



Passion bolsters Sustainable Tourism

at African Monarch Lodges

What happens when you combine a passion for conservation and people, a hard-working team with big ideas and one of the most beautiful locations in Namibia?

African Monarch Lodges, home to Nambwa Tented Lodge and Kazile Island Lodge inside Bwabwata National Park in Namibia's Zambezi Region, is the cumulative product of the passion and dedication that its founders, Dusty and Tinolla, have put into its formation. The lodges are part and parcel of their environment – the most crucial element of their success. African Monarch Lodges recently also launched The Sijwa Project. This inspiring initiative aims to create a closed system in which the local community is included in the process of protecting their environment. With its broad vision of empowering the local community by creating jobs, skill-sharing, preserving traditional knowledge and conservation of the environment, Sijwa is an ambitious project to say the least. This bold initiative will be multi-faceted and eventually self-sufficient.



So what exactly is the Sijwa Project? It's the repurposing and reinventing of all recyclable waste from Nambwa Tented Lodge, Kazile Island Lodge and from the local community into arts and crafts. Another part is an organic permaculture nursery to supply food for local people and lodge guests (reducing the air and road mileage that lodge food usually travels). It will also incorporate a cultural village, an artisanal skills training centre, a beehive project, a free-range egg producing scheme and a junior ranger training venue. Plus, it's an indigenous tree nursery for visitors to buy and plant a tree to offset their carbon footprint.



Lodge guests will be offered a visit to The Sijwa Project to experience local culture, interact with community members as they go about creating beautiful recycled objects, buy gifts, plant a tree and show support for this community-driven initiative. Read more about The Sijwa Project at www.africanmonarchlodges.com or read about a recent visit to the project by former Miss Universe Michelle McLean on www.travelnewsnamibia.com.

