



Africa's Gift

Changing Lives, Nurturing Nature

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023 - 2024



**Africa's Gift Ltd**

**Company Number 08263480**

**Registered Charity number 1149830**



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# A WORD FROM THE CHAIR



Every step forward in Africa fills me with renewed hope and deepened commitment to this remarkable continent.

Over the past year, we have continued to share biodegradable cook bags with communities, which have already reduced smoke inhalation, decreased deforestation, and allowed families more time by easing the burdens of collecting firewood and water. These small innovations are creating tangible changes in everyday lives and in the environment.

Our efforts in promoting sustainable agriculture have helped more communities avoid the devastating effects of over-ploughing, with proper crop rotation ensuring that the land can continue to support future generations. Likewise, our ongoing support for the Batwa and Kigezi communities in Uganda is showing promising signs of reversing the effects of their displacement, empowering them to build a more secure future.

However, as our impact grows, so do the challenges. Africa's Gift is working hard to address these pressing needs, but we cannot do it alone. The scale of the work remains immense, and we need your continued support to make a lasting impact.

Together, we are changing lives—but there is still much to be done. Thank you for standing by us, and please continue to support us, share our story, and encourage others to join in this journey. Rest assured, every penny you contribute will be put to powerful, life-changing use.



**KEN DUNN**  
CHAIR



# A Word From Our Patron - Prince Seeiso



“I am very proud to be patron of Africa's Gift - a charity that changes lives, that champions collaborative working, and that promotes education for sustainable development.

Confident that its influence will continue to expand and develop, I encourage you to support this charity, as 100% of your donation will be used for maximum benefit in an African community.”



# Our Supporters & Donors



**Our huge thanks to everyone who has contributed to our work this year, including;**

- Africa's Gift subscription members
- Africa's Gift Trustees & their families
- Africa's Gift volunteers and fundraisers
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Darcey for collecting shoes
- Birkdale School in Sheffield who names us as their charity of the year for 23/24
- Meena Samara, Angel Assets
- Harrison Wealth Management
- SAB Textiles
- Dr Charlotte Verney
- MDR LLP
- Luxe Club Retreats
- Kenneth Allen
- His Excellency, the British High Commissioner for Lesotho, Harry MacDonald



**Sheffield  
Hallam  
University**



**Birkdale  
School**

# Our Purpose & Public Benefit



Africa's Gift Ltd is a charitable company, holding no share capital, limited by guarantee, and governed by Articles of Association (November 2012). The charity exists primarily to:

1. **Promote sustainable economic and agricultural development in Africa with a particular focus on the Malealea valley, Lesotho through;**
  - the conservation and protection of the environment and prudent use of resources;
  - the promotion of sustainable agricultural practice and other means of achieving economic growth and regeneration
2. **Address poverty and improve living conditions in socially and economically disadvantaged communities, particularly, but not exclusively in the Malealea Valley by:**
  - contributing to the relief of financial hardship of both adults and children, by offering specific grants, subsidising goods that will improve people's lives or funding specific improvement projects;
  - supporting disadvantaged children, including orphans, to attend school by providing uniforms and other assistance, and funding fees;
  - working with schools to improve their facilities and the quality of education, including learning about sustainable agriculture and wider economic development.
3. **Build wider understanding and garner support for our work across communities in the developed world, with particular focus on Yorkshire, by;**
  - supporting school, workplace, university and social groups to undertake working visits to Africa (particularly Malealea Valley) and to make a longer term commitment to support our work;
  - tirelessly promoting our work and achievements by all appropriate means



# ECO-COOK BAGS & CELEBRITY COOKING



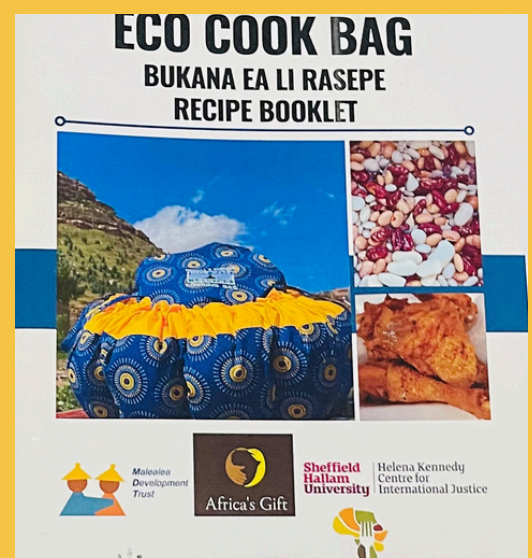
We are delighted that the Tanzanian Red Cross have 20 Eco-Cook Bags in use and that feedback from the field is that these have been very well received and that more are wanted. The funding of them remains an issue.

Celebrity Chef Ska Moteane joined Ken on a visit to take part in a cooking challenge. Her work promotes healthy eating using local sustainable produce, and her vision is to fight hunger in local communities. She's an impressive lady and we're delighted that she joined us. The aim of the project was to highlight the variety of meals that can be cooked in the Eco-Cook Bag and the results were delicious!



