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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
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Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT

BOTSWANA 2022

Building Back Better from COVID-19 While Advancing the Full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
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Building Back Better from COVID-19 While Advancing the Full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Domestication of SDGs in Botswana

This is Botswana’s second Voluntary National Review (VNR). The first was successfully launched during the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development held in July 2017. Given the importance the Government attaches to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the decision to conduct a second VNR was unanimously made by the National Steering Committee (NSC) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during its June 2021 session. The report is a collaborative effort of different agencies involved in the implementation of the SDGs and supported by several line ministries, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the Government. While the Ministry of Finance (MoF) was responsible for the overall preparation of the report, it was enhanced by other stakeholders such as government, development partners, media, political leadership, youth groups and community-based organisations. In February 2022, the National Steering Committee (NSC) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established that Botswana’s statistical monitoring capacity for indicators considered relevant for the country. This exercise developed in 2018, establishing baseline data for the 209 population and housing census (PHC) is expected to further augment and significantly fill data gaps for monitoring the SDGs in Botswana. The COVID-19 outbreak has had a significant and unprecedented impact on the economy and the society of Botswana at large. The pandemic has disrupted socio-economic activities, impacted restrictions imposed to contain the spread of the virus, and exacerbated some of the country’s existing economic challenges such as unemployment and income inequality. Unemployment rose from 22.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2019 (pre-pandemic period) to 26.0 percent in the fourth quarter of 2021. Further, the pandemic also had a negative impact on several key areas of the SDGs, including education, health and others.

In response, government undertook several measures to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, including putting in place a medium and long-term development plan (i.e., national development plan 11 and vision 2036) to the SDG targets and indicators for ease of implementation and achievement of the SDGs by 2030. Therefore, the delivery of the country’s priorities and vision contributes to the attainment of the SDGs.

Following adoption of the SDG Agenda in 2015, Botswana adopted 12 development priorities. The country developed the SDG Planning programmes and projects that address specific national priorities and aligned relevant SDGs and targets to existing medium and long-term development plans (i.e., NDP 11 and Vision 2036) to the SDG targets and indicators for ease of implementation. This approach simply mapped and aligned relevant SDGs and targets to existing medium and long-term development plans (i.e., NDP 11 and Vision 2036) to the SDG targets and indicators for ease of implementation. The country’s 2017 VNR underscored the need for alignment of the country to high income status. The economy did bounce back in the third quarter of 2021, with GDP growth of 6.5 percent compared to the second quarter of 2021 and 8.2 percent compared to the third quarter of 2020. While the economic rebound is encouraging, Botswana’s development process is still beset by major obstacles. The country’s developmental challenges are largely on some sectors, in particular, the tourism sector. On the global front, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the economy and the society of Botswana at large. The pandemic has disrupted socio-economic activities, impacted restrictions imposed to contain the spread of the virus, and exacerbated some of the country’s existing economic challenges such as unemployment and income inequality. Unemployment rose from 22.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2019 (pre-pandemic period) to 26.0 percent in the fourth quarter of 2021. Further, the pandemic also had a negative impact on several key areas of the SDGs, including education, health and others.

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The institutional mechanism for coordinating the implementation of the SDGs has been designed in a manner that would ensure ownership and inclusivity in the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The structures include a wide range of government departments, development partners, civil society, and private sector organisations. In February 2022, the National Steering Committee (NSC) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was established that Botswana’s statistical monitoring capacity for indicators considered relevant for the country. This exercise developed in 2018, establishing baseline data for the 209 population and housing census (PHC) is expected to further augment and significantly fill data gaps for monitoring the SDGs in Botswana. Further, the pandemic also had a negative impact on several key areas of the SDGs, including education, health and others. Unemployment rose from 22.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2019 (pre-pandemic period) to 26.0 percent in the fourth quarter of 2021. The pandemic has disrupted socio-economic activities, impacted restrictions imposed to contain the spread of the virus, and exacerbated some of the country’s existing economic challenges such as unemployment and income inequality.
Botswana recognises that the financial demands for achieving the SDGs require concerted efforts beyond government. In this context, the country has embarked on a process of strengthening resource mobilisation, focusing on innovative and alternative sources of financing from both domestic and external sources of finance. An assessment of the financing landscape within and outside the country has been undertaken in the context of the Integrated National Financing Framework and was completed in March 2022. The findings of this assessment will be used to develop an appropriate and fit for purpose SDG Financing Strategy for the country.

As a country, we remain committed to implementation of the SDGs and the full attainment of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
...notable progress in sexual and reproductive health and rights efforts, the level of GBV still remains high in the country. Expected to address fragmented responses to GBV and other gender men in different economic, social and political spheres of the progress and setbacks in promoting equality between women and foundations for life-long learning and skills development.

...on pre-primary and primary education so as to strengthen the basic education sector, with 63.4 per cent of tertiary students coming from the top two income quintiles. This underscores a need to focus on education is comparable to the upper middle income country private sector dominance of the market share. At 7.1 per cent of...
The NDP 11 identifies key development issues, among them: a) a narrow economic base; b) climate change; c) gaps in human capital development; d) gender inequality; and e) weak monitoring and evaluation capacity. The Common Country Analysis (CCA) of 2020, that underpinned the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCF), also identifies these development challenges. In the remaining years of implementation of the NDP 11, the following areas have emerged as key priorities in the mid-term review of the NDP 11; a) Promotion of export-led growth b) Ensuring more efficient government spending and financing c) Building human capital d) Provision of appropriate infrastructure

Complementary to the NDP 11 mid-term review, and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, government has developed the Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP) to promote implementation of the pre-COVID19 development and transformation agenda, while assimilating lessons learnt and seizing new opportunities to pursue the path towards high income status by 2036. The ERTP augments the government's short term economic relief packages that were implemented at the peak of the pandemic and is also aligned to the sustainable development agenda as demonstrated in Figure 3. As per the ERTP, Botswana will need approximately BWP 40 billion to support the economy out of the impact of COVID-19 and build back better. To galvanise action towards recovery from the economic downturn, Botswana has developed a Reset Agenda which proposes a move towards digitisation and development of value chains to stimulate private sector participation. This agenda deliberately targets citizen participation by encouraging a mindset change in the spirit of leaving no one behind.

Botswana migrated from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the SDG agenda having performed exceptionally well in all the MDGs except the two goals on maternal health and gender equality. To that effect, Botswana committed to the attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in 2015. This decision coincided with the end term review of the NDP10 and Vision 2016 while predating the NDP 11 and Vision 2036, thus providing a strategic opportunity and enabled the integration of the SDGs into the national development frameworks. Figure 2 depicts how the four thematic pillars of the Vision 2036 are anchored on the principles of the SD agenda. Considering that SDG 5 on gender equality was spotlighted during Botswana’s first VNR in 2017, and underscored as a priority area given the underperformance during the MDG era, the current report provides an opportunity for the country to trace its progress towards attainment of this and other goals under review in 2022.
Botswana recognises the importance of strengthening local partnerships and participation and a key facilitator to this is advocacy, sensitization and awareness creation. Building public awareness is a critical step towards a participatory process in implementing the SDGs that ultimately leads to maximising ownership and sustainability of development. In this context, Botswana has set up a solid institutional SDGs Roadmap as a prerequisite for leveraging interlinkages, mainstreaming, localization and steering implementation of the SDGs across all sectors. Notwithstanding, sectors are not able to explicitly identify interlinkages across goals and targets in an integrated and holistic way, which is a prerequisite for systematic policy design, implementation and multi-stakeholder collaboration. Greater efforts are needed to bring the private sector, civil society and academia into the implementation and monitoring process.

