



Introduction

The Kgalagadi District is located in south-western Botswana, and is over 600 km from the capital, Gaborone (Moswete et al., 2009; 2012). The district is divided into two sub-districts, the north and south, both situated within the Kalahari Desert region. Kgalagadi north covers 44,004 km², while the southern block comprises 66,066 km² area (Kgalagadi District Development Plan KDDP 6, 2003–2009). Of the 193 villages and settlements, Tšabong, is the most highly populated with more than 6000 inhabitants. It acts as the centre and has been designated as the main administration headquarters (GOB, 2002). Collectively, the district population occupies a network of 193 settlements within the Kgalagadi Communal Areas, and the average village/settlement size is 198 inhabitants. Settlements are often small with fewer than 500 people, comprising a few household clusters.

Villages are more formal and are officially recognised establishments with at least 500 persons (Moswete, 2009). They have basic facilities and services, such as water, health clinics, postal services, and schools. The level of available services is dependent on the village classification (Ministry of Finance & Development Planning, 2002). The main economy has primarily been based on raising small-scale livestock, cattle farming and nominal arable farming. Other traditional livelihood activities include subsistence hunting and gathering (Chanda et al., 2003), while safari-based tourism provides opportunities to a few community-based projects and individuals (Moswete et al., 2009)

The Kgalagadi District, incorporates Kgalagadi Transfronteir Park (KTP) offers a wide range of ecotourism resources and products. Eco-resources include nature, desert landscape, unique sand dunes (ridges), salt pans, culture, and history. With respect to cultural heritage resources, artefacts dating to the early, middle, and late Stone Ages have been uncovered in the KTP and the surrounding villages (GOB, 2001). Handicrafts made from ostrich eggshells (head bands, bracelets, necklaces, belts and floor-mats) are produced mainly by the San. Because of desert conditions with incidents of recurring droughts, inadequate

rainfall, and infertile soils for arable and pastoral agriculture, poverty levels are relatively high. Unemployment levels within Kgalagadi communities are high due to low levels of commerce. Thus, livestock farming (e.g. goats, sheep, donkey, poultry, and cattle) and park-based tourism provide employment opportunities for residents (Moswete et al., 2009). Hence, ecotourism has been identified as a sector through which the Kgalagadi region's economy could diversify, and residents are encouraged to invest in tourism initiatives with emphasis on communally owned ecotourism enterprises or projects.

There is a shared understanding among local communities, the Department of National Museum and Monuments, as well as the government of Botswana as the overarching body regarding the heritage of Kgalagadi District. The heritage trail depicts the heritage of Kgalagadi as a collection of monuments, that would serve as a national memory and identity and most importantly a potential source of tourism. It characterizes the Kgalagadi region as developmental, self-reliant, resilient and as a region with great potential. In short, the Kgalagadi region is portrayed as innovative in its pursuit of social and economic development. As the heritage trail reveals that the District's history and development are its major priority areas.

Due to its enormous nature and cultural diversity, the Kgalagadi region has latent potential for diversified heritage tourism. In this endeavour, Kgalagadi region comes out as a district where sustainable development can be easily attained. In this perspective, Kgalagadi region has hope of eradicating poverty, creating employment and attaining social development. The heritage trail evidence supports this paradigm by unveiling developmental hope for Kgalagadi region. It is more comforting, therefore, that the local communities in Kgalagadi have embarked on a mission to leverage their heritage to generate income.

This trail seeks to discuss the Kgalagadi heritage trail. The thrust of its discussion is that Kgalagadi North and South have a rich heritage as demonstrated by various monuments in the region.

