



CULTURAL TOURS and EXPERIENCE

in Chobe Enclave



Forests are important for wildlife and the livelihood of the community in the Chobe Enclave.
This was produced through technical cooperation between Department of Forestry and Range Resources (DFRR) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



About this Project

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism through the Department of Forestry and Range Resources partnered with JICA under the Official Development Assistance to develop the Botswana National Forest Master Plan.

Community based ecotourism using forest resources in the Chobe Enclave is one of the pilot activities undertaken during the development of the Botswana National Forest Master Plan, and is anticipated to help local communities to sustainably manage and utilize forest resources.

About JICA



Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is the executing agency of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA). It deals with global challenges and support to developing countries.

About DFRR



The Department of Forestry and Range Resources was formed to manage and conserve forest and range resources for their sustainable use and contribution to the socio-economic development of Botswana. The Department promotes the sustainable utilisation of forest resources by communities to improve their livelihoods.

About Ecotourism

***'Ecotourism is responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and sustains the well being of local people.'* (The International Ecotourism Society)**

It is emphasised that in Botswana ecotourism refers to the country's cultural, as well as natural heritage, and that great importance is placed on the active involvement (as opposed to mere participation) of host communities and other Botswana in all aspects of the industry's management and development.

'Principles' of ecotourism

More specifically, 'ecotourism' refers to tourism to areas of natural and cultural heritage that is planned and managed with the objective of:

- Minimising negative social, cultural and environmental impacts.
- Maximising the involvement in, and the equitable distribution of economic benefits to, host communities.
- Maximising revenues for re-investment in conservation.
- Educating both visitors and local people as to the importance of conserving natural and cultural resources.
- Delivering a quality experience for tourists.



About Arts and Culture Cooperatives in Chobe Enclave

The community, predominantly women in Chobe Enclave grouped themselves in each village aiming at meeting their common economic needs by collectively making and selling baskets from their cooperative entities. The basket print in the Landmark signifies the importance of basketry in the lives of people in the Chobe Enclave. The various designs and patterns show skills inspired by their everyday activities. The cooperatives have currently added another business line which focuses on the exhibition and showcasing of their cultural diversity, traditional food, traditional dance, palm tree conservation and medicinal value of plants. The pattern in the Landmark signifies the importance of the Chobe river and its resources on the livelihoods of people in the Chobe Enclave. The Department of Cooperatives Development is responsible for providing and administering the services required by societies for their formation, organization, registration, operation, and their advancement.



Vuche Vuche (Mabele Village)



Lwaavo (Mabele Village)



Mohuhutso (Kachikau Village)



Tuchivusa (Satau Village)

