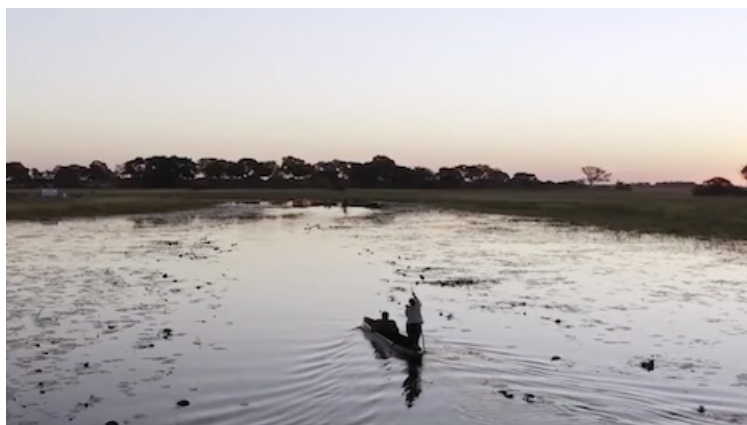


NONPROFITS

## De Beers, National Geographic mark first year of Okavango Eternal collab

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*National Geographic and De Beers celebrate first year of Okavango Eternal collaboration. Image credit: Da Beers*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

In the year since leading diamond producer and jeweler De Beers and National Geographic have formed Okavango Eternal, major conservation achievements have been made in the Okavango Delta.

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The rich wetland in Botswana is preserved, but the vital source of the wetland's waters are not. De Beers and National Geographic have worked within Angola, Botswana and throughout the biodiverse region to help locals with nature conservation.

"In its first year the Okavango Eternal partnership has worked with local communities in both Angola and Botswana to help create a more prosperous future for the region," De Beers stated in a [video](#) promoted on its social media platforms.

"From initiatives that help improve local honey production to empowering women to guide expeditions to equipping local teachers with knowledge about the importance of the Okavango Basin. This is just the beginning."

The partners took an intersectional approach to tackling the issues in the ecosystem, addressing both the human and habitat difficulties at play, while centering the voices of local community members.

### Team of the crop

While the delta's communities have historically relied on banned hunting practices for income, Okavango Eternal led the way for these workers to transition into greener ways of making income, namely, produce.

After meaningful conversations with leaders in the region, the partnership emphasized the prosperity of produce growing. This would require the protection of the land where the produce would be cultivated, making it beneficial for both the people and the habitats.

Communities already implementing this initiative in Mozambique provided a guide for Okavango locals to look to, seeing the created co-ops and communal money that the produce provided them with, thanks to an exchange program set up by the partnership.

"I learned about savings in the neighborhood," said Elias Ngunga, a local who traveled to Mozambique with the team, in a statement.

"Each neighborhood has a contribution box to store money, with lists and booklets," he said. "It is something that I'd like to adapt here.

"It's money you can save for the whole year and make it possible to send your children to school."

The facilitation of these inter-country conversations on the part of National Geographic and De Beers was powerful in gaining community support, bringing visibility to the potential of harvest funds.

Having harvested honey in the local area for years, honey production was used as an applicable way for those in the region to participate in this model of economy.

Okavango Eternal gifted locals with modern upgrades for their beekeeping, making for a more efficient and profitable way to earn a living, without needing to hunt illegally.

The partnership also facilitated a boat race, the Nkashi Classic, to bring in tourists to the remote region of an otherwise visited area.

This will continue to be an annual occurrence from Okavango Eternal, as it not only brings in revenue to those living on the land, but gives them a platform to educate tourists on their traditions.

Okavango Eternal also has been placing women in key positions of leadership, especially in local guide tours, shrinking the gender gap in the region and opening the door for further education.

On top of that, **De Beers** and **National Geographic** continue to fund research and monitoring of the ecosystems in the delta, securing a stable future for the Okavango Delta.

*Okavango Eternal: First Year Progress. Video credit: De Beers*