

Trustees Report
1st January to 31st December 2024

Registered Charity Number: 313929

Registered Address:

25 Common Mead Avenue

Gillingham

Dorset

SP8 4NB

Trustees:

Mr Jeremy Long

Mrs Helen Long

Mr James Gardener

Ms Malebogo Tlhajoane

Megan Ellen Sands

About the work of the Maru a Pula Trust

Founded in Botswana in 1972, Maru-a-Pula School was established as a non-profit trust, built on 50 acres of land donated by the Botswana Government. The founding Head launched the school based on multiracial ideals, with community outreach as a core principle. The school aims to nurture students who are deeply committed to helping their communities, both locally and globally. Maru-a-Pula is a co-educational, independent day and boarding secondary. Around 70% of students are from Botswana, a significant number of whom are on some form of scholarship or bursary.

The UK Maru a Pula Trust was registered with the Charities Commission in 1971, one year before the school was opened. In 2012 a new group of trustees were appointed with a focus on raising funds for Maru-a-Pula's Orphan and Vulnerable Children Scholarship Fund.

The Maru-a-Pula OVC Scholarship Program was established in 2005 to provide opportunities for local children who have been impacted by the effects of HIV/AIDS and poverty. The OVC Programme now provides full scholarships to orphans and vulnerable children who demonstrate the academic ability but who cannot afford the costs of a Maru-a-Pula education. OVC Scholars come from minimum wage households therefore the OVC Scholarship is comprehensive and provides for all the child's needs. The scholarship covers tuition, boarding, all meals, uniform and clothing, medical expenses, stationery and other living expenses. Students from all over Botswana have been recipients of the OVC Scholarship and alumni of the scholarship have gone on to study at tertiary level around the world. There are currently 26 students on OVC Scholarships at Maru-a-Pula (January 2025).

The UK Maru a Pula Trust has a bank account with Barclays. Donations are also made through CAF Bank (charity Aid Foundation) and the charity giving platform Wonderful.org

Donations through CAF Bank and Wonderful.org are paid directly into our Barclays account.

Receipts and Payments

It has been an active year for the UK MaP Trust with two successful London based reunions and another year of solid donations.

Our reunions have been an effective method of connecting with the growing network of UK based alumni. We are increasingly attracting more recent MaP alumni to these events possibly due to the increase of Batswana students coming to study in the UK but also due to the encouragement of the MaP Development office. Our most recent reunion in September 2024 saw a record attendance of over twenty alumni.

The UK MaP Trust made its annual transfer of funds to MaP in July with a total of £21 000 sent over to Botswana. A further donation to Trust after this transfer means we now have a balance of just over £4700 in our account. All funds donated to the Trust are allocated to the OVC Scholarship Fund in accordance with the aims of the UK MaP Trust.

We look forward to another successful year in 2025.

Income:

<i>Bank balance at the start of 2024</i>	<u>£601.36</u>
Capital Group individual donations with Matching Gift	£24 281.60
Individual donations through charity giving platform	
Wonderful. Org	£682.00
Donations from alumni reunions held in 2024	£175.00
Total Income for 2024	<u>£25 138.00</u>


Payments:

Annual transfer to the School's OVC Scholarship Fund	£21 000.00
Bank Charges	£25.00
Total Payments 2024	<u>£21 025.00</u>

Balance at end 2024 £4714.96

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the Maru a Pula Trust trustees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Long'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Jeremy Long

Chair of the Maru a Pula Trust

1st February 2025



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

MARU A PULA TRUST

On accounts for the year ended

31 Dec 2024

Charity no (if any)

313929

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Independent examiner's statement

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

[Signature]

Date:

9/2/2025

Name:

MICHAEL JEREMY GIDDINGS

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

COLE STREET FARM
COLE STREET CAMP
GILLINGHAM SP8 5JQ

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).