



ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE



WELCOME TO CAPE VUTLURES ENVIRONEMTAL ASSOCIATION

Who are we?

Cape Vultures Environmental Association (CVEA) is a youth organization in Otse, in which Mannyelanong Hill/Game Reserve (one of the only two sites where the Cape Vulture/ Gyps coprotheres breed and roost in Botswana) is found. The organization has been in existence since 2003, and in 2004 it affiliated with the Association of Environmental Clubs of Botswana-AECB (a national environmental club body run by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks), in order to change from being just a local organization to being an organization that could be known easily to the rest of the nation and other environmental organizations.

Cape Vultures Environmental Association is the only organization in Southeast District that carries out monitoring of the Cape Vulture at Mannyelanong Game Reserve. Results of which are forwarded to BirdLife Botswana, which is the only organization in the country carrying out research and monitoring of the birds. Information about Cape Vultures Environmental Association can also be accessed on BirdLife Botswana website www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw.

CVEA has been working with BirdLife Botswana to conserve and promote Cape Vultures and the wider environment in Otse since the association's formation. This partnership has enabled the association to have a voice as well as access resources (financial, materials and technical) to strengthen the capacity of the association. Furthermore, the association has a well-computerized office at the Otse youth center and most of the equipment were donated by BirdLife Botswana. The organization has also assisted the association to open a post box and provided the marketing materials (e.g. brochures and sign board).

MISSION

CVEA exist to conserve nature, cape vultures and the environment while keeping the delicate balance of nature

VISION

To become a leading Cape Vulture and environment conservation organization offering a wide range of solutions, ideas with excellent conflict free sustainable use of natural resources

MANAGEMENT: THE CURRENT MANAGEMENT (COMMITTEE)

Name	Position
Benjamin Noga	Chairperson
Gomotsang Kgaswane	Deputy chairperson
Neo Isaacs	Secretary
Bob Montsheng	Vice secretary
Kefiloe Kgaswane	Treasurer
Rodney Baraang	Public Relations Officer
Thero Ntshonono	Additional Member
Thabiso Sedumedi	Additional Member
Gopolang Bolebano	Additional Member

Patron: The organization does not have a patron at the moment but currently searching for the candidate

Others: Other stakeholders forming part of the committee or management include: Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Otse Office), Village Development Committee (VDC South and North), Councilors and Village Authorities.

Birdlife Botswana is working as mentors for the organization

OBJECTIVES

- Develop and promote a better understanding of the need and importance of all natural resources for the benefit of people of Otse and humanity in general
- To conserve nature and promote environmental awareness
- Create awareness, appreciation of and so spread knowledge and promote interest in the ecological, economics, aesthesis and cultural values of Botswana's unique environmental heritage
- Strive to work hand in hand with organizations or bodies whose objectives are similar to the Association

OUR CORE VALUES

- Commitment
- Teamwork
- Creativity
- Discipline
- Volunteerism

WHAT WE DO

- Awareness
- Vulture Monitoring
- Promotion of Culture and Tourism
- Employment creation
- Environment conservation

SUCSESSES

CVEA has over the years managed some projects, and thus has some managerial and technical expertise to enable it to successfully manage its office:

Essay writing competition: In efforts to disseminate its aims and objectives to the populace of Otse, the Association has been conducting annual essay competitions; this has been done since 2008.

Tree planting: In 2010 CVEA with the assistance from Dept of Forestry and Range Resources, embarked on a tree planting mission in Otse.

Celebrating CVEA awareness day: The Association decided in 2008 to annually celebrates CVEA awareness day on 9th August by organizing awareness activities such as litter picking.

Monitoring Cape Vultures: CVEA is the only youth conservation group in South East District not associated with a school. It is responsible for monitoring of the Cape Vultures at Mannyelanong Game Reserve with the help of BirdLife and DWNP. The information is used by BirdLife in compiling its annual status report of Botswana's Important Bird Areas (IBAs) e.g. 2011 report at http://www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw/doc/protected_iba_2011_status_report_inner.pdf

Monitoring at the Game reserve started in 2008 through BirdLife Botswana's Important Bird Area project that was specifically for the 12 areas in Botswana that are home to endangered species.

Bird tourism (avi-tourism): In 2008 the Association together with BirdLife Botswana piloted a project on bird tourism; bird tourism is a component of tourism that is focused specifically on birds and bird watching, and aims conserving biodiversity whilst improving livelihoods. It stimulates environmental education and conservation initiatives. The community based birding tourism offers an avenue through which people living in rural areas can improve their way of living through birds.

Kori Bustard research: CVEA assisted BirdLife on this project, implemented in and around CKGR, between 2007 and 2011, with at least five CVEA members participating at various times. During this research the club members were given challenging tasks e.g. registering data on all birds seen, and the habitats in which they were found (forcing them to learning different bird species as well as other animals and plants), as well as involved

in the catching of Kori Bustards so as to mount satellite transmitters on them. This experience will prove worthwhile for the bird tourism component at Otse

Regulation of agro-chemicals to avert killing of non-target species: vulture as case study: (1) to lobby for the regulation of, and usage of “safe” pesticides in the country, (2) to raise awareness on vulture conservation/ poisoning and (3) to create a vulture monitoring network whilst improving the livelihoods of the Otse Community as custodians of the Cape Vulture breeding site.

Challenges

1. Finding the youth to volunteer for conservation of the natural environment is the main challenge because they are young and looking for earning sustainable income. At times projects are left unfinished because of the temporary employment they find.
2. Getting the community to realize the importance of the environment is one of the major challenges the association come across. This is because some community members are more into individual benefits than community or environmental gain.
3. While it is us the youth who has plenty ideas for development and changes, presenting the ideas to the community elders, it is always a problem because elderly people are hard to understand new things. This makes it difficult for the young generation as they end up losing interest in working voluntarily for the community development.
4. Lack of income generation projects within the association is a challenge. This leads us relying more on donor funds, which are unreliable. It is also a big blow to the association because it does not attract young and innovative people of Otse, which lives the association with few individuals. This also leads to too much usage of personal money and most of the association activities are not carried out at all.

WHERE TO FIND US;

Facebook: Cape Vultures Environmental Association

Website: [http: www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw](http://www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw)



Cape Vultures Environmental Club

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