



**KNYPHAUSEN
STIFTUNG**

2018

Annual Report

Knyphausen Foundation for Sustainability, Nature Conservation and Education

The non-profit Knyphausen Foundation for Sustainability, Nature Conservation and Education, founded at the end of 2015 and based in Lütetsburg in Lower Saxony, is involved in educational work for children and young people on the subjects of nature conservation and sustainability in Botswana.



Purpose of the Foundation:

The aim of the Knyphausen Foundation is to sensitize and inspire children and young people for their environment. The aim is to raise children's awareness of the importance of nature and encourage them to take responsibility for themselves and their environment.

Another focus of the foundation are educational measures and trainings for young adults Safari Guides as multipliers to improve the educational standard in the region, to found and establish new professions in the field of environmental protection and education as well as to strengthen local partners.

Foundation founder:



Since a trip to Botswana in 2012, Theda Countess Knyphausen has not let go of the beauty of the country. She first established the safari operator CONSAFARITY, which specialises in tailor-made safaris with added value, and in 2015 founded the Knyphausen Foundation. Of every booking received by CONSAFARITY, 3% is forwarded to the Knyphausen Foundation. Theda Gräfin Knyphausen develops foundation projects in cooperation with local representatives and supervises the work directly on site. She lives and works most of the year in Maun/Botswana.

„I would like to support the children and young people in Botswana in appreciating and preserving the environment that surrounds them. I focus above all on education and training to bring about lasting changes in the thinking and behaviour of children and young people“.

Legal and organisational conditions:

The Knyphausen Foundation is a private, legally independent foundation. The foundation serves purposes of the promotion of youth and old people's welfare, the promotion of purposes of education and vocational training including student assistance, the promotion of purposes of nature conservation, landscape conservation and environmental protection, the promotion of purposes of animal welfare as well as the promotion of purposes of development cooperation. It was established in Lütetsburg in 2015 in accordance with the Foundation Act of the State of Lower Saxony.

Organs: The organs of the Foundation are the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees.

Board of Directors: Theda Gräfin Knyphausen (Chairwoman)
Benedikt von Kontz

Foundation council: Tido Graf Knyphausen
Alvo Graf Knyphausen

Management: Theda Gräfin Knyphausen
Benedikt von Kontz

Processing: Jasmin Kolta

Tax recognition: The Knyphausen Foundation is a non-profit corporation and is exempt from corporation and trade tax in accordance with the exemption notice of the tax office Norden.

Funding priorities:

The aim is to create sustainable structures for environmental education in Maun in order to provide children and young people in the region with the necessary technical, social and design skills in the fields of environmental protection and sustainability, which will enable them to participate in shaping the future, according to the motto: "People only protect what they know and appreciate".

Partner countries:

In 2019, the Knyphausen Foundation will support projects exclusively in Botswana. In the future it would like to cooperate with partners from the neighbouring countries Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Target groups:

The direct target group is children and young people from the Maun region, most of whom come from socially disadvantaged families.

The extended target group are the local partner organisations with whom one works in the individual projects on site. These are structurally strengthened and are helped to develop independently.

The indirect target group includes the teachers of the participants in the Junior Ranger Programme. The Knyphausen Foundation works closely with them and the teachers take up environmental protection topics of the project and integrate them into their lessons. This benefits the pupils who do not participate in the foundation's program.

Cooperation structures:

The Knyphausen Foundation operates locally in Botswana. The founder of the foundation, Theda Gräfin Knyphausen, is in close contact with local partner organisations, training institutes, schools, teachers and education officers.

Due to the personal contact with all actors, it is possible to react quickly and directly to the needs of the target group and to adapt the projects accordingly.

Partner organisations:

Since the beginning of 2016 there is a close cooperation between Knyphausen Foundation and the local non-profit organisation Future Explorer Youth Society (FEYS). Together they have been running the waste education project "Waste Management" at schools in Maun, which the association has developed into an integral part of its educational work.

Since 2017, the association has taken over the project coordination of the Junior Ranger Program and is largely responsible for the implementation of the extracurricular educational units as well as for the organization of the camps.

The aims of the association include the promotion of educational work with children and young people and the protection and sustainable development of the natural and cultural heritage of the region. The team, consisting of two permanent staff members, is supported by seven local volunteers in certain activities.

Network & Partnership:

The Knyphausen Foundation is networked with the staff of EUROPARC Deutschland e.V., the Dachverband der Nationalen Naturlandschaften Deutschland, the Naturwacht Brandenburg and the National Park Bayerischer Wald und Schwarzwald, who have been organising and implementing extracurricular programmes with children and young people on environmental education topics since 2008.

The scholarship holders complete their training as professional safari guides with the local instructor EcoTraining, one of the most respected providers in southern Africa. For over 20 years, EcoTraining has distinguished itself through the highest quality of its programs and instructors. The demanding lessons in theory and practice take place in different wilderness camps.

The Knyphausen Foundation regularly exchanges content with teachers from local schools who take part in training courses on waste separation, recycling and waste avoidance (Project Waste Management). The aim is to integrate further topics on environmental protection into the curriculum in the future.

Projects 2018

1. YOUTH WELFARE:

Project "Junior Ranger Program" all year 2018

Together with its partner organisation Future Explorer Youth Society (FEYS), the foundation established a Junior Ranger Program for children and young people in early 2017.

In a nearby wildlife park in Maun, the Junior Rangers are taught about specific environmental protection topics at regular meetings in the wild.

Most of the participating children and young people experience the local fauna and flora for the first time in their lives and deal intensively with topics of animal and environmental protection.

