

From TEK to Tech: Community - Led Digital Future in the Okavango

EU contribution: € 245 194 (Pula 3.836.064)

Period of implementation: from August 26 to January 2029

Location: Seronga and Gudigwa, Okavango, Botswana.

Implementing organisation(s): The Nkashi Trust (previous [Botswana Wild Bird Trust](#))

Project objectives and description:

To enhance rural communities' participation in Botswana's digital transformation by creating inclusive, community-led digital training and knowledge-sharing systems that expand access, strengthen governance, and improve livelihoods.

Specific objectives (Outcomes):

1. Build digital literacy and skills of youth, women, and marginalised groups, aligned with SmartBots' principle of "Leaving No One Behind."
2. Strengthen local partnerships, such as Innovation Kgotla in Maun, to benchmark and digitise ongoing programs in participatory mapping, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and governance systems, ensuring these community-led practices are integrated into Botswana's digital transformation
3. Develop and integrate accessible, community-led real-time dashboards for local monitoring (e.g., water levels in Panhandle areas, grass growth for grazing, AI integration for decision-making).
4. Promote safe and adapted use of AI by introducing basic guidelines for responsible application across ages and literacy levels.

Achievements / expected results:

1 – Improved digital skills and confidence among rural community members

Youth, women, teachers and other marginalised groups in Seronga and Gudigwa have improved digital skills, confidence and practical ability to use digital tools for education, communication, access to services and community activities.

2 – Increased use of community-led digital information in local decision-making

Community institutions (schools, community trusts, committees) actively use locally relevant digital dashboards that integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), participatory mapping outputs and administrative/environmental data to inform planning, decision making and governance processes.

3 – Increased awareness and responsible use of AI and digital tools

Community members and local institutions demonstrate increased awareness of

opportunities and risks related to AI and digital technologies, and apply basic principles of safe, ethical and context-appropriate use.

Incoming public / visibility events:

- N/A

Project website / Social media account links:

- N/A