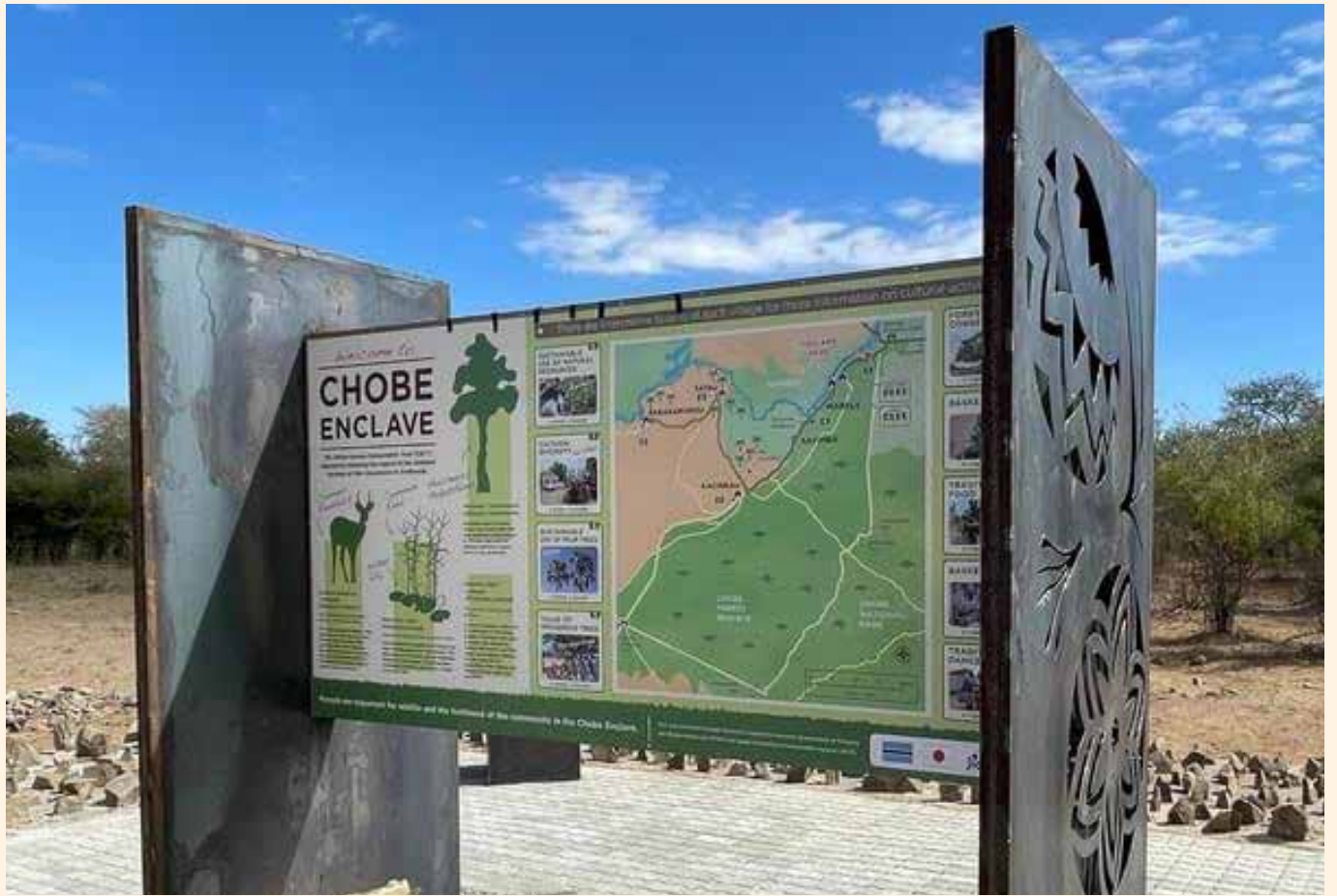


Kachempati (Parakarungu Village)

Currently functional cooperatives at each of the villages are as follows; **Vuche Vuche in Mabele, Lwaavo in Mabele, Mohuhutso in Kachikau, Tuchivusa in Satau and Kachempati in Parakarungu**

Map of the Cooperatives and Chobe Enclave





Forests are important for wildlife and the livelihood of the community in the Chobe Enclave.
 This was produced through technical cooperation between Department of Forestry and Range Resources (DFRR) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



About Landmark

The Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust (CECT) selected the following four aspects of this landmark because of their importance to livelihoods.



**Muchenje /
Mokutshumo
(*Diospyros
mespiliformis*)**

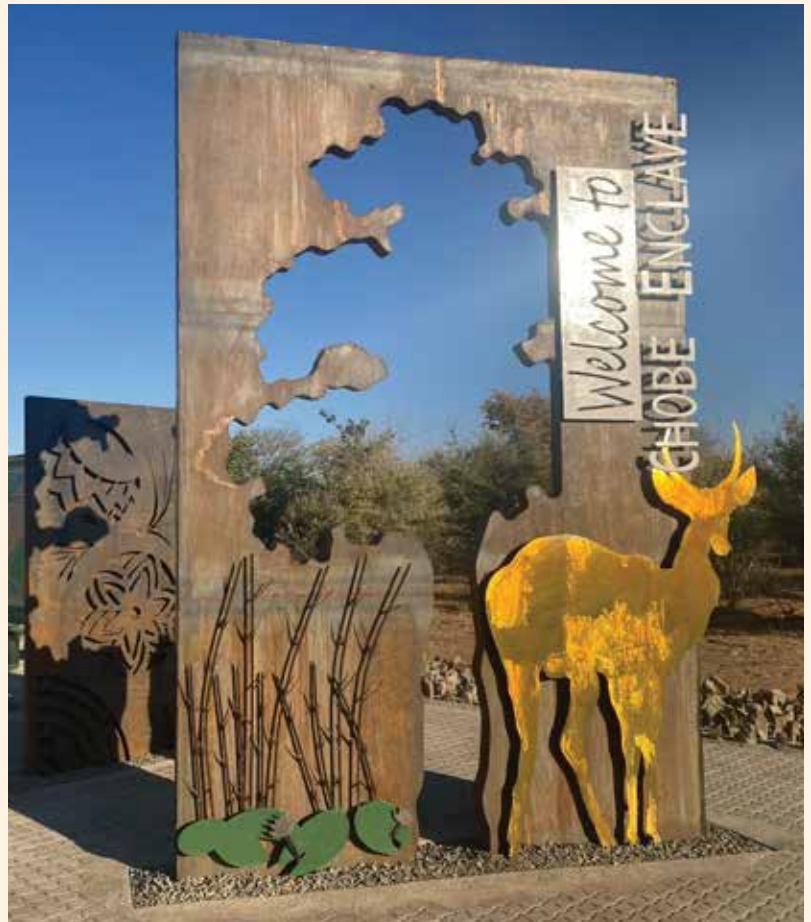
Muchenje ward in Mabele village was named after this tree, therefore locals respect it. The tree was used for making traditional canoes, but it is now protected.



