

seedling bags to community nature ecologists



UNIVEN students in partnership with Dzomo la Mupo (DLM), a community organisation that seeks to enhance indigenous skills of traditional agriculture, support agroecology, healthy soil management and healthy food sovereignty have recently distributed facemasks and seedling bags to community nature ecologists. The initiative was supported by the African Centre for Biodiversity (ACBIO) through donations. ACBIO is a research based organisation that focuses on biosafety, seed safety and agricultural biodiversity in Africa.



Mrs Annah Mphigalale displaying her indigenous baobab juice

Mrs Annah Mphigalale, one of the beneficiaries of facemasks and seedling-bags at Tshirolwe village commended this collaboration because she received seedling-bags which she can plant her trees, and that she will no longer use old tins to plant her trees. Speaking on behalf of Tshirolwe beneficiaries, Mrs Mphigalale expressed that it is encouraging to receive facemasks and seedlingbags that will assist them to do even better and achieve more.

She condemned deforestation and soil erosion and encouraged other beneficiaries to be resilient, patient and to look out for opportunities available around them. Mrs Mphigalale showcased her products for human consumption out of baobab fruits such as powder and juice. She said that the products are a good medication for pain relief. She concluded by thanking UNIVEN and Dzomo La Mupo delegates for supporting Tshirolwe village with the tools to use during this Covid-19 era.



Mphatheleni Makaulule Founder of Dzomo la Mupo

Ms Mphatheleni Makaulule, an ecologist who is the founder of Dzomo la Mupo, also a Masters' degree in African Studies student encouraged beneficiaries to continue to plant the seeds. She told them to protect indigenous trees during this difficult time of Covid-19 pandemic. She further encouraged community members to always wear face masks to protect themselves from being infected by the virus. "Collaborating with other students was an opportunity to raise awareness of and promote ecological importance during Covid-19 pandemic," she said.

Beneficiaries were happy to receive seedling bags as it makes it easier for them to plant seeds without having to improvise with cut-plastic bottles. They indicated that although it is difficult for them like everyone else, they never missed an opportunity to plant their indigenous trees during this Covid-19 pandemic era, of course obeying lockdown regulations.



156 face masks and 3,964 Seedling bags were distributed amongst 10 communities. The communities that benefitted are Tshidzivhe, Vhutalu, Tshilungwi, Vuvha, Malale, Magoro, Mutale, Tshirolwe, Vhuronga and Mapate.

Distribution of materials in question was coupled with the check-ups on how the beneficiaries have been impacted by Covid-19 in terms of planting as well as the feasibility of observing Covid-19 rules.



Mrs Netshlaviha representing Tshilungwi Village and Vho-Jocye Mmbengeni Netshidzivhe of Tshidzivhe Village extending their words of gratitude



UNIVEN students and Dzomo la Mupo collaborate to distribute facemasks and



seedling bags to community nature ecologists continued...



Beneficiaries from Vhuthalu Village



Beneficiaries from Tshidzivhe Community



Traditional Leader, Chief Patrick Nevhutanda of Vhutanda village expressing words of appreciation

When extending words of gratitude towards facemasks and seedling bags, Chief Patrick Nevhutanda expressed that it is important to preserve indigenous fruits and nature. He shared insights about the role that forest birds play in plants since they assist in pollination.

Chief Nevhutanda encouraged students to start more projects in agriculture and ecology to protect and multiply indigenous plants as they serve many livelihood purposes from food to preventative and curative medicine. He concluded by appreciating the gesture from DLM and the University where he indicated that he was glad that the University is still encouraging collaborations during this difficult time.



Tshirholwe Beneficiaries with Ms Mphatheleni Makaulule who is the founder of Dzomo la Mupo and UNIVEN students who are part of Social Entrepreneurship Development Project

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