

FIRST PEOPLES WORLDWIDE

3307 Bourbon Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22408
(540) 899-6545
fax (540) 899-6501
www.firstpeoplesworldwide.org



Provide food & water to 260 San People in Botswana

What we are doing: First Peoples Worldwide, an Indigenous-led organization, is working to save the Indigenous San community in Botswana. For more than a decade, First Peoples Worldwide has worked alongside the San to help them regain their rights to their land and livelihoods. First Peoples helped the San win a groundbreaking decision on Botswana's Supreme Court in 2006, in which the court found they had been wrongly evicted from their land when the government established the Central Kalahari Game Reserve as a zone free of human habitation. The San's jubilation at the Court's victory nearly two years ago has again turned to despair. Life is desperate. Many people are on the verge of starvation. The government filled the San's water bore with concrete and refuses to dig a new well, and has even banned the San from gathering water from the water ponds used by the wildlife. Having faced brutal evictions from their homelands, deplorable living conditions in resettlement communities, and facing certain death by starvation, the San desperately need your support. Without it, these people and their vibrant culture will forever be erased from the earth.

First Peoples works in support of the rights of Indigenous Peoples throughout the world to protect, develop, and govern their assets. With a broad understanding of Indigenous assets,— including land, culture, kinship networks and spirituality—we believe that true development does not increase the value of some assets (such as land) at the expense of others (such as culture) but rather enriches all assets simultaneously. In all of our work, we are dedicated to making the wisdom and work of Indigenous Peoples more visible, and thereby more valued, so that the important voices of Indigenous Peoples might be heard in policy discussions ranging from community health and land tenure, to climate change and conservation.

How we are doing it: First Peoples Worldwide is utilizing contacts and relationships with individuals and organizations that have developed over the last decade to continue to support the San. The four communities in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, Molapo, Metsiamanong, Motlhomelo, and Gugamma, are home to 260 San who have returned to their homeland. The needs of the community members are small and First Peoples will provide maize, sorghum, tea, coffee, sugar, milk, canned fish, corned beef, oil, bathing and washing soap, Vaseline, and tobacco. An assessment of water containers in each village will be made with an effort to increase the number where there is a shortage. Because access to waterholes has been obstructed, the San rely completely on water being transported across the desert for their survival. Funding is given through our Keepers of the Earth Fund to purchase food, water, water vessels, and vehicle fuel for a vehicle to transport the necessary items to the San to keep communities alive.

What we will accomplish: First Peoples Worldwide to redress the San's evictions San from their homelands. We will first ensure that the San's basic livelihood needs are met. Beyond this, we will work to enable the San of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve to take part in nature conservation, income generating activities, advocacy, cultural preservation, and negotiations about land tenure and access to resources. With funding and technical assistance from First Peoples Worldwide, we will conduct meetings to raise the San community's awareness of their rights, carry out trainings, advocacy projects, and increase local and national networking and awareness among the San people and support organizations.

The San continue to feel pressure from Botswana's government and conservation groups active in the region. As they restore their culture and regain their rights, First Peoples will aid the San in their ultimate goal of establishing community-based natural resource management projects and conservation on their traditional homelands in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve.