

CATCH- UP ON *LB*
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LAKE **B**
NGAMI **BULLETIN**
CONSERVATION
TRUST
<LNCT>

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EVENTS - -ACTIVITIES - -PROJECTS - - TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS
WITHIN LNCT

***THIS IS A SHORT JOURNAL PUT IN PLACE BY THE LNCT OFFICE TO UPDATE THE LOCAL
COMMUNITIES OF LAKE NGAMI ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THEIR TRUST.***

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LNCT -Is a legal public entity established to hold in trust the management of the *Wildlife Management Area NG-38*

to the benefit of the six communities of; **BODIBENG, BOTHATOGO, KARENG, LEGOTHWANA, SEHITHWA and TOTENG** villages and the homesteads administered by the respective kgotlas of these villages .

This entity was established by the year 2013 and started its operations in May 2016 and the office is situated within the WCO business plot among the Mpepi day care center block,

just opposite the village church, with the assistance of the Technical Advisory Committee the board of Trustees has excised its responsibility to employ the general manager; who will be responsible and accountable to the board of trustees for all matters relating to day to day management and administration of the trust.

In the same financial year of 2016, 11 community escort guides, 1 vehicle driver, 1 boat driver, 2 security guards and 1 office cleaner were employed.

At the beginning of its operations, LNCT was focused on fishing as the

main activity taking place in the Lake, Trust was given a quota of 200 fishing licenses which it distributed among its Six villages and the remaining to the general communities, LNCT was given one Month, December 2016 fishing season to try fishing ; so it acquired some pieces of land in the surrounding villages, Bothatogo village as (Bothatogo fishing camp), Sehithwa as (Thololamoro fishing camp), Tsokung as (Tswelenyane fishing camp), Legothwana as (Legothwana fishing camp) , through this camps LNCT has managed to monitor fishing in Lake Ngami and so many of the

people have managed to benefit from this controlled fishing in a sense that all the fishermen were gathered in this fishing camps reducing the issues of ;**POLLUTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, THEFT** - some found it as a source of employment and so many hired or got hired to be fishermen, **POVERTY** -many became bread winners back at home as there was a wide business opportunity.

LNCT did not just gather people into camps, it also made sure its beneficiaries had access to the market of their products and so it used the Sehithwa village community hall as the market place. As fish was

caught and monitored at the main camps they were then brought to the market for selling, at the market place an officer from LNCT was a middleman between the seller and the buyer.

2017 was a year of trial and tribulations, fishing season started 1st march 2017, just before the end of March a dried fish export ban was put in place, this caused a lot of hardships, Zambians had bought a lot of dried fish and they were not allowed to cross the border with their fish, fishermen had banked a lot of dried fish from the previous fishing season and they were and they were also not allowed to export them, majority

relied on the dried fish since it had huge returns, LNCT tried its luck to convince the Ministry of (Environment Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism), to at least allow the business of dried fish for a month so that Zambians could manage to cross with the fish they already bought and possibly the fishermen could clear their bank of fish, unfortunately this failed, the minister (hon. Tshekedi Khama) was not convinced so the ban could not be stopped, technically the business of fishing died and fishermen were forced to try fresh fish which was also an impediment

,fresh fish was only bought locally but in less volumes and without profits since the was a competition for market, some decided to quit right there while some decide to remain in the business, a reduced number of fishermen from the camps affected the Trust ,hence was forced to close some camps and put the remaining groups into the remaining two camps.

Gradually the fishermen could not fulfill their agreements with the Trust and the camps ended up being closed towards the end of August.

As the ban was imposed the lake also gradually dried-up, and this could not only be a gloom but also a fortune to the six communities of Lake Ngami, the Lake left behind a dense bush covered a land of about 50 kilometers.

With support from UNDP LNCT turned this outback into charcoal, Lake Ngami community escort guides were trained to make charcoal, charcoal production machinery was bought, Lake Ngami branding was made and also the packaging for the charcoal was made. About ten thousand (10 000) bags for packaging is neatly packed at LNCT office store room.

Generally a lot of activities were to take place this year 2018; Bird Viewing, Boat Cruise, Safari Camps available of which its Construction is ongoing.

December 2017 was the end of LNCT staff contracts, the Lake has dried up, the machines and pots are ready for the project of charcoal, unfortunately effort to run the operations are slow due to lack of funds at LNCT.

Alternatively as soon as LNCT recovers from these crises of lack of funds a series of activities are to take place, Charcoal production as the main activity of 2018 and

surely soon Lake Ngami will engage the communities into these project as an alternative to generate income to lay a foundation for other activities to come, this engagement is one of the trust responsibilities to bring back to the community and hence uplift the livelihoods of its beneficiaries.