Recognising the integral role of financing for attainment of the SDGs, and the national budgetary oversight role of Parliament, Botswana has established a Parliament Select Committee on SDGs as a high level SDG financing advocacy group. Further, Botswana is a signatory to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), the domestication of which is ongoing through the development of an SDG Financing Strategy.

In developing the current VNR, the specific objectives of Botswana are to:

a) Gauge progress and identify challenges in implementing the SDGs under review;

b) Devise ways to address implementation gaps.
4. METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS FOR PREPARATION OF THE REVIEW

Consistent with the principles of the VNR as outlined in the VNR Handbook, the process to develop the report assumed a joint effort by the Government of Botswana and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). The process was initiated through the constitution of a VNR core team composed of focal persons from UN agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and FAO), line ministries and civil society representatives that drafted a roadmap as a guiding document for engagement.

SDG oversight structures then led the endorsement of the roadmap and clearance for the process to gain traction. A stakeholder analysis was conducted, which culminated in a stakeholder engagement strategy. At the core of the strategy was the need to reach the left behind populations to address one of the shortcomings of the 2017 VNR process of focusing mainly on urban populations. Consequently, the coverage of consultations was extensive and covered the national, district and community levels including two (2) cities, four (4) urban villages, six (6) villages, four (4) remote villages, and two (2) towns as depicted in Figure 5.

Both innovative and social platforms such as the traditional kgotla system were harnessed to reach local communities. In the spirit of leaving no one behind, and reaching the furthest left behind first, community gatekeepers, traditional and civic leaders were leveraged to mobilize their communities resulting in a representative and effective participation of relevant population groups including women and girls, the elderly, young people, rural dwellers, people with disabilities, remote area communities, key populations including sex workers and LGBTIQ+ and traditional leaders. Consultations also targeted government departments and agencies, civil society organisations, community trusts, research institutions, and academia. Differentiated stakeholder consultation tools were developed that enabled both qualitative and quantitative data collection. Thematic data analysis was conducted, and excerpts extracted in some instances. Report validation processes targeted the SDG Technical Taskforce, and the Joint National Steering Committee on SDGs and the Parliamentary Special Select Committee on SDGs.
a) Institutional Arrangement for the Implementation of SDGs
Botswana has created an enabling environment for achievement of the SDGs under the lead of the Ministry of Finance (MoF). MoF is also mandated with coordinating domestication, localisation and implementation of SDGs in Botswana. Further, the Joint National Steering Committee (JNSC) on SDGs was established with the purpose of revitalising partnerships for achievement of the Goals in recognition of the critical role and mantra of 'partnerships for the goals'.

The COVID-19 also served to reinforce the role and imperativeness of partnerships for achievement of sustainable development. To stimulate action at sectoral level, SDG Focal Points have been appointed within line ministries who act as liaisons between the MoF as the secretariat and sectors. The focal points are tasked as advocates for SDGs including advocating for collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of data on SDGs relevant to the respective ministry. Additionally, the focal points bolster and support the domestication and mainstreaming of SDGs in the Ministry’s policies, programmes and plans at national and subnational levels.

A Parliamentary Special Select Committee on SDGs was established in 2019 to provide oversight, ensure resource mobilisation, and champion SDGs in parliamentary and other strategic platforms. Additionally, the committee acts as a strategic point for advocating for SDG implementation and integration in policy and legislative developments. The committee offers a unique opportunity for parliamentarians to demonstrate their commitment to improving people’s lives and the health of the planet (Figure 6).

Figure 6: SDGs Institutional and Coordination Structures

In terms of implementation, the integrated national planning approach is seen as key to success of the SDG implementation in Botswana. The Botswana SDGs Roadmap identified broad areas of focus; a) Coordination, Ownership and Leadership; b) Implementation, Building on Existing Structures, and c) Data, Progress Tracking and Reporting.

The SDGs Roadmap includes a five-year plan of action implemented through annual work plans. The Roadmap foresees the attainment of all MDGs that relate to the SDGs by 2022. Therefore, when reviewing progress in the implementation of the SDGs, a reflection on efforts that are being put in place to address those specific targets that were not achieved during the MDG period, is necessary.

b) Progress in the Policy Framework for the Implementation of SDGs
Following the 2017 VNR, Government of Botswana continues to make progress in reforming the policy and legislative environment towards attainment of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. As mentioned above, Botswana has assumed an integrated and all inclusive approach in mainstreaming SDGs in the reforms mentioned below:

- Development of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Strategy,
- The formulation of the Poverty Eradication Strategy to strengthen the coordination of the institutions responsible for poverty eradication programmes,
- Reforms of the social welfare programme to strengthen their delivery in the spirit of LNOB,
- Formulation of the National Employment Policy to define targets and institutional arrangements,
- Development of the Decentralisation Policy to fast-track service delivery at subnational level,
- Development of the national Climate Change Policy and its Action Plan. An adaptation plan of the same was also crafted. These are the key domestication instruments for the Paris accord on Climate Change,
- The review of the Rural Development Policy to capture emerging issues such as climate change,
- Development of the National Energy Policy which is founded on economic development, equity and environmental protection as its guiding principles, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda.
Mainstreaming SDGs in the National and Sub-National Frameworks

The UN Secretary General has promoted "Leave No One Behind" (LNOB) and reaching the furthest left behind first as prominent rallying calls and mantra in the Decade of Action. Despite economic growth and many development advances, inequality remains a concern for the country. Even as the rapid and phenomenal national growth has been accompanied by vast and well-intentioned development investments for the people, through human capital development, investments in biodiversity and infrastructure, poverty levels in the country still remain significant. The SDG agenda provides an opportunity for Botswana to adopt a development pathway that is inclusive, climate smart and gender responsive which is in consonance with the spirit of the LNOB.

To catalyse attainment of agenda 2030, Botswana with the support of the UN Country Team has designed the SDG planning guidelines to facilitate the mainstreaming of the relevant SDG targets and indicators into national/sector plans, policies and strategies and provide a planning mechanism to request funds to implement the targets, as well as ensuring a systematic process in mainstreaming SDGs into planning frameworks. Progress towards attainment of the targets is measured regularly against baselines using an agreed global or nationally adopted SDG indicator. Where a policy, programme or strategy does not exist, a structured approach may necessitate the development of such new policies or programmes to support the implementation and successful attainment of the planned targets.

The SDG Planning Guidelines include five (5) stages for the integration process as shown in Figure 7 below.

**Table 1:** Ministries that have piloted the SDG Planning Guidelines

**Figure 7:** Five stages of the SDG Planning Guidelines

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**K & G QPRWMDJ ? @MSP $ F MK C? DD? @Q**

**K & G QPRWMD B CDCL AC $ QCAS PGW**

**K & G QPRWMD HS QRCAC**

**K & G QPRWMDJ 7? L BQ $ U? RCP**

**K & G QPRWMD CL 7? M L K CL R $ RMS PGK**

**K & G QPRW MD F C? JR F**

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The need for the SDG Planning Guidelines was revealed by the Botswana Domesticated SDG Indicator Baseline Stats Brief developed in 2018 which indicated that 123 of the 169 global targets and 209 out of 232 global indicators are relevant to Botswana, and that the country's SDG monitoring capacity was at 34.8%. In simple terms, only 88 out of 209 indicators have a baseline. Further, of the 88 only 42 indicators have been mainstreamed and have annual performance targets.

