

# The Sywa Project

*by African Monarch Lodges*

A Permaculture,  
Recycling, Waste  
Management, Training  
& Culture Centre



*"Our vision is to turn the waste generated at our lodges into a commodity skillfully crafted by our community and into produce grown organically to reach our guest tables as well as our people"*



## AN INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN MONARCH LODGES & OUR ETHICAL CULTURE

African Monarch Lodges operates a Joint Venture Lodge Collection on the principles of Conservation, Community and Conservancies inside the Bwabwata National Park, in the heart of KAZA.

We at African Monarch Lodges recognize the significant contributions of the local people to conservation and collaborate with them to foster shared commitment to environmental stewardship. Our integrated holistic approach to conservation incorporates traditional knowledge and cultural values and results in tangible benefits. We work as a partner, making sure that community needs and local priorities are identified and addressed.

As lodge developers and owners in Namibia, we are the custodians of some of Africa's few remaining untouched wilderness areas that host majestic game species. So when we build and operate our lodges, we ensure that the sustainability of the natural environment, through and together with our local partners, is our priority.

We believe that the future of these wildlife areas is dependent on a strong committed working relationship between Government, private investors and the local communities that live alongside these wildlife areas. Tourism activities must remain sensitive to the integrity of wildlife areas whilst offering real concrete benefits to local communities.

We are leaders, innovators and creative in our concepts of hospitality. We position ourselves within sought after tourism locations. We have an unquenchable desire to create the most authentic African experiences, which evoke emotion and instill treasured memories. Superior standards and unrivalled space are equally matched by the detail and attention bestowed on our guests by the staff who we value as our most important resource.

## VISION OF OUR LATEST PROJECT

Our vision is to create a Permaculture, Recycling, Waste Management, Training and Culture Center, which:

- Is sustainable and helps conserve the community land
- Combats deforestation in the area and reintroduces indigenous tree species within and around the villages
- Emphasises on the transferal of artisan skills
- Creates employment
- Generates revenue for the Conservancy, the Sijwa employees and the region
- Implement and enhance human-wildlife conflict protocols at the site and the area
- Builds solid relationships with the community

It is our wish to establish a proactive, creative and helpful environment in which we will strive for excellence through perseverance with our people.

We understand that you as a western tourist are looking for environmentally conscious and socially responsible tourist operations. It is important to you that the lodges you visit benefits the communities and that your visit is making a difference.

The Centre will create a sustainable biodiversity economy for the region. By recycling waste produced from the African Monarch Lodges, neighboring lodges and the surrounding communities a revenue stream is established. The recycled waste material is manufactured into an artistic commodity, which has a fundamental monetary value for the tourism trade to this region.

# THE PROJECT

African Monarch Lodges seeks to give community members an opportunity to showcase their traditions in a Culture Centre and will further develop and train new artisan skills. By combining the Cultural Centre with Permaculture, Recycling, Waste Management and Training, African Monarch Lodges upholds the conservation principles for which it stands.

The project is a multi-faceted and a self-sufficient operating cycle combating all elements of waste disposal whilst creating income generating commodities. It also will combat the Human-Elephant conflict, which exists in our community and train our young generation on these issues.





## ORGANIC FARM



*"Planting trees is an effective way to offset our guests carbon emissions and improve the environment for the benefit of climate, wildlife and people."*

## TREE NURSERY FOR CARBON OFFSET

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions are a major contributor to climate change. During its lifetime, one tree will absorb and store between one to three tones of carbon dioxide. To help combat climate change we would like you to partake in a program to offset your carbon emissions.

The first step is to plant hundreds of small indigenous trees in our tree nursery. Once you arrive at our lodges we will calculate your total carbon emissions since your arrival in Namibia. We encourage you to purchase trees to the value of your carbon emissions. You can select the tree and also decide where you wish to plant your tree. We will appoint a Tree Guardian to look after your tree and send you the GPS coordinates of your trees' location. We will monitor the growth of your tree and for every 30cm of growth in height your Tree Guardian will receive a nominal fee of gratitude.

