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Myself and colleagues from Loughborough University and Aston University have worked with SAFOD and the Kgatleng Disabled People's Association (KDPA) over a period of eight years (2017-2025). The work covered four separate funded projects by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, AHRC, ([AH/S005765/1](#), [AH/R004307/1](#)), British Council, and Newton Fund.

The aim of the work was to highlight the needs of disabled craftspeople in developing a sustainable social enterprise around [inclusive crafts](#). The outcome of the project included:

1. A need to access to investment beyond initial training in craft skills for individuals and communities. This would involve investment in a sustainable business enterprise.
2. A need to access to markets outside their local and regional boundaries (associated with Safari tourism).
3. Remote support of local researchers and third sector staff enabled meaningful development of infrastructure and individual capability, (investment in people development).
4. A need to develop marketing skills within the Third Sector and Social Enterprises to match international expectations.
5. Dialogue to define and address local needs through accessing international knowledge and skills.
6. Establishing long-term relationships between external partners and local communities to provide continuous support as their needs develop.
7. Engagement between all levels of community, local, regional, national and international bodies to effectively support local need within a global context (Sustainable Development Goals).

Physical outcome of the programme of work included:

- Training of SAFOD staff. ([Training Guide](#))
- Development of the [Itirele](#) website.
- Building of the [Centre for Culture, Heritage, Innovation, and Enterprise](#) (C-CHIE)