(See Forty of the Botswana SDGs Status Report 2016-2020).

Forty two have been mainstreamed into the NDP 11 performance framework which is cascaded into ministerial performance or strategic plans. This further underscores the data revolution that the Botswana SDGs Roadmap highlights as key to the delivery of the 2030 Agenda.

### Table 2: Status of Mainstreaming of the SDG targets and indicators at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)</th>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Measurable indicators (as at 31.12.18)</th>
<th>Indicators with supporting Actions/Programs</th>
<th>Indicators with baselines</th>
<th>Indicators mainstreamed and with annual targets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1: No Poverty</td>
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<td>Goal 2: Zero Hunger</td>
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<td>Goal 3: Good Health and Well Being</td>
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<td>Goal 4: Quality Education</td>
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<td>Goal 5: Gender Equality</td>
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<td>Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation</td>
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<td>Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy</td>
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<td>Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth</td>
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<td>Goal 9: Industry, innovation and Infrastructure</td>
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<td>Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities</td>
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<td>Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities</td>
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<td>Goal 12: Responsible Consumption &amp; Production</td>
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<td>Goal 13: Climate Action</td>
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<td>Goal 14: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</td>
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<td>Goal 15: Partnerships for goals</td>
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**Note:**
- DIF: Domesticated Indicator Framework Stats Brief
- SDG 8: Please note that target 8b in DIF (page 33) is misaligned. For the purpose of this report, it is assumed target 8b and indicator 8b.1 are included in the DIF.
- Includes repeating indicators and proxy indicators.
Figure 8

SDGs Hierarchy of Indicators:

- SDG Indicators
- Vision 2036 Goals & Indicators
- National Development Plan 11
- Performance Framework
- Sector Plan Indicators (TWGs & Ministerial Performance Framework)
- Ministerial Strategic Plans
- Programmes
- Annual Performance Plans
- Projects
- Annual Performance Plans

"For Botswana to take advantage of its open demographic window of opportunity to advance socioeconomic development, it needs to prioritise interventions that will reform and reorient the economy towards job creation, ensure effective investment in education and skill development and address the unmet need for family planning among underserved populations" - His Honour, the Vice President, Mokgweetsi Eric Masisi (2018).

The Guidelines have demonstrated that a lot of administrative data can be harnessed to further strengthen the statistical monitoring capacity of the country. The Domesticated SDG Indicator Stats brief will be reviewed as the rollout process advances to other sectors.

i) SDG indicators are mainstreamed into the National Monitoring Evaluation System (NMES) of the NDP 11

The 2017 VNR had demonstrated the alignment of SDG indicators to the NDP 11. To ensure a systematic tracking of progress in the implementation of the plan, a National Monitoring and Evaluation System (NMES) was formulated. The diagram below illustrates the alignment of the NDP programmes and projects, and the NMES to the Global Goals.

ii) Integration of the social dimension of sustainable development

To further ensure the integration of the social pillar of sustainable development into development policy, the country continues to formulate District population profiles. Integration of population dynamics into development planning is pivotal to the implementation of development frameworks such as the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda.

Kgatleng District Population and Development profile and the North East District Population and Development profile were recently published. These will inform the sub-national development planning (District Development Plan Eight) in their respective areas. Further, efforts are underway to develop a Roadmap to harness the demographic dividend to support the implementation of the Botswana Demographic Dividend Study Report.
iii) Integration of the environmental dimension of sustainable development

To respond to the ever changing environment and the emerging issues that continue to threaten the state of environment globally and locally, Botswana continues to strengthen her legal and policy landscape. To this end, amendments were introduced to the Environmental Assessment legislation and a project was initiated to develop sector specific guidelines to support the implementation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The country has developed a State of Environment Report which intends to inform the formulation of the next medium term development plan, NDP 12.

d) Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)

To act on the intent of the Botswana SDG Roadmap, the Government has developed an SDGs Communication Strategy to facilitate the systemic communication of the SDGs through an all-of-government and all-of-society approach to the Agenda’s implementation. One of the key deliverables of the Strategy is the translation of the SDGs into local languages. Concurrently, the government is developing and/or implementing initiatives that will likely have a significant positive development impact. For instance, the social protection framework is being implemented and coordinated by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. The framework builds on existing social protection initiatives, with the aim to consolidate, rationalise, and further strengthen interventions.

The National Digital Transformation Strategy embraces the use of technology to boost effectiveness in access to, and delivery of public services. It also aims to narrow the existing digital divide between rural and urban Botswana. Other initiatives that hold potential for transformational change include the Climate Change Policy, the Education Bill (currently in Parliament), the Ombudsman Bill, and the Integrated Resource Plan for Electricity (IRP).

Botswana has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (PWDs) and this is a significant step towards the integration of PWDs into the mainstream society. In addition, the Government has developed the Revised National Disability Policy (2021). The Policy commits to promoting equality, mainstreaming disability and removing barriers to the inclusion of PWDs in all sectors. It also creates an enabling environment for PWDs to reach their maximum potential in both their public and private lives.

The successful rollout of these initiatives not only hold the promise of accelerating progress against several SDGs, but also target those left behind.
Botswana is one of the few countries in sub-Saharan Africa that has truly benefited from its mineral wealth. Revenues from diamond mines, combined with sound economic policies, have helped build infrastructure and keep the economy stable. But with high unemployment and limited export diversification, the mineral-dependent and public sector-led development model is showing its limits. Similar to other countries, the COVID-19 pandemic had a particularly significant impact on the economy and society.

Botswana shows positive progress against the SDGs. Figure 9 below is based on the UN statistical performance index (0-100), where 0 stands for worst progress, while 100 stands for best performance. Botswana's statistical performance index value is 57.3 across all the SDGs, which is above average and reflects that Botswana is 'on track and maintaining progress'. Figure 9 also depicts good progress against the goals under review.

Botswana has performed relatively well in its development agenda, and is rated positively on a number of indicators including human development. According to the Human Development Index 2021, the country has progressed from an HDI of 0.578 in 2000 to 0.735 in 2019—an increase of almost 30 per cent. Globally, Botswana is placed 100 out of 189 countries. However, the HDI rates Botswana in a lower quintile compared to its economic counterparts. The governance and institutional machinery for transparency have also received positive rankings from Transparency International. This is attributed to the structural limitations that have exacerbated inequalities in the country.

Inequality is another major challenge for Botswana. While the Gini coefficient is high at 54.9, it has come down over the past few years. A recent study by the World Bank noted that the reduction in inequality during 2010 to 2015 period (from 60.5 to 54.9) was by far the highest annual reduction in the SACU region. As the most recent Gini coefficient figure is from 2015, there is also a need for more frequent monitoring of inequality. It is very likely that inequality has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This chapter reviews implementation progress on selected SDG targets and indicators, specifically SDG 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17. The review focuses on legislative, policy and institutional reforms, performance trends, challenges and areas for accelerated action.

![Figure 9: Average Performance by SDG](https://example.com/figure9)


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1. SLB BN 0.0, Eji Jf k F Sbotswana 17 Rmp 10.0, 2019/20.0, 17 Jf k F k h z v 30.0, 17 Nl 17 0.75, 17 Nk Nk 0.75.
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
i) Enrolment
In 2019, the Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) was as follows (see Figure 10 as well):
- At pre-primary it was 48 per cent;
- Primary school it was 109 per cent with a parity index of 0.9 and completion rate of 99.5 per cent;
- Lower secondary was 99.9 per cent with completion rate of 99 per cent and parity index of 1.00;
- Upper secondary school was 56.7 per cent with completion rate 98.8% and parity index of 1.31;
- Tertiary was 19.5 per cent with a parity index of 1.6.

