

# **BASF**

## **BAZARUTO ARCHIPELAGO SCHOOL FUND**

**Project Proposal for a Community Based School on Bazaruto Island,  
Bazaruto Archipelago, Mozambique, by Bazaruto Archipelago School Fund.**

**Submitted by BASF (UK)**

**Charity Number: 1080369**

**Start date: August 2002**

**Length of Project: Five years**

**Total Cost of Project: £ 89.290**

### **Contact**

BASF

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## Overview

Bazaruto Archipelago School Fund (BASF) is a United Kingdom based charity (Charity Number: 1080369) that was registered in April 2000. At present, BASF is the only organisation attempting to deliver an integrated community school program in the Bazaruto Archipelago. The proposed community school initiative on Bazaruto Island will provide the islanders with the skills necessary to manage their valuable natural resources and develop sustainable economic practices. The development of a culture of conservation and education is central to the survival of the islander's lifestyle, in the face of local and international environmental pressure.

BASF's philosophy can be broadly described as follows:

- To provide people with an education that enables them to explore a more comprehensive range of social, cultural and economic opportunities.
- To provide people with the skills necessary to participate in, and derive benefit from the sustainable management of local natural resources.
- To develop and deliver a locally specific curriculum that promotes the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity.
  - To provide an education that is cost effective, making use of local people and local resources.

Bazaruto Island is situated off the coast of Southern Mozambique, and is the largest and most northerly of five sand islands that comprises the Bazaruto Archipelago. The island supports a diverse range of ecosystems, which have been identified to be unique and globally significant. Indeed, environmentalists refer to the Island as "the last Galapagos." Bazaruto Bay is home to the last remaining large population of dugongs off the East Coast of Africa. Dugongs or sea cows are one of the most endangered large mammals in the Indian Ocean region. The island's terrestrial and aquatic environments support a population of 2,500 people, the majority of whom are members of the Xitswa tribe. The Bazaruto islanders are dependent on the surrounding seas for their daily food requirements and basic needs.

The islanders have placed the ecosystems that sustain their lifestyle under great pressure by employing damaging hunting and gathering practices. These practices are depleting precious food and fuel stocks and pose a real threat to the survival of the island and its communities. The situation is compounded by the islander's lack of education. The vast majority of islanders are unable to read or write, and are therefore unable to explore the economic opportunities that are available to better-educated mainland Mozambicans. In effect, the islanders are economically bound to the island and therefore limited in their ability to develop alternative means of subsistence. International tourism and investment have placed a further burden on the island's ecosystems. This investment has drawn attention to the need for a literate and environmentally aware community. An educated community would be able to safeguard the future of its natural resources and at the same time, derive financial benefit by undertaking sustainable eco-tourism ventures.

The existing school shelter is unable to provide the islanders with an education that will equip them with the skills necessary to deal with these challenging dynamics. The standard of education is of a low quality due to the fact that there are only two teachers at the school, and neither has completed a comprehensive training course. Teachers at the school deliver the antiquated Mozambican national curriculum, which does little to address local issues of resource conservation, literacy, indigenous art, literature and history, community health and gender equality. The school has no form of assessment or examination, and as a result, academic progression can not be monitored.

The school has no desks, chairs, books, stationery, or any other didactic equipment. The small round building that serves as a school by day serves as a goat shed by night. The school building is too small to enrol all community children of school going age. The school building is too small to accommodate the reception class children, who receive their lessons sitting under a nearby tree. The community does not value female education and there is a very low female attendance at the school. The school is unable to offer any form of adult education, despite the fact that 90% of the population is unable to read or write.

In order to deliver an improved standard of education to the residents of Bazaruto Island, BASF will undertake the following activities. A new school building will be built to replace the existing shelter. The new school building will be large enough to enrol all community children, many of whom were previously excluded from attending classes by the size of the shelter. The school will be equipped with a comprehensive range of didactic materials and resources. Teacher training will be offered to local teachers. These development programs, seminars and distance learning courses will be supported by BASF's resident project management team, which will reinforce lessons with practical staff development schemes. Females will be actively encouraged to enrol at the school, and community level gender seminars will be delivered in an attempt to increase female attendance rates at the school. Adult literacy classes, delivered at the end of the working day, will be initially aimed at young adults, under twenty five years of age, and will concentrate on Portuguese and English.

BASF has already begun the process of curriculum revision and development. The out-dated Mozambican national curriculum is presently under revision by BASF trustees. This revised curriculum will address issues of local importance. The curriculum will include a health awareness component and will place an emphasis on developing indigenous art, history and literature. Literacy curricula are being developed by BASF staff and will be delivered to island children and adults. This will provide islanders with a basic foundation upon which further educational or economic opportunities can be pursued. A locally specific conservation curriculum is to be developed by BASF in conjunction with the island's conservation authority. This curriculum will be delivered at the school in an attempt to develop the conservation ethos of island children, and thereby lay the foundation for sustainable resource use.

