

TFN Impact Report

Name of your Organisation:	CyberTracker Conservation
Name of the project TFN funded:	Kalahari San Master Tracker Programme
Date Funded by TFN:	22/01/2020
Were you able to undertake your project as planned?	Yes
If no, please outline how the project has changed.	
Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?	We now have a total of 12 certified Master Trackers in Namibia and Botswana and are in the process of mentoring and assessing another 12 potential Master Trackers in Namibia and Botswana as well as 8 trackers in the Khomani San community in South Africa. In each of these projects a Tracker Certification Team has been trained to independently test and certify trackers within their own communities and issue Tracker Certificates. The Master Trackers in Certification Team are paid £15/day each, while those being assessed each receive a £7.50/day per diem. In March 2020 we had a group visiting the Ju'hoansi community for 10 days, during which time the community earned about £3500 in income. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the planned visits in October 2020 and March 2021 were cancelled. Some of the Kalahari San trackers have had TB and are immune compromised, so we need to take extra precautions to protect them. If the top Master Trackers were to die from Covid-19 this could result in irreparable loss of their cultural heritage. We have appointed a Namibian based consultant to help create awareness of Covid-19 within the communities and supply 50 elder trackers (including the Master Trackers) and their wives (in Namibia) and 11 trackers (including the Master Trackers) and their wives (in Botswana) with immune booster tablets to help protect them from Covid-19. We are also providing remote support by sending them funds to conduct their own Master Tracker mentoring programme (they report back by sending photos of points scored via WhatsApp). The Ju'hoansi Trackers Association has been formally created as a legal entity with their own bank account. The Khomani San community also have their own bank account, while a consultant in Botswana is assisting us in transferring funds to the Lone Tree Master Trackers in Botswana. CNN Call to Earth, in Partnership with the Rolex Perpetual Planet initiative, produced a video news story on our Kalahari San Master Tracker Programme: See link at: https://edition.cnn.com/2020/07/09/africa/louis-liebenberg-c2e-spc-int/index.html
What portion of the project did TFN fund?	20%
How many direct beneficiaries	12 Master Trackers and 20 potential Master Trackers who are in the

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did the TFN funded project reach?	process of being mentored and assessed as Master Trackers, receive payment per day for the work they do. We are also supplying 61 Master Trackers and potential Elder Master Trackers as well as their wives (total 122 individuals) with immune booster tablets to help protect them against Covid-19
How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	In addition to the Master Trackers, about 20 women and young men benefited from payment and selling crafts to the group who visited from the UK and USA in March 2020
Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	Yes
If yes, how much were you able to raise?	In South Africa we have a number of CyberTracker accredited tracker training schools, who issue CyberTracker Tracker Certificates. They have created a Tracker Mentoring Fund dedicated to support our Kalahari San Master Tracker Programme. Small donations are made by students who attend the tracker training courses (these are students from all over the world who can afford to travel and therefore may be able to make small donations). The first donations were made in October 2020 and so far £408,80 have been donated. We hope this will become a regular source of donations that may grow over time. This money is given directly to the Kalahari San Master Trackers to conduct tracker mentoring within their own communities.
Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?	Yes
If yes, please can you provide details of the support you received?	We have had some offers of volunteer support. However, due to Covid-19 we requested that volunteers do not visit the Kalahari San communities at this time due to risk of infection.
Has the training you received from TFN better prepared you in pitching your organisation to potential funders?	Yes
Has TFN increased your capacity to raise further funds?	Yes
How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives?	We would have found it difficult to achieve our objectives without TFN funding

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Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?	The most significant change is that the Covid-19 pandemic has forced us to find ways to provide remote support to the Kalahari San Master Tracker Programme. An unintended benefit from this new approach is that we are testing the ability the Master Tracker teams to work independently and report back via WhatsApp. The results proves that we can support indigenous communities remotely at very little cost. For example, to employ additional staff to manage the programme would cost much more in salaries and vehicle expenses. The remote support programme empowers the Kalahari San Master Trackers to do much more independently. For quality control and research & development, the project manager (Louis Liebenberg) will still do two field trips per year, but will not need to employ additional staff to assist him. A wildlife reseracher, who specialise in the endangered Wild Dog, will be based at the Ju'hoansi Tracker School in Namibia, where she will employ some of the Master Trackers to help her with research and monitoring. She will do her own fund raising and will therefore add additional benefits to the Kalahari San Master Tracker Programme.
Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?	The TFN process has been a valuable learning experience to focus on what we need to do to secure additional funding. Please note that we do not have the CNN Rolex video in the required file extension. CNN Call to Earth, in Partnership with the Rolex Perpetual Planet initiative, produced a video on our Kalahari San Master Tracker Programme: See link at: https://edition.cnn.com/2020/07/09/africa/louis-liebenberg-c2e-spc-int/index.html
Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?	One of the highlights of the Master Tracker assessment was to go hunting with husband-and-wife tracker team - Oma Kxao (70 years old) and Am Ao (66 years old). It is not widely appreciated that women are also hunters and trackers, and to see this husband-and-wife team track together offered new insights into indigenous hunting that have not been widely recorded in the anthropological literature. It was also amazing to see how far they were able to walk, for many hours in the heat of the Kalahari, at their advanced age.