The reasons for the low GER at pre-primary and upper secondary school include limited space. At Tertiary Education, the low GER is attributed to the significantly high fees and heavy dependence on government funding. However, through initiatives such as the Affirmative Action Programme (AAP), learners from remote area communities, and economically and socially disadvantaged groups are supported socially, financially and psychologically to access education and training.

ii) Education Expenditure
At 7.1 percent of GDP in 2019, or 22.2 percent of the government budget, Botswana's public spending on education is high relative to peers. Considering the country's level of economic development, Botswana spends more, on average, on education as a share of GDP than peers such as Colombia, Brazil, Costa Rica, and South Africa.

The country allocates a large share of its education budget to tertiary education, both for subsidies to universities and bursaries/loans to university students. While per student spending is estimated at US$800 in primary and US$1,630 in secondary school, spending per tertiary student is estimated at about six times as much. This high level of spending on universities is relatively inequitable, as the gross tertiary enrolment rate is only 19.5 per cent. The poorest segments of the population are under-represented among university students, while around 60 percent of tertiary students come from the top two income quintiles.

b) Performance Trends
i) Quality Education
As outlined in Vision 2036, National Development Plans and the Revised National Policy on Education, Botswana has committed to providing a competitive and relevant curriculum that is delivered by qualified teachers and trainers, making compliance to quality assurance standards mandatory. To this end, the minimum qualification for teaching at a tertiary institution has been raised to an advanced university degree. Additionally, implementation of the quality standards meant that the number of personnel without teaching qualifications within the sector were drastically reduced.

As per the ETSSP, government has determined that Colleges of Education programmes should be upgraded to degree level, which will further strengthen the quality of teaching and learning in schools.
Inclusive Education - A world of respect, dignity, choice and community inclusion for every person.

Camphill Community Trust was founded in 1975 with the establishment of Camphill School Rankoromane, a residential primary school for children with special needs, focusing on children with learning difficulties. The residential primary school provides education for children with learning difficulties and related disabilities aged between 5 – 14 years. Motse Wa Badiri Training offers a four-year learning programme for people with learning difficulties or disabilities aged fourteen years or older. A transition support programme offers support to graduates in finding employment or other sustainable livelihood.

**c) Challenges**

Botswana has a youthful population, with 30.3 per cent of the population of 2.3 million aged 10–24 years. Strengthened investments in education at this stage are critical for the country to harness its human capital and accelerate the achievement of a demographic dividend while also contributing to sustainable development. Some of the challenges encountered in the sector include;

While Botswana invests significantly in the education sector which consistently receives a large proportion of the annual budget, allocative inefficiencies exist within the sector. It is important to underscore that transition rates from secondary to tertiary level education remains low (30.3 per cent). This suggests that the large tertiary education allocation only benefits a small segment of the population.

Botswana pursues a bursary approach to fund tertiary education for its citizens through a revolving fund. Although this has bridged the access gap to tertiary education, challenges with collections due to non-compliance persist.

Access to pre-primary education where enrolment rates remain low and influencing factors include the dominance of the private sector in the provision of pre-primary education and prohibitive fees.

Although secondary level enrolment rates are on parity level between girls and boys, when compared to primary education, the net enrolment rate at secondary schools is lower. Retention and completion of secondary school levels is also a challenge particularly for girls, early and unintended pregnancies play a contributory factor in school dropout and grade repetitions, especially for those from poor and rural communities.

Despite the wins of the AAP, interactions with the communities during consultations confirmed the high dropout rates among beneficiaries of the AAP at all levels. Factors attributed to this challenge include; long distances between schools and the communities, separation anxiety due to prolonged absence from families, and limited acclimatisation to the new school environments.

Parental engagement and participation in their children's education is curtailed, resulting in learners not understanding the importance of education and not being encouraged to stay in school.

"Bana ba ya sekoleng, mme rona batsadi re emetse ko morago" – "Children go to school, parents are not fully involved in their education" - New Xade kgotla attendee

**d) Opportunities for accelerated action**

To reduce costs and increase enrolment at tertiary education, the country is exploring differentiated tertiary education financing systems where cost reductions are based on the economic ability of the learners or parents. This is because with the advent of education financing, it is not only unaffordable for the government but unsustainable.

Government through the village connectivity project under SmatBots is aiming to connect all schools to the internet and bring e-learning in the forefront of education initiatives.

Government is also furthering efforts for more inclusive education by introducing multilingualism and improving support for quality education and learning for learners with special education needs (SEN). To improve learning outcomes, Botswana is also focusing on foundational literacy and numeracy through the development of a remedial and enrichment programme.

Strengthen the AAP's support to increase retention and completion rates at secondary school level, especially for young women and girls, as well as increase access and retention of groups furthest left behind at the tertiary education level.

Strengthen prevention of early and unintended pregnancies through multi-sectoral policies that ensure links between health, education and cross referrals.

Strengthen interlinkages in skills development including Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to meet the market needs required to achieve High Income Country Status.

Consider increase in funding models for tertiary education.
Archive gender equality and empower all women and girls.

The first Female Minister of Finance, Honourable Peggy Serame being escorted by fellow women to Parliament to present her maiden Budget Speech in Parliament (2022).
Targeted citizens means a citizen whose access to economic resources has been constrained by various factors as may be defined by the Minister from time to time.

SDG 5 - GENDER EQUALITY

6.2

laws and the Convention.

identify all customary laws that are incompatible with the private spheres, in line with article 1 of the Convention.

encompassing direct and indirect discrimination in the public and women, covering all prohibited grounds of discrimination,

Adopts a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women and girls. In 2019, the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of

eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls. In (through the existence of sound legal and policy frameworks) to
everywhere

i) End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls

b) Performance Trends

National Relationship study in 2018 that established baselines for conducted the first nationally representative study on GBV, the

Administration of Justice. The Botswana Prison Services has also (GBV) cases through the system were established by the

Additionally, specialised courts to expedite gender based violence Gender and Child Protection Unit within the Botswana Police

Administrative reforms implemented include introduction of the response to the fragmented response to GBV in the country.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee on GBV was constituted in 2021 to dovetails with the principle of leaving no one behind.

to empower women as one of the targeted groups and this growth and development of the economy. The Act is also expected

has adopted the Economic Inclusion Act which aims to promote the effective participation of targeted citizens in the economic

both men and women married in community of property. Botswana Land Policy was revised in 2021 to facilitate ownership of land by

Development Community (SADC) Gender Protocol. The Botswana At policy level, Botswana ratified the Southern Africa

provision to protect consenting and experimenting adolescents. The amendment increased the age of consent from

with the Children's Act towards protecting children from sexual

Marital Power Act. Further, the Penal Code was amended to align it against women and girls including the constitution that enshrines

enabling environment for elimination of all forms of discrimination

a) Legal, policy and institutional reforms

Botswana National Relationship Study (2018).

harmful practices such as child marriages will be generated by the (PHC), and this was triangulated with data from the stakeholder

marriages as revealed in the 2011 Population and Housing Census and religious marriages. Further, there are anecdotes of child marriages only, despite the country also recognising customary

years for males and females, respectively. There is

Act. The mean age at first marriage in Botswana is 40 years and 35 captures all common law marriages as mandated by the Marriage

Botswana has a relatively strong civil registration system that

forced marriage and female genital mutilation

guideline and the Convention so as to bring them into compliance with statutory

Right to Parental Leave

situation in Botswana. The Botswana Gender and Development. Currently, there are on-going efforts

provision to protect consenting and experimenting adolescents.

