



Feline Fields

OKAVANGO

BY MANTIS

## FELINE FIELDS TRUST

*Empowering communities,  
enabling conservation.*

# OUR COMMITMENT

The Feline Fields Trust is a community and wildlife conservation trust supported by ecotourism, also focussing on education and social responsibility initiatives. Our conservation model is built on meaningful community partnerships, biodiversity preservation and wildlife management. We aim to implement a workable formula between conservation and social projects.

Over the past decade, our commitment to protecting Botswana's wilderness areas and to give back to the community has led us to develop strategic partnerships with local villages in each of the regions in which we operate.

Through the Trust, we invite motivated individuals who share our vision to join us in working toward a sustainable future for Botswana's communities and precious wildlife and their fragile habitats through long-term conservation projects that make a meaningful impact. All projects are identified and prioritized together with the lodge's neighbouring communities.

Feline Fields Trust community and biodiversity programmes are a crucial element of our philosophy, and we are always delighted to share them with guests.



*« We believe that our heritage of pristine land, wildlife and culture should be recognized as one of our most precious resources and dedicate ourselves to making a difference to the world we live in ».*

*Marjan and Raphael Del Sarte*

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CEOs of Feline Fields

# COMMUNITY

*It's about our People*

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# WILDLIFE TALKS

Three times a year, we present « Wildlife Talks » in five elementary school in Maun, Tsao and Nokaneng, to introduce the children to the wildlife of Botswana and to educate them about the importance of protecting the pristine environment in which they live. At the end of these conferences, we organize a competition between students, allowing the three best from each school and their teachers to spend a discovery weekend with us.

During their visit we play games and our guides take the students on safari through the Kalahari or Okavango lands to discover Botswana's incredible wildlife. The children come back enchanted, with stars in their eyes and the desire to learn even more about Botswana's ecosystems.



# SCHOOL BUS

In 2013, The Feline Fields Trust organized donations for the purchase of a School Bus to transport the youngest children from Sexaxa village in Ngamiland to and from Matlapaneng Primary School near Maun, 10 km away. We have also pledged to cover the operating and maintenance costs of the bus, as well as the salary of the driver, Mma Mapodise, and we continue to do so today thanks to donations from the Feline Fields Trust.

Since the bus was put into operation, it transports fifty to seventy children to school twice a day. Teachers have noticed a sharp increase in school attendance and a decrease in tardiness and fatigue due to the grueling distance the young children had to travel five days a week. The student passing rate has since risen to 85%.





The School Bus was the right answer to the plight of children who had no choice but to walk in heavy rain and scorching heat to get to school. The donations not only saved the children, especially the first graders, the distance they had to travel each day, but also reduced the risks they faced along the way. The area is inhabited by wild and dangerous animals such as lions and buffalo from the nearby Moremi Game Reserve.

# PLAY GROUPS

The Play Groups projects have been one of our earliest commitments since the inception of Feline Fields. We have been developing it since the Lodge was founded. These projects were born out of the lack of early childhood care facilities in remote areas of Botswana. Indeed, we know that quality early development is essential to laying the foundation for success in later life.

We started by creating two Play Groups, one in Tsao and one in Nokaneng, so that the youngest children in the region, aged between three and five, have access to a pre-school structure that allows them to develop and socialize during the day.

To accomplish this, we have completely renovated buildings into classrooms and playrooms through donations from the Feline Fields Trust and the dedicated work of volunteers. We outfitted playgroups with indoor and outdoor equipment, built playgrounds with swings, provided school furniture, educational toys, creative arts and fantasy kits to make each Play Group a place where children make great strides to reach their full potential.







Each Play Group welcomes about 50 children per day, under the supervision of three teachers we recruited and trained, representing each of the tribes in the surrounding villages. The women received teacher training in Ghanzi, funded by the generosity of our donors and the involvement of the Botswana government in the project. With the guidance of the teachers, the children are helped to develop fully in the physical, cognitive, psychological and social areas. Today, we continue to fund and maintain the playgroups with the help of our Trust Coordinator, but always including the Village Development Committee, to raise awareness in the villages about the importance of the playgroups for the children and the community.

