



Oregon State University BOTSWANA GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

Summer 2022 | Maunatlala, Botswana

An Update from Kevin Luyamba

Hello everyone, my birth name is Kevin, yet I find myself wishing I could exchange it to the one given to me here, Kagiso. It means “peace”, which some may say I embody, but some may think otherwise. I am a graduate student, working on my Masters of Public Health, within the Global Health option. I've been able to lead trainings, administer survey and facilitate focus groups while I've been here. Professionally, the skills I have acquired here will aid in propelling me in working in a Global context. Additionally, I have admired the efficiency of my Positive Youth Development team, which includes, Ellen Radcliffe (MPH) and Ivan Estrada (PHD), and their ability to remain expedient on tasks. I am grateful for my participation in this internship, on a professional level but also on a humane level. Thank you, and blessings.

Wildlife of Botswana

The Story of the Zebra: The National Animal of Botswana. The zebra is known as the symbol of Botswana for two primary reasons. One, because it is considered neutral in terms of tribal colors, and because of its historical representation of racial harmony. When Botswana's first president (Sir Seretse Khama) fell in love with a British woman (Ruth Williams), the British government tried to stop their marriage as to not upset a trade deal with South Africa in the midst of Apartheid. However, Ruth was embraced by the people of Botswana, soon became the First Lady. The zebra therefore represents the union of black and white, a testament to their inclusive culture.

The white rhino is native to Botswana, and most are found either up north in the Okavango Delta, or in sanctuaries across the country. They are the second-largest land mammals in the world. These animals can weigh over 3 tons, and they are herbivores. The Khama Rhino Sanctuary of Botswana was founded to protect these animals that were at risk of extinction, now they roam the game reserve freely and in peace.



How We Spend Our Free Time



sunset yoga

Every night we decompress with an outdoor yoga session led by Rachael. It is a great opportunity to clear our minds, stretch our muscles, and enjoy the sunset together!

football tournament

This past weekend, some of our team members played in a 5-game football (soccer) tournament with other Maunatlala locals. It was a great team-building opportunity, as well as a fun way to get to know the villagers better!



friendship bracelets

We've been spending time with students from Maunatlala and Masupe primary schools at the library during their after-school program known as Brighter Kids. This past week, we all made friendship bracelets together!



Pictured: PYD team; Ivan Estrada, Ellen Radcliffe, and Kevin Luyamba with members of the Maunatlala Survey Team



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Positive Youth Development

The Positive Youth Development and Alcohol Use project aims to examine the relationship between youth development and alcohol use behaviors. More specifically, it seeks to measure alcohol use behaviors and the developmental assets of village youth. Recently, the project team has been busy training the local Youth Survey Team in administering surveys and facilitating focus group discussions (FGD's). In total, 7 youth have been trained. The plan is to have the newly trained youth administer the remaining surveys and FGD's over the next few months. This effort has been critical to building local research capacity that will endure long after the OSU research team returns to Oregon. By the end of the Botswana Summer program, a total of 30 surveys and 2 FGD's will be carried out. And by the end of the full study, 150 surveys and 8 FGD's will have been implemented.

- Ivan Estrada, MPH, Project Leader