



**KNYPHAUSEN  
STIFTUNG**

# 2016

## 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 2016, 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.

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 2016

### 1. YOUTH WELFARE:

## Project "Kids to the Bush" January 2016

Together with the local NGO "Cameras for Conservation", the Knyphausen Foundation organized the first children's safari.

Cameras for Conservation is leading photography courses for children from the region in order to create a relationship to nature with the help of photography.

The concept of a "mobile safari" was jointly developed, in which a group of 18 children (from the so-called Umwelt AGs of the local schools) spend three days camping in the Moremi Game Reserve. For the first time in their lives, the children and young people experience the local fauna and flora in a nature conservation park and deal intensively with animal and environmental protection topics during the three days.

### 2. EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING:

## Project "Scholarship"

### • **Scholarship for a trained Safari Guide, August/October 2016**

Together with the state-approved Safari Guide instructor "Eco Training" as a cooperation partner, the Knyphausen Foundation supports young adults by awarding a scholarship to train them to become professional Safari Guides.

The scholarship, which runs for one year, is intended to enable young adults from socially disadvantaged families to work as guides in order to secure a secure livelihood for themselves and their families in the long term.

In August 2016, the twenty-six year old Grace Seldisa was the first scholarship holder to successfully complete her training (annual Professional Field Guide course).

In October 2016, three students received financial support to complete a month-long Safari Guide course.

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

## Project „Waste Management“ in 9 Schools in Maun all year 2016

With the support of volunteer Joyce Malema, the Knyphausen Foundation conducts training 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 expanded to weekly teaching units at currently 15 schools with the help of additional volunteer work from a local association FEYS (Future Explorer Youth Society).

The project is currently supported by Gecco Investment: Gecco Investment collects the separated waste 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, April/November 2016

In April 2016, the "Waste Management" program was taken over in the educational facility of the non-profit association Elephants for Africa in the city of Khumaga. The Knyphausen Foundation organised voluntary workshops for the association's education officers so that they could offer the programme at their schools.

In November 2016 discussions and working meetings with the association took place. For winter 2017/2018 a joint project from the animal welfare program of Elephants for Africa in Maun 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 association FEYS since the beginning of 2016. Together, the project "Waste Management" was firmly established and expanded at 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.