### **What's next?**

We plan to set up a Play Group in Kaure, a Bushmen village not far from the Lodge, and in other isolated villages afterwards, all in the area surrounding the Lodge. The Bushmen already have some of their children at the Play Group in Tsao, but there are others who stay in Kaure and this village is very small and far away from everything.

# BUSHMEN CRAFTS

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For women living in rural Bushmen communities, selling craft is one of the only source of independent income. We encourage Bushmen women to use their skills to create jewelry and other decorative items from colorful beads, which we offer for sale at the Lodge store without commission. This allows them to sell their products locally and receive 100% of the profits from their creations.

Our craft store goal is to empower local artisans to showcase and sell their crafts in order to support their families. By purchasing these items, you can be assured that you are buying authentic locally produced African crafts that will directly contribute to improving the living standards of the Bushmen women and their families.



# OUR NEXT FOCUS: COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN TUBU



## TUBU COMMUNITY

Over the past few months we have been establishing a very good relationship with the Tubu Community Trust and village elders to learn more about their challenges and needs to be able to identify valuable new projects for the Feline Fields Trust in this region where we will setup our new 100% sustainable camp.



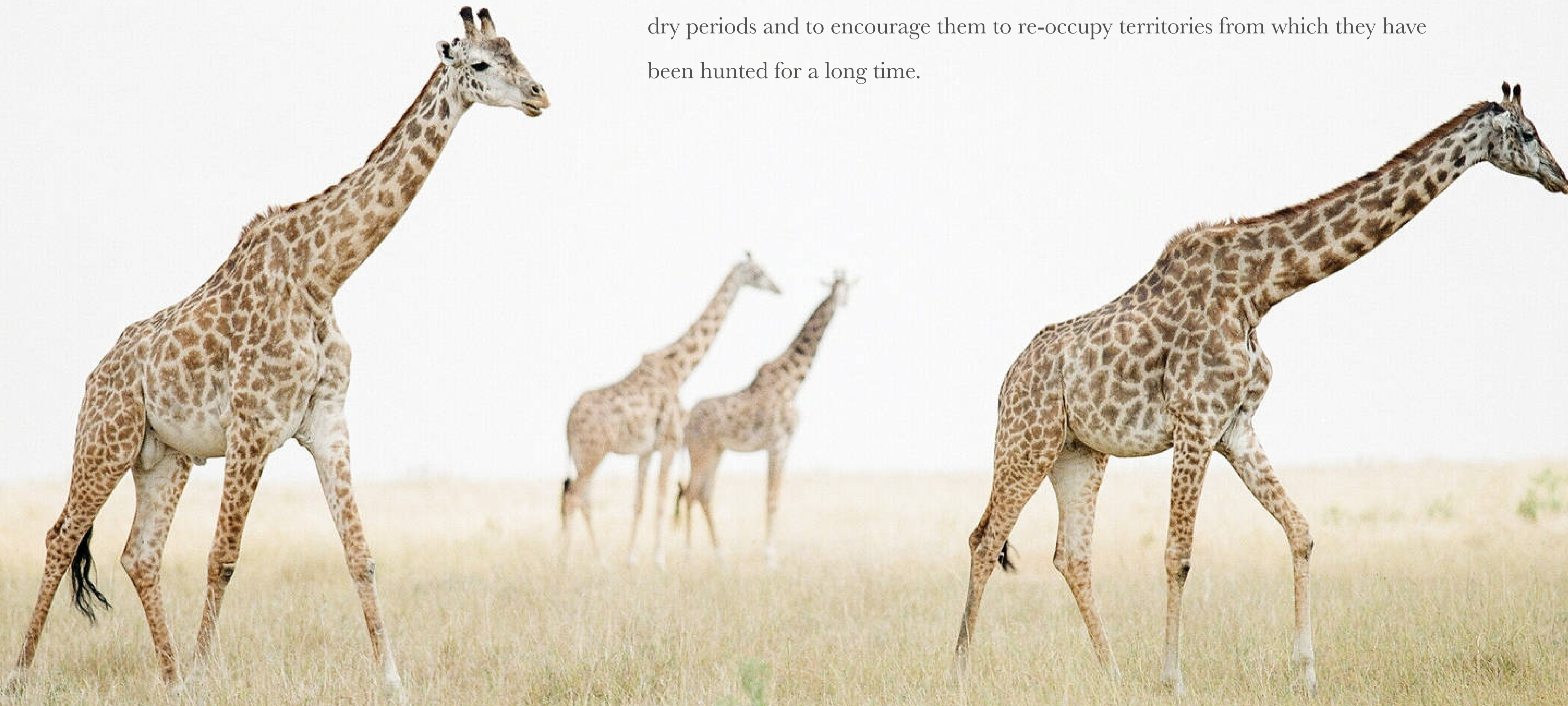
## THE FELINE FIELDS HIVES

In an effort of conservation and local development through employment, we will offer beekeeping training to the local population with job offers to take care of the beehives that we will set up in Tubu. We look forward to making all these great projects a reality!

# BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

## PRESERVATION WORK

We are currently installing new waterholes around the Lodge and investing heavily in water desalination treatment to help the animals survive more easily during very dry periods and to encourage them to re-occupy territories from which they have been hunted for a long time.



# GIRAFFES RELOCATION AND REINTRODUCTION PROJECT

Our big project to reintroduce giraffes in the Kalahari area around the Lodge is finally coming to fruition. Unfortunately, the corona virus had forced us to take a break of almost two years!

Main threats to giraffe in Botswana include poaching, habitat loss and fragmentation as a result of expansion of agricultural activity, climate change, and a general lack of education in wildlife conservation.

Firstly, to attain a permit to reintroduce giraffes it was essential to establish both that giraffe had been present within the area and why they Nearly disappeared from the landscape. Data showed that they disappeared due to excessive hunting and that the area eco-system would now allow them to thrive again. The overall aim and objective of the project is to



establish a breeding nucleus of giraffes in the region of the Kalahari where the species used to live before. The achievement of this will result in improved ecological integrity and diversity of the area. In the next few months we will finally be able to

