



## Goo-Moremi

On Saturday, July 8, we traveled to Moremi Gorge with our incredible team. We hiked and climbed our way to three beautiful waterfalls. We encountered many different wildlife. The gorge is home to one of only two breeding sites of the endangered Cape Vulture species. It is their breeding season, and we saw them flying to and from their nests. We also saw a few rock rabbits on our way to the waterfalls. Moremi Gorge is also home to an 800-year-old Baobab tree. At bottom right, you can see this tree's size with Izabel for reference.

We also learned that this place is home to the ancestral spirits. Our guide told us the following story of *Sir Seretse Khama 'Alarm Stone.'* On the morning of July 13, 1980, a loud rumbling was heard by the villagers of Goo-Moremi as a colossal stone fell from the gorge above. The stone falling at the revered Moremi Gorge is believed to be a sign that someone of great importance has passed on. Later that morning, the news that the first President of Botswana and Paramount Chief of Bangwato had died was announced.



## Masupe Special Olympics

On Wednesday, July 12, Masupe held a Special Olympics event against a school in Palapye. We cheered on the Masupe students as they competed in the 100m, orange and egg races. Three OSU students (Courtney, Markey and Kamyryn) and a program coordinator (OT) participated in the events, too!



## Setswana Word of the Week

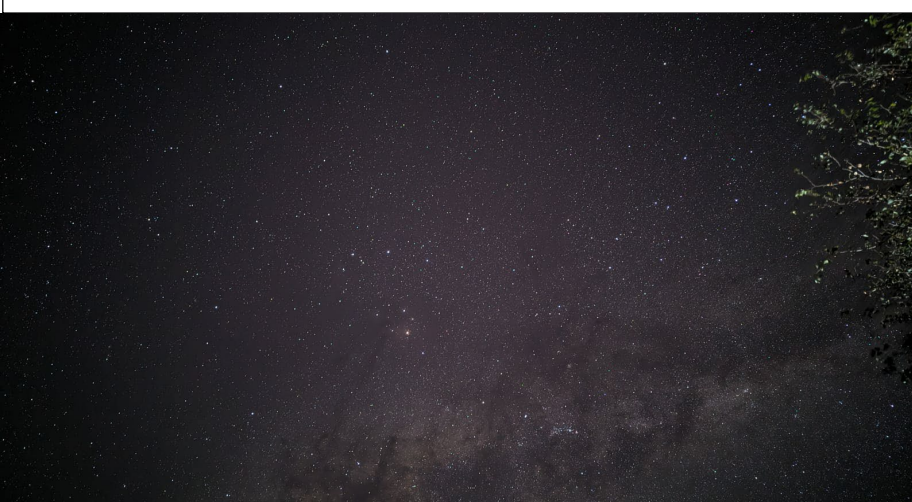
“Ke a leboga” is the Setswana phrase for “Thank you”. All four research projects held numerous meetings with participants and stakeholders this past week, and we’re grateful for their continued involvement.

## Program Updates

This week, the GBV and SRH teams implemented their programs at all three schools with caregivers. Each team conducted focus group interviews with caregivers and finished the sessions by distributing certificates of completion. The Positive Youth Development Project team met with the local police to collect data and prepped for their presentation event on July 26 and 27. See the spotlight of the week to read about the Mainstreaming Disability Project.



A view of the Milky Way in Botswana on Thursday, July 13, 2023.



## Spotlight of the Week: Courtney Jost



Courtney Jost is working on her Ph.D. in Public Health at OSU and leads the Disability Awareness project.

“The disability awareness and inclusion project aims to engage community stakeholders to develop a comprehensive, culturally relevant Disability Awareness Program and to assess participants’ change in knowledge and attitude related to disability as a result of their interaction with this program. We successfully piloted this program with teachers and health care workers in the rural village of Maunatlala.

We are using the Sustainable Community Partnership and Empowerment (SCOPE) strategy to enforce reciprocal learning among all stakeholders (researchers and community members), ensuring the cultural appropriateness and sustainability of study efforts. By adopting this bottom-up approach, researchers are engaging and partnering with community leaders with disabilities and those passionate about working alongside people with disabilities to build together a knowledge base that will allow this program to grow. The results from this study will inform future program development models, placing community engagement at the foundation of these programs and expanding inclusive thinking globally.

Our team was able to wrap up data collection this week, and we now head into the data analysis phase of this project. We will collaborate with local stakeholders in the upcoming weeks to analyze, interpret and prepare preliminary reports to share with the Maunatlala community.” - Courtney.