### Organic Compost Pits

- Kitchen waste from our lodge kitchens will be deposited into the compost pits
- Creating the most nutritious and mineral dense soil for organic gardening
- Employment will be created and skills trained which will filter back into the communities

### Fresh Organic Vegetables, Herbs and Fruit

- The fresh healthy produce will reach our guest tables at our lodges and our communities to improve healthy eating habits

### Organic Greenhouses

- Our lodges currently procure all its fresh produce from Katima and Windhoek which is mostly imported from South Africa
- Skills on organic gardening will be taught by experts in the field
- Natural matter will be used to create pesticides so that the farm remains completely organic
- Individuals from the community will be employed and trained on how to care for the farm
- We will be able to grow fresh organic vegetables, herbs and fruit using the nutrient rich castings from our compost pits and worm farms





## WORM FARM

- Non acidic kitchen waste plus all paper waste will be deposited into the worm farms
- The worm farms will produce nutrient-rich fertiliser for the organic gardens in the form of worm tea and vermicompost
- Individuals from our community s will be taught how to build worm farms and will care for the worm farms



## CHICKENS & ORGANIC EGGS

### Free Range Eggs

- Our lodges procure 600-800 eggs per week from Windhoek
- We will establish a chicken coupe using the ethical principles of permaculture
- Eggs from our farm will be sold to the lodges and the community
- Individuals from the community will be employed and trained to look after the chickens



*“Elephants are afraid of bees. Let that sink in for a minute. The largest animal on land is so terrified of a tiny insect that it will flap its ears, stir up dust and make noises when it hears the buzz of a beehive”*

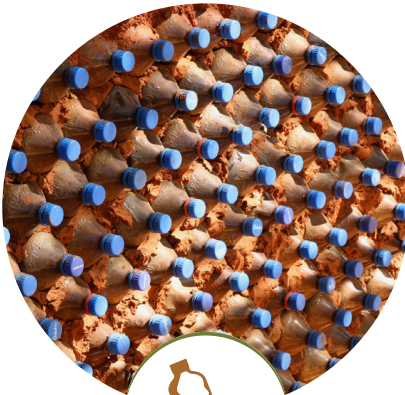
In our conservancies the people experience human-wildlife conflict on a regular basis as elephants naturally cross over from the Bwabwata National park into the neighbouring villages to feast on their lush crops.

Sijwa Island is not part of the age-old migratory route of the elephants traversing this area, however, we believe our organic farm will draw elephants. We will build our own beehives to deter these gentle giants. The beehive building skills will be taught to our community.

The lodges will sell the organic ‘Elephant-Friendly Honey’ and complete honeycombs will grace the breakfast buffets of our lodges.



## BEEHIVES



## PLASTIC RECYCLING PLANT



*“Man made plastic. We depend on it. Now we are drowning in it!”*

Our vision is to recycle all plastic bottles collected from our lodges and the villages in our area. We will build as many structures as possible using plastic bottles. Numerous community members will be employed to fill the plastic bottles with sand and other non-organic waste in preparation of the ‘building site’. Individuals from the community will be employed to build the structures using the filled plastic bottles and cement. The skill will be taught and transferred into the surrounding areas, which will hopefully reduce the chopping down of trees to build local houses. We will establish a fund for the building of plastic bottle structures in our villages and hope that you are able to donate towards this fund.



## ALUMINIUM RECYCLING PLANT

Our lodges have started collecting tin cans in preparation of the project. We will build our very own foundry to melt down all tin cans collected from our lodges and the villages in our area. We can also collect tins from nearby lodges. Scrap metal lying around the area can be melted down as well.

Beautiful artifacts will be made from the molten aluminum and these items will be sold at the center and will grace our lodge's guest tables to create awareness.



*"The demand for these artistic artifacts is present, the waste resource will be continuous and as much as it is our wish to create beautiful curios to sell it is also our obligation to remove the waste cans from the National Park. By turning this waste into a product we could sell we create employment and transfer artisan skills to our community."*



## GLASS RECYCLING PLANT

Our lodges have started collecting and separating glass bottles for the glass-recycling project. We will crush the glass and melt it to make beautiful jewelry, décor pieces and artifacts for sale at the center. The glass bottles will also be used to secure the beds of the organic herb and vegetable gardens in the greenhouses. The bottles can be used to build wall structures and mosaic tiles for artistic flooring.

