

The background features a white grid pattern overlaid on a colorful, abstract composition of brushstrokes. The colors include yellow, orange, red, purple, green, and blue. The text 'INNOVATION AWARDS 2018' is centered in the middle of the image.

**INNOVATION
AWARDS 2018**

DISCLAIMER

To keep things fair, all entries included are shown exactly as they were submitted. We Are Africa Innovation Awards has endeavored not to edit for spelling, grammar or readability – as such, please be aware that we take no responsibility for such errors.

RISE AFRICA

Celebrating the up-and-coming under-35s making their mark on the African travel industry - from bloggers and influencers to truly passionate tour guides, top chefs and remarkable hotel personnel.

THE TWELVE APOSTLES HOTEL AND SPA

NAME: PRINCE CHIRWA

YEARS IN INDUSTRY: 6 YEARS

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

Prince is the next Gen Trailblazer in our industry because he is ambitious focused and most of all inclusive and compassionate of others. Prince started with the Red Carnation Hotel Collection as a student in the London properties and then was chosen as the very first Management Participant at the Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa in Cape Town. The MP program is designed as a 2 year fast track to a management position and is only aimed at top achievers and students, Prince had achieved a Bachelors of Technology Degree in Hospitality Management. From the moment that Prince joined our team we knew that we had something special! Prince is a true hotelier who has a remarkable impact on the people around him being guests and staff. His role in the travel industry has been huge specifically on the youth of SA, Prince is an active member of the Ubuntu - Amy Foundation organisation as a supporter and mentor to the underprivileged youth who are taken through the Hospitality Internship Program and work at our property for 1 month gaining experience. Prince has also furthered his studies through the Graduate School of Business where he achieved a Business Management Qualification and is often asked to be a guest speaker at the Granger Bay CPUT Hospitality Program open day talking to the next group of hoteliers about Hospitality Leadership and Success. What truly sets this remarkable young man apart is his love and commitment to the industry and the people in the industry he is often seen mentoring and guiding members of our hotel especially the young students and Amy Foundation Interns, and he does this over and above his demanding role as the Hotel Guest Experience Manager! Please have a look at our Meet the team link to Prince:

https://www.12apostleshotel.com/about/copy-of-meet-the-team?sc_lang=en



DESCRIPTION:

His most stand out attribute and accomplishment is being chosen as the finalist Management Participant for Red Carnation Hotel Collection in SA, as that was the start of it all and the platform that he so effectively used to gain his position at our hotel as The Guest Experience Manager, in his position he plays a vital role in the success of the hotel. On a personal note he is very proud of his studies through the Graduate School of Business and the fact that he is asked to be a guest speaker at Granger Bay CPUT Hotel School.



&BEYOND

NAME: JACKSON TUNAI OLESHETI

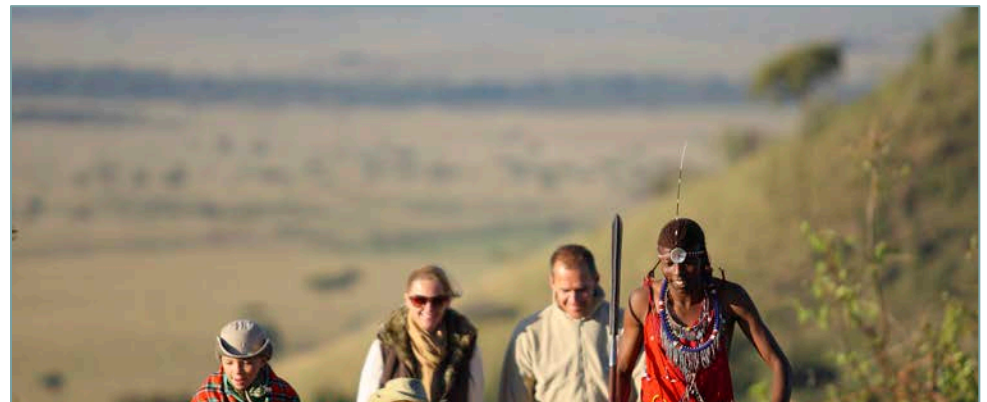
YEARS IN INDUSTRY: 10 YEARS

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

Growing up just 7km from &Beyond Kichwa Tembo Tented Camp, Jackson's first exposure to tourism and conservation was at primary school, during Conservation Lessons led by &Beyond guides. Inspired by the opportunity to visit the Masai Mara that these lessons provided, Jackson grew up with a passion for wildlife and conservation, as well as the driving desire to share his passion with others. After high school, he went to work at &Beyond Kichwa Tembo, embarking on the company's guide training course. Jackson initially qualified to work as a naturalist, leading nature walks from the camp and teaching guests about Maasai culture, part of his Siria heritage. Exhibiting the perseverance he would come to be known for, Jackson went back to complete his guiding training, standing head and shoulders above the other trainees. His thirst for knowledge, hard work and willingness to teach others made a huge impact on his peers. Those same characteristics, as well as his broad knowledge, caring nature and dedication, soon made a similar impression on his guests. Expert at establishing a genuine connection with others, Jackson effortlessly delivers an enriching experience that combines conservation and wildlife knowledge with cultural and community elements. He is very involved with &Beyond's community development partner, Africa Foundation, and his passionate advocacy has resulted in his guests contributing funding to the development of a local school, including the building of a dining hall. From humble beginnings, Jackson has grown into passionately spreading the message of conservation and community development through tourism.