The Eco-Cook Bag uses sustainable hemp to provide its insulation

We launched a new cookbook embracing Basotho recipes for the Eco-Cook Bag. This work was supported by a grant from the British High Commission, drawing on funds from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office







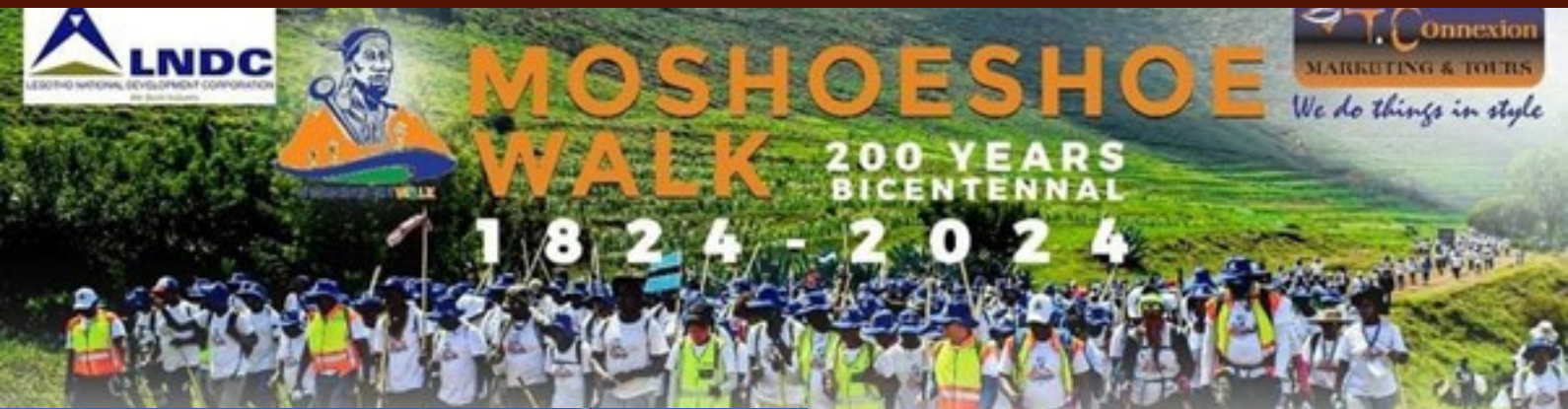
# Uganda & Marian's Eden

Africa's Gift visited Marian's Eden in August 2023. During that time, members worked on the pocket pharmacy, removing invasive species and mulching, allowing the coffee and medicinal plants the space to thrive. The Manager, Lilian, is a multi-talented young mum! She made an Eco-Cook Bag with a template from Tanzania, then proceeded to cook with it, which was joyous to see. We have consolidated Marian's Eden as a forest for the Batwa & Kigezi communities. Non native eucalyptus has been cut down and the wood stored for the future building of a visitors centre.





# Moshoeshoe Walk



In March of 2024, Ken participated in the Annual Moshoeshoe Walk to commemorate the founding father of Lesotho. It's an arduous 3-day walk and Ken was joined by volunteers.

As he always does, Ken took the opportunity throughout the walk to promote the work of Africa's Gift and the Eco-Cook Bag.





# Masemouse



Masemouse a remote village in Lesotho, beyond the Malealea Valley, which has been the focus of much of our work (please contact is you'd like to see the report on the Malealea Teaching Farm we established to case study sustainable agriculture)



Here we were building upon earlier work, having identified new and committed leaders within the community. We funded extensive training in sustainable agriculture where the community has shown real enthusiasm. That encouraged us to work with the community to bring dormant fish ponds to life.





# Masemouse - The Fish Farm



Draining &  
Repairing  
the Fish  
Farm at  
Masemouse



Looking ahead we hope to re-stock the fish ponds, having taken advice from the relevant Ministry on the species we should introduce.



The fish ponds are now watertight. Stronger fencing is needed along with drain holes at the bottom of each pond so that they can be flushed through and oxygenated. Shade netting is also needed. Consideration is being given to introducing ducks and a maggot farm. Security will be required when the fish are grown.



# Malealea - The Teaching Farm



In 2022/23 we transferred ownership to the community with a local farmer taking over management under the Malealea Development Trust. We subsequently introduced greater expertise on sustainable agriculture but problems remained. This year that expertise and leadership has been further strengthened.



While not accountable, we will continue to take a close interest and offer support where needed.





