

Maliba Mountain Lodge Community Development Trust



Maliba

LESOTHO



History and Introduction

The Maliba Development Trust was established in October 2009. The trust was established by the directors of Maliba Lodge, Nick King, Chris Mc Evoy and Stephen Phakisi, with local community representatives providing support assistance. The Trust also supports US Peace Corps representation within the local villages to help coordinate projects. The purpose of the Trust is to advance the educational, economic and social quality of life of our mountainside community by increasing local employment and local capacity to put ideas into action.

Maliba Lodge is Lesotho's first luxury 5 star lodge. It was built using mainly labour from the local villages, nearly 100 local Basotho were involved in the lodge construction and many had the opportunity to learn new skills. Now it is operational, many have been retained in a variety of roles, including as barmen, security, housekeeping, gardeners and maintenance. The majority of the 40 plus staff that now work at the Lodge were also involved in the building of it. This has created a great sense of pride in 'our lodge' and they have become a valued, highly trained and dedicated staff who care about the quality of their work and interact positively with Maliba's guests.

Fifty percent of all lodge profits will go to the trust, and has now employed a new Trust Manager, a local Masotho, with background in Agriculture, Education and Community Service. In addition, Peter Flavery former CEO of Save the Children is helping mentor and guide the trust.

The goals of the Trust are to identify, plan and assist with projects in partnership with the local community. This would be complemented by the creation and improvement of employment and entrepreneurial opportunities while establishing and sustaining community facilities. Maliba Lodge, through its management and staff, provides additional funding, equipment, support and guidance for the various community programmes.

Challenges in Lesotho

Lesotho has one of the highest literacy rate of 85% in Africa but this small country has major problems with high levels of HIV, poverty and malnutrition. Lesotho's residents struggle for access to vital services, such as health care, travel, and educational resources. It is estimated that 60% of the population live below the poverty line with one of the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in the world.



Education

Infrastructure

A capital works programme to improve the basic infrastructure of five local schools was introduced. In addition to upgrading buildings, the programme provided resources for teachers, including books sporting equipment and furniture.

Our peacekeeper volunteers have been working with Principals and school staff on needs analysis; to know how to look to their own resources for income generation and doing skills development to improve their ability to do their own fund raising. This will allow them to handle underfunded school operating & infrastructure costs as needed in the future.

Library

The Trust has assisted the Administration, Teachers & Students at Ts'ehlanyane Community School with funding, building and training to install & operate a Community/School Library.

Volunteering

The Maliba Community Trust sponsors a work programme with 8 local schools and experienced teachers are being flown in from Australia to help with the tuition and improve the skills of the local teachers. The volunteers are hosted by Maliba for 2 weeks stints. During this time the teachers spend time in the schools sharing their knowledge and skills with the children and the local teachers themselves. "We came to teach and ended up learning." That was the response of two Australian teachers, Lydia Mancini and Kaye Young, from a high profile Melbourne school, Peninsular Grammar, who travelled to the highlands of Lesotho to help running workshops and helping teachers and pupils at the local schools.

Peacecorp Volunteers

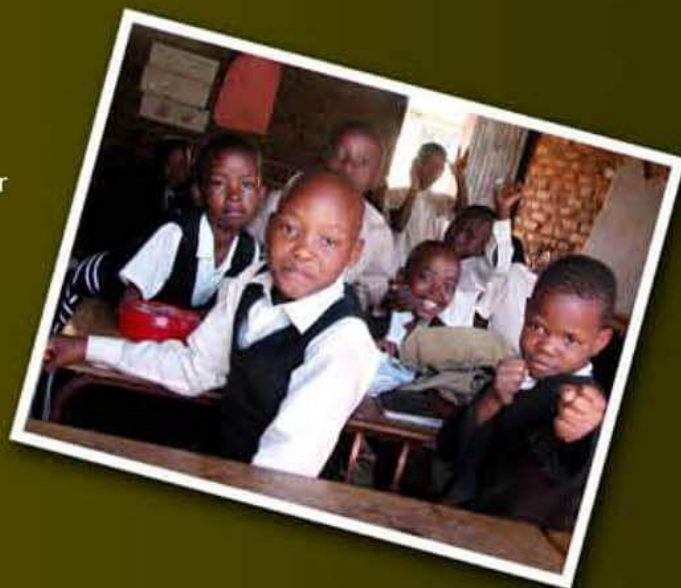
Maliba has hosted 3 peacecorp volunteers in the area for over 5 years who have managed and supported the work of the trust. Each volunteer is based in a community in Buthe Buthe and provides insight and project management for the Trust.

