

Please tell us about you:			
Your Name:	Grace Hamilton		
Date you completed your project:	13/08/2014	Grant amount given by Sandhu Foundation	£2,500
Please tell us about your volunteering project/event - what did you do/ what worked well:			
<p>Whilst out in Namibia (Tsintsabis and Etosha National Park) we completed creating an orange tree plantation for the San Bush people and worked with the rangers and wardens at the national park to complete tasks we were given. During our time in Tsintsabis we proceeded to: clear a field; create a whole irrigation system; plant the trees to produce fruit for the local people; and clear a path round the entire fence compound as well as general assistance of the local San people. During our time at Etosha we: created an ornamental garden at the Main entrance and entrance to resort; litter picked on the resort and in the park itself; tidied the area around the landfill site in Namatomi; helped with a spring clean of the environmental and educational centre. The orange plantation was a huge success we completed the project in the given time and appointed local people to care for the plantation in the long term for a paid wage. This part of the project also worked well as it involved local scouts creating awareness and we were enabled to employ the San women for the time we were there to cater for us providing them with an income. In Etosha the rangers were highly impressed with the work we did and we made a visible effort to the locations we cleared up in return for trips out with the ranges on safari.</p>			
How has this project made a difference to those you were supporting:			
<p>The project made a difference to the San People as it has created not only short term but long term employment and income for once marginalized people. It has created room in which they can grow their own crops to sell at market as well as, tending to the orange trees. The fruit trees will make a difference as the fruit provides the vitamins and minerals that so many people in the village have previously been deprived of. It will make a difference as we have created a long term commitment to assist involving the Namibian scouts, so the San people are no longer left to fend for themselves after suffering from the consequences of apartheid. The work in Etosha made a difference as it created a visual experience for park guests and assisted the rangers in a busy period. The Rubbish clearing made a difference as it protects the future of the animals as manmade, potentially harmful items are removed from their environment.</p>			
What have you learnt or gained from the experience?			
<p>This experience enabled me to grow and develop as a person, opening my eyes to the harsh reality of conditions and life elsewhere in the world. It enabled me to feel satisfied that I could give back after having a privileged upbringing. It enabled me to mature as I spent a few days in the first location caring for over 25 sick people from our group who had contracted Salmonella and Dysentery. I have learnt a lot of physical skills and learnt about life in different cultures, along with how to live and interact with a mixed group over a long period of time in difficult conditions and unforeseen circumstances.</p>			
Any other comments?			
<p><i>We encountered a cobra whilst clearing the field to be hoed. The local San people killed it and served it as a delicacy. We also visited the desolate skeleton coast to observe the landscape of Namibia and as our reward for our work on the charity project.</i></p>			
Please see photos attached as evidence.			



A group of Hatters' Explorers clearing the fences

The Group working on the garden of the Etosha National Park



Fixing the water tower

Planting new trees



Working in the Fields