The heritage trail is composed of coordinates and geographic maps of identified monuments as indicated below:

1 Matthy's pit – Struizendam

This is the first pit (hand dug well) that was dug in Struizendam. It was dug by the Mathys family led by Tities Matthys I and his sons Jan and David Matthys. The well was dug in 1942. This then led to the relocation of the village from its original place to the present day Struizendam. The village was relocated by the colonial government because the original location was turned into a national park previously known as Gembok National Park. The site is now part of the Kgalagadi Transfonteir National Park (popularly known as KTP). The pit was a useful resource in determining where the village was to be established. All other pits in the village had salty waters that were not suitable for both domestic use and watering animals. The pit is located at GPS coordinates: E 20° 37' 36" and S 26° 40' 22" and an elevation of 840mterres



2 Bokspits

Bok was a farmer who came to settle in the place. It was eventually named after him. He came to this place in search of water springs hence the digging of his pit. In other areas where he and his people had dug other pits, the water was salty and could not be used by people for domestic purposes and was unfavourable for watering livestock. The pit is situated at GPS coordinates: E 20° 41' 22" and S 26° 53' 51" at an elevation of 850m.



3 De Hoek /The Loop (Botswana's corner)

This is the South West point of Botswana and is popularly known as the Loop or De Hoek by the locals. In the 1960's, there happened to be a flood in the area and the people of Bokspits had to construct a mud wall to block the overflowing Kuruman River. The remains of the wall are still evident to-date even though it has been damaged by animals, children and numerous weather agents such as heavy rains and winds. This wall acted as a buffer to prevent the village from being submerged in water. The wall stands at E 20° 41' 2" and S 26° 41' 25" with an elevation of 870m.



4 The first Bank (Barclays bank)

Barclays bank Lobatse used this building as their premises when they brought their banking services to Bokspits and other surrounding villages on announced dates. Residents from neighbouring villages would throng Bokspits to access the banking facilities. The building that has since burned down and only the foundation left. It is at: E 20° 41' 2" and S 26° 41' 25" at an elevation of 870 m from sea level.



5 Old women's club house

Women gathered at this little house primarily to learn from one another and teach each other various life skills. Most importantly the women who started the meetings were Afrikaner speakers and they were thirsty to learn Setswana. Setswana teaching and learning became the primary reason for these meetings. This house has since been abandoned but plans are on the way to revive it through Ipelegeng poverty eradication programme. The building is situated at: E 20° 41' 42" and S 26° 53' 49" with an elevation of 820m above sea level.



6 John Sidney Martins

This was the first modern house in Bokspits as it was the first to be constructed using brick and mortar in the entire area of Bokspits and surrounding villages. It belonged to a certain British man Mr. John Sidney Martin who was a government soldier during the colonial government's era. He married a local woman called Anna Martins and the couple built their home in Bokspits. This old house is located at: E 20° 41' 26" and S 26° 53' min 49" at 820 m elevation above sea level.



7 Old school foundation/ church

This first school in Bokspits was built and run by the Lutheran Church. It was centrally located in the village and provided formal education to the local community. The school was later moved to the place where the current primary school stands, when the government took over. In the same compound as the old school, stands the foundation of the first Lutheran church building. There is also the second church building that is intact and the old mission house. The old mission house was used as a residence by the priests who also served as the school teachers and administrators. Most of the old buildings were built in the 1950's This compound is located at: E 20° 41' 40" and S 26° 53 40" at 850 m above sea level.



8 Old Bedford truck

This old Bedford truck is very significant in the development of the village of Bokspits. This truck was owned by the Farmers Union. The vehicle was key in carrying equipment that was used for borehole drilling. It was well known in Bokspits and surrounding villages as it also served as a major transport for the people of the area. It is seen as a key historical artefact by local leaders, and it is currently located at: E 20° 41' 22" and S26° 53'



9 First Bokspits kgotla

This is the place that Bok and his people used as an assembly area in the early days when they settled here. The trees provided shade, and were used as the first Kgotla, the location is at: E 20° 41' 26" and S 23° 53' 38"



10 Rapplespan

This is a natural pan. It has been critical as a water source for both domestic and wild animals. The pan catches water for some time after the rains. Additionally, this was a hunting spot for wild animals. The pan is located at: E 20° 48' 10" and S 26° 48' 46" and it is at 860m above sea level.