The most important part of the glass project will be to blow our own glassware to grace the tables of our lodges. This will create awareness during your dining experiences. Creating awareness increases demand and improves sales of the items skillfully crafted by the individuals we will employ from our community to work at the glass project.



*"For every ton of waste glass used to manufacture 1 new glass, 1.2 tons of natural resources are saved."*



## JUNIOR RANGER TRAINING

The Zambezi Region has a shortage of qualified guides and it is our wish to develop an interest in guiding within the next generation and to start a junior ranger course which starts the ball rolling towards this dream.

We wish to establish a Junior Ranger Training program for the Grade 10, 11 and 12 high school scholars at our local school. In partnership with EcoTraining, we will first perform a 'Train the Trainer' Guide Course with 10 adults within our community, giving these selected individuals an opportunity to receive formal training and to thereafter impart their knowledge with the younger generation. Once they have successfully completed the Guide Course and the Junior Ranger Train the Trainer Course they will undertake the role of running

our Junior Ranger Course with the scholars. The scholars will receive an accredited Eco Training Junior Ranger Certificate upon the successful completion of the course, which will include work, and training in the African Monarch Lodges Permaculture, Recycling and Waste Management Plant over a 3-year period. The Junior Ranger Course with the 3-year Practical Environmental Program will challenge the young people to find their purpose, passion and place in the world.

The 170 students who will partake in our Junior Ranger Training program annually will be taught these recycling skills and will grow to understand the value of waste and how to preserve our natural resource from the damage of plastic and aluminum.



## CULTURAL CENTRE & TRADITIONAL VILLAGE

African Monarch Lodges built a traditional village for the Community in 2015 and some of the fees paid to the Conservancy cover the salaries and the equipment required for the group of community members employed there to operate the village. We believe that by moving this traditional village to the center will afford you the opportunity to get some insight into some of our communities' local culture in an ubtrosuive manner.



# Dear Donor,

We at African Monarch Lodges, through this initiative promise to create renowned guest experiences through intuitive moments of contact with our people. We will develop artisan skills and enrich our youth and the lives of our community whilst protecting the habitat and respecting nature's course.

We will establish the Organic Vegetable and Fruit farm on defined permaculture principles and have invested in the service of Elooilo Permaculture Initiative whom are Namibian Permaculture experts.

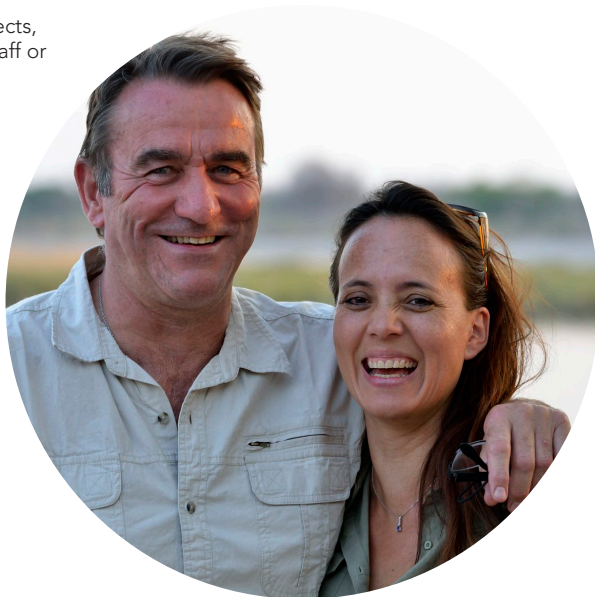
The concept of the Centre has been received with great excitement and appreciation from the Conservancy members as well as the Traditional Authority.

We trust that you will feel our enthusiasm and realize the potential of this project for the entire region in this remote part of Namibia. We would appreciate any support for this project in order to bring it to fruition.

If you would like to support any of these projects, please speak to your guide or to the lodge staff or management team.

Your stay at our African Monarch Lodges portfolio has helped make an enormous difference within the local community. We thank you for that and your continued support!

Yours Sincerely,  
Tinolla & Dusty Rodgers





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