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offences. The amendment increased the age of consent from

with the Children's Act towards protecting children from sexual
iv) Women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

Since 2017 to date, Botswana has made substantive progress in the representation of women at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. In the current electoral cycle (2019-2023), women make up eleven (11) percent of the national parliamentary seats from 7.9 percent in the previous cycle. At local government level (councils), women account for eighteen (18) percent of the seats from six (6) percent in the previous cycle. Within the public sector, women make up 43 percent compared to 57 percent for men of managerial level positions. In 2019, the CEDAW Committee in its concluding observations to Botswana, noted the increase in the number of women traditional leaders as a positive change in social and cultural norms in the country. The Botswana Demographic Dividend Study of 2018 revealed that two thirds of the population is economically active. Although unemployment rate is high (24.5 percent) with youth and women being the most affected, Botswana has reached gender parity where 50.1 percent of the economically active males are employed compared to 49.9 percent of females. With the disruption of livelihoods and the limited access to social services due to the COVID-19 pandemic, women, young people and persons with disabilities face increased multi-dimensional inequalities based on income, gender and disability; this has further compounded their economic vulnerabilities.

v) Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

Time-use surveys produce statistics that reflect the average number of hours per day that people with different characteristics and in different locations spend on various activities. They are the main specialised household surveys that provide statistics on the amount of time individuals spend on unpaid domestic and care work. They help to provide a complete picture of society and, in particular, the unpaid contributions of both men and women as well as the total workload consisting of both paid and unpaid work. Botswana recognises the importance of measuring the extent of unpaid care and domestic work as a critical tool to advance gender equality and tailor policies that ensure social protection and support (e.g. childcare support).

vi) Ensure universal access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights (SRHR)

Botswana is committed to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) with the Government aligning national health strategies to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and strengthening primary health care as the delivery vehicle to achieve equitable access to people-centered, non-discriminatory, comprehensive health services. Furthermore, Botswana possesses a legal framework that ensures access to women and men to most aspects of SRHR care, information and education. In this regard, improvements in key sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) indicators have been recorded; decline in AIDS related deaths from 5300 (2017) to 5100 (2020), total fertility rate from 3 to 2.8 births per woman, and increase in contraceptive prevalence rate from 53% to 64.7% (2017). Notwithstanding, pockets of unmet need for family planning exist, where 17% of women of reproductive age have an unmet need for family planning, evidenced through differential fertility rate by rural/urban divide and education level attainment. This was corroborated during the stakeholder consultations where participants expressed persistent stockouts of reproductive health commodities especially condoms, arising from supply chain related bottlenecks.

Trends in maternal mortality also reveal that the country is off track to meet the SDG target by 2030. This represents the unfinished business of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and Botswana has made commitments to accelerate progress towards ending the unmet need for family planning, preventable maternal deaths, GBV and sexual transmission of HIV. Already, Botswana has recently developed an investment case on ending the unmet need for family planning to quantify the scale of sustainable financing required to ensure effective coverage of high impact interventions required to achieve this target.

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25 VNR 2022

In the current electoral cycle (2019-2023) women make up eleven (11) percent of the national parliament seats from 7.9 percent in the previous cycle.
Box 2: The Ngami Health District Maternal Mortality Reduction Initiative - 11 Promising practices

UPSTREAM

a) Maternity waiting homes
b) Community Engagement and partnership
c) Support to referring facilities

a) Maternal death audits
b) Change ideas
c) Obstetric drills

d) Leadership and governance
b) Emergency Obstetric Care (EmONC) training
c) Dedicated Focal Point Person
d) Data for decision making
e) Use of Mobile telephone

ENABLER

FACILITY BASED

"The time came when as a district we realised that our systems had become a killer and that it had victims who escaped death narrowly - the near misses’. "This was our turning point, we realised we had to do things differently…we needed to do things differently to get different results. We used to feel very embarrassed in meetings when Ngami would be mentioned as the district with the highest maternal mortality in the country”, reports the district maternal mortality reduction coordinator. "It was in the quiet hours of the morning when I received a call from an unfamiliar male voice. “A woman has delivered” he echoed. What do you mean by a woman has delivered, where are you calling from and what do you see, responded Ngami DHMT Head. I can see a lot of blood and there is no way we can take her to any nearest health facility because there is water all over and the delta is flooded. Fear was creeping closer by now and I quickly dialled the District Commissioner’s number for urgent help. “We are sorry we cannot help, the roads are bad and the delta is flooded”, the DC office responded. The thought of what might be happening with the delivered mother brought more panic and an immediate plan was to contact Botswana Defence Force Maun. “We can only help following authorization from Head Quarters in Gaborone”, the army responded. I was sweating by now and hope was slowly draining away but managed to call Headquarters. Finally, a Chopper was released to fly 119 km to Khwai to collect the delivered bleeding mother. Upon arrival to Letsholathebe II Memorial Hospital, on assessment of the woman, she had sustained a 3rd degree tear and was still bleeding. This was repaired and both mother and baby were stabilised. The Botswana Defence Force had a saved a life.

Ngami Health district has shown good success in reducing maternal mortality from a high of nine (9) maternal deaths in 2016 to two (2) in 2018. Expressed as maternal mortality ratio, the district experienced a significant reduction in maternal mortality ratio from 321 per 100,000 live births in 2016 to 68 per 100,000 live births in 2018. This documentation presents a summary of the promising practices that were used by Ngami Health District in significantly reducing their maternal deaths.

The Ngami Health District maternal mortality reduction initiative was started by the District Health Management Team (DHMT) in 2016 with the overall goal to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity through improved quality of care for obstetric complications in the targeted hospitals and clinics. A systematic quality improvement approach was assumed including:

a) Identification, training and re-assignment of a maternal mortality coordinator to Ngami district.
b) Development of the response plan inclusive of gap analysis
c) Formation, training of the quality improvement teams
d) Regular supportive supervision, mentorship to health facilities and implementation of community initiatives
e) Learning from the process and sustaining district performance

Eleven promising practices (PPs) were identified from the Ngami Health District experiences in reducing maternal deaths;
vii) Equal rights to land ownership
The Revised Botswana Land Policy of 2019 now affords married men and women the right to be allocated land marking the end of discriminatory treatment under older legislation.

viii) Women economic empowerment
Over and above the Economic Inclusion Act, and in recognition of the gaps in financial inclusion where women access the least funded products, Government has revised the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) funding requirements. This resulted in an increase in loan amounts with special considerations for women, youth and people with disabilities.

c) Challenges
While the Government has strengthened efforts to prevent and respond to gender inequalities, key constraints include:
- Inadequate funding for policies and projects that promote SDGs.
- Absence of a national system to collect, update and disseminate data on the incidence and prevalence of harmful practices.
- A national gender machinery that operates under a weak legal framework hampering coordination efforts.
- Capacity gaps in the provision of client centred, quality assured, integrated and sustainable Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights/HIV and GBV services.

d) Opportunities for accelerated action
There is an urgent need to strengthen the legal framework to guide implementation of laws, policies and projects that promote achievement of gender equality in Botswana including promulgation of laws that empower the national gender machinery to effectively coordinate the national gender agenda. To understand the financing landscape and strengthen resource mobilization efforts, Botswana intends to develop an investment on intimate partner violence, including a return on investment analysis. Mainstreaming gender into public finance management (PFM) and creation of dedicated budget lines for gender issues including establishment of a gender response fund to support CSOs also offer opportunities for advancement of gender equality in Botswana.

