

Culture and Heritage

!Khwa ttu San Heritage Centre is a vibrant combination of fixed exhibitions, revolving guest exhibitions, interactive outdoor experiences and extensive community outreach work.

With so much variety we deal with all manner of media, from film, photographic and audio to digitised texts. Equally, we believe that the physical experience of the ingredients of San life is what will really help introduce visitors to the San, so meeting San from very different communities and being introduced to the natural environment through a San window characterises much that we do.

This wide and vibrant spread of our heritage activities means there is always something that we are developing in hand with outside funders. Moreover, the flexible nature of our approach means we are always ready to listen should outside funders wish to explore ways they might contribute to our work.

Current funding opportunities:

Community Satellites

!Khwa ttu aims is to support as many San as possible. To help achieve this we are planning five community 'museum and livelihood satellites', spread variously across South Africa, Namibia and Botswana. It is our ambition to eventually extend this reach to Angola, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

A satellite is a locally tailored initiative for communities to use the resources and networks of !Khwa ttu. Our focus is on heritage, education and livelihoods.

Each satellite community leads how they wish to engage with our resources and network opportunities.

Current initiatives in development include:

- Producing indigenous San curriculum materials for use in local schools
- Building San heritage tourist orientation boards and heritage trails
- Setting up local community digital archives that can link to global research material related to the San
- Providing support for adult education and livelihood opportunities
- Providing free solar phone charging and other local infrastructure support
- Working with communitiend outside funders to bring as many San as possible to !Khwa ttu

!Khwa ttu Digital Archiving

!Khwa ttu is developing a number of digital archiving project to ensure that San heritage remains alive, relevant and potent among San communities.

San are among the most thoroughly documented indigenous peoples in the world yet most San have no knowledge and engagement with these resources. At !Khwa ttu we aim to mobilise these resources for the use of the San and wider visitor community alike.

Our digital archiving initiatives include:

- Digitisation of our San collection at !Khwa ttu on an Atom database
- Making a virtual !Khwa ttu museum to take to San communities
- Working with communities to record and mobilise their heritage through digital media
- Digitisation of 'grey literature', including research projects, reports and findings that have been undertaken but are not widely available
- Making out of print resources available either electronically or by print on demand through !Khwa ttu
- Working with !Khwa ttu 'Satellite Pioneers' to encourage interest in heritage in their host communities, see <https://khwattuarchive.org>

Exhibitions

!Khwa ttu San Heritage Centre hosts a wide range of permanent exhibitions alongside space for revolving temporary exhibitions involving both San community work and visiting museum or art based projects.

!Khwa ttu's work reflect the ongoing needs of San and we are always interrogating and exploring the relevance of our exhibitions. Currently we have a number of opportunities to support up and running or new exhibitions:

1. Alcohol Exhibit

San leaders have stressed that the problem with alcohol in their communities cannot be ignored and must be addressed. To support this measure !Khwa ttu aims to develop a bold exhibit that places southern Africa's alcohol problems in colonial perspective.

Prior to its purchase !Khwa ttu was a wheat farm that used the 'dop system', which entrenched alcohol consumption among farm labourers to encourage dependency and compliance, including acceptance of the barest minimum wage.

Our exhibit will recreate the physical apparatus of this system and host these barrels, tin cups and other authentic props alongside oral testimony of actual farm workers who were subjected to this treatment at Grootwater farm (!Khwa ttu) and elsewhere. We will use this exhibit as a springboard into community presentations about alcohol related problems and solutions. Our aim is to draw attention to the problems so that we might gather resources and help address alcohol issues through positive solutions.

2. Language exhibit

The theme of languages and language relationships is a complex topic and particularly so in the context of San 'click' languages. There are twelve or thirteen San

languages currently spoken in southern Africa, depending on how the academic distinctions are made. Many San cannot understand other San.

Our ambition is to build an engaging interactive language exhibit that introduces visitors to the richness, variety and absorbing world of San languages. For San, a language exhibit is particularly important because the homogenising process of being thrown together under one name, San or Bushmen, encourages the wider world to run roughshod over the specific ideas, values, attributes and requirements of different communities; something that has major implications with the sort of top down development initiatives that continues to characterise government and much NGO San community development intervention.

3. Animated land dispossession map

!Khwatla has on display a !Khwatla developed animated map of land dispossession. The map shows how the ancestors of the San were the sole occupants of southern Africa 2000 years ago and how land was then persistently seceded from the San. The map currently runs to 1965.

This map reflects an original research endeavour that has not, to our knowledge, been attempted before. To make a simplified map has involved a very considerable quantity of research. Our ambition is that all school children in southern Africa and all other interested persons should have online access to an interactive version of this map. The interactive version would hold considerable detail, revealed in layers of enquiry. It would run to current times. We are seeking funding to make this interactive map which illuminates the realities of colonial and post-colonial history for the San like no other medium.