

Country Summary
Report: BOTSWANA,
DECEMBER 2021

AFRICAN
NATURE  BASED
TOURISM PLATFORM

BOTS WANA





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SURVEY OVERVIEW: The African Nature-Based Tourism platform has developed a survey (<https://www.research.net/r/nbtcs>) to assess the degree to which local communities and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the nature-based tourism sector are being impacted by COVID-19. The target audience are community members and SMEs who support the tourism value chain, as suppliers of tourism goods and services, and their associated enterprises, such as lodges, vehicle hire, guiding services, shops, etc. The questions seek to better understand their involvement in conservation and tourism, how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected them, and what their resulting needs are.

These reports present a summary for each country, including an analysis of qualitative data collected through the surveys, and certain quantitative data. The surveys are however more comprehensive than the data presented in these summary reports, so please be sure to visit <https://naturebasedtourism.africa/data> to explore more of the data, and register to access the database for full survey results.

All photographs by Nikhil Advani





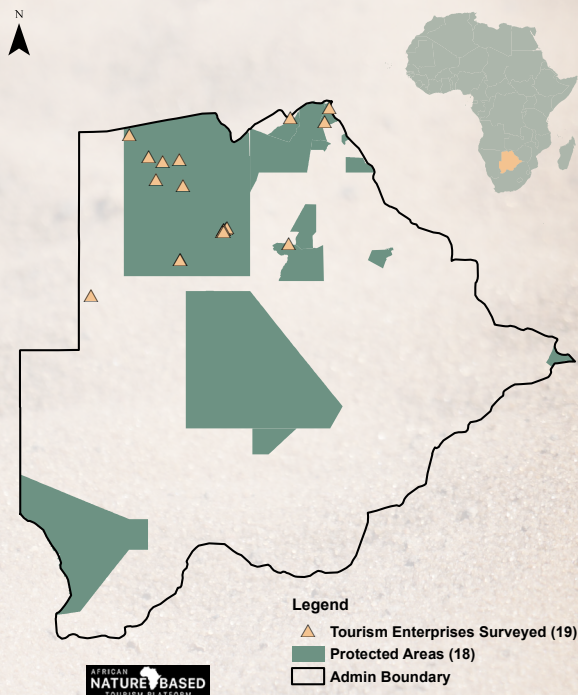
INTRODUCTION

BOTSWANA IS HOME TO THE WORLD'S largest elephant population (Sowa & Blackie 2019) and like most sub-Saharan countries, it relies on the tourism industry, which was not spared by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic's reduced global demand, travel restrictions and social distancing measures have had an impact on the country's key production and export sectors, including tourism. The travel and tourism sector contributes 11.5% to the country's GDP and 26,000 jobs (WTTC, 2019). Botswana's tourism industry is largely centered around protected and conserved areas, wildlife, and wilderness tourism and promotes sustainable ecotourism through a high-value low-volume tourism policy, to encourage the continued attainment of revenue and conservation of natural resources (Government of Botswana, 1990). Sustainable ecotourism in Botswana is also promoted to encourage conservation through the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) program (Stone et al., 2021).

The African Nature based Tourism Platform worked with the Ngamiland Council of NGOs (NCONGO) which has a membership of NGOs/CBOs within the Ngamiland districts and is focused on sustainable social and economic development, including but not limited to conservation and livelihoods.

SURVEY LOCATIONS

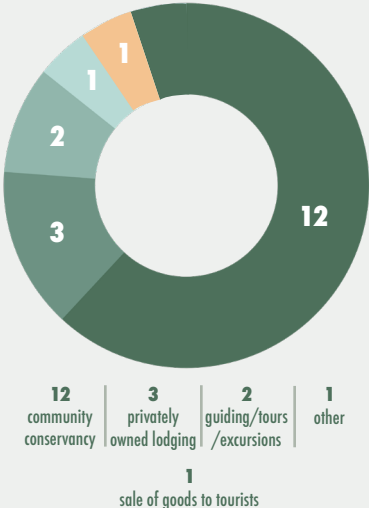
BOTSWANA SURVEYED TOURISM ENTERPRISES AND PROTECTED AREAS



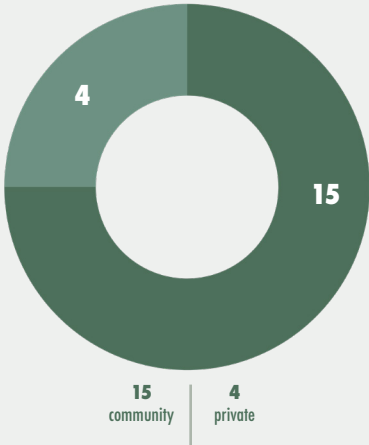


SURVEY RESULTS

PRIMARY INVOLVEMENT OF THE ENTERPRISE IN NATURE-BASED TOURISM



ENTERPRISE OWNERSHIP

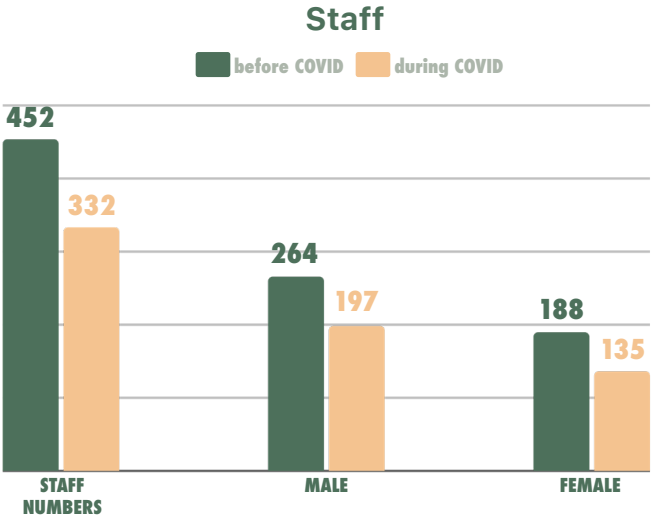


STAFFING BEFORE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC VS. CURRENT STAFFING

19
SURVEYED ENTERPRISES

452
TOTAL STAFF BEFORE COVID-19

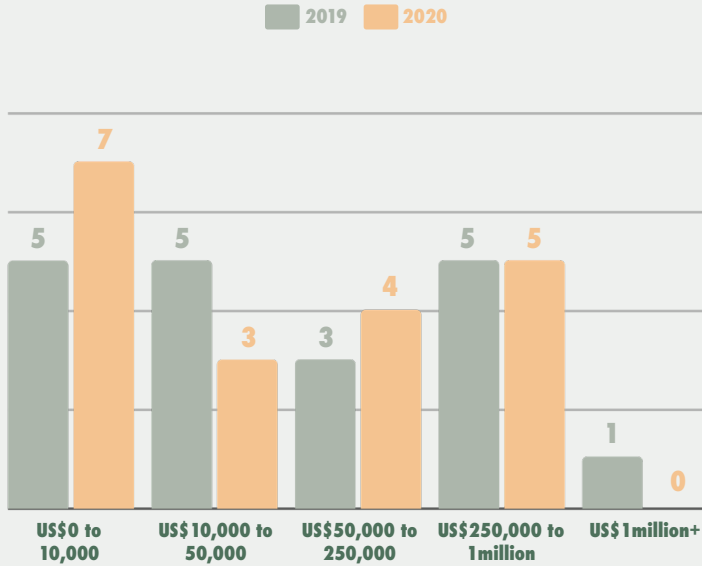
332
TOTAL STAFF CURRENTLY



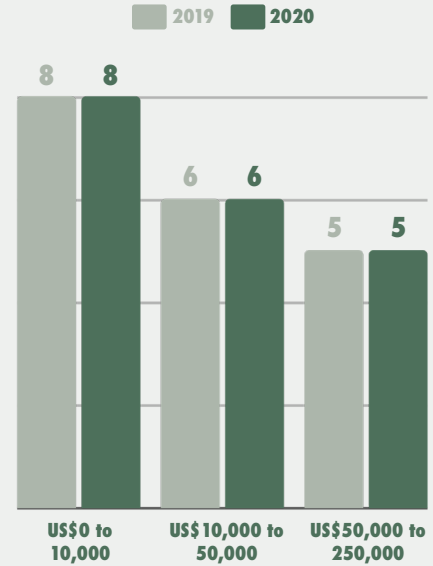


TOTAL ANNUAL GROSS REVENUE (income from selling goods and services before any deductions) THAT SURVEYED ENTERPRISES GENERATE FROM TOURISM

ANNUAL GROSS REVENUE 2019 VS 2020

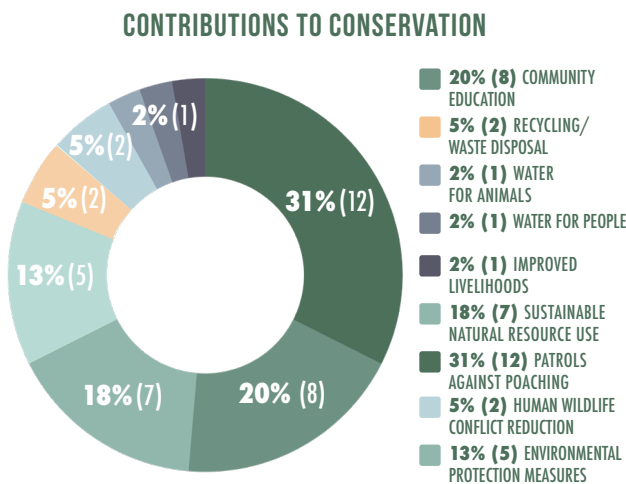


ANNUAL SALARY COST 2019 VS 2020



QUALITATIVE SURVEY QUESTIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONSERVATION (the role of the community/enterprise in the management and custodianship of the land and its wildlife, including any distinguishing features about the area, its wildlife, its people and the role of tourism in its local economy)