11 Gakhibane Village

a) Lobu Pan The pan is a natural resource that played a vital role in the lives of the residents of Gakhibane and surrounding cattle posts. Domestic and wild animals alike drank from this pan. Most importantly they would come for salt deposits. People would also come collect the salt for home use and to feed their domestic animals. The pan is still utilised in the present times as it has three (3) wells. It is located at: E 21° 45' 17" and S 26° 37' 56". It is at 940 m above sea level.



b) Gakhibane Sand Dunes

The sand dune is important in the lives of the people of Gakhibane village because the founders of this village used to pray for rain at the top of the sand dunes. The practice was led by the village chief in the evenings. The chief in the would summon all the elders to the kgotla and organise them for the ceremony which would take place early in the morning the next day. The chosen ones to take part in the event would wake up early and straight away walk to the foot of the dunes. No word would be spoken, and the chief would then lead the elders up the dune. Shoes were to be left at the foot of the sand dunes. Prayers would be made facing east wards and on bended knees. Once done, they would descend the dune to where they had left their shoes. It was after putting on their shoes that now the elders could start chatting. After the ceremony, it would take about two or three days and the rains would fall. The elders would then go to the dunes again to thank God for the rains. The practice has since stopped but the leaders of Gakhibane have plans to revive it. The sand dunes are situated at: E 21° 46' 11"; S 26° 43' 15.5" and are at 934 m above sea level.

c) Gakhibane Cultural Centre

This is the spot which is planned for use as a cultural centre. The place has an eye-catching view; one is able to see all the corners of Gakhibane village when at the summit of the raised point. The village leaders (as part of Botswana 50) celebrations, popularly known as BOT 50, built some stairs which leads one to the top where the cultural centre is to be built. In addition to the centre, the lower part that lies to the east has been ear marked for a cultural village This will include amongst other things have chalets for rental, wedding grounds as well as children playing grounds. This spot is located at:



Kgosi Jacob's cattle post
E 21° 35 19
S 26° 31 31
950 elevations



12 Khuis Paving slab site

This place has well shaped stones that can be used as building slabs as well as pavers. It is rich in sand stone rocks of different sizes. The area has been looted before, but the village elders have since taken upon themselves to ensure that the slabs are protected and generate revenue for the development of the village. The pavers have been used in the recently built Tropic of Capricorn Monument at Serororme valley. The site is located at: E 21° 49' 38"; S 26° 39' 38" and it is 890 m above sea level



13 Lobu Government Ranch

This is a government owned farm that was established around 1978. It was meant to produce stud animals or breeding stock for sheep and goats or small stock as the focus with a few cattle. Different breeds such as Doper and Karakul sheep; Kalahari red, Boer goat, and Saanen goats were kept. However, as years went by, the farm was abandoned. However, when his Excellency, the President of the republic of Botswana, Mr. Mokgweetsi Masisi was on an official visit to the area he advocated for the farm's revival. He believed this would create employment in the Kgalagadi South region. The aim is to have the region produce the best breeds of small stock and sell packaged lamb, mutton and animal studs to farmers. The farm is located at: E 26° 33' 29"; S 21° 49' 23" and it is 960m above sea level.



14 Traditional Leather tanner and Motlopi coffee Products

The Motlopi (Shepherd tree) coffee and leather products are made by Ms Dina Botha of Kolonkwaneeng. She learnt the skill from her late grandmother at a tender age and has been producing these up to today. For leather products, she uses various hides and skins from both domestic and wild animals. She buys wild animals' skins from the department of Wildlife and National parks. She then works on the skins to her desired texture and softness. Ms Botha is also well known for production of Motlopi coffee which she also learnt from her grandmother. The coffee has been analysed and tested by NAFTEC and has since been officially approved as safe for human consumption. The composition of the coffee has been analysed and packaged per 100 grams.



