

BOTSWANA NATIONAL WORKSHOP REPORT

1. Method / approach to the country diagnostics

Following the revision of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in 2014, the implementation of the priorities within the plan is overseen by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBDA). NBDA is a group of experts from various stakeholder groups from Government Ministries, Non-Governmental organisations, Civil Society, Parastatals and Academia. The NBDA serve as an oversight committee to ensure the mainstreaming of the NBSAP into relevant planning processes in the country. With the introduction of the NBSAP 2.0 Project: Policy to Practice presented an opportunity for the taking the NBSAP to the planners across the country.

NBSAP 2.0 Project: Policy to Practice came at a time when national planning documents had ended and new ones being developed. This included the National Vision 2016, the National Development Plan (NDP) 10 and the District Development plans. Having realised that the development of the National Development Plan (NDP) 11 (2016-2021) was advanced the project partners decided to influence at the District Development Planning level. NDP 11 has one of the thematic areas on Sustainable Environment which some of the initiatives that have been developed in the revised NBSAP have been included for implementation in the next six years. To effectively contribute to the Development Plan, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) was identified as key development sector stakeholder and always invited in the NBDA meetings. Also NDP11 development has been developed under several thematic areas of which NBDA members are in various thematic working groups to influence and mainstream Biodiversity into planning and hence be implemented.

Under the NBSAP 2.0 Initiative, three workshops were held at different Districts within the country to complete the country diagnostic process and come up with the district workplan for the Initiative as summarised below:

Workshop	Objectives	Outputs/remarks
4 May 2016 Tutume Sub District Tutume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce the Initiative and sensitise District Development Committee Members about revised NBSAP. To have an understanding of the diagnostic guide To apply the guide and be able to identify key development processes To prioritise and select at least one key development process/focal area/sector issue to engage Evaluate the effectiveness of the tool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diagnostic tool was well accepted Preliminary entry points were identified in the district development plans reviews and development into the next plans. DDC members felt there was less time for better understanding the tool to fully apply it.
05 May 2016 Francistown City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce the Initiative and sensitise City Development Planners about revised NBSAP. To have an understanding of the diagnostic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francistown City is the second City in Botswana and faced with existence of mines within the City. The city is challenged with

Council Francistown	<p>guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To apply the guide and be able to identify key development entry points • To prioritise and select at least one key development process/focal area/sector issue to engage • Evaluate the effectiveness of the tool. 	balancing activities with biodiversity conservation within the city.
06 May 2016 Boteti Sub District Letlhakane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To introduce the Initiative and sensitise City Development Planners about revised NBSAP. • To have an understanding of the diagnostic guide • To apply the guide and be able to identify key development entry points • To prioritise and select at least one key development process/focal area/sector issue to engage • Evaluate the effectiveness of the tool. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic tool was well accepted • Preliminary entry points were identified in the district development plans reviews and development into the next plans. • DDC members felt there was less time for better understanding the tool to fully apply it.

2. Results of the diagnostic exercise

District Development Planning landscape

Batswana live out of the land and exploit natural resources and ecosystem services available within their areas to improve their livelihoods. Therefore, activities geared towards development in areas should carefully consider rural livelihoods improvement and natural management.

A. The development-biodiversity link was found to be evident in all the three Districts that consultations were held and in the following sectors it found that they that are dependent on biodiversity mainly for livelihoods improvement and economic diversification:

- Tourism: this sector was found to be one of the sectors that can assist in developing the rural economy in this districts especially eco-tourism, avi-tourism and photographic tourism. This sector can assist the Government to create jobs in this area and diversify the economy hence reduce rural urban migration.
- Agriculture: Communities in the consulted areas and in Botswana generally depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Both arable and pastoral agriculture is a source for food security at subsistence level in this areas.
- Veldt products: Mopane worm collection and thatch grass harvesting are seen to be products that augment the household income. Monitoring of their harvesting is needs to be improved to guard against overexploitation
- Construction material: Sand mining is one of the activities in the areas that needs proper monitoring also as illegal sand mining is detrimental to the environment.
- Traditional medicine: Use of veld products for healing purposes is also part of the community livelihoods where biodiversity is used.