Consistent with the principles of evidence based decision making, there is a need to strengthen the gender data ecosystem including the registration of all legally recognised marriages through the development of an integrated data and information management system. Strengthen provision of quality, adolescent and youth friendly, integrated SRH, HIV and GBV services, including the management and offer of reproductive health commodities to avoid stockouts. Conduct a time-survey to estimate the unpaid contribution of both men and women as well as the total workload consisting of both paid and unpaid work.

In 2019, the CEDAW Committee in its concluding observations to Botswana, noted the increase in the number of women traditional leaders as a positive change in social and cultural norms in the country.
14 LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
Government of Botswana considers the development of Inland Fisheries & Aquaculture sub-sector as one of the key priorities. Government also foresees the critical role of inland fisheries and aquaculture in enhancing food and nutrition security, eradicating poverty, generating employment and income, improving rural livelihoods and increasing investment. While the Inland Fisheries has been there since independence, the aquaculture industry is just emerging and thus it is still at a nascent stage. Botswana, as a landlocked country, has few inland water bodies and therefore has domesticated one (1) target under SDG14 and one (1) indicator (14.4.1). The domesticated target is focused on the proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels.

The largest fishery resource in Botswana is the Okavango Delta, which accounts for 80 per cent of Botswana's catch. The remaining 20 per cent is located in Gaborone Dam, Bokaa Dam, Shashe Dam andLetsibogo Dam. The Chobe system, which includes a fairly extensive water area, contributes to a small extent, to the national catch.

a) Legislation, Policy and Institutional Frameworks
In 2021, the fisheries management architecture, managed through the Fish Protection Act (Cap 38:04) and Fish Protection Regulations of 2016, was migrated from the environment to the agricultural sector to harness fish as a food resource.

b) Performance trends
Botswana has focused on the proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels. Under this target, the aim remains to effectively regulate harvesting and eliminate overfishing. This is achieved through issuance of fishing permits, the utilisation of which are seasonal to allow fish stock recovery. Where pockets of small-scale fishermen exist, self-regulation is achieved through community based fisheries committees. This is the case for fishermen in Parakarungu, and other villages along the Chobe river.

To improve livelihoods through fishing, the Poverty Eradication Unit implements various aquaculture development projects which are at different stages of implementation. These include; Thito Village Development Committee integrated fish farming project in Maun, Shakawe FIAB (Farm in a Box) model and Parakarungu fish farming cooperative project. Other fish marketing value chain projects include; Samochima, Mohembo West, Ngarange, Etsha 13/Ekoga and Kauxwai/Mohembo East. The programme has a high acceptability quotient as revealed during the stakeholder consultations in the riparian communities of Kachikau, Shakawe, Khwai and Mababe.

c) Challenges
The migration of the fisheries management architecture from the environment to the agriculture sector threatens the achievement of the SDG indicator 14.4.1 due to conflicting mandates (conservation versus commercialisation). Spotlighting the Chobe river system, which is a resource shared by Botswana and Namibia, fishing is subjected to different legal regimes where one allows for everyday fishing (Namibia) compared to seasonal fishing (Botswana).

d) Opportunities for accelerated action
Harmonisation of policies on fishing between Botswana and Namibia is ongoing to regulate fishing in the Chobe river through the Kavango-Zambezi TransFrontier Conservation Area (KAZA-TFCA). There is a need to develop a national fisheries industry strategy to ensure sustainability and ecosystem balance.
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
Biodiversity has been central to Botswana’s developmental agenda and the country has relied on its rich biodiversity for livelihoods and economic development. Botswana has a unique and diverse array of ecosystems which include the Okavango delta, two perennial rivers, and diverse habitats. The key guiding principles for Botswana in this area are:

a) to ensure that ecosystems, species and genetic diversity are valued and protected; and b) sustainable use of biodiversity to the benefit of the communities and the economy.

**a) Legislative, policy and institutional reforms**

Botswana has an enabling legislative and policy framework to support the implementation of Goal 15. In biodiversity management, the key guiding instruments are:

- **SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND**
- **The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan**
- **UNCCD National Action Plan**
- **National Conservation Strategy**
- **Wildlife Conservation & National Parks Act**
- **National Forest Policy**
- **Botswana Threatened Species Management Action Plan**
- **Predator Management Strategy**
- **Community Based Natural Resources Management Policy**
- **Okavango Delta Management Plan**
- **Elephant Management Plan**

**b) Performance trends**

**i) Sustainable management of forests**

The total forest area has declined from 25.3% in 2017 to 24.7% in 2020 (Figure 12) mainly due to habitat fragmentation and the effects of climate change. Despite the recorded decline, it is important to underscore that the decline is in a diminishing phase, which is partially attributed to the national forestry management architecture. Further, to compensate for current and future forest area decline, Botswana has set aside a total of 4,372.64 km² as forest reserves under preservation status.
iii) Protected areas

About 40 per cent of Botswana's land cover is under protected areas status which is beyond the UN Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD) Aichi target of 17 per cent of terrestrial land. This includes parks, game reserves, forest reserves, important bird areas and sanctuaries.

Table 3 below shows a list of key protected forest areas in Botswana.

Table 3:
List of key protected forest areas in Botswana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Declaration</th>
<th>Name of Forest Reserve</th>
<th>Area (Square Kilometres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Kasane Forest Reserve</td>
<td>131.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Kasane Extension Forest Reserve</td>
<td>475.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Chobe Forest Reserve</td>
<td>1,740.31</td>
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<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Kazuma Forest Reserve</td>
<td>225.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Maikaelelo Forest Reserve</td>
<td>625.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Sibuyu Forest Reserve</td>
<td>1,175.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Area of Forest Reserve: 1,372.64

iv) Threatened and Endangered species

In 2019, Botswana scored 0.97 on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species index which indicates that while most species are not under threat, there is still some level of biodiversity loss (IUCN, 2020). The positive score on the IUCN Red List Index is attributable to sound biodiversity management systems inclusive of an enabling policy and institutional framework, and the engagement of all stakeholders, especially communities as resource custodians.

v) Poaching

Poaching is estimated at 20 per 10,000 in 2020 compared to 22.3 per 10,000 in 2016, representing a decline in incidence. Species of concern with regards to poaching include rhinos, elephants, and pangolin. Botswana has adopted the use of a multi-stakeholder approach to address poaching with the private sector, communities and civil society organisations as key partners.

vi) Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) (fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from use of genetic resources)

Botswana acceded to the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilisation (commonly known as ABS) on the 2nd of February 2013. As part of the domestication process, Botswana is in the process of finalising the ABS legislative instrument (to be enacted by the end of 2022). In the interim, measures have been established to guide the administration of the national ABS regime, and have been accordingly deposited with the UNCBD. This includes the ABS Access Form and a National ABS Committee established in 2020. Botswana has also developed the ABS Code Conduct for researchers, Training Manual, and Biocultural community protocols for two community trusts (Kgetsi ya Tsie Women's Trust, and Matute a Mongongo Trust).

