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Mashatu Game Reserve
Northern Tuli Game Reserve
Tuli Block, Botswana

P.O. Box 26
Lentswe Le Moriti
Botswana

Mashatu Game Reserve Sustainability

ENVIRONMENTAL

- No animals are killed for human consumption. Mashatu is a sanctuary for wildlife and if there is any overpopulation, the animals move out of the area (because we are unfenced)
- Firewood is bought from outside the reserve from farms or suppliers, so that all fallen trees or bush on Mashatu can remain to be formed into tiny ecosystems of insects and microorganisms
- In an effort to reduce the amount of waste generated by plastic water bottles, Mashatu has introduced a system whereby each guest is given an 8-hr hot/cold flask to refill and use to drink water. This has drastically reduced the number of plastic water bottles which would have ordinarily been used.
- Mashatu has been doing the recycling for everyone in area for the last 10 years. This includes plastic, glass, paper and cans.
- Mashatu is moving away from "thirsty gardens" where only natural grasses, bush and succulents and anything indigenous is being planted.
- Mashatu is currently moving over to solar electricity. In the next 2 years, all our camps will be run on solar, as we have 95% rain-free days every year.
- Mashatu only sun-dries laundry, to save electricity. Tumble dryers are only used as a last resort if it rains (a rare occurrence).
- Along with safari drives, guests can opt for 4 other low-impact activities including walking, biking, visiting the underground hide or horse riding. These activities are 'light' on the land and help to minimise any negative human impacts on the environment. There are no other motorised activities or flying activities which could potentially startle the wildlife or contribute to noise pollution.
- Mashatu is an unfenced reserve, meaning the animals can 'migrate' and move as they please. Ultimately, they chose to remain on the property because of the 8 rivers and presence of water in this arid area.

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SOCIAL

- Mashatu employs 235 members of staff including our MD's – 97% are Motswana (Citizens of Botswana); of which 88% are from the Bobirwa district. Mashatu guides have an average of 15 years' working for Mashatu. There is a sense of family within Mashatu and many staff children grow up to work for Mashatu too. From management level down, the communities around the Northern Tuli Game Reserve are uplifted and supported by commercial operations within this reserve, of which Mashatu is the biggest. In fact, Mashatu is the largest employer in the whole Bobirwa District (south-eastern corner of Botswana).
- 42% of the 235 employees are women and 58% of the management team are women at Mashatu.
- All our lodges are managed by Motswana (Citizens of Botswana), who all have in excess of 15 years work experience in the industry.
- During the 12-month period of the Covid19 Lockdown (Apr'20 to Mar'21), Mashatu paid out in excess of BWP12 million in salaries and wages, retaining all staff members in the company's employ whilst the company was closed for commercial operations.
- In 2021 Mashatu contracted the services of Diagnofirm, a Botswana registered company, who provides a nurse, Covid PCR & rapid testing services 24/7/365 at Mashatu's airport – Limpopo Valley Airfield, so as to service the Department of Health requirements in Mashatu Game Reserve for our guests and employees, as well as the greater area of the Tuli Block / Bobirwa district; this project is funded by Mashatu.
- Guests staying at Tuli Safari Lodge Mashatu will experience the Tuli Choir. The choir CD's are for sale in the curio shop with all funds raised from the sale of the CD's going to the Staff Health Care fund which funds special medical needs staff members may have (e.g. knee replacement op, treatment after a stroke etc). Here's a link to the one CD which is available on iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/artist/the-tuli-choir/id324557718>
- In 2021 Mashatu sponsored the development of a car park (for self-drive guests in 2x4 vehicles) and car wash area in the local village of Mathathane, from which all income derived directly benefits the community through Tourism.
- Mashatu is one of the destinations partnering with *Pack for Purpose*: <https://www.packforapurpose.org/destinations/africa/botswana/mashatu-game-reserve/>. Guests can bring an extra suitcase of supplies used for the *Children in the Wilderness* programs or for schools and projects in the area.

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ECONOMIC

- Mashatu proudly supports the country with 86% of all purchases being made within Botswana i.e. 59% within the Bobirwa district and 27% from other areas within the country. #PushaBW
- Community weaving and beading projects are supported through the selling of wares in the Mashatu curio shops
- Mashatu has a conservation trust which supports an anti-poaching team, supports the eco-clubs and *Children in the Wilderness* programs run at the camps, and many other annual initiatives.
- This conservation trust also contributes to Mashatu Research. This research is generally done on the predators, such as collaring potential problem male lions or collaring and tracking via satellite any released wild dogs. Over the years, research has been conducted on cheetah, leopard, brown hyena, lions and black-backed jackal.
- And finally, Mashatu is classified as a 'Travel Partner' part of The Long Run (<https://www.thelongrun.org/>) as a member of the Classic Safari Africa Portfolio. The Long Run is an organisation which facilitates the movement towards a more sustainable reserve through a focus on community, culture, conservation and commerce.