- Energy: the needs for cooking energy at each rural household makes firewood harvesting an important activity. The need for constant monitoring
- Economic Stimulus Package: various projects undertaken by government to stimulate rural economy that are based on the use of natural resources.
- Mineral mining: Diamond and nickel mining in the areas as development activity for both the district and the country. Though mining has a negative impact on biodiversity)

B. Development policy and planning processes relevant to biodiversity.

The following core development processes relevant to biodiversity in the country were identified:

- NBSAP – implementation of the revised NBSAP present an opportunity for managing conservation in the country.
- Environmental Management Act (EMA) – This currently under development and present a framework for biodiversity management.
- NDP 11 – currently this plan is under development and has a thematic area on managing the trade-offs for sustainable development: Biodiversity where biodiversity management is covered.
- Vision 2036: this is also currently under development with one of the pillars covering sustainable development and environment.
- SDGs – Botswana has embraced the sustainable development goals as some of the pillars are addressed in both the vision 2036 and the NDP 11 documents. Goal 15 “protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss” and related targets will be addressed in one way of the other especially at in District Development Plans.
- National Sustainable Development Framework (NSSD): the framework is under development and will address aspects of biodiversity management.
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): as party to the CBD, Botswana will have some of the AICHI targets domesticated for implementation in the various development plans.
- Water and Wastewater Policy of 2016: Recently approved by Parliament and will be a framework to assist in water resources management and pollution control.
- Climate Change Response Policy: The country is developing the policy and the strategy to address aspects of climate change adaptation and developing mitigating measures.
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, Ramsar, CMS, CITES: Botswana is a party to multilateral environmental agreements and has desk officers assigned to each agreement to ensure that domestication of this is undertaken in the country. Also as member to International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have activities focused conservation of nature.

C. Botswana has several opportunities to engage and/or mainstream biodiversity in the existing process of National Vision 2016 development, the National Development Plan 11 and also the District Development Plans and Towns/City Development Plans as they align to the new national development plan. Some of the activities proposed in the revised NBSAP and other plans like the

Integrated Water Resources Management –Water Efficiency plans have been included in the NDP 11 plan. With this processes biodiversity mainstreaming will be put into practice.

3. Development debate concerning biodiversity

There are a number of Non-State Actors including Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector that have expressed particular value for biodiversity. Below are some but not limited to these and their roles on biodiversity conservation:

Stakeholders	Roles
Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism (MWET) Ministry of Minerals, Energy, and Water Resources (MMEWR)	Policy
Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism (MWET) Ministry of Minerals, Energy, and Water Resources (MMEWR)	Management of biodiversity resources
Non-Governmental organisation (Kalahari Conservation Society, Birdlife Botswana, Cheetah Conservation Botswana, Somarelang Tikologo, Mokolodi Nature Reserve, etc) Community Based Organisations. Government Department (DWNP, DEA, DWMPC, DWA etc),	Education and awareness,
Non-Governmental organisation (Kalahari Conservation Society, Birdlife Botswana, Cheetah Conservation Botswana, Somarelang Tikologo etc) Community Based Organisations.	Advocacy & Awareness
Non-Governmental organisation (Kalahari Conservation Society, Birdlife Botswana, Cheetah Conservation Botswana, Somarelang Tikologo etc) Community Based Organisations. Government Department (DWNP, DEA, DWMPC, DWA, Dept. Of Tourism etc), Forest Conservation Botswana, Mokolodi Nature Reserve	Conservation activities
National Environmental Fund, Forest Conservation Botswana, Conservation Trust Fund, Commercial banks (Barclays Bank of Botswana, First national Bank Foundation) Mining Companies (Debswana)	Financing biodiversity management
University of Botswana(UB), Okavango Research Institute (ORI), Botswana Institute of Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI), Botswana University of Agriculture and natural Resources (BUAN) and Botswana University Science and Technology (BUIST) and other Tertiary Institutions	Research

4. Development implementation and financing affecting biodiversity.

a) Business models and development control processes

With the reduction of Donors after the country was declared an upper middle income country, few windows for biodiversity financing are available in the country. These include the National