Noting the need for awareness on the Nagoya protocol, a number of stakeholder awareness activities have been undertaken. These were targeted at genetic resource users especially in the rural areas including; decision makers, Community organisations, private sector, legal practitioners, researchers, and the general public.

c) Challenges

i) Human-wildlife conflict

Human-wildlife conflict is a common occurrence especially in communities around protected areas and biodiversity hotspots. The Table below provides a summary of reported conflict incidents for selected species over a 5-year period. Communities in biodiversity hotspots have indicated that the high numbers of wildlife have affected their livelihoods. Their farming activities do not yield any positive results due to damage by wildlife and their lives are also at risk from predators.

Figure 13:
Degradation footprint in Botswana

Figure 14:
Protected area matrix of Botswana

ii) Land degradation

The State of Environment Report (2022) revealed that 22 percent of Botswana is under land degradation status while 70 percent remains in a natural condition. Land degradation is a key threat to land productivity and is driven by human activity, evidenced through loss of soil fertility, decline in freshwater resources, vegetation cover and other forms of biodiversity. Botswana has embarked on a Land Degradation Neutrality project to address this issue.
Table 4: Total reported human-wildlife conflict incidents for selected species (DWNP, 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elephant</td>
<td>11,729</td>
<td>8,514</td>
<td>5,712</td>
<td>4,593</td>
<td>915</td>
<td>3,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion</td>
<td>3,842</td>
<td>2,231</td>
<td>1,123</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Dog</td>
<td>2,295</td>
<td>1,248</td>
<td>1,381</td>
<td>949</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyena</td>
<td>2,165</td>
<td>1,199</td>
<td>1,038</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheetah</td>
<td>3,427</td>
<td>2,022</td>
<td>1,066</td>
<td>1,014</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Challenges of Communities in the Chobe District:

- Alien Invasive Species
- Habitat Fragmentation
- Climate Change
- Human Wildlife Conflict
- Inadequate compensation where wildlife has destroyed community “property.
- Communities felt compensation guidelines needed to be revised.
- Veld Fires
- Poaching

Operations for accelerated action:

1. Continuous development of a detailed State of the Environment Report, updated every four years, to inform policy and decision making.
3. Mapping of degraded areas and implementing a SMART programme for restoration and land degradation neutrality.
4. Conducting Natural Capital Accounts for sensitive and strategic ecosystems.
5. Provision of financial and technical resources for full and effective implementation of domestication instruments and ecosystem management framework.
7. Spearhead for the establishment of a Global Programme for incentivising success in conservation.

Voices from the Community:

- “We don’t have a problem with wildlife, we love them, we can co-exist with them, our only plea is for government to erect an electric fence around our farmlands.” - An elderly woman in Kachikau.
- “We do grow crops but we never harvest, elephants do the harvesting, we are just helpless.” - An elderly man at Parakarungu.
- “I find it difficult to do my job as an agricultural practitioner - You provide advice and farming inputs to farmers, they grow crops, and they never have any yield - why? Because of wild animals. Maybe farming should be stopped in this area.” - A government employee in the Chobe district.
- “As PALEKA Trust we are happy with the lifting of the hunting ban. Through hunting quotas, we now have a total of P13.2 million pula. We will utilise these funds to develop our communities.” - A village leader in Pandamatenga.

Other challenges:

- Loss of livestock
- Damage to crops
- Loss of human life
- Limited freedom of movement due to prey/predators
- Unjust compensation for wildlife damage
change is increased incidence of droughts, veldt fires, and localised agro-forestry systems as a result of climate change. As an arid country, Botswana's main challenges with climate change are rainfed agriculture and livestock production.

b) Population dynamics
The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Botswana's population was significant. The country's population demographics are characterized by a young and relatively small workforce. With the attainment of the 2022 review goals, the correlation between education outcomes and economic growth is expected to further strengthen.

c) Biodiversity issues
Botswana has a Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) initiative that benefits local communities. The country has also developed a Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) initiative that benefits local communities. Further, the government has initiated public sector budgeting and resource mobilisation.

d) Climate change
As Botswana recovers from the socio-economic shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy did bounce back, with notable initiatives from the Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP) including the National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. However, the economy contracted almost 9 per cent in the short term, and the overall impact on society and the economy has been significant. The country has acceded to the Paris Agreement and submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) that encompass adaptation and mitigation plans, which have since been integrated into the country's development agenda. The country has also made concerted efforts to mainstream the SDGs in policy and legislative frameworks and to integrate SDGs in policy and legislative frameworks and to integrate SDGs in policy and legislative frameworks.

2. 0 NEW AND EMERGING CHALLENGES

a) SDG implementation
Despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government and its Development Partners are working to catalyse resource mobilisation. The Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP) was developed by the Financing Biodiversity initiative. Nevertheless, a biodiversity financing reform has been formulated which outlines strategic areas for resource mobilisation. The investment case for family planning aims to address this challenge by better understanding local needs, funding flows and gaps pertaining to family planning. This will help define the scale and scope of investments needed. Also, by mainstreaming practices such as gender-based budgeting, SDG financing aims to ensure that the gaps pertaining to family planning are addressed. The INFF is risk-informed, climate focused, gender sensitive and effective and efficiently managing development resources.

b) Legislative, Policy and Institutional Frameworks
The Investment Case for Family Planning (ICFP) targets 10 million additional contraceptive users by 2030. This strategy identifies key areas that Botswana can leverage on to catalyse resource mobilisation. The National SDG Budgeting Strategy identifies key areas that Botswana can leverage on to catalyse resource mobilisation. The Government and its Development Partners are working to catalyse resource mobilisation. The Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP) was developed by the Financing Biodiversity initiative. Nevertheless, a biodiversity financing reform has been formulated which outlines strategic areas for resource mobilisation. The investment case for family planning aims to address this challenge by better understanding local needs, funding flows and gaps pertaining to family planning. This will help define the scale and scope of investments needed. Also, by mainstreaming practices such as gender-based budgeting, SDG financing aims to ensure that the gaps pertaining to family planning are addressed. The INFF is risk-informed, climate focused, gender sensitive and effective and efficiently managing development resources.

c) Resource Mobilisation
The Government and its Development Partners are working to catalyse resource mobilisation. The Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP) was developed by the Financing Biodiversity initiative. Nevertheless, a biodiversity financing reform has been formulated which outlines strategic areas for resource mobilisation. The investment case for family planning aims to address this challenge by better understanding local needs, funding flows and gaps pertaining to family planning. This will help define the scale and scope of investments needed. Also, by mainstreaming practices such as gender-based budgeting, SDG financing aims to ensure that the gaps pertaining to family planning are addressed. The INFF is risk-informed, climate focused, gender sensitive and effective and efficiently managing development resources.
Monitoring, including data Collection, Analysis and Reporting

Botswana is continuously improving the process of data collection and reporting due to the realisation that this is critical to monitoring progress in the SDGs. It is against this background that the country made a decision to utilise modern census technologies - Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) for the 2021 Population and Housing Census. This has significantly reduced the cost of census-taking and improved the quality of data. In addition, the country launched the Continuous Multi-Topic Household Survey (CMTHS) in 2019. The CMTHS is conducted annually in order to provide more frequent socio-economic data to meet the planning and decision making needs of stakeholders as well as allowing for close monitoring of programmes and ensuring timely interventions. The CMTHS is designed to provide more frequent updates on the baseline indicators from the Botswana Multi Topic Household Survey (BMTHS).

d. Advocacy, Sensitization and Awareness

Advocacy, sensitization and awareness creation are integral to generating momentum and commitment to attaining the SDG targets. Public awareness is key to ensuring a participatory process in implementing the SDGs and creating ownership. Key activities undertaken include: (a) Presentation to the Parliamentary Special Select Committee on SDGs, on the domestication and implementation of SDGs in Botswana and the role of Parliament on SDGs implementation in line with Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) – Parliaments; (b) dialogues with traditional leaders on negative social norms and cultural practices that perpetuate gender inequality and (c) dialogues with young people particularly the boy child on positive masculinity.

