



OKAVANGO

WILDLIFE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



Member of

IUCN

The World Conservation Union

2002/1

OWLS

MOKOLODI'S REHABILITATION CENTRE

The Mokolodi Rehabilitation Centre is one of three wild animal rehabilitation centres in Botswana, and the only one in the South of the country. It opened in 1992, to provide a place where injured, orphaned, displaced and confiscated wildlife can be cared for and released back into their natural habitat. The Rehabilitation centre has the full support of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, who requested that Mokolodi build this facility and acknowledge the provision of a valuable and integral service to nature conservation in Botswana. Since opening it has treated a wide range of wildlife, including monkeys, antelopes, striped polecats, civets, mongooses, genets, cheetah, leopard, hyena, a variety of birds including owls and hawks, snakes including pythons, cobras, among others. Furthermore, any non-releasable animals are housed in the sanctuary area, where they are cared for in enriched enclosures, representing their natural habitat. Here, they provide a valuable service for conservation education, providing a close up, interactive experience of their species for local schools, the community and visitors. This creates respect and understanding for wildlife that is so

essential for the future of the natural environment.

The Mokolodi Rehabilitation Centre has enclosures of varying sizes and designs in order to accommodate a range of wildlife, i.e. predators, birds, reptiles, etc. All this is in a large enclosed area, incorporating natural vegetation and trees. Also, there is a larger bush enclosure which houses 2 orphaned cheetah, as well as a separate transit station for relocating problem predators. Services to remove snakes from areas where they may become a problem are provided by the Centre, this is giving people the option not to kill them. Taking care of all this are a team of staff, including a volunteer wildlife biologist and veterinary. The facilities are used to the care for animals within the reserve and for those brought to the centre from all over the country. At Mokolodi, there is a breeding population of 7 white rhino, which constitutes one quarter of the entire population in Botswana and other vulnerable species, including mountain reedbuck and brown hyena. So far in 2002 Mokolodi Rehabilitation Centre has already released mountain reedbuck, which were confiscated by the Department of Wildlife and National

Parks and sent to the centre for rehabilitation and 4 pythons that were relocated from human habitations. These individuals would probably have died or been killed without the facilities available at Mokolodi but now they are adding to the gene pool of these vulnerable species on a 3000ha protected reserve.

So if you see any injured, orphaned or displaced wildlife please call Rebecca at Mokolodi Nature Reserve on 561955/6 or Kyle at 585348 or 71656782 and they

will come out and assist. Be careful to make sure that the animal is truly disadvantaged before you remove it, some birds and antelopes leave their young alone for long periods of time and they may appear to be abandoned. If you are unsure just give Rebecca and Kyle a call.

For more information's on Mokolodi visit the website www.mokolodi.com (Botswana Daily News, 14 February 2002.)



MORULA FRUIT PRODUCTS FILLING SHELVES OF SHOPS

Soaps, Moisturising oils, jams and jellies made locally from Morula fruit are filling the shelves of shops countrywide. The products are made by Kgetsi ya Tsie (KyT) Community Trust in the Tswapong area. The project was started in 1997 as a social and economic empowerment vehicle for rural women. The project started with only 5 people, but now has 600 members' mainly women from 17 villages. The moisturising oil is manufactured from Morula nuts (dikgeru) and is good for skin moisturising and reducing skin redness while Morula jelly is high in

vitamin C content. KyT also packages traditional medicine, monepenepe, dried vegetables from Setswana beans, Mopane worms and Gala-la-tshwene, a traditional herb. The annual income of Kyt has increased by 500% since its inception, said Moetapela, marketing coordinator and community development officer of the British high Commission. Besides the British High Commission the project has also been sponsored by USAID and the Department of Women's Affairs.

(Botswana Daily News, 14 February 2002.)