**Common Reedbuck
- Sebogata
(*Redunca arundinum*)**

The Chobe areas are the main home to this elusive animal.

This medium-sized antelope, often found near water, earns its name from the fact that they hide in common reed area during day time. Once abundant in the area, they are rare species which are threatened by extinction due to human-caused pressures.



**Common Reed
- Lethaka
(*Phragmites australis*)**

This plant is used to build shelters.

It grows in shallow water and it is abundant in the Chobe Enclave. Common reed plays a crucial role, helping to control soil erosion and filter water. Local people depend on raw materials for everything from shelter and fences to floor mats and souvenirs.

**Water Lily -Tswii (*Nymphaea nouchali*)
Tubers from this plant are a popular food.**

The abundance of waterlilies in Chobe river takes nothing away from their beauty. This plant plays an important part in traditional lifestyles in the enclave. It has long been considered a delicacy and is now a staple in the local diet.



All Villages

Seperu Traditional Dance

Dancing is an expression of local traditions performed using materials from forest resources.

The Seperu dance is performed during celebrations, ceremonies, and other local traditions, showing how people interact with themselves and nature. It presents a powerful way of story telling conveying myths, history, past and current community livelihoods and experiences.

The dance is mainly performed by local women and skills are passed from generation to generation through practical participation.



Sample Activity

830am	Activity 1: Village walk
9am	Activity 2: Dance expedition (various dance performances) at the arts and culture site
10am	Activity 3: Traditional Games
1030am	End



All Villages

Basket Weaving

Traditional basketry is an important example of how community members use forest resources in their daily lives.

Basketry is an important aspect of the Basubiya tribe's culture. In the past, baskets were used as containers for collecting and storing food. Today, they are also woven and sold for decoration in weddings and cultural events, and for the local community to sell as souvenirs.



Sample Activity

830am	Activity 1: Village walk
9am	Activity 2: Basketry weaving exposure at the arts and culture site
10am	Activity 3: Traditional Games
1030am	End





All Villages

Traditional Food Preparation

Traditional food practices reflect a connection with nature.

The forest in Chobe Enclave is a source of food for the local community.

Locals have a unique way of preparing cuisines for home, guests, and traditional celebrations using traditional cooking utensils.

There are distinct and defined gender roles for collecting and cooking traditional food.



Sample Activity

830am	Activity 1: Village walk
9am	Activity 2: Traditional food preparation and dishing
1030am	End



Kachikau

Cultural Diversity in Chobe Enclave

Chobe Enclave consists of different tribes who live in harmony.

White settlers (mainly the Greeks) were prominent in the early days of Kachikau Village, trading with locals at a place now called Old Kachikau. Today, cultural diversity is not just a historical connection but an ongoing celebration of the cultural groups living together in harmony, representing typical communities in Chobe Enclave. The dominant tribes present in the area are Batawana, Basubiya, Bambukushu and Basarwa. Diversity is celebrated through various means including traditional dresses, languages, food, dances, and traditional shelters.



Sample Activity

830am	Activity 1: Village walk
9am	Activity 2: Livelihood of Basarwa of Chobe West
1030am	End



Satau

Palm Tree Conservation

Palm trees provide important raw material central for making baskets and crafts by local communities.

Palm leaves, branches and barks are the main component of basketry, mats, hats, and fences for general use at homes, as decorations, or for souvenirs.

It can take up to a month or more to make one basket depending on the design pattern and the size. Basket-making skills are passed on from generation to generation.

Sustainable use of forest resources has led to the regeneration of trees in areas such as Satau, Kachikau, and Parakarungu where they are in abundance.



Sample Activity

830am	Activity 1: Village walk
9am	Activity 2: Basketry raw material harvesting and weaving process exposure at the arts and culture site
1030am	End

Forests are important for wildlife and the livelihood of the community in the Chobe Enclave.

This was produced through technical cooperation between Department of Forestry and Range Resources (DFRR) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).





Parakarungu

Sustainable Use / Human Benefits from Forest Resources

Locals rely on trees for everyday socio-economic benefits, promoting a connection with nature.

Trees provide resources necessary for the survival of the local community.

To date, locals have been sustainably utilizing forest resources.

Some of the main trees used by locals are Palm trees (Mokolwane), Rhodesian teak (Mokusi), and Bird plum (Motsentsela).

Forest resources have been providing essential services to the locals such as traditional medicines, food items, and crafts, including basketry, shelter, and fencing.



Sample Activity

830am	Activity 1: Village walk
9am	Activity 2: Observation and engage in some preparation of medicinal compound's using forest resources
1030am	End



CULTURAL TOURS and EXPERIENCE

in Chobe Enclave



Forests are important for wildlife and the livelihood of the community in the Chobe Enclave.

This was produced through technical cooperation between Department of Forestry and Range Resources (DFRR) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