Environmental Fund, Forest Conservation Botswana and Conservation Trust Fund. These agencies have funds available for NGOs and CBOs to access the funds for biodiversity conservation related projects. Commercial banks (like Barclays Bank of Botswana, First National Bank Foundation) and Mining Companies (Debswana) through their Corporate Social Investment portfolio have funds to be accessed for biodiversity conservation related activities. This contributes to conservation of biodiversity in the country.

b) Government expenditure:

Central Government currently invests biodiversity conservation through the annual fiscal support to government entities such as Department of Environmental Affairs, Department of Water Affairs, Energy Affairs and others. There is a need to harness more resources for biodiversity as the current funding is inadequate and more resources should be allocated directly for biodiversity.

c) Regional and International Funding:

Other funds that augment the resources found within the country are from funding agencies that support transboundary initiatives (TFCAs) and others like UNDP/GEF assist funds projects that drive Government priorities in biodiversity conservation.

The stakeholders supporting or blocking effective biodiversity-development links, and their capacities.

There are a number of state and non-state actors supporting effective biodiversity development links in the country include:

- a) The government has demonstrated support for biodiversity through policy formulation and other plans like (NBSAP). Of greater importance is the support from the Office of the President.
- b) The civil society organizations have done this through advocacy and proactive roles. Some organizations have undertaken research on various biodiversity issues that influence policy change (wildlife counts leading to hunting ban).
- c) Private Sector availed their resources through their Corporate Social Investment portfolio.
- d) Development Partners availed financial and technical support towards biodiversity conservation.

Part 2 – Diagnostic Tool

The mainstreaming target

The target is the NDP11 and vision 2036 which are under development because the two documents guide policy and the strategic direction of the country for the next six and 20 years respectively. If these documents include biodiversity conservation the District and Urban Planning Documents will eventually articulate the biodiversity issues in them as planning frameworks.

<i>What is the target</i>	NDP 11 (2016-2021) and National Vision 2036 development process
<i>Why has it been chosen?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High profile – a development process or issue that canvass many stakeholders; • Future-relevant – It will be more important in future years; • Tractable – demand from both development and biodiversity interests and (latent) political will. • It is easier to make an economic diversification case from tourism as the second GDP earner from biodiversity perspective and increase conservation from the policy makers and development planners. • Urgency – Need to conserve the remaining biodiversity to continue receiving the services from biodiversity especially tourism • Tractable – demand for use from both political and local communities.
<i>What is the base line information for the chosen policy or sector so we can compare the impact of the project at the end of it?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The baseline for the two documents are from the previous ones NDP 10 and vision 2016 • The MDGs domestication process.
<i>What is its current focus on biodiversity?</i>	<p>The current focus is mainly on the natural capital (Wealth Accounting and Valuation System (WAVES)) which will quantify the value of the Biodiversity that the country.</p> <p>The focus is also on the sustainable development strategy of the country.</p> <p>Both processes anticipated mainstreaming of biodiversity into development processes.</p>
<i>What improvement are you seeking?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in investment in biodiversity conservation through increase in budget allocation for biodiversity. • Improvement in language use in reporting for easy assimilation by non-sector stakeholders.
<i>Expected Outputs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of biodiversity issues in the National Development plan and as one of the vision pillars. • Biodiversity taken as a national asset in annual fiscal planning
<i>Expected Outcome</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active participation of the development sector players especially Ministry of Finance and Development Planning in NBDA. • Ecosystem principles taken on board in development planning and implementation.

4. The mainstreaming plan

How is the project team going to influence the chosen target and make the required improvements? E.g. the project team will join an NDP or sector policy review working group or drafting group, inform a parliamentary committee, synthesise evidence.

- Actively participate in the National Development Plan and Vision Council Thematic working group that deals with sustainable environment;
- Organize meetings and workshops with multi-stakeholders for sharing and learning on biodiversity mainstreaming in the development processes especially at District and Urban Planning level;
- Assist District and Urban Planning Officers with mainstreaming activities;

Table 1: Timeline for activities and deliverables

Activity	By Who	When

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Appendix 1

List of Participants in Tutume Sub-District

List of Participants in Francistown City

List of Participants in Boteti Sub-District (Letlhakane)

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