15 Seo Monument (Maleshe)

This is a pre-historic site characterised by the presence of hundreds of stone artefacts lying on the surface of what appears to be a relatively stable sand dune. The most present stone tools found at Seo are known to be as old as 200 000 years old. The Achaelian marks the second major stone artefact tradition, or industrial complex in the early stone age of Africa. The relics have been made using silarele sandstone that makes up the maleshe outcrop. This monument is at:



16 Didiba tsa ga John M. Lorekang

The wells are from as way back as the 1800. They were used for watering livestock and people. The people of Tšabong settled around this area in need of water. The GPS position of these wells is:



17 Lobu-yo-Monnye-Tsabong

It was used for watering animals, even wild animal used to drink from this pan. The pan holds water for a short period of time (1-2 months) then dries up. Its location is at: E 22° 23' 54.3"; S 26° 01' 18" and it is at 959 m above sea level.



18 Lobu-yo-Motona

The pan retains water for longer periods than the small one (2-4 months). It is used for watering animals and has some salt deposits. The pan is located at: E 22° 2' 34.3"; S 26° 02' 43.8".



19 Sediba soo rra Brooks

The well belongs to the Brooks family. It's an old well and generations have used it. It is used for portable drinking water by the community and also waters livestock. It was dug for the purpose of watering livestock as well as for water for use in homes. The well is reliable and could retain water from one rainy season to the other. This well is at GPS position: E 022° 22' 07.3"; S 26° 05 58.9" and it is at 992m above sea level.



20 Logaganeng (Cave)

This cave has a natural occurring well that never dries that the community drinks from and water their livestock. It has been a source of life for a long time. Once a cow fell inside and the community had to rescue it. Those who went in say its bottom is so wide. Upon seeing that animals were falling in community members threw rocks in to block and or close the well but failed. The GPs location of this well is: E 22° 22' 15" S 26° 5' 15" and it is at 1010m above sea level.



21 Zutshwa Salt Project

This project started in 1989 and was operated by RICC?? and German donors. In 1993 it was handed to Zutshwa community, however, the project collapsed in 2004. This was basically due to of mismanagement, lack of leadership and lack of skills. The board of trustees made informal decisions and the general community members were not involved. In 2014 towards general elections the then Vice President Dr P.H Kedikilwe visited the village and was informed about the project. P5 million was thereafter released to re the project. The trust has since bought and constructed 32 crystallizing and evaporative ponds. The project is located at Zutshwa village at GPS position: E 22° 22' 33" and S 25° 52' 6".



22 Kartlwe Pan

This pan is found about ten kilometres south west of Lokgwabe village. It is the place where Kaptein Simon Cooper settled with his Nama people after leaving the Battle fields of Statswe and Polontswa. Here Kaptein cooper regrouped his people and built a permanent settlement. Ruins of the homestead's and boreholes are found around the pan. The place where Simon Cooper's kgotla stood is also visible. The Pan was vital as it provide water for livestock as well as serving as hunting ground. E 21° 42' 38" S 24° 8' 56" 1090 m

23 Tshane old Police Station

Tshane police dates to the colonial times. It is here that the men in uniform would patrol the entire region. The first police officers were from neighbouring countries such as Namibia. Ne who is still remembered is a certain Adreck (Hendrick) whose grave is some few metres away from the current police station. Basotho were also recruited and they changed the police unit as they used camels and horses in carrying their duties. Later on Batswana recruits joined the police unit hence localising the police unit. The police station had a radio room which had equipment that enabled communication with other police stations such as Lobatse. Coordinates: E 21° 51' 50"; S 24° 01' 39" and it is at 1120 m above sea level.