Participation in the programme is free of charge, so that this is also possible for children from socially disadvantaged families. In addition, camps lasting several days are offered in the park for the junior rangers, where they can experience community in nature and deepen their knowledge.

All extracurricular educational events and camps within the Junior Ranger Programme are organised and carried out in cooperation with the local association Future Explorers Youth Society (FEYS).

• **Junior Ranger Botswana plant trees, February 2018**

In February, the now 125 children of the Junior Ranger Program intensively dealt with the topic of native trees and plants.

In a three-day camp from 16.02.-18.02.2018, all children and young people from the programme will come together in a park close to the city to plant regional trees and create a tree nature trail with a barefoot path.

• **The first educational material for the Junior Rangers will be published, February 2018**

As part of the intensive examination of the topic of native trees and plants, the first educational material of the Junior Ranger Program is created with the help of specialists Alison & Rodger Heath: "Plants around us".

In a handy A5 format, 50 of Botswana's most important trees and plants are presented in text and pictures and distributed free of charge to all Junior Rangers at the tree planting camp.

Due to the lack of high-quality educational material in Botswana's schools, the Knyphausen Foundation has set itself the task of producing its own educational material in cooperation with specialists from the various fields of nature and environmental protection. The next booklet on the subject of birds and endangered bird species, "Birds around us" with the specialist Pete Hancock, is already planned for 2019.

- **Camp with support of students from Hungary, July 2018**

From 06.07.-08.07.2018 a big camp lasting several days was organized for the Junior Rangers from Maun, where they had visit and support from students from Hungary. The 6 young men and women are studying Wildlife Management at the West Hungarian University in the city of Sopron and the Foundation Fauna és Flora enabled them to travel to Botswana. They contacted the Knyphausen Foundation with the wish to support the Junior Rangers directly on site. Together, young trees in the Wildlife Park were protected with small fences from the feeding of wild animals and ideas for the extension of the tree nature trail were collected. The Junior Rangers proudly presented their project, the educational material on the topic "Plants around us" and showed the visitors the large area and the new tree nature trail. Thus there was a successful exchange on both sides.

- **Camp „Animal welfare“, September 2018**

From 14.09.-16.09.2018 the Junior Rangers from Maun met again at a big camp lasting several days. Meanwhile the camps belong to the program of the Junior Rangers. The focus was on resource management and animal welfare.

2. EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING:

Projects further education

- **Continuing education projects**

As part of the tree planting project (see above), a workshop lasting several days will take place at the beginning of the year in Maun in cooperation with Alison & Rodger Heath (the authors of the first educational material on the project "Plants around us") for the eight employees of the partner organisation FEYS. In the course of the year there will be 3 more workshops with Okwa Sarefo (trainer at EcoTraining, who lives in Maun and has already taught the FEYS staff in 2017 as part of the "Train the Trainer" project) on various topics of animal and environmental protection.

For 2019, in addition to further training courses for FEYS employees, a workshop on "Birds and endangered bird species" with the specialist Pete Hancock is planned at the EcoTraining trainer.

In addition, Grace Seidisa - the first PFG scholarship holder of the Knyphausen Foundation (which now has a permanent position as a guide in a renowned lodge in the Okavango Delta) - will be invited as a guest speaker for the educational units of the Junior Ranger Programme to report to the children on her career during her training and on her new work as a guide.

3. NATURE CONSERVATION, LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

Project „Waste Management“ in 9 Schools in Maun all year 2018

The Knyphausen Foundation's "garbage project", which was further established in 2017, will become an integral part of the 9 schools in Maun participating in the Junior Ranger Programme in 2018. In addition to the participation of the respective junior rangers, the other pupils of Umwelt AGs (20-30 children) will also take part and take care of separating the rubbish on a weekly basis. They are supported by the volunteers of the association FEYS (Future Explorer Youth Society) and the company Gecco Investment.

Gecco Investment is responsible for the collection and further transfer of the separated waste to South Africa in order to ensure recycling.

4. ANIMAL PROTECTION:

Project "Elephants for Africa" and project to protect endangered animal species

• Cooperation with Elephants for Africa and Pete Hancock, July-September 2018

The talks and working meetings with Elephants for Africa, which already took place in 2016 and 2017, will also take place in 2018 in order to implement the joint project planned for 2019 from the EfA Animal Welfare Programme in Maun. Furthermore, the first talks with Pete Hancock (education officer of "Raptors Botswana") will take place, with whom the production of the educational material "Birds around us" as well as a joint project for the protection of vultures is planned.

5. DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION:

Support of the local non-profit association FEYS (Future Explorer Youth Society)

The Knyphausen Foundation has been cooperating with the FEYS association since the beginning of 2016, and together they have firmly established and expanded the "Waste Management" project at Maun schools.

Since the end of 2016 there has been a regular exchange to establish and establish joint projects for extracurricular educational work in the region on the subject of environmental protection and sustainability.

At the beginning of 2017 the Junior Ranger Program Botswana will be jointly founded. Within the framework of this programme, regular extracurricular educational units on environmentally relevant topics will take place, which will be coordinated and implemented by the local association. In addition, the partner organisation organises camps for the young rangers several times a year lasting several days.

The Knyphausen Foundation supports the employees of the association in their professional and further education. Regular workshops and training sessions are organised for them on specific environmental topics and on working with children in nature with experts.

In the following years Knyphausen Foundation plans to support the association in its project work in such a way that, with the help of both third-party funding applied for by the foundation and with the involvement of the government, two positions of the main coordinators of the association will be secured in the long term.