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## Newsletter – Winter 2015

Dear Members and Friends

Welcome to our first newsletter for almost 7 years. We realise that silence is not golden for a membership organisation so we are reviving the bi-annual newsletter, which will be sent electronically in future. So, please remember to provide us with your updated email addresses.

The focus of this newsletter is the launch of a crowdfunding programme to raise funds to refurbish and upgrade the Eco Park. We hope you will give generously. We also share our plans for the future of Somarelang Tikologo (ST) and the Eco Park.

But first – an introduction to the Board and the team at ST.



**Chairman – Dr Eagilwe Segosebe**, University of Botswana

Dr Segosebe was one of the founders of ST in 1992 in response to what the founding members saw as a growing problem of environmental deterioration. During the 1970s and 1980s Botswana was conspicuously characterised by widespread pollution, especially litter. Rapid economic growth and consequent urbanisation broadened the diversity of consumer goods in the country. He continues to be passionate about the environment and to maintain his links with ST.



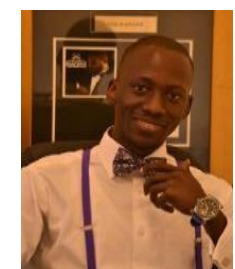
**Deputy Chairman – Mr Gaorekwe Gaorekwe**, Director – Brand Botswana, BEDIA

Mr Gaorekwe studied public relations management, media studies and communication science in South Africa. His career started with Ba Isago University College where he was training advisor. He then joined Debswana as Communications Manager, and more recently he has been Stakeholder Director for Brand Botswana at Botswana Export Development and Investment Agency. As custodian of Brand Botswana he is passionate about the environment and retaining Botswana's unique landscape, flora and fauna.



**Secretary – Mrs Magdeline Nondo**

Mrs Nondo is a graduate of UB, majoring in Environmental Science and English. She has a Post Graduate Diploma in Education and a Diploma in Travel Agency. She has been teaching Social Studies at Gabane Secondary School since 2008.



**Mr Phenyo Motlhagodi**

Mr Motlhagodi is General Manager of Boidus Focus Newspaper that deals with the built environment, a Radio Talk Show Host with Yarona FM Live The Music, an avid Brand Commentator and Eco Journalist. He studied English and History at UB and had been involved in environmental issues and advocacy through media (print & radio) prior to joining the Board in March 2012. He continues to use various platforms to create awareness.



**Mr Tumi Mogwe**, Managing Director, Temo Construction

Mr Mogwe is a Quantity Surveyor and is playing an active role in the renovation programme for the Eco Park. He has been on the board since 2010 and provides insight into the environmental planning activities.



**Ms Kelebogile Kewagamang**, Partner, Rantao Kewagamang Attorneys

Ms Kewagamang is a lawyer and a member of the Council of the Law Society of Botswana.



**Mrs Rachel Lungile Mothibatsela**, Corporate Affairs Manager, Debswana

Mrs Mothibatsela has a BA in Economics and Political Science from UB and a Masters in Leadership and Change Management from Leeds Metropolitan University in the UK. Her working life has been spent in corporate communications, PR and change management. She has worked for Debswana, one of ST's most generous benefactors, since January 2008. Rachel brings to the ST Board a passion for the environment and excellent analytical skills.



**Mr Tefo Molosiwa**, Senior Manager Sustainability, Debswana

Mr Molosiwa has Masters degrees in Business and Health, Safety and Environment from universities in the UK and Australia. He has worked for De Beers and then Debswana for 12 years in environmental and sustainability roles.

## ST Staff



**Mrs Chenesani (Casey) Tamocha** – Programmes and Operations Manager. An Environmental Science graduate from UB, Mrs Tamocha joined ST in 2009 as an intern, completing her placement in 2011. At the end of 2013 she rejoined ST as Programmes Manager on the departure of the Executive Director. At the beginning of 2015 she assumed responsibility for ST operations. Her special area of interest is waste management and recycling, and she is very involved in ST's glass recycling operation.