DESCRIPTION:

Jackson has now taken on the mantle for driving Conservation Lessons in the very community that he comes from. Through his example, he serves as a role model for the youth from this community, whether by inspiring them to follow a career in tourism and conservation or simply by teaching them the value of the wild places that they live adjacent to. Thanks to the positive influence that he has on other guides, he is becoming increasingly involved in the training and development of new guides in the Masai Mara.



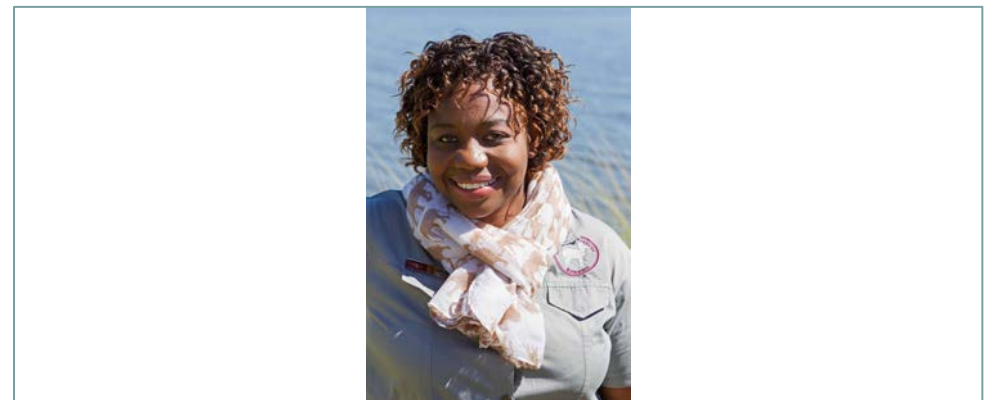
CHOBE GAME LODGE

NAME: TSHEPISO VIVIAN DIPHUPU

YEARS IN INDUSTRY: 10 YEARS

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

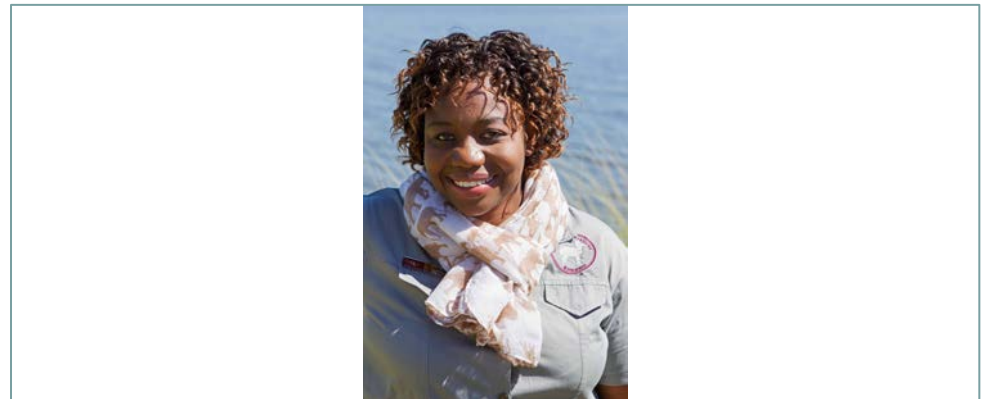
Vivian is one of Botswana's most prolific safari guides, paving the way for women in the Botswana guiding industry through her commitment and passion. Vivian is part of Chobe Game Lodge's female guiding team, the first all-female guiding team to be established in Africa, and currently 20 guides in total. She has been a leader in this team for many years and is described by her peers as the perfect guide. Her understanding of the environment in which she lives, and works is admirable and her understanding of the wildlife that inhabits this environment has proved to be one of her most valuable assets. Whether it is a difficult guest, an issue with the vehicles or boats, a conflict of interests on activity or anything else, Vivian handles each situation calmly and diplomatically. Vivian studied to be a guide at the Botswana Wildlife Training Institute and has experience working at Khama Rhino Sanctuary, Mokolodi Nature Reserve, the Animal Kingdom Lodge (Orlando, Florida) and Chobe Game Lodge. She is viewed by the other female guides as a role model because of her work ethic and personality. She has always proved that she is a result driven person. This coupled with her leadership abilities resulted in Vivian being promoted to the position of head guide of Africa's first and largest all female guiding team. Her personal goal is to move up within the organization to become the lodge environmentalist, a position she is assistant to currently.