welcome a group of four giraffes. The acclimatization of the giraffes to their new territory will be done in progressive steps. At first, they will be acclimatized in an enclosure, and then released around the Lodge area with regular monitoring and careful

care to ensure that the species survives and thrives once again on their ancestral lands. Your donation to the Feline Fields Trust will help us monitor their safety and reintroduce more giraffes in the future. 100% of your donation goes to on-the-ground conservation work.

# TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE

*Together we make the difference*

Over the past few years, the Feline Fields Trust has shifted into high gear, taking on an increasing number of projects while continuing to fund existing ones. Today, we need your support to continue our commitment to wildlife and rural communities in our areas of operation across Botswana.

By embarking on an adventure with Feline Fields, our guests become part of our dream to integrate international travelers and rural people to their mutual benefit and to demonstrate that wildlife can be conserved on a sustainable basis by all.

If you would like to help us by making a donation or getting involved at a higher level in one of our biodiversity or community projects please contact us to learn more about on-the-ground initiatives where you can have a real impact and change the future with us!



# HOW TO HELP US

## JOURNEY WITH US

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Just by travelling with Feline Fields our guests make a meaningful difference to the land, wildlife and people of the areas we operate in by making a US\$ 30 donation per guest to the Feline Fields Trust. We invite you to travel with heart and embark on an unforgettable journey with us in Botswana.

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## DONATE

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The Feline Fields Trust is a non-profit organization that relies on the generosity of donors to contribute to impactful conservation and community initiatives in Botswana.

Help us make a real impact by donating to our projects.

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE  
BY WIRE TRANSFER

Kindly indicate a specific program if applicable.

For wire transfer details or more information, please email us at

[TRUST@FELINEFIELDS.COM](mailto:TRUST@FELINEFIELDS.COM)

OFFICE: +267 686 5756

## GET INVOLVED

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To achieve our goals, we need partners - people who care about the future of conservation in Botswana and want to get involved in one of our initiatives by volunteering or funding a specific project in one of our regions.

If you are interested in partnering on a project, please contact us for more information and a list of programs you can get involved with.

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We would like to thank all of the Feline Fields Trust's donors - together we are making a difference.



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*Thank you for your support!*

