



## MACHABA SAFARIS

CLASSIC SAFARI CAMPS  
BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE

Est. 2012

## Community and Conservation Commitments

### **MACHABA SAFARIS - BOTSWANA**

Machaba Safaris pride themselves of their corporate social responsibility efforts throughout various spheres and cultures by providing assistance to communities and villages throughout Botswana. Machaba Safaris have committed a budget of P100 000.00 per year towards corporate social responsibilities.

Herewith is a summary of our support and assistance towards our existing and ongoing developments, including programs for the future:

### **GONNYE SETHLARE PRE-SCHOOL**



Machaba Safaris have developed "Gonnye Sethlare", which means "little tree" in keeping with our brand. Gonnye Sethlare is run by Wendy Rankin and Letty Hatshe, two related parties of Machaba Safaris. Gonnye Sethlare is the development of pre-schools in our rural communities we operate in. As identified by the village councils, one of the glaring problems was preschool education and readying children from the ages of two to five to cope with Primary school. Our first school was built in the remote village of Ditshipi in the Okavango Delta. The school has capacity to take 36 pre-school kids. Children come from the Ditshipi village which does not have any other educational centre in the village.

The school has been operational for two years with one set of graduates so far.

Machaba Safaris provides all funds to run the school, whilst providing food and all educational material.

The plan is to roll out as many schools as possible over the next 15 years.

Included in the pre-school:  
Sick bay for the children  
Play centre and classroom  
Teachers house  
Bathroom facilities  
Kitchen  
Teachers room

### **DESTITUTE HOUSE**

Machaba Safaris have built two houses for destitute families identified by councils in the communities we engage with and areas we operate in. Our intention is to continue with developing more housing.

Machaba built a 2-bedroom house in Maun that includes:

Kitchen  
Bathroom with toilet and shower  
Lounge  
2 x bedrooms  
Geyser  
Power & Water connection

### **ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY –**



Machaba Safaris sponsors an anti-poaching vehicle and anti-poaching boat, which includes staff to patrol and assist in the NG32 zone 3 anti-poaching patrols. Machaba Safaris is responsible for the wages, rations, fuel and maintenance costs.

Machaba Safaris has **also** built accommodation at their lodges specifically for researchers and anti-poaching staff that need accommodation when they are in the area.

Machaba Safaris have also built accommodation for gate guards at all access points into NG 32 on the edge of the Okavango Delta.

### **EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Machaba Safaris in conjunction with David Foot Horse Safaris sent one OKMCT village resident to South Africa for a 12-month training program. Our first student was Dineo Shareshando who went to South Africa to start her academic career.

Machaba Safaris continues to expand our program to educate, train and develop new skills within the company for all staff.



## HUMANITARIAN CONTRIBUTION



One of our more heart-warming contributions is that we supplied two wheelchairs for Morapedi Elinah Phelo. Morapedi was born with no bones in her lower legs and has never had proper medical care or a wheel chair to move around. She used to crawl from point A to Point B. We supplied Morapedi with a wheel chair at her home and a wheel chair at her school. We are also contributing P500 a per month towards a special taxi that transfers Morapedi between her home and school.

We will continue to support Morapedi and assist her to hopefully one day be able to walk with prosthetic legs.

## WATER SUPPLY

Machaba Safaris is supplying fresh drinking water to the villagers of Shashe ward just outside of Maun. The village has a constant shortage of water and Machaba have a dedicated tap that has a constant supply of water for the villagers when the ward has run out of water. We will continue to supply them with water as they are totally reliant on us during the times there is no water in the ward.

## BOTSWANA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Machaba Safaris, after consultation with the Botswana Women's Forum have made the decision to employ 10% of their staff under the age of 25. This gives young adults that have no previous work experience, the opportunity to work and get in house training.



## BOTSWANA MUSIC DEVELOPMENT

Machaba Safaris sponsors the annual Maun Music Festival for upcoming musicians. The Festival is very successful and musicians from all over Botswana perform to the public during the festival.

