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) mitigation to address high prevalence of HEC in the area.

Project Title: *Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Through Community Based Sustainable Livelihoods Methods*

The project was initiated in 2018 at the tune of P520,000.00. It seeks to address the problem of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) prevailing in Boteti area, particularly the disturbance and destruction caused by elephants to both the Boteti River Forest, small and medium businesses and ploughed fields. The overall objectives for the project are: (1) Community-Based Conflict Management (CBCM) and HEC information centre, (2) Capacity building of communities on CBCM and HEC in order to diffuse tensions (3) Community participation in HEC mitigation activities.

2. Moreomaoto Community Trust

The Trust was established in 2008 by Moreomaoto (population: 518) community in Boteti Sub-District out of the concern of damages caused to the environment as a result of over exploitation of natural resources including forest resources and wild animals which are quite diverse within their area.

Project Title: *Supporting alternative livelihood to improve the access of food and income through tourism venture and co-management of natural resources in Moreomaoto Community Trust.*

The project was funded with an amount of P385,220.00 in the year 2018 for development of camping grounds for Moreomaoto Community Trust. The project aims at protection and conservation of biodiversity as well embark in sustainable utilisation of natural resources in order for the local community to gain maximum economic benefits from tourism. The objectives for the project are: (1) Improvement of livelihoods through management and sustainable utilization of natural resources (development of campsites) and to (2) Provide information on environmental education and effective management (early education at schools and environmental awareness workshops).



3. Xere Conservation Trust

The Trust was established in 2002 by Xere (population:432) community. The main objectives of the Trust are to protect and conserve the natural resources, sustainably use the natural resources for the benefit and development of the community and employment creation and equitably share benefits from natural resources.

Project Title: *Preservation of natural resources through indigenous knowledge*

The project was funded with the sum P 451,000.00 for development of a cultural centre in order to promote indigenous knowledge in human wildlife co-existence strategies and preservation of natural resources as well as engaging in alternative tourism options in order to diversify their economy. The overall objectives for the project are to: (1) develop a cultural centre, (2) promote indigenous knowledge on human wildlife co-existence strategies and conservation of natural resources (Development of human wildlife co-existence strategies manual) and (3) Preservation of traditional culture through ecotourism (cultural events).

4. Nata Conservation Trust

Nata Conservation Trust was established in 1988 and entrusted with responsibility to; manage Nata Bird Sanctuary, the designated Wildlife and Controlled hunting areas on behalf of the Government for the benefit of the Nata (population:6802), Sepako (627), Maposa (population:459), Manxotai (population:442) communities in the Tutume Sub-District. The Trust is driven by the following objects; sustainably use the natural resources of the area, protect and conserve the natural resources against extinction, misuse or other damage and link conservation based natural resources management within the area to the improvement of livelihoods and developments for the members of the trust.

Project Title: *Sustainable Management of Rangeland and Natural Resources*

Rangeland degradation has been identified as a concern in the area. This has been attributed to unmonitored commercial harvesting of thatching grass, frequent veldt fires, overgrazing and floods. Veld fires were identified as the major contributor to the degradation of rangeland and natural resources. The overall objective of the project is improving the social-economic livelihoods of people residing in Nata, Sepako, Maposa, Manxotai villages. The project was funded by an amount of P332,845.52. Objectives of the project include among others: (1) To form a consortium on sustainable management of rangeland and natural resources with key stakeholders (2) Development of fire management strategy and (3) Procurement of fire management equipment, enviro-loos toilets, camping equipment as well as monitoring thatching grass harvesting.

5. Lenao La Ga Kwalabe Conservation Trust

The Trust was established in 2005 to conserve natural resources for the benefit of local communities of Kedia (population:973) and surrounding areas.

Project Title: *Lake Xau: conservation to enhance livelihoods*

Lake Xau, is one of the most important wetlands for waterfowl in Southern Africa. However, there are no benefits from visitors and fishermen accrued to the local community, due to the community not recognizing the economic potential of birding tourism (avitourism) and fishing. The project aims to create a situation whereby local communities see birds and fish as a valuable resource that contributes directly to their livelihoods, in order for them to monitor and conserve birds, fish and their habitat. This will be achieved by (1) Conserving biodiversity and integrity of the Lake Xau ecosystem by empowering and involving communities in biodiversity conservation and (2) Improving livelihoods and quality of life of communities through community-based birding tourism, maximizing community benefits from fisheries at the lake (male-led) and basketry/craft production (female-led), and minimizing extent of range degradation in the lake environs.

