

BANA BA BOBIRWA

January/February 2026

BANA BA BOBIRWA PROJECT REPORT

Formalities

BbB managed opened the ZAR bank account on Monday 16 February 2026 and the account was activated.

BbB is organizing all its reconciliations and paperwork for the bookkeeper to ensure IAMS can conduct an accurate audit.

Curriculum Development

We incorporated all the lessons from the 2025 Eco-Warrior workbooks and expanded the curriculum significantly for 2026, with our Bana ba Bobirwa Curriculum Developer, Charlotte Gerrish, doubling the number of lessons to ensure they are practical, engaging, and easy to implement within the Eco-Warrior Clubs.

The workbooks were reviewed by Dr Oarabile Mmopi, Principal Education Officer II under Botswana's Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education. He confirmed that the curriculum aligns with the national school syllabus and meets the appropriate educational standards.

We are also grateful that the Principal Education Officer issued the official permission letter for Bana ba Bobirwa to proceed with the 2026 Eco-Guardian Teacher Training Weekend — a meaningful endorsement of the programme's value and impact.

Empowering Eco-Guardians: Teacher Training Weekend at Tuli Safari Lodge Mashatu

Prior to the teacher training weekend, BbB had procured most of the required materials to run the Eco-Warrior Clubs in Botswana (which was handed over to the teachers on the training weekend), largely with the able assistance of the TCT's CLO. Reuben Kokole. He has played an integral role in assisting BbB with the materials and we are very grateful for his help.



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From 20–22 February 2026, Bana ba Bobirwa proudly hosted our second annual Teacher Training Weekend at Tuli Safari Lodge, Mashatu — a truly inspiring and impactful gathering.

Our Eco-Guardians form the very foundation of the Bana ba Bobirwa programme. Their passion and commitment ensure the continued success of our Eco-Warrior Clubs, where young learners are introduced to the importance of wildlife conservation and environmental stewardship.

The Eco-Warrior Clubs are voluntary extra-curricular programmes running across six primary schools in the Bobirwa district. Through these clubs, children engage in hands-on conservation activities, develop leadership and teamwork skills, and gain a deeper understanding of the value of tourism and conservation within the Northern Tuli Game Reserve.

Our vision is clear: to nurture motivated young environmentalists who will help sustain and protect Botswana's natural heritage for generations to come.

This year, we were honoured to welcome Charlotte Gerrish, Bana ba Bobirwa's curriculum developer, who not only compiled our comprehensive Eco-Warrior workbooks but also led the teacher training sessions. Charlotte worked closely with 18 dedicated teachers from the six schools we support, equipping them with the tools, confidence and knowledge needed to successfully deliver the Eco-Warrior curriculum.

We were also delighted to have Richard Modeme from Mashatu join the training. His presence brought valuable wildlife knowledge and added a dynamic, practical dimension to the sessions, enriching the teachers' understanding of the natural environment they are helping to protect.

The training focused on the core lessons that form the heart of our Eco-Warrior Clubs, including:

- Anti-poaching awareness
- Sustainable gardening
- Water conservation
- Reduce, reuse and recycle
- Food chains and food webs
- Birds and biodiversity
- Living and non-living elements in ecosystems
- Endangered species
- Protecting plant life
- Humane education
- Cultural activities such as beading and music
- Sports and teamwork
- Replanting and self-watering plant projects
- Planning for the annual Eco-Expo

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In addition, we introduced an important **“Learner Support”** component to the training. This session equipped our Eco-Guardians with a deeper understanding of gross and fine motor development, as well as key developmental concepts such as crossing the midline, sensory regulation, pencil grip, cutting skills, and visual perceptual development.

By incorporating this element, we are empowering teachers not only to deliver meaningful conservation education, but also to support their learners more holistically within the classroom environment — strengthening both academic foundations and overall developmental growth.

It is through this programme that we are able to motivate young environmentalists, teach vital life skills, inspire future leaders and empower the children of Bobirwa. Seeing the enthusiasm, dedication and passion of our Eco-Guardians reminds us that meaningful conservation begins with education — and with people who care deeply about the future of their communities and their environment.

We are incredibly grateful to Tuli Safari Lodge Mashatu for hosting us and Mashatu Game Reserve for their continued support of this important initiative and for helping us continue to grow the next generation of conservation leaders.



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Conclusion

The programme is well on track for 2026 with the key focus now being on the camps. We are very excited that the programme is gaining traction.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the TCT, Mashatu Game Reserve and various other donors as well as all the directors, advisors, volunteers, Mashatu staff and supporters for their continued backing and guidance to make a great success of Bana ba Bobirwa.

Best regards,

Angelica Pietersen

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