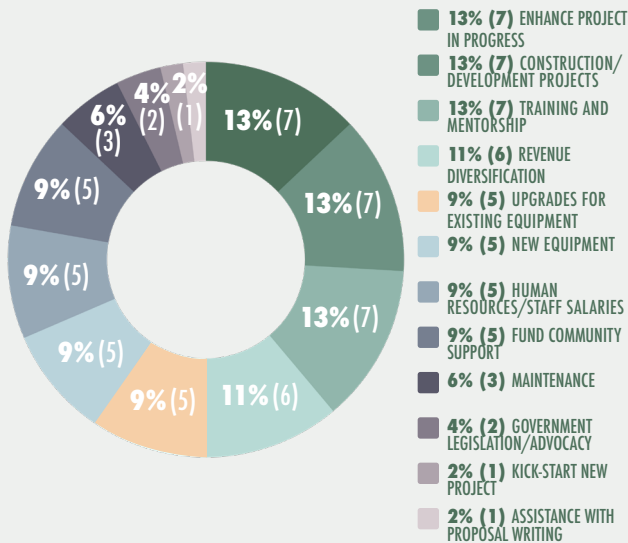


THE MAJORITY OF THE ENTERPRISES in the surveyed areas are community conservancies, and these provide hunting, game viewing and lodging to tourists. These are followed by privately owned lodges, tours and excursions, and lastly curio shops. Conservancies protect important ecosystems and support large numbers of wildlife making them vital biodiversity hubs. For this reason, community conservancies provide resources towards patrolling and monitoring of illegal activities through game rangers, scouts and escort guides. Tour and excursion operators also add to patrolling and law enforcement efforts through escort guides.



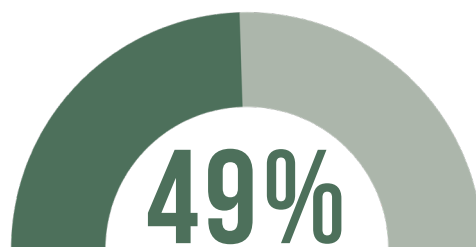
BUFFER COMMUNITIES and communities within some of these concessions are an important stakeholder in the conservation of biodiversity as they depend on some of the natural resources and also bear the brunt of Human Wildlife Conflict. This has encouraged a number of the enterprises to support community education and engagement initiatives that address responsible and sustainable harvesting of wildlife, Human Wildlife Conflict, fire management, waste disposal and overall conservation efforts.

SUPPORT THAT THE INSTITUTIONS NEED



THE MAJORITY OF ENTERPRISES are in need of financial assistance to enhance already existing projects, for construction and development projects, and training and mentorship on business management and fundraising. These needs are quite immediate as this would improve the establishments and increase revenue in the long term. There is also an indication of the need to diversify revenue from the current total reliance on tourism.

ALTERNATIVE NATURE-FRIENDLY SOURCES OF REVENUE, BEYOND TOURISM, THAT THE ENTERPRISES WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING



Of the alternative nature positive revenues that were mentioned, 49% were agriculture linked. As most communities practice subsistence farming and are already farmers, agriculture is an easier alternative. Most enterprises (i.e conservancies) have land available for farming. Property development as an alternative includes leasing land, purchasing land and developing facilities around the conservancies as well as in other parts of the country. A more detailed illustration of alternative revenue sources is below.



ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF REVENUE ENTERPRISES WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING

11 AGRICULTURE/ HORTICULTURE	1 INTERIOR DESIGN PRODUCTS	1 MINING
8 PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT	1 EQUIPMENT SUPPLY	1 ACCOMMODATION & LODGING
5 LIVESTOCK	1 GREEN NURSERY	1 CEMENT SALES
2 AGRO-TOURISM	1 BRICK MOLDING AND SALES	1 AQUACULTURE & AQUAPONICS
2 GAME FARMING	1 SHAREHOLDING	1 BUILD A FUEL STATION
2 REGISTER NEW COMPANY SEPARATE FROM TRUST	1 RENEWABLE ENERGY	1 BASKET WEAVING CENTER
1 ONLINE RETAILING	1 PAPER PROCESSING AND MAKING	1 CONFERENCING
1 NATURE/WILDLIFE FILMING	1 SUSTAINABLE COLLECTION OF WILD FRUITS	

OTHER COMMENTS

ENTERPRISES ARE IN DIRE need of financial assistance towards operations and staff salaries. Some communities rely on tourism enterprises for other aspects of their livelihoods beyond employment. The pandemic has intensified the need to diversify revenue streams and invest in other sectors. The pandemic has not only directly affected the enterprises, but also indirectly through their suppliers and service providers.