



Strengthening Human Resources, Legal Frameworks, and Institutional Capacities to Implement the Nagoya Protocol (UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project)

BIODIVERSITY IN BOTSWANA

Botswana is very rich in biodiversity, especially areas in and around the Okavango Delta, which supports 463 species, high densities of large mammals, and some of the major wildlife migration routes in Southern Africa. Sixty percent of the country’s landmass consists of forests and rangelands which provide livelihood opportunities to the country’s relatively low population. With nearly half of its land area under protected wildlife, Botswana attracts a huge number of tourists annually and tourism contributes 12 percent to its Gross Domestic Product.

Botswana’s economy depends largely on the use of natural resources and ecosystems by the mining, manufacturing, energy, tourism, livestock, and arable agriculture sectors. This presents a serious threat to the conservation of genetic resources, as overexploitation is causing huge losses of biodiversity through the destruction of species, their habitats and breeding sites. Essential resources needed for the sustenance of poor indigenous communities are constantly being destroyed. Pollution and climate change also threaten the ecosystem.

KEY ECOLOGICAL FEATURES OF BOTSWANA

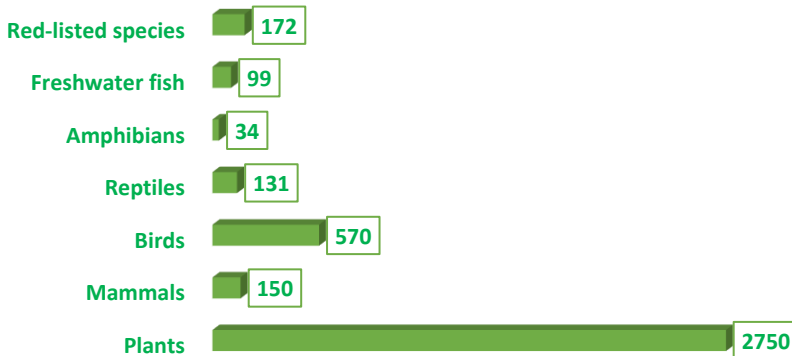
- Seven distinct eco-regions: Kalahari Acacia-Baikiaea Woodlands, Southern African Bushveld, Zambebian Baikiaea Woodlands, Zambebian and Mopane Woodlands, Zambebian Flooded Grasslands, Zambebian Halophytics, and Kalahari Xerix Savannah.
- Area comprises 60% forests and rangelands, of which only 1% is forest reserve.
- Over 45% of the country is protected.
- High densities of large mammals.
- Possesses 12 Important Bird Areas (IBAs).
- Wildlife tourism opportunities, particularly high-end safari and birding tourism, which account for 12% of the country’s Gross Domestic Product.
- Home to the largest in-land delta in the world – the Okavango Delta.

NAGOYA PROTOCOL AND ABS IMPLEMENTATION

Botswana has been a Party to the Nagoya Protocol since its entry into force in October 2014. There is sectoral legislation relevant to Access to genetic resources and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) but there is no specific legislation as stipulated by the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol. The country has at least 19 pieces of legislation relevant to ABS, which were developed before the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol. Such legislation is not sufficient to support full implementation of the Nagoya Protocol but it provides an important foundation for the development of comprehensive and ABS-specific legal instruments.

The country requires support to develop an institutional framework that provides for the key elements of prior informed consent, consultations with communities and other relevant stakeholders, legal certainty and clarity, a clear application process for ABS permits, and compliance measures for the users of genetic resources.

SPECIES IN BOTSWANA



ABS is Genetic Resources for Sustainable Development



In partnership with





CURRENT UNDP-GEF GLOBAL ABS PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project was launched in Botswana during a national inception workshop held in October 2017 in Gaborone. In early 2018, the project began working with stakeholders to incorporate ABS into the draft Industrial Property Law and incorporate aspects related to access to traditional knowledge and genetic resources.

Efforts are being made to support the identification of possible pilot cases to test how ABS value chains and activities can be applied and integrated into the national ABS frameworks. In partnership with the National Food Technology Research Centre, the project is supporting pilots on ABS contracts, model mutually agreed terms, and data management. The Centre already has valuable experience in ex-situ conservation, research and development, and the distribution of raw and improved materials from its seedbanks.

PROTECTED AREAS IN BOTSWANA

- Central Kalahari Game Reserve
- Gaborone Game Reserve
- Kgalagadi Trans-Frontier Park
- Khutse Game Reserve
- Makgadikgadi Pans National Park
- Nxai Pans National Park
- Mokolodi Nature Reserve
- Manyelanong Game Reserve
- Mashatu Game Reserve
- Moremi Game Reserve
- Okavango Delta

IN-COUNTRY PROJECT PARTNERS

Principal Partners

- Ministry of Environment, Natural Resource Conservation and Tourism
- Department of environmental affairs
- National Biological Diversity Authority

Key Stakeholders

- Ministry of Local Government and Rural development,
- Department of Research Science and Technology
- Center for Scientific Research, Indigenous Knowledge and Innovation
- Companies and Intellectual Property Authority
- National Food Technology Research Centre

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MAY 2018