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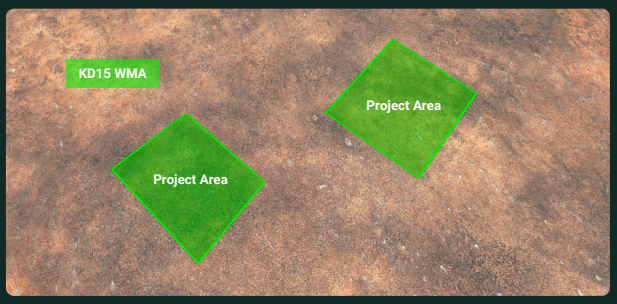
Modisa Wildlife Project

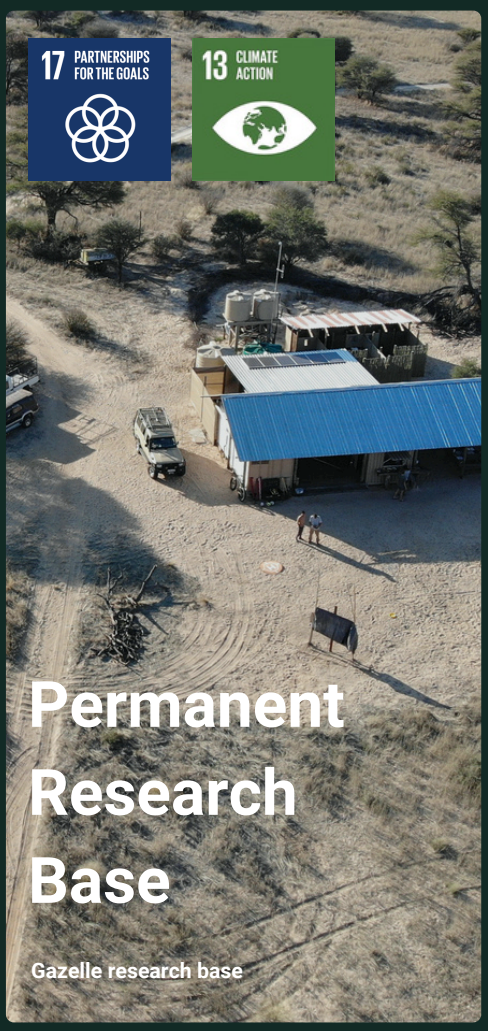
Protecting Africa's Kalahari

Protecting the Largest Remaining Wilderness Areas in Africa, South of the Sahara Desert

The Kalahari is the largest remaining expanse of least human-influenced ("most wild") natural landscape in Africa, south of the Sahara Desert. Today, this untouched landscape is rapidly changing due to unsustainable agricultural practices, extractive industries, and a changing climate. Botswana, home to 70% of the Kalahari, is unique in protecting 37% of its land in the form of national parks, game reserves, and wildlife management areas (WMAs), of which 800,000 hectares have been lost or converted since 2016 alone due to commercial interests and subsequent rezoning (Keeping et al., 2019). Notably, an ongoing cycle of overgrazing, degradation, and unchecked encroachment into the last remaining wildlife areas threatens the fragile balance of the Kalahari's shrinking habitat. Once home to one of Africa's largest wildebeest migrations, the Kalahari has lost an average of 80% of browsers and grazers (e.g., zebra, springbok, eland) and staggering 90% of its lion population, from approximately 400,000 in 1950 to fewer than 25,000 in 2023 (Mbaiwa & Mbaiwa, 2006). The Modisa Wildlife Project protects a 17,000-hectare preserve along the fence line of KD15, one of the largest remaining WMAs adjacent to the Kalahari Transfrontier National Park, which remains under threat while setting the standard for what sustainable land management in the Kalahari can look like.



Registry	International Carbon Registry	**Proj. ID**	65
Validator	Earthood Services Pvt. Ltd.	**Method**	ISO 14064-2
Proponent	Gazelle Ecosolutions Corp.	**Activity**	Avoided Grassland/Savanna Conversion and Biodiversity Protection
Developer	Modisa Wildlife Project Pty.		



Permanent Research Base

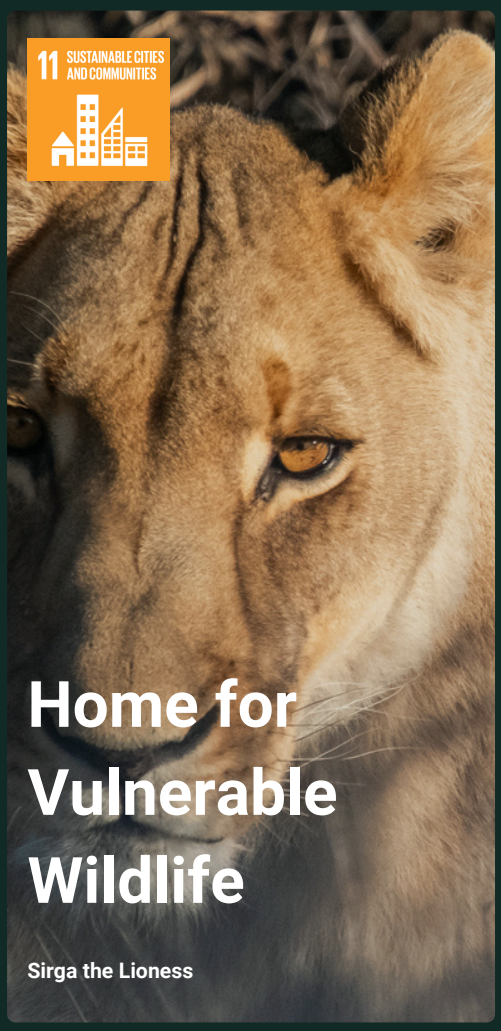
Gazelle research base

The Kalahari Science Institute is the first permanent research base in the southern Kalahari, equipped with a wet lab, herbarium, and conference facility built from recycled shipping containers. The base has a net-zero footprint, operating on solar power and local groundwater, and serves as a home for long-term ecological research for local scientists in Botswana to R1 institutions in the US.

Empowering Community Conservation

2022 District Ag-workshop

Modisa hosts ecology workshops open to the community, covering topics from dryland ecology in the Kalahari to fire management and livestock management. These workshops help farmers in the area adopt sustainable practices. They are facilitated through the on-site research base, which seasonally accommodates volunteers as part of a certified ecotourism program raising awareness for the Kalahari.



Home for Vulnerable Wildlife

Sirga the Lioness

Sirga, along with hundreds of springbok, wildebeest, hartebeest, kudu, eland, giraffe, hyenas, and other Kalahari inhabitants, calls Modisa home. In addition, several "visitors" (usually other wild lions) regularly cross paths through Modisa from the Kalahari Transfrontier National Park and KD15. The unique story between Valentin Gruner and Sirga the Lioness can be found on Amazon Prime!

Thank you

To learn more, get in touch at team@gazelle.co