# In 22/23, we set the following priorities for 23/24. Here's how we performed against them;



- ✓ **1. Consider additional support for the development of Marian's Eden**  
Land cleared, new plantings of native, particularly medicinal plants, and coffee. Introduction of an eco cookbag
- ✓ **2. Supporting Masemouse & the teaching farm with cover cropping**  
Great application of sustainable agriculture including crop rotation and use of cover crops
- ✓ **3. Discussing with the Malealea Development Trust their first project in Tsinyane which will likely require our support to progress**  
Significant donation attracted to support developing sustainable agriculture in Tsinyane, coupled with reviving keyhole gardens there and across Malealea to enhance the potential for self sufficiency
- ✓ **4. To conclude the building work in Leribe at the Phelisanong Children Centre**  
The latest phase of construction is now complete thanks to the building team and significant fundraising led by Paul Selina in Canada
- ✓ **5. To continue to identify sources & funding for eco-cook bags**  
Attracted over £3000 invest in the production of eco Cookbags, supported by new research evidence of their effectiveness and potential for carbon savings and a new cookbook in Sesotho language



# Looking Ahead Our Priorities for 2024-2025



I) Respond to the threat to food security in Lesotho:

- \* Expand the production and distribution of eco cookbags in Malealea and further afield . Cookbag free women to produce more food
- \* Support the MDT in reinforce good practice in the use of cook bags
  - \* Improve food production through more attention to sustainable agriculture
- \* A focus on Masmouse, the teaching Farm and Tsinyane as centres of excellence
- \* Extend the use of keyhole gardens throughout Malealea

ii) Marian's Eden: sustain current progress, while seeking funding for a step change in investment to support wide tourist engagement to build sustainability.

iii) Eco cookbags: seek funding to enable a step change in manufacture linked to a far wide promotion, potential linked to realising their carbon offsetting potential.





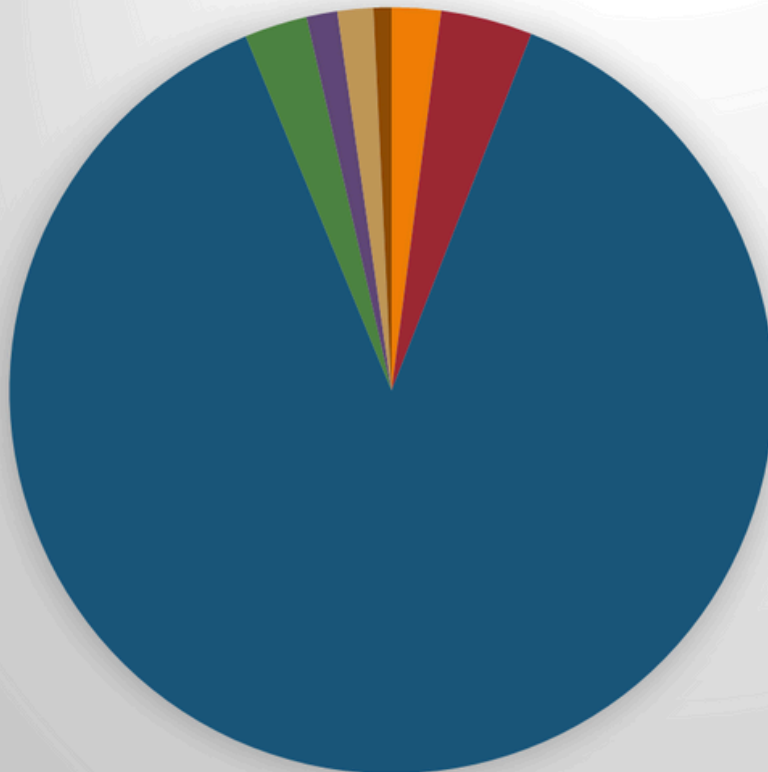
# Our Finances



## Our Finances at a Glance

Carry forward on 1 June 2023	£1,497
Charity income	£42,552
Charity expenditure	£37,636
Balance on 31 March 2024	£6,413

### Expenditure 2024



- Educational assistance
- Conservation Agriculture, Malealea & Masemouse
- Cookbag manufacture & distribution
- Marian's Eden, Uganda
- Targeted community support, Malealea
- Charity Admin Costs
- Public Liability Insurance

### Cash Reserves:

It is charity policy to ring-fence donations or support received for specific projects, whilst also keeping in reserve an agreed sum (annually reviewed) for unexpected costs. Thus for 2024-2025 we are carrying forward significant funds identified for planned developments at Tsinyane, Masemouse, and Ribaneng, further progress with our cookbag manufacturing initiative, and work on Marian's Eden forest pharmacy. Where the amounts held are insufficient, we expect to raise the balance through fund raising initiatives.

# Our Governance

Our Trustees meet a minimum of 4 times a year, in addition to our AGM

Our Trustees serve an initial term of 3-years after which they can seek reappointment for further terms.

Any person willing to act as a Trustee will be considered and, where appropriate, appointed by the board at a General Meeting

Trustees take very seriously their duty to ensure that the charity's income is used for public benefit. Although there is an annual licence cost for the online processing of donations and Gift Aid, we do not spend donors' gifts on fundraising schemes, and we are confident that whilst reporting the impact of charitable activities upon the lives of both African and (visiting) volunteer beneficiaries, we also take great care to identify best value for money. Please see this year's financial review for further details.



# Our Administration



## **Principle Charity Office**

Carholme, 22 Parkfield Road,  
Rotherham, S65 2AT

## **Our Trustees**

Kenneth Dunn  
Helen Bailey  
Teri Stephenson  
Michael Fletcher  
Paul Keen  
Val Penycate,  
Julie Robinson (resigned 12th  
September 2024)

Registered Company Number - 08263480

Registered Charity Number - 1149830

This report was approved by the  
Trustees of Africa's Gift on 11th  
October 2024





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