



# Botswana Rhino Project

Final Report – December 2023

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN



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## BOTSWANA RHINO CONSERVATION SUPPORT PROJECT - BACKGROUND

The inspirational Rhinos Without Borders Project was a response to the dire situation that faced rhinos in Africa in 2014 and 2013. With rhino poaching at an all-time high, concerned conservationists needed to be proactive.

Great Plains Conservation and andBeyond, two leading conservation and tourism companies, teamed up with the Government of Botswana to translocate rhinos from South Africa in order to support the development of additional source populations in Botswana's wild places.

The initial aim of the project was to create viable breeding populations to broaden the Botswana Rhino gene pool, while also populating an ideal habitat for rhino and increasing the range, and in this way spreading the risk.



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## BOTSWANA RHINO CONSERVATION SUPPORT PROJECT - BACKGROUND

By 2019, the RWB steering committee had assessed that the project had achieved its aim of establishing a substantial wild population of rhinos. The success of this project was evident in the fact that every sexually mature female translocated by RWB had given birth to a calf, with a tally of over 62 births., taking the total to well over 100 rhino in Botswana.

Unfortunately, the successful achievements of this benchmark project were overshadowed by the subsequent poaching onslaught, which decimated the recently introduced population. This led to the Botswana government moving the most vulnerable surviving rhinos to a secure location, under the protection of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP).

&Beyond and Africa Foundation have decided to pivot our Botswana rhino conservation support behind the DWNP. The DWNP is an effective and efficient organization, but Botswana has vast protected areas and – especially post-Covid – limited resources. The protection of rhinos is a specialist function and requires specialized equipment.

&Beyond and Africa Foundation are supporting DWNP with the provision of this equipment.



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## BOTSWANA RHINO CONSERVATION SUPPORT PROJECT – HANDOVER

The first batch of equipment provided included:

- 1x high zoom digital camera – to support low impact Rhino monitoring.
- 1x Infra-red and thermal camera – to support low impact Rhino monitoring and improve night-time security efforts.
- 10 Tents, 18 heavy duty sleeping bags and 18 deployment bags – to enable overnight patrols in areas where there are existing ranger camps.
- 10x Hand-help GPS units for field patrols – improving ranger performance management.
- Computers – to enable improved rhino monitoring and security data management.

This equipment was handed over to the Department of Wildlife and National Parks on 14 November 2023, represented by:

- Dimakatso Ntshebe – Regional Wildlife Officer
- Ineeleng Collier – Principal Wildlife Officer
- Pelotshweu Galebotse – Principal Wildlife Officer II
- Edison Mpatane – Chief Wildlife Warden
- Majola – Wildlife Warden



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# BOTSWANA RHINO CONSERVATION SUPPORT PROJECT – PROGRESS



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# BOTSWANA RHINO CONSERVATION SUPPORT PROJECT – PROGRESS



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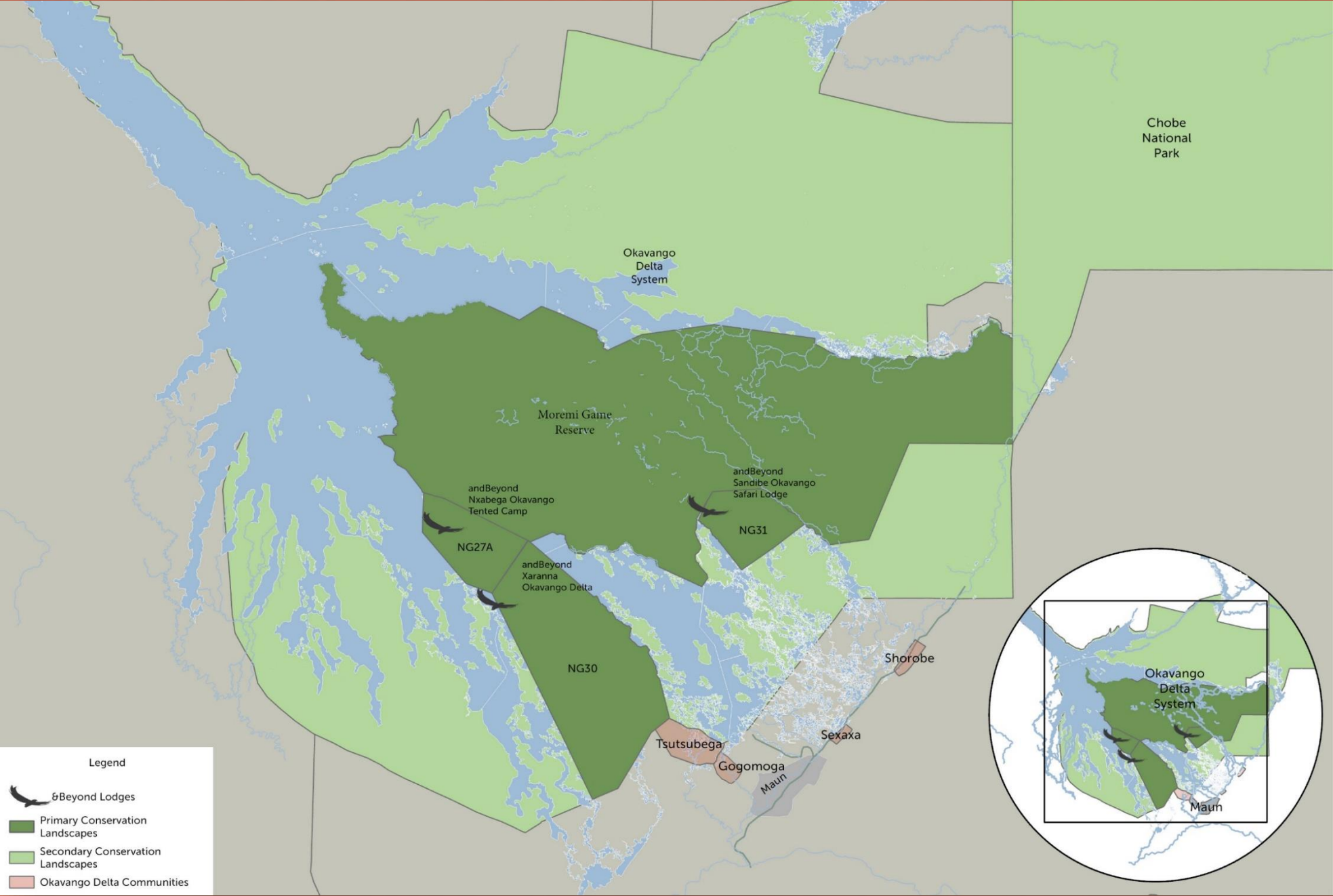


30 YEARS




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# SOUTHERN AFRICA OKAVANGO DELTA LANDSCAPE



**Legend**

-  &Beyond Lodges
-  Primary Conservation Landscapes
-  Secondary Conservation Landscapes
-  Okavango Delta Communities

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