## **The recycling team** (left to right)

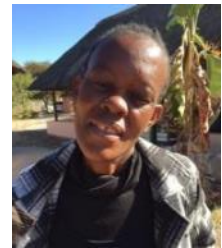
Bakang Senokwane (top), Shadrack Kgomoyarona, Monkgori Tom Seruthu, Koketso Itumeleng and Mmoloki Mothlabi, Driver and Recycling Supervisor.

The team has worked together for some years and they are responsible for glass collections, crushing and packaging in preparation for the transport to Consol in South Africa where the glass is turned into new glass containers, builders aggregate, filtration medium, fibreglass and decorative "gravel" for gardens.





**Katlego Ntwaagae** – Katlego is a recent graduate of UB and has just joined ST on the government sponsored internship scheme looking after PR and marketing and helping out with events and the Green Shop. She is passionate about the environment and believes in saving natural resources for a healthier environment.



**Keineele Selaledi**, known as Mmamani, has been with ST since 2012 and cleans the Eco Park and helps out with the administration.



**Thabiso Tsholofelo** – Thabiso looks after the Market Centre and makes sure the people who are holding events there have everything they need. He also offers a DJ and souvenir photo service. He has been with ST for 3 years.



**Gareth Williams** – Gareth is with ST on a programme through the Australian Red Cross coordinating Marketing, PR and Membership. He has been in Botswana since November 2014 and says "Setswana se Thata" (Setswana is hard).



**Chitose Hirase** – Chitose, whose SeTswana name is Tshepo, joined ST in April 2015 as a volunteer from Japan. Prior to coming to Botswana she worked in Japan with an NGO helping children who were affected by the earthquake in 2011. Prior to that she was a banker. Chitose is helping ST to upgrade its accounts systems. She has always had an interest in the environment and is looking forward to exploring Botswana's wildlife.



**Kathy Wilken** – Kathy joined ST in May 2014 to help with fundraising and strategic planning. She is a British volunteer. Her background is in fundraising, business development and project management. She started her international development career in Lesotho in January 2010.

## Social media

After a gap of 2 years our website is back up and running – [www.somatiko.org.bw](http://www.somatiko.org.bw). Please visit it and let us know what you think. We'd also like to know what else you would like to see on the site.



Our facebook page carries news from ST and links to interesting articles on environmental issues and events.

## Main sponsors



Debswana has been a generous supporter for many years. They sponsored the building of the Café in the Eco Park, and more recently provided the funds for a 7.5 tonne truck to expand the organisation's collection capacity. We now regularly send two 32

tonne loads of crushed glass to Consol in South Africa. As soon as we find a secure, covered site we will purchase the mechanical crusher that Debswana has also funded and we will be able to increase the loads to a minimum of three per month.

Kgalagadi Beverages Trust, the philanthropic arm of Kgalagadi Breweries Ltd, provided ST with the funds to construct the Recycling Drop Off Centre at the Eco Park in 2005. After 10 years the centre is looking a little tired and KBT has provided the funds to refurbish the centre. It will be equipped with bulk recycling bins made from recycled plastic – your recycling in action.



KBT has also contributed more than half of the funds for our forthcoming public awareness campaign (more later).



Distell, the drinks distributor, has recently funded the purchase of a small truck with a crane to facilitate the loading of glass. This will save time when collecting large loads, which, at the moment, have to be loaded manually by the recycling team. It will also ensure that ST is

able to load the crushed glass for onward shipping to Consol in South African without the delays due to non-availability of the crane currently experienced.

Distell will also contribute to the public awareness campaign.

## Project sponsorship

### Government of Japan



The Government of Japan, through their Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects programme, funded the Capacity Building for Women in Marginalised Rural Communities through Green Crafts Retailing, reaching a total of 208 people in 5 communities in the Kgalagadi and Ghanzi Districts.

Baitati, pictured right, has been working hard to produce animal mobiles from recycled tin. Much of her output has been purchased for resale in the USA.



Gakelelapele (standing) produced a large stock of jewellery made from paper and took it to Maun to sell to tourists. She made a profit after expenses that enabled her to send her children to school with uniforms.





Sisters Mrs Annah Mmabe and Pastor Seipato Mothibi have become very inventive, using papier maché alongside recycled tin, plastic shopping bags and paper. They even got the idea for using the flowering stems of aloes, stripped and painted, to display their products. Annah now uses this as her primary source of income and travels all over Botswana selling her products.