### **BOTSWANA GRADUATION PROGRAM**

Machaba Safaris employ two UB graduate students per year with no previous work experience to get in house training to become lodge managers.

Machaba Safaris also take two intern students for their three-month attachments all year round. One of the greatest challenges for graduates is achieving work experience post studying and our aim is to encourage graduates to enter the tourism industry which historically has been difficult.



### **BED NIGHT PROGRAMME**

Machaba Safaris in conjunction with Safari Destinations allocate bed nights in our camps that are sold to tour operators and the money received is donated to:

- MAWS animal shelter
- WAR – Woman against Rape
- Bana Ba Letsatsi – street children program
- AGLOW International
- Basket Weavers and Craft production

Machaba Safaris also makes constant and various donations to charity organisations for example:

- Cancer awareness
- Woman Empowerment to Patriot Global Achievements
- Botswana athletes
- Soccer outfits to community soccer teams

### **FOOD PARCELS**

Machaba Safaris distributes over 240 food parcels every 3 months to eleven villages within the conservation areas we operate in. The parcels are specifically for the unemployed and destitute identified by the village development councils.

## **MACHABA SAFARIS - ZIMBABWE**

### **OUR MISSION**

Machaba Zimbabwe is committed to assisting disadvantaged communities adjacent to Hwange National Park. It started operating in May 2018 and we have been assisting the Mabale village and Hwange Main Camp School which are considered to be in the vulnerable wildlife areas. This is to say that their location with regards to National Park makes them prone to a lot of Human-wildlife conflict. Machaba Zimbabwe engages in community development, assisting in the development of Main Camp School and Mabale Village including skills development/ empowerment in and around the Mabale area.

We also engage with the communities and schools that are situated near our camps. This will enable us to be able to do village and project visits with our guests, encouraging cultural exchange and a tangible experience for them. Moreover, we aim to contribute to the bigger agenda of conservation and sustainable tourism development in collaboration with other stakeholders in and around the National Park. Machaba Zimbabwe has identified four (4) focal areas, which are:

### **EDUCATION**

We have been assisting in the development of Main Camp Primary school which borders the Hwange National Park. We have sat down with the school representatives and they have given us a needs lists, on which they have highlighted what challenges they have and what assistance we can give according to their priorities.

The needs include:

- . Teacher support- reasonable allowance for teachers who are not on government payroll.
- . ECD standard classroom.
- . ECD toilet.
- . Office furniture.
- . ECD centre fence and gate.
- . ECD and Grade 1 furniture.
- . New Curriculum textbooks
- . Brick wall round the school premises (Main Camp Primary School)
- . Additional laptops for ICT lessons
- . Food storage room
- . Computer lab
- . Stove to cook lunch for the school children



## **CONSERVATION**

We seek to work together with other stakeholders and the communities bordering the park in achieving the conservation and sustainability of our animals and nature at large. We aim to foster a culture of human-wildlife co-existence, encouraging local communities to be at harmony with nature. It is our understanding that, when communities believe that they can benefit from the projects they are more willing to support them and positively contribute to the cause.

- . Conservation talks done by the guides from all camps
- . Park and camp visits for school children and teachers
- . Introduce children's conservation literature/conservation club
- . Partnering with various stakeholders to hold conservation themed competitions in the communities. e.g writing, painting and art that portray tourism and conservation
- . Assist communities in enhancing human-wildlife coexistence (finding solutions)

## **FOOD SECURITY AND HEALTH**

Research has shown that a large percentage of the population in Zimbabwe especially in Rural areas are below the food poverty line, which is to say the total household monthly expenditures are unable to meet even the minimum food requirements. Following this, we aim to assist in the betterment of food security in the communities that surround the national park. Part of our plan involves:

- . Donate towards school feeding programs
- . Assist in food nutrition projects
- . Providing seeds for the Mabale village nutritional garden