Community Centre

Maliba has renovated two buildings in it's local area to be turned into community centres for their respective villages, Ha Mali and Ha Mohale.

These are now used the following ;

- Basic education classes for out-of-school individuals such as young mothers, herders and persons of any age who have not receive a basic school education.
- Life Skills and Business Education classes for out-of-school individuals.
- Train and develop a Maliba Community liaison officer from the community, to run and manage the community centre and its projects and cementing the link between Maliba lodge and the community.
- Kitchen garden installation and operation for double orphans and vulnerable children. Includes business skills training. Funded by Maliba Community Development Trust - to become self supporting
- Initial base for Chicken husbandry & chicken tractor demonstration project to provide eggs for double orphans and vulnerable children. This has now been moved to St Denis school and is self sustainable.
- Base of operations for Maliba Lodge Community Outreach officer & post-Peace Corps for Support Groups .
- HIV/AIDS workshops and/or events which include and involve the local community and other organizations in the area.
- Provide a Health Services Outreach for home bound sick and elderly and monthly visits by the Local Support Group
- Saturday youth programs including sports, arts, crafts, reading/storytelling and availability of schoolwork assistance & tutoring.



Guests are encouraged to come and share their time and talents with the youth of Ha Mali at the Community Center on Saturdays. Please help us with sports, painting, drawing, crafts of all sorts, weaving, dancing, singing and storytelling (translator on site). It's fun and meaningful for all. Please contact us 24 hours in advance so we can include you in our schedule and if your activity involves materials please consider bringing them along & donating them to the Center. Contact information is located at the end of this document.

Health

Mobile Clinic

The trust is working with the local St Denis clinic to design, purchase and operate a Mobile Outreach vehicle that will extend medical care to large numbers of individuals in 40 local villages. This will provide critical assistance and support to members of the community who do not have funds for transportation or the physical ability to visit the Clinic, and will allow for weekly health care education events covering HIV/Aids, TB, Immunization, Sanitation, Nutrition and more.



Our recent health care training workshops include Home Based Care Training for 35 Village Health Workers & Support Groups; upcoming Maternal Health care Workshop for 60 pregnant or nursing mothers taught by local St Denis Clinic and Health Ministry Professionals and an HIV Education & Life Skills Peer Support Training involving 25 area teachers & out-of-school youth.

Volunteering

In addition to the education volunteers, we have created a health program for overseas qualified nurses to assist in medical training at the relevant community centres and clinic visits.

Hand Me Down, an SA Adventure Initiative

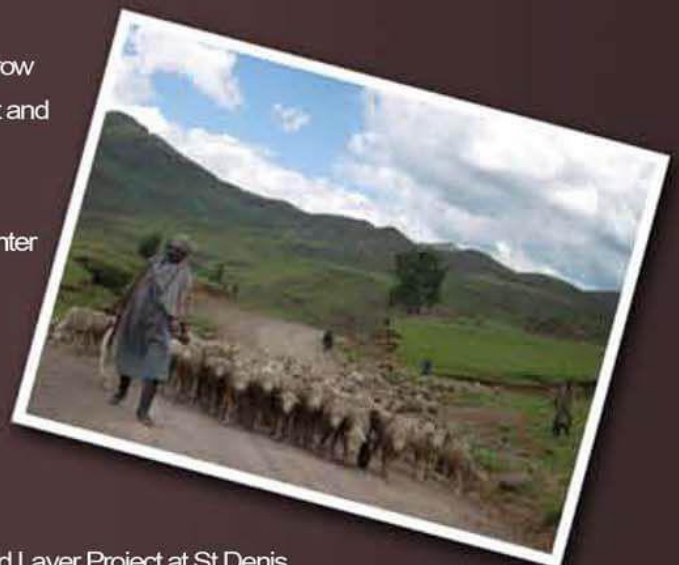
SA Adventure, a Joburg based 4x4 training company, with the help of the Maliba Trust has formed a clothing donation programme for the disadvantage children in our community which includes many double orphans who often have to support themselves. The initiative is aimed at providing clothing to disadvantaged children and orphans on a regular basis throughout the year. Clothing or drop off stations are situated at various locations around Joburg for people wanting to donate to this cause.