## Forest Conservation Botswana

Greening Territory; Empowering Communities was a project with ambitious goals:

- To protect the environment from soil erosion and other agents of environmental degradation and thus combat the escalating rate of deforestation
- To sensitise people to environmental conservation and planning for sustainable use of wood resources
- To re-establish indigenous tree plantations that can be of benefit to the community
- To empower communities to utilise alternative forest resources sustainably by moving away from charcoal burning
- To encourage the uptake of bee-keeping and honey production as a means for income generation to support rural livelihoods, including planting trees and plants that are attractive to birds
- To encourage communities to keep chickens for meat and eggs



Two communities were selected, one in the drought prone Southern District and the other in Central District where there is more reliable rainfall. The current drought, which started in 2011, has affected the south of the country more severely than the north and as a result it was not possible to plant trees, and therefore the bee-keeping activities had to be abandoned. The poultry exercise was successfully introduced. In the Central District the activity took place the following year and the community has successfully planted trees and developed a thriving poultry business. The bee-keeping has also been abandoned in this community because there is no water supply and thus there were no flowers available for pollination. Both communities have benefited from the intervention.



## Climate Change Awareness and Community Vulnerability and Adaptation to Flood Disasters in Human Settlements in Botswana – 2012 ongoing

ST and the University of Botswana are working together to research flood disasters in the major urban centres on the A1 between Gaborone and Francistown. The project was proposed following the unprecedented countrywide floods in 2000 and 2009 resulting in loss of life, both human and animal, and catastrophic damage to housing, roads, bridges and other property. The project comprises vulnerability mapping of the urban areas, followed by community workshops on climate change awareness and flood vulnerability. The mapping is now complete and the report is in the final stages of compilation. Once the report is formalised and the findings are available the community workshops will take place.

## Botswana Climate Change Network

We are delighted to announce that Kenyaetse Diale has returned to our organic demonstration garden thanks to support from the Botswana Climate Change Network. He is joined by Victor Kgotla, another graduate of Botswana College of Agriculture. The aim of this project is to try out different methods of low input organic gardening using compost rather than fertiliser and minimising the use of water for irrigation.

The results will be used in the backyard climate smart agriculture programme planned for the drought prone rural areas.



Tyre beds



Raised beds with drip irrigation

## Current Campaigns

### Reduce Reuse Recycle

This has been our mantra since ST was founded in 1992 and for the last 15 years we have been collecting glass, crushing it and sending it to South Africa to be reprocessed. In the second half of 2015 we will carry out a public education programme encouraging people to recycle glass, plastic, paper and tins. This will be a joint initiative with the other main Gaborone-based recyclers and the drinks distributors. It is still in the planning stage but we will announce the details on the website when they are available.



We will also take the opportunity to renew our campaigning for a more concerted government approach to recycling in general and the need to separate at source.

### Refurbishing the Eco Park

The Eco Park is our only means of generating revenue so it is essential that it looks its best. Unfortunately, because of our limited means maintenance has been neglected. We have reached the stage where we will never be able to generate the funds required to restore it to its former glory. We feel it is time to refurbish and upgrade the facilities to bring them up to the standards required by our customers. This will include

- renewing the children's playground using recycled plastic, a much more durable option than wood
- repairing the rainwater harvesting system and installing a grey water system
- renovating the recycling Drop Off Centre which has already been funded in full by Kgalagadi Beverages Trust



- upgrading the Market Centre, including repairing the tent flaps and the flooring, improving the electrical points and lighting, and building a wall across the north side of the building and improving sound proofing and privacy to the south side by building a kgotla-style barrier
- upgrading the ablutions to bring them up to standard
- repairing the thatch and redecorating
- general landscaping improvements



### Crowdfunding campaign

Crowdfunding is the practice of raising small donations from a large number of people to help with an initiative. We are asking for your help to raise funds to provide the finishing touches to the Eco Park, such as benches and tables, improved lighting and upgrading of the external landscaping. We are not expecting our members and friends to raise the entire refurbishment budget of P350,000 and if you can't manage the suggested donation any contribution is welcome, no matter how small or large. All donations will be acknowledged in the donor book.