While concentrating on curriculum development and delivery, BASF will also attempt to promote sustainable resource use by offering practical, extra-curricula assistance to the wider community and conservation authorities. At a community level, BASF will provide assistance to members of the local community as they initiate and develop eco-tourism ventures. BASF will assist islanders in developing viable concepts and provide ongoing technical, legal, and administrative advice. This will support the work of the island's conservation authority as it attempts to create community controlled eco-tourism ventures designed to conserve natural resources and provide economic opportunity for the impoverished island community. In co-ordinating a conservation strategy, we have approached the island's conservation authorities regarding the use of the school as a workshop facility. We envisage that conservation workshops, tailored for specific adult target groups, can be delivered by the island's conservation authorities, at the school. The environmentalists will not only benefit from the use of a well-equipped venue, but will also have at their disposal our team of teachers who will advise on issues of presentation style and delivery.

The proposed community school initiative on Bazaruto Island is the result of consultation between the island community, BASF and local educational and conservation authorities. In order to ensure that the school is indeed community based, community leaders and BASF project management team members will encourage local community members to become actively involved in directing and developing the activities of the school. Community trustees will be appointed to the BASF board of trustees as local representatives. This will ensure that the Xitswa community will be able to direct and administer its own education. The United Kingdom based trustees will retain their position within BASF, raising funds to finance the continued operation of the school. This will ensure that the operation of the school is not subject to the funding irregularities that often plague developing education systems. Once the community has established economic stability, BASF will hand over the financial responsibility for maintaining the school, to the community. The school on Bazaruto Island, will become a financially independent, community administered venture.

In implementing the community school initiative BASF is able to draw upon the relevant experiences of its trustees and project management team. Before undertaking the role of project co-ordinator, I spent the year of 1995 resident on the Island. While living on the island, I was able to develop a clear insight into the nature of community dynamics and was able to assess the extent of the educational dilemma faced by the islanders. I met Mr Antonio Jose, a local teacher running the local school. Mr Jose and I initiated a small-scale venture to improve conditions in the school and develop the curriculum. Together, we repaired the damaged structure and managed to temporarily re-house the resident goats. I was able to secure donations of books and stationery from South African schools at which I had previously taught. Mr Jose and I also undertook a limited revision of the outdated Mozambican national curriculum. Mr. Jose soon reported that the standard of learning at the school had improved in response to the improved conditions. Unfortunately, these improvements were lost through a lack of funding and as a result of cyclone damage during the March 2000 floods.

Team members are actively involved in curriculum support and development in the private business and state education sectors. The majority of this curricula work is specialised, in that it is tailored for a specific client or pupil base. Team members have all been involved in the delivery, at a practical and administrative level, of various local and international curricula. A number of South African based professional educational and environmental consultants have donated their services to the project, thereby strengthening curricula development and delivery. BASF has also enlisted the technical support of a draughtsman, an engineer and a construction foreman, who will guide the community members through the construction phase of the project. I believe that BASF has the expertise necessary to implement this proposed initiative and if we are able to secure sufficient funding, I believe that the community school will have a very real impact on the lives of the islanders and on their valuable ecosystems. This belief is shared by the Archipelago's conservation and administrative authorities that have pledged their support to the project. Internationally renowned organisations such as World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and The Rotary Club have also declared their support for BASF's initiative.

In order to succeed, BASF needs the financial support of individuals and organisations in the United Kingdom. The funds raised will be used directly in the construction and administration of the school – BASF's administrative and fundraising costs are not drawn from the funds raised, but are instead covered by the trustees and project management team. The amount of money required by BASF to build, staff, equip and maintain a school on Bazaruto Island is not great. The benefits that the school will generate are quite considerable. We believe that this is one of the project's most important assets. Donations, irrespective of size, will actually make a great deal of difference to the future of Bazaruto Island and its inhabitants. Thus far, we have received small pledges from a number of companies and organisations, including Foyle's Bookshop, which has offered to supply all necessary textbooks.

The budget for the entire five-year project is £ 89,300. In the first year, £ 34,100 will be needed to purchase building materials and equipment needed to construct the school building, to purchase didactic resources to equip and furnish the school, to remunerate members of the project management team, and to finance the initial staff development program. A further £ 55,200 over the next four years will be needed to finance the rest of the staff development program, to remunerate project team members and to maintain the project's infrastructure until the islanders are able to sustain the school independently. Enclosed please find the five-year cost schedule for the school building project

I believe that our project is viable in that it is based on the needs of the community, and it adheres to the educational and environmental policies that are currently being pursued by the Mozambican government. I hope that the proposed community school initiative on Bazaruto Island will provide the islanders with the skills necessary to manage their valuable natural resources. The development of a culture of conservation is central to the survival of the Bazaruto Islander's lifestyle, in the face of local and international environmental pressure. Indeed, Bazaruto Island has been referred to by environmentalists as the "last Galapagos on earth." The island is an environmental pearl in the Indian Ocean, and we believe that the construction of a community school on the island will play an important role in protecting the island for generations to come.

Clinton Mclean  
Project Director