



**BOTSWANA NATIONAL
BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY
AND ACTION PLAN (NBSAP) –
HIGHLIGHTS ON ITS
IMPLEMENTATION**

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OVERVIEW OF BIODIVERSITY PLANNING

- ◆ Botswana NBSAP was prepared in 2004
- ◆ Revised 2007
- ◆ The NBSAP has been adopted by the Botswana Government

Main laws, national strategies, policies and plans

- ◆ National Policy on Resource Conservation and Development of 1990
- ◆ Wildlife Conservation Policy of 1986
- ◆ Tourism Policy of 1990
- ◆ National Policy on Rural Development
- ◆ National Tourism Strategy of 1990
- ◆ Waste Water and Sanitation Management Policy of 2003
- ◆ Community Based Natural Resources Management Policy of 2007
- ◆ Strategy for Waste Management of 1998
- ◆ Draft Wetlands Policy
- ◆ Forest Act of 1968
- ◆ Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act of 1992
- ◆ Herbage Preservation Act (Prevention of Fires) of 1978
- ◆ Agricultural Resources Conservation Act of 1974
- ◆ Tourism Act 1992
- ◆ Waste Management Act of 1998
- ◆ Environmental Impact Assessment Act of 2005

Institutional Arrangements

- ◆ Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism – Host Ministry
- ◆ Department of Environmental Affairs – National Focal Point
- ◆ National Biodiversity Authority – guide implementation
- ◆ Botswana Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Steering Committee – multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary (during preparation)

ACHIEVEMENTS

◆ Institutional and legislative framework

- Enactment of EIA Act of 2005 - (target 2.1 & 2.2)
- Preparation of overarching Environmental Management Bill (Draft) – All goals targets
- Completion of the preparation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) Implementation Strategy (includes CBD) in 2007 – targets 5.1, 8.1, 8.2
- On-going revision of the Forest Act and preparation of the Forest Policy – targets 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.1, 3.1,4.1, 4.2,4.3
- On-going revision of the Wildlife and National Parks Act of 1992 - targets 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.1, 3.1,4.1, 4.2,4.3
- Review of Fisheries Act of 1968
- On-going preparation of Rare and Endangered Species Policy
- Enactment of Community Based Natural Resources Management Policy of 2007
- Establishment of Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) Biodiversity Task Force in 2007

Achievements contd.

◆ Specific Programmes

- UNDP Environment Support Programme
- Initiation of National Capacity Self-Assessment programme
- Mainstream NBSAP implementation within National Development 10 preparation and implementation (2007 – 2012)
- Biodiversity Conservation in the Makgadikgadi system led by BirdLife Botswana (GEF)
- NGO Fund under MEWT to assist NGOS in implementation of biodiversity related projects - allocated \$500,000 during NDP 9 (2003-2009)
- Creation of Environment Fund to fund environmental reclamation projects by Community Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Natural resources accounts, e.g water accounts, economic valuation of natural resources

Achievements contd.

◆ Specific Programmes

- Preparation of the Okavango Delta Management Plan (Ramsar Convention and CBD) – cross-sectoral plan aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of the Okavango Delta (Botswana's primary biodiversity storehouse) – 2003 - 2006
- Biokavango Project – UNDP/GEF (mainstreaming biodiversity into the day-to-day management of the wetlands resources of the Okavango Delta) – 2006 - 2011
- GEF Environmental Protection and Sustainable Management of the Okavango River Basin – 2007 - 2010
- Annual wildlife census
- Establishment of the Environmental Information System (EIS)

CHALLENGES/CONSTRAINTS

- ◆ Lack of technical skills in specialized areas (eg. interpreting results; monitoring the GMO content of imported agricultural produce.
- ◆ Lack of specific competencies, such as environmental law, intellectual property or reviewing EIA reports.
- ◆ The absence or inadequacy of holistic thinking within the different disciplines involved in environmental management, which is increased by limited team work.
- ◆ Lack of prioritisation of issues that should be addressed, given limited capacity in some departments.

CHALLENGES/CONSTRAINTS contd

- ◆ Fragmented responsibilities across institutions (for biodiversity management).
- ◆ Insufficient coordination between government institutions.
- ◆ Inadequate financial and technical capacity within community organisations.
- ◆ Absence of measures of the impact of environmental interventions, and lack of negotiation skills.
- ◆ Discontinuous and inadequate engagement with the secretariats of the MEAs between the meetings of the Conference of Parties.
- ◆ Key ministries still do not consider environment/biodiversity as important (MFDP – responsible for financial resources & budget)

Initiatives to overcome constraints

- ◆ MEWT committee to assist sectors to mainstream environment into NDP 10 sector contributions
- ◆ District and National state of environment reporting – cross-sectoral report
- ◆ Subjecting NDP 10 to Strategic Environmental Assessment
- ◆ Commitment to implement MEA Strategy
- ◆ Establishment of Environment Information System – support biodiversity and environmental decision making
- ◆ Improved funding for biodiversity conservation – coordinated efforts to facilitate access to GEF-RAF Funds
- ◆ Enhanced resource monitoring by sectors
- ◆ EMA Act
- ◆ Establishment of DEA regional offices

THANK YOU

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