Membership type	Donation	Reward
Individual life membership	P650	Life membership, acknowledgement in a donor book
Family life membership	P1500	Life membership, acknowledgement in a donor book

If your company is interested in joining ST we have a range of 3 year memberships to contribute to our refurbishment fund

Corporate Membership type	Donation	Reward
Silver	P3250	3 year Silver membership (10% discount), usual benefits plus acknowledgement in the donor book
Gold	P13500	3 year Gold membership (10% discount), usual benefits plus inclusion on ST social media
Diamond	P27000	3 year Diamond membership (10% discount), usual benefits, plus public acknowledgement within the Eco Park

We plan to hold a family celebration day next spring to recognise and thank all our supporters and to launch our new and improved Eco Park. All donors will be invited to attend.

For more information please email us on [info.somatiko@gmail.com](mailto:info.somatiko@gmail.com) or call on 391 3709 and ask to speak to Katlego Ngwaagae. We will be happy to show you around the Eco Park and describe our vision for the future.

### Plans for the future

As part of our climate change mitigation programme ST is developing a long-term (around 10 years) programme addressing climate smart agriculture in the backyards of drought prone rural communities. The objective is to introduce small backyard gardens that do not have to rely on rainfall or external inputs such as fertiliser and seeds. The soil will be enriched by composting, and household waste water will be used to water the plants. Seeds will be harvested for use the following year, and in good years can be sold to neighbours along with surplus crops. This form of minimum input horticulture is well suited to remote areas where food is expensive because it has to be brought in over considerable distances. The various

methods of composting, bed design and irrigation are being tested in the ST organic garden before they are taken out to the communities.

## **Membership**

If you want to join us at this challenging time for the environment please complete the attached Membership form and visit us at the Eco Park for a tour and to hear more about our plans and campaigns.

And to become even more involved why not take part in setting the environmental agenda by joining one of our sub-committees – resource conservation, PR and fundraising, waste management, and climate change?



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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

*The environment provides great opportunities for Somarelang Tikologo and we need your support to make most of them. Please work with us to protect the environment and improve the quality of life in Botswana.*

Title: Mr Miss Ms Mrs Dr Prof Other \_\_\_\_\_ (circle one)

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ Organisation name: \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: P O Box/Private Bag: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone:

Landline: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Three ways to renew your membership

- Visit our office at Plot 594 Kaunda Road
- Mail a cheque to Somarelang Tikologo
- Send a postal order

Cheques and drafts are made payable to Somarelang Tikologo

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

#### Annual

- |                                                    |           |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (1 Year):      | P50.00    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Students:                 | P25.00    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children (under 13 years) | P10.00    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family membership         | P120.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School club, institution  | P250.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Members of SADC:          | P55.00    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International:            | US\$50.00 |

#### Other

- |                                                |         |
|------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (3 Years): | P120.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership       | P650.00 |

#### Corporate Membership – annual:

- |                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver: | P1200.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold    | P5000.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond | P10000.00 |

## Discounts at Participating Businesses



10% discount on new bikes  
and accessories and servicing



10% discount on Membership



7-10% discount on most items  
Airport Junction Store only



10% discount on Market Centre  
hire charges for Life Members

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## CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND BENEFITS

### Silver Benefits – P1500 per year

- Certificate of Membership
- Copy of the Annual Report
- Monthly email updates providing news on projects and activities
- Membership acknowledged on the website
- Bi-annual Newsletters sent by email
- Acknowledgement in the Annual Report
- Invitations to the AGM, meetings and Members events

### Gold Benefits – P5000 per year

Silver Benefits plus

- One educational tour of the Eco Park for staff and their families per year
- Environmental Education workshop for employees and management on Member organisation premises
- The Eco Office Pack – a step-by-step guide to performing an Eco Audit on the business and tips on how to save money by conserving resources

### Diamond Benefits – P10000 per year

Gold Benefits plus

- Company profile and link on the website
- Eco Office audit and workshop carried out by Somarelang Tikologo
- Inclusion of logo on ST publications
- Company logo in the Annual report

### Take part in setting the Environmental Agenda by joining a Sub-Committee

Resource conservation

PR & Fundraising

Waste Management

Environmental Planning