



2020

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 2020, the Knyphausen Foundation supported only projects in Botswana. The cooperations with partners from other African countries, such as Namibia and Uganda, which were planned for 2020, could not be realized due to the Corona pandemic. Joint projects for environmental protection with partner organizations in these countries are planned for the future.

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 2020

1. YOUTH WELFARE:

Project "Junior Ranger Program" all year 2020

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 Program January - March 2020**

The trainers of the partner organization are regularly active at the schools during the first three months of the year and organize environmental sessions with the Junior Rangers on the topics of plastic prevention, resource conservation and biodiversity, both in the classrooms and in nature. Starting at the end of March, the kids head off for the big school vacations.

Due to the Corona pandemic and the government's protective measures, both school lessons and extracurricular education sessions do not start again until August.

- **Junior Ranger Program paused - lockdown due to Corona pandemic, March 2020**

The Botswana government decides on a lockdown throughout the country.

Borders with all neighboring countries are closed and tourism, a major source of income for the country, comes to a halt. The government's precautionary measures have serious economic implications for the country. Many people lose their jobs. Permanent employment contracts are rare and the country has no social assistance for the unemployed. Schools are closing and the extracurricular environmental activities of our partner organization are being discontinued. Most of the children and young people who participate in the Junior Ranger program come from socially very weak families. They already suffer under normal conditions of poverty, underprovision and precarious conditions at home.

The employees of our partner organization try to stay in contact with the children and young people of the project as much as possible and to support them.

- **The trainers of the partner organization FEYS plant a vegetable garden, March 2020**

The lockdown also puts the young trainers of our partner organization in a difficult situation. As young adults, they no longer live with their parents, and six of the eight-member team are pursuing professional training and usually keep their heads above water with odd jobs that have been eliminated since March. Out of their own supply emergency, they are planting a vegetable garden on the grounds of their club. Different kinds of vegetables, salads and various herbs form the basis. The idea arises to integrate the topic of self-sufficiency and cultivation of vegetables and fruit into the environmental education program of the Junior Rangers as soon as the extracurricular education units can start.

As a continuation of the vegetable garden project, a larger project on the topic of "Sustainable nutrition for children, adolescents and young adults in Maun/Botswana" is planned for 2021 in cooperation with the partner organization, which is financially supported by the Lower Saxony Bingo Environmental Foundation. Here, several school gardens as well as gardens at the trainers' homes are to be established over a period of six months. In a further step, the trainers will support the program participants in planting beds and growing vegetables at their homes so that the families of the program participants will be able to establish an independent supply base. The topic of "sustainable nutrition and organically produced food" is incorporated into the partner organization's curriculum in the long term, and the junior rangers learn how to grow local varieties of vegetables and fruits and how to process them.

- **Partner organization FEYS gets involved with children and young people, July 2020**

The staff of our partner organization bought winter clothes and shoes after a successful Corona donation appeal "Winter clothes for children from the Junior Ranger program" and distributed it to the needy families.

Since many parents have become unemployed due to the Corona pandemic, they cannot buy winter clothes for their children - some of them wear broken or much too small shoes and coats. The young trainers of FEYS have provided quick practical help.

- **Junior Rangers participate in environmental education again, August 2020**

After a long vacation & corona break, the extracurricular education sessions for the Junior Rangers could start again! With appropriate conservation measures in place, the children got together in small groups outside on the grounds of partner organization FEYS and were taught about biodiversity.

The garden was maintained and new beds were created.

- **Exchange with German Junior Rangers, all year 2020**

In May 2020, a personal exchange between eight Junior Rangers from Botswana and German Junior Ranger groups was planned within the framework of a Junior Ranger Congress in the Bavarian Forest National Park. The congress was postponed due to the Corona pandemic and the

trip of the Botswana children to Germany can be made up in a different setting in September 2021. An exchange project on the topic of "Biodiversity and Migratory Birds" is planned.

In the meantime, the children exchange information by means of friendship books that travel between the countries.

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 third educational material for the Junior Rangers will be published in November 2020**

This year, the Junior Rangers have been working hard on the topic of native animals, endangered species and biodiversity. With the help of specialist Peter Apps, the third booklet in the Junior Ranger program is being produced: 'Mammals around us'.

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

Due to the lack of high quality educational materials in Botswana's schools, the Knyphausen Foundation has taken on the task of producing its own educational materials in cooperation with specialists from the various fields of nature & environmental protection.

2. EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING:

Projects further education

- **Scholarship holder of the Knyphausen Foundation for the one-year training to become a professional safari guide starts the practical part of her training, February 2020**

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. She has been a trainer for the Junior Ranger Program from 2018 onwards, where she has shown a lot of commitment and dedication to conservation and working with children and youth in nature as a volunteer.

Ednah started the training at EcoTraining on 01.09.2019 and was on many exciting stops in South Africa and Botswana until March 2020. Theda visited the happy and very ambitious Ednah in the EcoTraining training camp in Mashatu and could accompany her for two days.

After successfully completing the theoretical part of the training at EcoTraining in the first six months, she started the practical part at the safari provider "Wilderness Safaris", which has the best lodges in Africa in its program and is especially known for its first-class trained guides. Due to the Corona pandemic, Ednah had to interrupt the practical part of her training. It is expected that she will be able to resume her training in April 2021 and complete it in July / August 2021.

- **"Train the Trainer-Workshop", 01.12. - 14.12.2020**

Eight employees of the partner organization FEYS completed the "Train the Trainer-Workshop" in December 2020. Together with Okwa Sarefo, who is a trainer at EcoTraining, they participated in a

two-week training to become multipliers for working with children and youth in nature in the Northern Tuli Game Reserve in Botswana.

Okwa has already taught FEYS staff for a "Train the trainer-workshop" in 2017. The focus of the course, in addition to deepening theoretical knowledge, is to get your own hands-on experience while out in the bush with off-road vehicles or on foot. The topics of wildlife and species protection are given special attention. The eight young trainers took part of the exam directly at a primary school in the Northern Tuli Game Reserve in order to pass on their newly acquired knowledge directly to children and young people. Because that's what the course is all about: teaching children about various topics of animal and environmental protection in a playful way. Together with the state-approved safari guide trainer EcoTraining as a cooperation partner, the Knyphausen Foundation regularly supports young adults either by awarding a scholarship for training as a professional safari guide or as a multiplier for working with children.

3. NATURE CONSERVATION, LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

Project „Waste Management“ in 9 Schools in Maun all year 2020

In 2020 the "waste project" of the Knyphausen Foundation, which has been established in 2017, remains an integral part of the 9 schools in Maun that participate in the Junior Ranger Program. 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).

4. ANIMAL PROTECTION:

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

• Cooperation with Elephants for Africa, September 2020

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 Birds around us“ available to the schools with which EfA works in projects.

The children were enthusiastic and learned to identify birds 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 Makgadikgadi National Park for 20 of the oldest participants in the Junior Ranger Program, each under the supervision of Elephants for Africa education officers on the topic of "Human-Wildlife Conflict", among other things.

The entire project year 2021 will be dedicated to the following theme: Biodiversity and animal protection. Various projects and activities are planned in this regard. The new educational material "Mammals around us" will be used in a variety of ways.

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 Program Botswana was jointly founded. Within the framework of this program, 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.