



MDG7

Progress Towards Environmental Sustainability

Botswana's stock of natural resources includes land, minerals, water, flora and fauna, and is the backbone of the economy and the livelihoods of its inhabitants. The management of Botswana's natural resources is guided by national environmental legislation and strategies, and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), seven of them signed between 1997 and 2003 alone.

Within the framework of the sustainable use of environmental resources, the most important environmental issues are:

- (a) land degradation and the related issues of desertification, soil erosion and biodiversity loss;
- (b) conflicting land uses;
- (c) climate change;
- (d) access to water for household, livestock, arable and industrial use;
- (e) water scarcities;
- (f) fuel wood depletion and lack of alternative forms of energy;
- and (g) the protection of cultural and natural heritages.

Although water is a scarce resource in Botswana, the country is firmly on course to ensuring universal access to safe drinking water. The proportion of the population with sustainable access to safe drinking water has increased, rising from 77% of the population in 1996 to 97.7% by the year 2000.

Pressure on land resources comes from a variety of sources, including economic expansion, population growth, migration, livestock populations, animal populations, and climate change. Economic activities, industry, and farming not only consume land resources but also pollute them. Population growth has led to the annexation of more virgin land to meet human needs such as shelter, energy

and water, and the generation of higher volumes of waste. In an effort to remedy this, the Government has opted for integrated land use planning to manage land use conflicts that are fueled by expansion of human settlements and economic activity into new territories.¹

QUICK FACTS

CURRENT PORTFOLIO BUDGET

Total UNDP-GEF and Co-Finance:	\$11,227,014
Total UNDP and Co-Finance:	\$4,839,716
Total:	\$16,066,730



SPOTLIGHT

Community-based Biodiversity, Land Management and Rehabilitation²

Ecologically, Botswana appears to be a paradox: endowed with a multitude of wildlife species, including elephants, giraffes, kudus, lions and hippopotami, it is also a land of deserts and encroaching sand dunes. Traditionally, land-management practices have enabled the people of Botswana to maintain a secure livelihood while regulating the use of rangeland resources. The breakdown of these traditional systems due to increased population pressures is resulting in overwhelming land degradation, overgrazing and exploitation of natural resources.

In a GEF-supported regional biodiversity project jointly implemented by UNDP and UNEP and a grant of \$8.6 million, the Management of Indigenous Vegetation for the Rehabilitation of Degraded Rangelands in the Arid Zone of Africa project is both ambitious and far-reaching, linking communities and government in promoting long-term land management and wildlife preservation in Botswana, Kenya and Mali.

Through the establishment of Community Resource Management Trusts, local communities make and implement management decisions affecting their rangelands. The make-up of these trusts includes men and women, rich and poor alike, reflecting the various needs and promoting equality among tribes. The main focus of the trusts is to improve existing, indigenous management systems that respect traditional, communal values. The development of community action plans and the involvement of technical advisers on behalf of the Government ensure that values are maintained while simultaneously fostering sustainable land-use, wildlife preservation and income generation.

In all three countries, environmental management committees have been established at the local level to link conservation and development priorities. In Botswana, the project's success has led the national government to request assistance in expanding the rangeland management systems beyond the pilot sites and in drafting new national policies on community-based land management.

UNDP Botswana's objective is to promote innovative, creative conservation strategies and actions to protect the environment while contributing to the eradication of poverty in partnership with all levels of government, civil society and the private sector. Also, UNDP promotes responsible tourism for the benefit of all its communities.³ "UNDP's focus in environment is on capacity to manage. It is UNDP's objective to help countries adopt integrated approaches that focus on managing natural resources to improve the livelihoods of people."



Bjorn Foerde, Resident Representative

PORTFOLIO

FSSD*

A combination of environmental legislation, environment support programmes and partnerships aid Botswana's efforts to strengthen governance, harmonise existing and overlapping environmental laws, and develop a national Environmental Information Management System. Significant funding contributions come from UNDP, the Government of Botswana, GEF and UNEP.

WATER

In the field of transboundary waters management, UNDP is supporting Botswana in a regional project, funded by GEF, to assist in environmental protection and sustainable management of the Okavango River Basin, also shared by Angola. The basin is one of the least impacted in Africa, and the project focuses on strengthening the countries' capacity to jointly manage the basin's water resources.

ENERGY

UNDP is supporting Botswana to increase access to sustainable energy and mitigate climate change. For example, two GEF-funded projects are contributing to reducing GHG and CO² emissions through introducing renewable energy technologies to provide electricity in rural areas, and promoting non-motorised transportation in the capital Gaborone.

LAND

The Indigenous Vegetation Project (IVP) is a regional pilot project for biodiversity conservation and dryland ecosystem restoration in the arid and semi-arid zones, including Kenya and Mali. The project combines community-based indigenous knowledge, the findings of scientific research and past practical experience to rehabilitate degraded ecosystems and conserve biodiversity by developing sustainable natural resource management systems. In addition, a GEF-funded project seeks to reduce land degradation by developing the capacity to guide and reinforce coordination among the Rio Conventions and complement existing policies.

BIODIVERSITY

In support of the protection and sustainable management of Botswana's biodiversity, UNDP is implementing a GEF-funded regional project, the Southern Africa Biodiversity Support Programme (SABSP). The programme promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through interstate cooperation and information exchange in the southern African community.

CHEMICALS

In Botswana, the PCB National Inventories project is aimed at preparation of national inventories on Polychlorinated Bi-Phenyls (PCBs) and PCB-containing equipment as part of the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The project enhances national capacities for the environmentally sound management of PCBs through the development of regionally harmonized national inventories.

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PARTNERS

Some of our Partners working with UNDP and the Government in Botswana

UNEP

³Botswana MDGR 2004 http://www.undg.org/documents/5308-Botswana_Millennium_Development_Goals_Status_Report_2004_-_Botswana_MDG_Report_2004.pdf; *UNDP-GEF, 'Reclaiming the Land, Sustaining Livelihoods', 2004; http://www.undp.org/gef/undp-gef_publications/publications/landdeg_brochure2004.pdf; <http://www.unbotswana.org/bw/undp/environment.html>;
 *Frameworks and Strategies for Sustainable Development