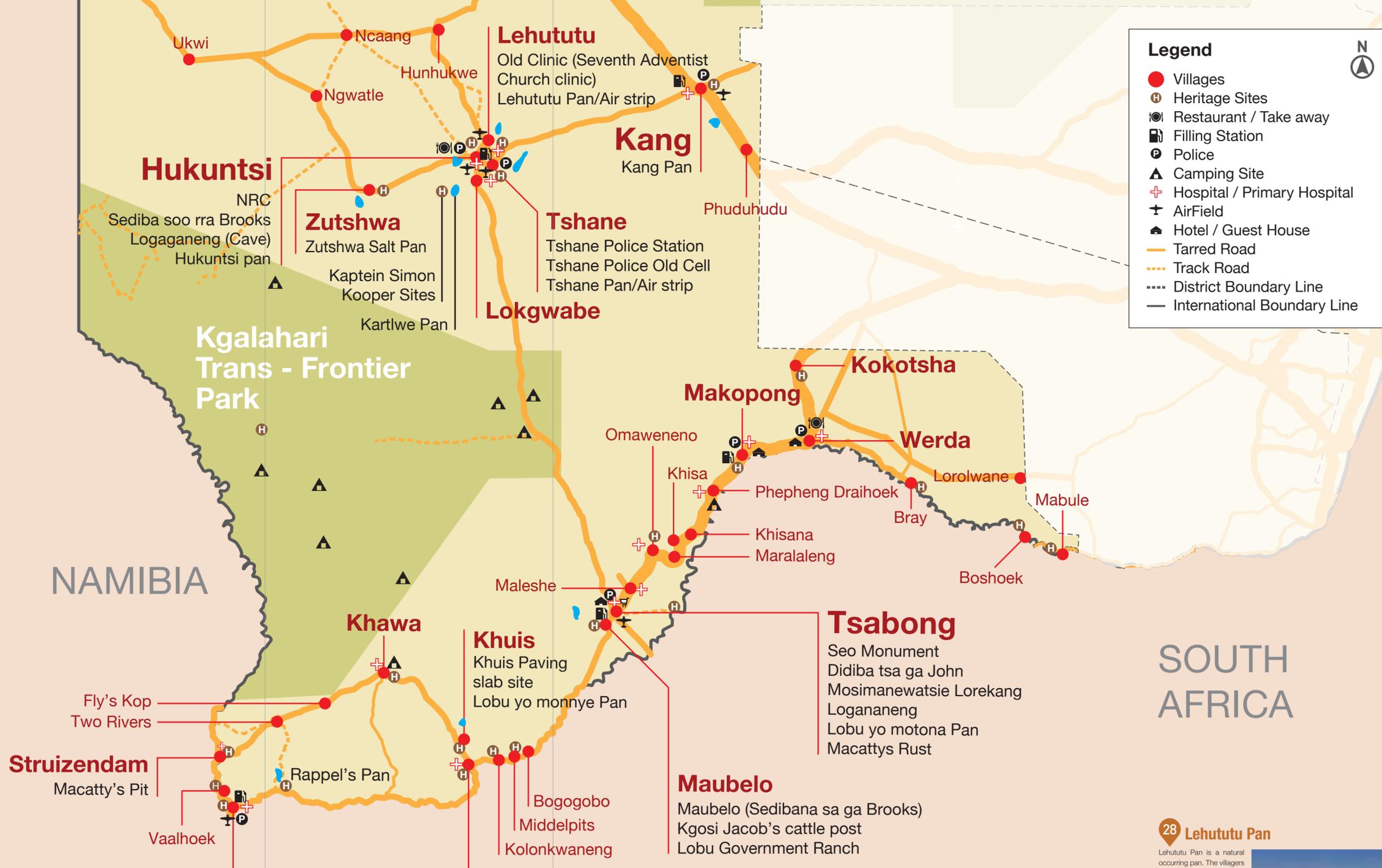
24 NRC (Native Recruiting Company)

This is where miners were recruited to go work at the South African mines. Man from all neighbouring villages of Lokgwabe, Tshane, Lehututu and many others surrounding Hukuntsi came for here for recruitment. After getting employment contracts they would be taken to Lobatse where they will be transported by rail to South Africa. The same place was also used for mail communication. Once they settled in South African mines they would write letters to their families back home and mail was collected and deposited here.



25 Kgalagadi Transfronteir Park

Kgalagadi Transfronteir Park is a very beautiful Trans-national Park. Its terrain comprises fossil river valleys dotted with dwarfed trees and bushes, grasslands and different coloured sand dunes. Wildlife is abundant, and the animals are attracted to waterholes along the otherwise dry riverbed. Several species of antelope, including the ubiquitous springbok and gemsbok, hartebeest, and eland can be seen, as well as the famous black-manned Kalahari lion, jackal, brown hyena, and wild cats. Over 170 species of birds have been recorded here, and it is not uncommon to see over 30 bird species within a few kilometres of the campsite. The other area of KTP comprises a series of exceptionally large pans, which are the principle focus of the reserve. Campsites dot the various pans, and many are situated on slight outcrops, giving almost unimpeded vision, thus making for good game viewing right from the tourists' camp-site chairs.