DESCRIPTION:

Vivian holds a BQA level 2 guides license. She is a single mother to two children, has worked as a professional guide for 10 years and is currently the head guide for Africa's first established all female guiding team. She continues to further her own knowledge through taking on extra responsibilities by assisting the lodge environmentalist. At just 35 years of age she is breaking down gender norms in Botswana, within a historically male dominated industry. Having achieved all of this, Vivian still has the humility to say her favorite achievement is the smile on a guests face. She is an inspiration to not just women in Botswana and Africa, but to anyone in her field and the safari industry. Her life motto is 'Patience and perseverance = success

VIDEO LINK: <https://goo.gl/d7DDuU>



DESERT & DELTA SAFARIS

NAME: MS OSI PHIRI

YEARS IN INDUSTRY: 2.5 YEARS

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

Osi is a shining light within the Desert & Delta Safaris family and leading the way as a Motswana woman by managing one of the busiest safari camps in Botswana. Hailing from the small village of Tsabong in the south of Botswana, Osi Phiri grew up dreaming of a bright future where she could forge a career as a passionate Motswana woman. Her love for Botswana's natural wilderness coupled with her desire to learn, led her to Maun where she finished high school and studied a business degree through the Botswana Accounting College. After completing her studies she joined Desert & Delta Safaris in 2015 through the companies citizen management training program where her strong interpersonal and managerial skills were immediately recognised. Three years on Osi is the lead manageress at Savute Safari Lodge where she manages a complete staff compliment, while actively engaging with international visitors ensuring they not only experience the regions prolific wildlife, but also gain valuable insight into Botswana's rich cultural heritage. As a young 25 year old Motswana woman, Osi is a role model for Botswana citizens who dream of a career in the countries booming tourism industry. Historically, the management of Botswana's luxury safari lodges has been dominated by foreigners, but thanks to citizens like Osi, the trends are shifting. Osi is a hardworking, passionate and dedicated individual who is driven by the need to shift the status quo by paving the way for the youth to make their mark on Botswana's Tourism industry.



DESCRIPTION:

Osi's biggest attribute is her love for Botswana and her strong desire to make a valuable impact on the Botswana Tourism industry. Her commitment to education and training saw her attain the necessary skills through the Botswana Accounting College while her passion for Botswana and her desire to share the country's beauty with foreign visitors helped her through the Desert & Delta Safaris citizen management training program. It is her acquired knowledge, deep-rooted passion and warm personality which make her an exceptional manager. Osi recognises the impact she has in encouraging young Botswana citizens to pursue careers within the tourism sector. She is an excellent example of how hard work, commitment and passion can lead to great things. We are very excited about Osi's progress in the industry and look forward to watching her grow from strength to strength.



WILDERNESS SAFARIS

NAME: LETS KAMOGELO

YEARS IN INDUSTRY: 10 YEARS

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

When Lets started working for Wilderness Safaris in 2007, his dream for his guiding career was to use his skills and passion for wildlife photography, guiding and conservation to inspire and motivate other upcoming guides and youth from various walks of life. Today, in addition to being one of the company's most skilled, professional and sought-after photographic guides ensuring hundreds of guests experience life-changing journeys in Botswana, Lets goes above and beyond to share his skills with other people. Since 2014, he has been going back to his local school at his home in Bobonong (Tuli Block) to educate the students about nature and conservation – all of this during his free time. This truly sets him apart from others as he uses time during his leave to inspire others to make a difference to the conservation and protection of our planet. Furthermore, Lets is also the patron of the Matshekge High School Wildlife Club, which focuses on making a difference in the children's lives by introducing conservation to them at an early age. In addition to learning about conservation, this also helps introduce them to a wide range of career opportunities in tourism, as well as exploring their talents in visual art through photographic presentations. Lets is grateful that he has been able to launch these initiatives while he is still young and has the energy to do so. He is also currently looking at extending the programme to other communities within Maun and beyond.

DESCRIPTION:

Lets is a hugely talented guide and wildlife photographer who uses his skills and passion to change lives and make a positive contribution to the conservation of Botswana's pristine wilderness areas. When he started out as a junior guide, he was extremely committed to his work and growing his photographic skills. His first published article appeared in Africa Geographic in June 2012, and he has subsequently been published in numerous other magazines, including Discover Botswana and Peolwane. He was a speaker at the Wildshots Photographic Symposium in Cape Town in both 2015 and 2017 and his images have been used in all types of media. His dream is to see Botswana being the top photographic destination in the world in the next decade, if not less through his work, then through influencing other guides who share the same sentiments.

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