



# KALAHARI CONSERVATION SOCIETY

## KCS HISTORY

### FORMATION & BACKGROUND

The word “Kalahari” is derived from the “Tswana” word **Kgalagadi** meaning the great thirst. The Kalahari is one of the world’s most extensive mantles of sand that covers the hollow basin of Botswana and forms the flat plain that covers 70% of the country.

The Kalahari Conservation Society is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) founded in 1982. The Society was formed in recognition of the pressures on Botswana’s wildlife and the general environment. KCS is the oldest environmental NGO in Botswana and has been effective in undertaking its lobbying activities through advocacy and assisting Government in policy making as well as collaborating with other Private Sector, NGOs and Government Departments to contribute to the conservation of Botswana’s environment and wildlife resources.

### GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

KCS is governed by a Board which meets quarterly to direct policy and governance structures. The Sub - Committees deal with the technical, environmental education, community participatory programmes, public relations, management and financial issues. The five Sub - Committees that generally meet every two months work in conjunction with the executive staff comprising of the Chief Executive Officer and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

The KCS establishment register has the following positions core to its programmes based at the Head Office in Gaborone: Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Conservation Programmes Officer, Environmental Programmes Officer, Education officer, Public Relations Officer, Finance and Administration Officer, Reception and Administration Assistant, Messenger and Cleaning assistants

Dr G.K.T Chiepe is the Society’s Honorary President who held the position since the inception of the Society. The Founding Chairman, Mr. L. G. Nchindo retired in 2005 after he meticulously guided the Society. The Society patronship has always been conferred to the serving Republic of Botswana President and the current Patron is His Excellency Lt. Gen. Dr. S.K.I Khama. President Khama has also served in the KCS Main Committee since 1986 until he retired in 2006.

KCS Membership consists of corporate, family, individual and student members. Membership has grown steadily over the years. Members are vital to KCS since KCS is a membership driven organization and their views are actively sought to influence and drive the Society programmes.

KCS is the secretariat of the National Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) and a proud member of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).