Agriculture

We have partnered with a local Agric Skills Training Center to create an internship program for their students to work with over 1,000 students and teachers at 6 area Primary and Secondary Schools on gardening and livestock education and practical garden design and management. Interns from local agricultural colleges are placed at the 5 schools to teach horticultural skills and assist in the growing of vegetable gardens on the premises.

Both teachers and scholars are taught to manage these gardens and grow vegetables. The Trust has supplied seeds, technical instruction, support and equipment to ensure these vegetable gardens are a success.

Agric teachers at St. Denis High School and the Agric Skills Training Center are working with Lodge Management to coordinate seasonal crop production with items the Chefs can purchase locally this helps provide critical hard income back to the schools so they can finance some of their own projects.



Laver Project

We have assisted in the establish and operation of a sustainable 350 bird Laver Project at St Denis High school. The project initially started at the Maliba Ha Mali community centre and has now moved to the school. Students are learning Poultry and Small Business Management while running this project. The Profits fund Food Scholarships to assist those who cannot afford to pay the annual fee for the school's nutritious daily meal. In addition, our chefs now purchase all fresh eggs for the kitchen.

Local Business Support

Woven hats, pottery and weavings produced by a variety of craft cooperatives are available for sale at the Lodge. Guests are encouraged to visit the artists at the Craft Centers where these items are made.

Our chefs have the pleasure of buying fresh eggs, honey and vegetables on a weekly basis from different community projects in the Buthe Buthe area.

Environment

The Greening Programme is aimed at providing the communities with horticultural skills which will enable them to grow their own vegetables as well as a water-wise indigenous garden. This should equip the community with the skills necessary to support themselves and possibly sell surplus produce.

Water

We installed two 2500 liter tanks to collect rain water at the Ha Mali Community Center, providing clean water for drinking and washing for preschool students and Saturday youth using the Center, and a good supply for watering fruit trees recently planted on the Center grounds. Also a 5,000 liter rain water tank at St. Felix Primary School in the village of Ha Mali and are now in the application process for another 5,000 liter tank for St. Dominic Primary School in the Tipping area. All rain water collection systems projects include training on potable water treatment, tank maintenance and basic hand sanitation & hygiene.

Vulture Project

Vultures have in the past been seen as vermin which have spread disease and killed livestock and have been ruthlessly wiped out as a result. Their numbers have been further reduced by a dwindling habitat and demands of the traditional medicine trade.

But vultures in fact form a vital link in the food web of any ecosystem and need to be protected. Maliba Trust, with the help of KZN Wildlife, Endangered Wildlife Trust and the community, have started a vulture restaurant in our park. (A vulture restaurant is an open place where dead carcasses of domestic and/or wild mammals are placed with the intention of providing a food source for vultures). With time this will assist in the protection, monitoring and conservation of vultures or, more specifically the Bearded Vulture. It will form a source for eco tourism and education, not only allowing the community to observe and learn about these birds but also in providing a valuable attraction for birders and photographers.



Recycling

The lodge has a full recycling program for waste management. Glass, plastic and cans are separated at the lodge and transported to recycling stations in South Africa.

Biogas

Maliba has installed a solution for sanitation, wastewater treatment, and renewable energy. By installing digesters for decentralized wastewater treatment and biogas production this technology tackles many problems faced by lodges.

It has many benefits like:

- Sanitizing wastewater on the compound and making it fit for irrigation
- Turning organic matter into cooking gas
- Encouraging home gardening
- Reducing methane emissions from unsealed so called septic tanks, pit and VIP latrines, and open defecation.



If you would like to donate to the Trust or to a specific project either currently underway or yet to come, please chat to you Lodge manager or use contact details below:



Maliba Mountain Lodge
Ts'ehlanyane National Park, Lesotho
Tel: +27(0)31 702 8791
Reservations@maliba-lodge.com
<http://maliba-lodge.com>