We endeavour to spread the awareness of health issues that have become a concern in our societies, for example, awareness on HIV/Aids, tuberculosis and cholera issues. This is to ensure that the communities are aware of most or all health issues of concern. In addition we assist in the provision of accessible health care, furthermore, we hope in the near future to assist in the infrastructural development of the health sector through:

- Donating 1st aid kits
- Donating sanitary pads



### **SKILLS DEVELOPMENT/EMPOWERMENT/COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING**

We identify community members with skills and work on assisting them by developing the skills into viable businesses. This enables them to make a living out of their skills and also make their businesses sustainable in the long run. In addition, we aim to assist in awareness programs for tourism, so as to increase understanding of tourism and also as a way of building community capacity among the residents. Increasing awareness helps residents understand the importance of tourism development in their community and what sort of impacts it brings with it and this will help them make informed decisions.

In a nutshell, through skills development and empowerment we aim to:

- . Identify skills
- . Develop those skills to be profitable businesses
- . Assist them with business plans
- . Conduct ongoing business analysis and training
- . And ensure sustainability of the businesses
- . Tourism awareness
- . Get them into camp for tourism and hospitality jobs training

We intend to make sure that our community development vision will be an on-going process and the benefits will trickle down to all members of the community.

As Machaba we also financially aid the school by:

1. The camp buys chicken from Main Camp Primary School poultry project for staff so that we encourage them to be self-sufficient and sustainable
2. We are buying textbooks for the school children
3. The camp in partnership with the Matter Foundation has managed to get a donation for a computer lab which would be fully run by solar with a backup generator and wifi to the Main Camp Primary school

In collaboration with the Matter Foundation, we will be starting an empowerment garden which will assist the Main Camp Primary school with revenue. The garden will be fenced and electrified so as to keep the wildlife out as this has been a constant challenge for the school.

### **HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

Donate while in the camps - Anyone who wishes to donate can place the money in the envelope and hand it over to the community development coordinator or any of the managers. The project of which the money is intended for should be indicated on the envelope. Also contact details should be provided so that we update donors on the progress of the projects.

Pack for a purpose - Contact Machaba Safaris to find out what items are currently needed. This can vary from second hand warm winter jackets to be distributed in the community to stationary or toys for our school.

Volunteer - if you are an individual interested in engaging in social, environmental, and charitable activities on a voluntary basis, please feel free to contact us and we organise activities that suit voluntary programs of your choosing.

Pay a teacher salary and student fees - You can contribute by paying a teacher's salary and also an orphaned or vulnerable student's school fees. Any amount is appreciated.

Hwange Main Camp Primary School:

\$20/ child per term as school levies

\$6 for teacher salary support

Basic salary for a teacher \$420 (4 teachers need salary support)

Mabale Primary School:

\$15/ child per term as school levies

Basic salary for teachers \$420 (3 teachers need salary support)

Community tours- You can also get involved by visiting the Mabale village and the Schools.

## **DRAFT ITINERARY FOR A FULL VILLAGE AND SCHOOL TOUR**

07h00	Wake-up call
07h30	Breakfast
08h00	Game drive to Hwange Main Camp
09h30	Main Camp Primary School
10h30	Depart school for village
11h00	Meet the village chief
11h30	Visit Mabale Primary school
12h00	Village tour
	Visit to a homestead
	Clinic
	Nutritional garden, borehole, cattle dip
13h00	Have lunch
13h30	Painted Dog Conservation
14h15	Game drive to camp

## **THE TEAM**

**Sakhile S. Moyo**

Community development co-ordinator



**Letty Hatshe**

Project leader – Gonnye Sethlare Botswana

**Blessing Munyenyiwa**

Owner and team leader Zimbabwe

**Wendy Rankin**

Owner and team leader Zimbabwe and Botswana

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*Should you wish to get in touch, please feel free to contact one of our team members.*

