



# 2019

## 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 Gräfin 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 partners 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 end 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 programs 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 2019

### 1. YOUTH WELFARE:

## Project "Junior Ranger Program" all year 2019

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).

- **The second educational material for the Junior Rangers will be published in July 2019**

As part of the intensive examination of the topic of native birds and bird migration, the second educational material of the Junior Ranger Program is being produced with the help of the specialist Pete Hancock: "The birds around us".

In a handy A5 format, 52 of the most important birds of Botswana are presented in text and pictures and distributed free of charge to all Junior Rangers at the camp in July.

Due to the lack of high quality educational material in Botswana's schools, the Knyphausen Foundation has made it its business to produce its own educational material in cooperation with specialists from the different areas of nature and environmental protection. For 2020 the next booklet about animals and endangered species "Mammals around us" with the specialist Peter Apps is already planned.

- **Camp in July 2019**

From 05.07. - 07.07. the Junior Rangers met in a large camp lasting several days.

The local bird expert Pete Hancock visited the camp with his tame vulture Tshire. The highly endangered bird species was also the topic of the camp. Pete Hancock informed the Junior Rangers with many exciting reports about vultures, & brought them a comic strip about vultures, in which the threat to the species is discussed.

The Junior Rangers were also presented with the new bird booklet "Birds around us"! For this the bird expert donated texts & pictures.

As a supplement to the first booklet about native trees and plants, the children can now also take this booklet with them on their excursions into nature.

- **Colourful garbage cans for schools in Maun, 22.07.2019**

The Junior Rangers are gradually painting all the garbage cans at the schools participating in the waste management project. This creates colourful bins that attract attention and invite people to participate! For the people in Botswana, waste separation is still new. The Junior Rangers show how it works and attract attention with their actions.

- **Exchange with German Junior Rangers, August 2019**

The young environmentalists from Maun are now well networked with the German Junior Ranger groups of the Bavarian Forest and Black Forest National Parks. The children exchange their experiences in nature, e.g. through friendship books that travel between the countries. In the future, it is intended to support the encounter of children in the North and South through joint environmental protection projects.

- **Large garbage collection campaign of the Junior Rangers, 7.9.-8.9.2019**

The junior rangers collected garbage at the Thamalakane riverbed on two consecutive days. This was later taken to a garbage collection point in Maun. The local environmentalist Marc Muller accompanied the action and recorded it in short before-after videos.

The result was impressive and this action of the Junior Rangers also caused a sensation among the local population in Maun.

## 2. EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING:

### Projects further education

- **Bird workshop with Pete Hancock, 12.01.2019**

On 12.01.2019 the bird expert Pete Hancock and the Junior Ranger trainers of the partner organisation FEYS gave a workshop on "Birds in Botswana". The new booklet on this topic for our Junior Rangers, for which Pete has donated photos & text, will be published soon.

- **New scholarship holder of the Knyphausen Foundation for the one-year training to become a professional Safari Guide, September 2019**

Ednah Basetsana Batlhalefi, born on 11.05.2001 in Maun, is a new scholarship holder of the Knyphausen Foundation for the 1-year training to become a professional safari guide.

Ednah started her training at EcoTraining on 01.09.2019 and will be travelling through many exciting stations in South Africa and Botswana until the end of August 2020.

Since 2018 she has been a trainer for the Junior Ranger Program and has shown as a volunteer a lot of commitment for environmental protection and for working with children and young people in nature.



The first stage of the training until the end of September will take place in the Selati Game Reserve directly on the banks of the Selati River in South Africa. This interesting region is known for its rich flora and fauna.

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

## Project „Waste Management“ in 9 Schools in Maun all year 2019

In 2019 the "waste project" of the Knyphausen Foundation, which has been established in 2017, will become an integral part of the 9 schools in Maun that participate in the Junior Ranger Programme. In addition to the participation of the respective Junior Ranger, the other pupils of the environment AGs (20-30 children) also take part and take care of the separation of the garbage on a weekly basis. They are supported by the volunteers of FEYS (Future Explorer Youth Society) and Gecco Investment.

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

### 4. ANIMAL PROTECTION:

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

### • Cooperation with Elephants for Africa, September 2019

The Knyphausen Foundation cooperates with the organisation Elephants for Africa, which is actively involved in the protection of African elephants, (<https://www.elephantsforafrica.org/>) and has made the booklet "The Plants around us" available to the schools with which EfA works in projects.

The children were enthusiastic and learned to identify trees and plants with the help of the booklet during their environmental workshops in Moreomaoto.

The educational material is also being used in other regions of Botswana.

Further joint projects are planned for the coming year with Elephants for Africa and the local NGO Cheetah Conservation Botswana.

Camps lasting several days are already being planned in the Makgadikgadi National Park for 20 of the oldest participants of the Junior Ranger Program.

## 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 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 Programme Botswana was jointly founded. Within the framework of this programme, regular extracurricular educational units on environmentally relevant topics are taking place, which are coordinated and implemented by FEYS. 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 FEYS 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 FEYS in its project work in such a way that, with the help of third-party funding and with the involvement of the government, two positions of the main coordinators of FEYS will be secured in the long term.