9.0 CONCLUSIONS AND THE NEXT STEPS

Conclusions

The VNR process has demonstrated Botswana's commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda. The legal, policy and institutional frameworks provide a conducive environment for accelerating implementation of the SDG agenda. In the decade of action, a unique opportunity exists for Botswana to leverage the ongoing national and sub-national development frameworks to galvanise action for the realisation of the Goals.

Botswana's achievement of SDGs hinges on the country's capacity to monitor, measure and evaluate progress towards the global goals. The Botswana Domesticated Indicator Framework estimates the SDG progress tracking capacity at 34.8 per cent. This underscores the need to fast track key strategic interventions including; a) data automation, b) rolling out the monitoring and evaluation framework and manual and c) building capacity of key players.

The level of ambition embedded in the Goals calls for extensive and sustainable financing if they are to be achieved. However, there is sufficient evidence of a financing gap which calls for innovative and alternative sources of financing. Government has identified approaches to be integrated into the short, medium and long term legal, policy and institutional reforms necessary to create the requisite financial environment.

Next Steps

a. Botswana recognises the importance of advocacy, sensitization and awareness as an integral part to generating momentum and commitment to the attainment of the SDG targets. The country will intensify implementation of the SDGs Communication Strategy.

b. Building on the lessons learnt from the aforementioned SDG planning guidelines, resources will be deployed to capacitate Local Authorities to mainstream the SDGs into the sub-national plans, programmes and projects.

c. Key oversight institutions such as the Parliament Special Select Committee on SDGs will be capacitated to strengthen their advocacy efforts towards domestic resource mobilisation.

d. The country will review the Botswana SDG Roadmap to align it to emerging issues.

Accelerated actions

The country has embarked on the process of strengthening domestic and international resource mobilisation. As such, Botswana is working closely with the Development Partners to develop a new financing strategy that aims to leverage innovative and alternative sources of financing. The financing strategy is being developed in tandem with the next (12th) National Development Plan and will be an integral part of it.

Rollout of the SDG Planning Guidelines to the remaining line ministries.
## ANNEX 1: CONSULTATIONS SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>GEOGRAPHICAL AREA</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TEAM</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Drafting of the Botswana 2022 VNR Key Messages</td>
<td>Gaborone</td>
<td>28th April 2022</td>
<td>Lead Ministries &amp; their sectors, BOCONGO, Business Botswana, UN Agencies</td>
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<td>Validation Breakfast meeting</td>
<td>Gaborone (AVANI)</td>
<td>3rd May 2022</td>
<td>Lead Ministries &amp; their sectors, BOCONGO, Business Botswana, Development Partners, Consultant</td>
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<td>Stakeholder Engagement</td>
<td>Gaborone and Surrounding Areas</td>
<td>04-06th May 2022</td>
<td>MoF, UN, Consultants, VNR Core Team</td>
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<td></td>
<td>08th Travel</td>
<td>09th Ghanzi workshop (Government, Farmers Association, Game Farmers - morning)</td>
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<td>09th NGOs workshop (afternoon)</td>
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<td>10th New Xade (Community Groups)</td>
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<td>11th Gumare (Government &amp; NGOs)</td>
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<td>11th Shakawe (NGOs)</td>
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<td>12th Travel to Maun</td>
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<td>13th Maun (Government, CSOs, Guides, Tour Operators)</td>
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<td>14th Khwai &amp; Mababe (Community Trusts - BOCONGO, CBNR Coordinator)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15th Travel to Boteti</td>
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<td>16th Khwee &amp; Kumaga (CSOs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stakeholder Engagement</td>
<td>Palapye, Selibe-Phikwe, Serowe, Francistown, Nata</td>
<td>08th Departure</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>09th Palapye (Government, Business Community, NGOs)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>09th Serowe (Government)</td>
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<td>09th Travel to Phikwe</td>
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<td>10th Selibe Phikwe (Government, CSOs Business Community, Mine Workers Union)</td>
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<td>10th Travel to Francistown</td>
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<td>11th Francistown, Tutume, Masunga (Government, CSOs)</td>
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<td>12th Travel to Nata</td>
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<td>13th Nata (Trusts, CSOs)</td>
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<td>14th Travel to base</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17th Travel to Gaborone</td>
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While Advancing the Full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
<table>
<thead>
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<th>ITEM</th>
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<th>DATE</th>
<th>TEAM</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stakeholder Engagement</td>
<td></td>
<td>8-15th May 2022</td>
<td>Team C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Onalenna Senwedi - MOESD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii. Olefile Maikaelelo - MoF</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>iii. Boemo Richmond Mpolokeng - MYGSC</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>iv. Mosimanegape Nthaka – MET</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Mpho Raboloko - UNRCO</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>08th Departure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>09th-10th Kasane</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Government, Community Trusts, NGOs, Business community, Tourism)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11th Kachikau, Parakarungu</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th Lesoma,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th Pandamatenga</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th Travel back to base</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| COORDINATION | | |
| Director, Population & Sustainable Development Coordination |                       |               |          |
| Moremi Moremi |                       |               |          |
| Chief Economist, Population & Sustainable Development Coordination |                       |               |          |
| Patrick Seitiso |                       |               |          |
| Economist, Office of Resident Coordinator |                       |               |          |
| Mr Taimur Khilji |                       |               |          |
| Ministry of Finance |                       |               |          |
| Ministry of Finance |                       |               |          |
| United Nations Botswana |                       |               |          |
| Acting SDGs Project Manager, UNDP |                       |               |          |
| Ms Tsalano Kedikilwe |                       |               |          |
| United Nations Botswana |                       |               |          |

**ANNEX 1:**

| CONSULTATIONS SCHEDULE (CONT...) | |
| Building Back Better from COVID-19 While Advancing the Full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | |
## Questions & Answers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please indicate implementation challenges</td>
<td>Any recommendations?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Does the school have adequate infrastructure, staff & Equipment as listed below?

- Classrooms
- Ablution facilities
- Kitchen
- Books
- Desks
- Chairs
- Balanced Diet
- Teachers
- Library
- Computers / Tablets
- Wi-fi
- Electricity
- Water
- Boarding facilities
- Adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions &amp; Answers</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Please indicate implementation challenges</td>
<td>Any recommendations?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the maintenance status? Poor / Fair / Good?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic hand-washing facilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do pupils regularly attend school? If no, please give reasons.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are boys and girls given equal opportunities?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have a problems of school dropouts? If so, what are the causes? What is the ratio of the dropouts (boys : girls). Please give reasons.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there any programmes to deal with the above situation?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have a PTA? If yes, how effective is it?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT

BOTSWANA 2022

Building Back Better from COVID-19 While Advancing the Full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT

BOTSWANA 2022

Building Back Better from COVID-19 While Advancing the Full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development