



**KNYPHAUSEN  
STIFTUNG**

# 2017

## 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 2017, 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 2017

### 1. YOUTH WELFARE:

## Project "Junior Ranger Program" all year 2017

Together with its partner organisation Future Explorer Youth Society (FEYS), the Foundation established a Junior Ranger Programme for children and young people at the beginning of 2017.

In a nearby wildlife park in Maun, the junior rangers are taught about specific environmental protection topics at regular meetings directly in nature.

For the first time in their lives, most of the participating children and young people experience the local fauna and flora and deal intensively with issues of animal and environmental protection.

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

#### • **First Pilot Junior Ranger Camp in April 2017**

From 17.04.-26.04.2017 interested children and young people from the Waste Management Project will come to the nearby Wildlife Park in Maun and have their first lessons in nature about environmental protection and resources. The camp is organised in cooperation with the local association Future Explorers Youth Society (FEYS), whose employees also support the Knyphausen Foundation in the teaching units on waste avoidance.

#### • **The First Junior Ranger Botswana & the Opening Ceremony of the Junior Ranger Program, August/September 2017**

From 11.08-13.08.2017 the Knyphausen Foundation and the local association Future Explorers Youth Society (FEYS) organized the first big official Junior Ranger Botswana Camp in Maun. Over 200 children from seven schools in Maun came together and 70 of them were solemnly named as the first Junior Rangers in Botswana at a grand opening ceremony on 1 September that kicked off the Junior Ranger program in Botswana.



## 2. EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING:

### Projects further education

- **Project scholarship "Train The Trainer", November 2017**

Eight employees of the partner organisation completed the "Train the Trainer" project in November 2017, a two-week training course to become multipliers for working with children and young people in nature.

Together with the state-approved Safari Guide trainer "Eco Training" as a cooperation partner, the Knyphausen Foundation supports young adults either by awarding a scholarship for training to become a professional Safari Guide or a multiplier for working with children.

## 3. NATURE CONSERVATION, LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

### Project „Waste Management“ in 9 Schools in Maun all year 2017

With the support of volunteer Joyce Malema, the Knyphausen Foundation conducts training courses on environmental protection, waste avoidance & separation in nine schools in Maun. In small groups, the so-called Umwelt AGs, 20-30 children of different ages are regularly taught on the topics mentioned; both theoretical and practical lessons take place at the schools. Due to the great demand of the teachers and the enthusiastic reception by the children, the program could be extended to weekly lessons with the help of additional volunteer work from a local association FEYS (Future Explorer Youth Society).

The project is currently supported by Gecco Investment: This company collects the separated garbage and transports it to South Africa for recycling.



#### 4. ANIMAL PROTECTION:

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

### • Cooperation with Elephants for Africa

In 2016, the "Waste Management" programme was taken over by the educational institution of the non-profit association Elephants for Africa in the city of Khumaga. In 2017, the Knyphausen Foundation will continue to organise voluntary workshops for the association's education officers so that they can offer the programme at their schools.

In 2017 several talks and working meetings with the association took place. A joint project from the animal welfare program of Elephants for Africa in Maun is planned for 2019.

#### 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. Together, the "Waste Management" project was firmly established and expanded in Maun schools.

At the end of 2016 numerous working meetings took place to establish and establish joint projects for extracurricular educational work in the region on the subject of environmental protection and sustainability.

Concrete preparations were made for the Botswana Junior Ranger Program, which will start in spring 2017.

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