VISIT OF THE NEW UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR & UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE HER EXCELLENCY MRS JANCINTA BARRINS TO NGAMILAND

The new United Nations Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative, Her Excellency Mrs Jacinta Barrins visited Ngamiland on the 1st March 2017 accompanied by the Environment and Climate Change Specialist Dr Oduetse Koboto. Her Excellency started off the day by visiting Sehithwa village and paid a courtesy call on Kgosi Boitiro G. Dithapo and his deputy, Kgosi Moendautuku Kandu at the Sehithwa Kgotla. Also present at the Kgotla to welcome Her Excellency was the Lake Ngami Conservation Trust Vice Chairman Mr Prince Ndjarakana and the Trust Manager Mr Galefele Maokeng.

From the Kgotla Her Excellency Mrs Barrins was taken on a tour of Lake Ngami to see the lake shore, the bush encroachment around the lake as well as the standing wood biomass which came about as a result of submerged vegetation. She also toured one of the fishing camps as her visit coincided with the first day of the open season for fishing.

Back in Maun, Her Excellency met with the Programme Coordinator at OKACOM, Mr Sekgoa Motsumi, and in the evening, the Ngamiland Sustainable Land Management Project held a dinner in honour of Her Excellency. The dinner was attended by the District Leadership both from Government, Civil Society, Academic Institutions and Private Sector. When welcoming the guest, Acting Paramount Kgosi, Keleatile Moremi said the people of Ngamiland were honoured to have been the first ones visited by her Excellency. She hoped that Her Excellency appreciated the beauty of Lake Ngami in terms of bird life and the butterflies. She implored Her Excellency to plan to stay longer in her next visit as there is a great deal to see in Ngamiland. Her Excellency Mrs Barrins reaffirmed UNDPs support to the Government of Botswana and the people of Ngamiland. She said there are a lot of upcoming and exciting initiatives that will be pioneered through the Ngamiland SLM Project. The Deputy Council Chairman, Honorable Lathang Molonda gave a vote of thanks at the dinner. He said UNDP has a long standing relationship with Ngamiland and has supported many projects including ODMP, BIOKAVANGO and now the Ngamiland SLM Project. Honourable Molonda expressed gratitude to UNDP for supporting the Environmental Management Plan for Lake Ngami which ultimately led to the lifting of the fishing ban at the lake.
Her Excellency Mrs Jacinta Barrins, UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative meeting Kgosi Boitiro G. Dithapo and his deputy, Kgosi Moendautuku Kandu of Sehithwa
Mr Galefele Maokeng, Trust Manager for Lake Ngami Conservation Trust explaining how the fishing will work at Lake Ngami. Others in the picture are Deputy Chairperson for Lake Ngami Conservation Trust, Mr Prince Ndjarakana (with hat), Ngamiland SLM Project Coordinator, Mr Innocent Magole & Environment and Climate Change Specialist, Dr Oduetse Koboto
RR party meeting Mr Sekgoa Motsumi (in blue & white shirt), Programme Coordinator at OKACOM
Acting Kgosikgolo of Batawana, Kealetile Moremi welcoming guests at the dinner.
Her Excellency, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Mrs Jacinta Barrins
Guests attending the Dinner held in honour of Her Excellency Mrs J. Barrins.
Representatives of Farmers Associations at the Dinner (R-L) Mr Ledimo, Mr Ramokwena & Mr Modisaemang.
Deputy Council Chairman for NWDC, Honorable Lathang Molonda, giving a vote of thanks at the dinner.
Ngamiland Sustainable Land Management Project Team (L-R)
Innocent Magole, Loveness Godisamang & Phemelo Ramalefo