

# WILD SHOTS Outreach

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## Wild Shots Outreach Newsletter – July 2021

### *Engaging young people in nature and conservation through photography*

Wild Shots Outreach (WSO) is spreading its wings outside of South Africa for the first time! In partnership with Natural Selection Travel and Elephants for Africa, we recently delivered 3 programs in Botswana. Meanwhile, in South Africa, we've added 3 young women photographers to the WSO/Conservation South Africa Media Team, and we've run six programs in communities bordering the Greater Kruger Area.



WSO group from Gweta Village on the Makgadikgadi salt pans



O.G. with her meerkat photo



Rifumo, Karabo, Refilwe, Nothando, Warren – the SA Media Team

**Wild Bots Outreach!** Our Botswana programmes were based in 3 communities: Gweta, Khwai and Moreomaoto. It was an exciting challenge as the issues in these communities are different to those in South Africa. The lack of fences in Botswana means that wildlife such as elephants and lions, can be perceived as crop raiders and livestock thieves. Our mission was to train groups of young unemployed to use cameras and give them a different perspective on their wildlife heritage. In common with our South African groups, none of the young people we worked with had been on a game drive before.

**Go, O.G., Go!** Ogaufi Mandiwana (O.G. for short!) was one of the most talented students we worked with in Botswana. Indeed, as a result, she has recently started an internship with Uncharted Africa, complete with a camera donated by WSO. Here's some of O.G.'s feedback from the course:

*"It is important that local people know about their parks, what's in there and that they know their own animals, so they can be protected for the future. My ambition is to be a tour guide with my own travel and tourism business."*

**Holding the Fort!** Meanwhile back in South Africa the WSO/Conservation South Africa media team have been busy running programs and covering photo assignments. Under Rifumo Mathebula's leadership they are delivering the program in Tsonga, the local language and proving to be great role models in their communities. Assistant Program Leader, Warren Ngobeni is quickly developing his videography skills, adding an extra dimension to the team's skill set.

**Outreach Statistics** – We have to date delivered a total of **88 courses** with **755 graduates** of the program. We have WSO graduates working in lodges and for NGOs, studying in tertiary education, working as antipoaching rangers, and employed in the media industry.

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