Legend

- Villages
- Ⓜ Heritage Sites
- ☺ Restaurant / Take away
- ⛛ Filling Station
- Ⓜ Police
- ⛛ Camping Site
- ⛛ Hospital / Primary Hospital
- ✈ AirField
- 🏠 Hotel / Guest House
- Tarred Road
- ⋯ Track Road
- ⋯ District Boundary Line
- International Boundary Line

SOUTH AFRICA

28 Lehututu Pan

Lehututu Pan is a natural occurring pan. The villagers used to water their livestock at this pan. The pan was also used as a source of salt. The pan was later used as a landing strip for aeroplanes that were transporting medical facilities, medical staff and patients to and from the clinic.



29 Tshane Pan/Air strip

Tshane Pan is basically the natural resource that led to the people of Tshane settling in the area. Oral traditions have it that they had travelled in search of water and ultimately finding the pan hence settling around the pan. From the time of settling in the surroundings of the pan, the people of Tshane have relied heavily on the pan for to water their livestock during rainy seasons and dry seasons. They dug wells which would be used for domestic water collection as well as watering livestock all year round. The pan was also used as a landing strip for aeroplanes back in the days. The colonial officials and doctors when visiting the region would use the pan as a landing strip.



26 Kaptein Simon Kooper Sites

Kaptein Simon Cooper was a leader of the Ikharakoen Nama community in the Botswana. Kaptein Cooper led his community against onslaught from colonial Germany and took refuge in Bechuanaland protectorate on the 23rd January 1909 to end the war against German south West Africa. In 2011, a tombstone was erected on his grave and the grave yard where his remains were buried was ultimately declared a National Monument. The German government honoured Kaptein Simon Cooper with a tombstone in 2011 for his dedication and unwavering spirit. His descendants reside in the Kgalagadi district, at Lokgwabe village and the same are found in other villages like Tsabong. The called BW Nama Development Trust was established in 2017 and has so far successfully hosted an annual cultural festival for the past four years. The aim of the festival is to resuscitate and revive Nama culture. Coordinates: E 21° 42' 01"; S 24° 08' 1859" and it is at 1110 m above sea level.



27 Omaweneno Borehole

First village borehole. This was dug by the people initially. They named the place where it stands Omaweneno meaning the place of gathering. Every household pledged a beast to have the borehole drilled further and equipped. S250 45'44.9"E0220 34'03.8"



Rraagoa Polo hill – Oral traditions have it that once a man tried to go up this steep (lekgabana/lekhubu) hill. It is said the man heard some strange voice echoing "Rrago polo". The voice was insulting the father to the man and since then the hill was revered as the area where ancestral spirits lived. The hill is now friendly and is used for social gatherings and photo shooting sprees. S250 44'46.6"E0220 33'30.5"

Gakhibane

Traditional Leather tanner and Motlopi coffee Products (Kolonkwaneng)
Gakhibane Cultural Center

Bokspits

First Bank (Barclays)
De Hoek /The Loop (Botswana's corner)
Old women's club house
John Sidney Martins
Old Bedford truck
Old school foundation/church
First Bokspits kgotla

Maubelo

Maubelo (Sedibana sa ga Brooks)
Kgosi Jacob's cattle post
Lobu Government Ranch

Tsabong

Seo Monument
Didiba tsa ga John
Mosimanewatsie Lorekang
Logananeng
Lobu yo motona Pan
Macattys Rust

Khuis

Khuis Paving slab site
Lobu yo monnye Pan

Khawa

Struizendam

Fly's Kop
Two Rivers
Macatty's Pit
Vaalhoek

Rappel's Pan

Bogogobo

Middelpits
Kolonkwaneng