



## About KRC and Raptors Botswana



**Our KRC and Raptors Botswana team, a close nit family with past and present members and students.**

Kalahari Research and Conservation (KRC), was established by Dr Glyn Maude in 2009. Dr Moses Selebatso has been a long- term member of the team and joined us in 2013 and is now the KRC Director. Over the years KRC and its team has built up a wealth of experience in successfully conducting significant and long-lasting research on wildlife in Botswana and then playing a leading role in wildlife conservation efforts. In that time, we have worked effectively with the Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP), local communities and other stakeholders. The majority of our efforts are aimed at the arid Kalahari environment in Botswana, in both the formally government park protected areas and the adjacent Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs).

There have been a number of separate wildlife conservation projects we have undertaken working with wildlife in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR), Makgadikgadi and Linyanti regions learning more about wild dogs, lions and wildebeest. Our more recent work is in the SW region of Botswana in the Kalahari Transfrontier Park (KTP), with a strong focus on the wildlife in the WMAs to the north. At present in the SW Kgalagadi with have on projects working with lions, wild dogs and springbok. We work hand in hand with the DWNP and communities on conservation issues concerning lions and other wildlife in the arid SW region. Our overall goal here is to address issues that involve "landscape conservation" and threats to this and to work towards the preservation of

this remarkable region of Botswana. We actively engage in on the ground conservation efforts, as in the Kalahari environment in particular there is high competition for the different land uses and thus many threats to the abundant wildlife resident there.

Raptors Botswana is a "sister group" and the flag under which we do our conservation work on vultures. All vulture species in Botswana are either critically endangered or endangered so we view our work with vulture as very important. As vultures move all around Botswana and indeed southern Africa, we partner with many organisations and deal with many issues that affect the conservation of vultures.

KRC also conducts a variety of outreach programs in the communities living near the KTP and in other parts of Botswana. Engaging and involving communities can be an important part of wildlife conservation. We believe that developing local capacity is the key to long term and sustainable wildlife conservation in Botswana and most of our students and team members are Botswana Nationals. Of the eight students that have passed or are about to pass their masters or PhD programs with KRC, six have come from Botswana and all are actively involved in wildlife conservation today in Botswana. Presently Dr Moses Selebatso and Dr Glyn Maude lead the work that KRC which is now has a significant focus in the Kgalagadi Region of Botswana. Our vulture work however is country wide due to the large ranging behaviours of vultures. At the moment we have a PhD student Kutlwano Makwatse, whom has just started her PhD journey under us and she has "lions and communities" as her focus. Rochelle Mphetlhe is doing her masters under with "Raptors Road Counts" as her topic through the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology at the University of Cape Town.



Kutlwano - learning the ropes with camera traps which she will be using to collect data as part of her PhD.



Rochelle is quickly becoming very knowledgeable about Raptors and passionate about Raptor Conservation.

If any more information is needed please feel free to contact either;

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