

# BOTSWANA

## BASIC FACTS ABOUT PEI BOTSWANA

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Timescale: 2010-March 2014: Full Country Programme, April 2014-2017: Technical Assistance

Partners: Poverty Eradication Unit of The Office of the President, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism (MEWT), key sector ministries and the UNDP Country Office.

Focus: Enhance the integration of sustainable development in national, sector and district level policies, plans, budgets and improve use of integrated tools and methodologies for sustainable natural resource management for the purpose of economic diversification and poverty eradication, as reflected in the National Development Plan 2010-2016 (NDP 10) and the country's UNDAF.

## MAINSTREAMING CONTEXT

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The main poverty-environment linkages in Botswana relate to water resource management, land and rangeland degradation, biodiversity conservation, unsustainable use of natural resources, access to energy, pollution and waste management, and climate change. While the national poverty incidence stands at 19.3% (2009/2010), it reaches 24.3% in rural areas and 20% in urban villages. Environmental degradation is recorded for all key natural resource assets, including forests, soils and water resources which disproportionately and negatively affect the livelihoods of vulnerable groups, in particular those living in rural areas and urban villages. Looking beyond the incomes from diamonds the transition to a green sustainable economy is crucial for the country. Botswana is a middle income country and will become a net contributor to the UN from January 2016.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

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Raise awareness of the links between sustainable natural resource management, climate change, economic growth and poverty reduction among decision-makers, civil society and the public.

Improve the capacity within the government for poverty-environment and sustainable development planning and budgeting, including support to oversight committees and district planning cadres.

Support the preparations for and follow-up activities from the Summit for Sustainability in Africa and the UNCSD Rio+20 Conference, and the preparation of a national strategy for sustainable development including transitioning to a green economy and sustainable development.

Conduct economic analysis of the value of natural resources, the costs of environmental degradation and inaction, and the benefits of sustainable natural resources management for poverty eradication as well as public expenditure reviews for environment and climate change.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

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Enhanced government capacity to mainstream poverty-environment linkages into the National Development Plan 10. As a result, the keynote policy paper prioritizes natural capital accounting and poverty eradication which will be addressed during the remainder of the NDP10 period. The revision of the NDP 10 includes an updated chapter on sustainable environment.

Inclusion of poverty-environment linkages into the draft tourism and wildlife sector policies as a result of the information provided in the PEI study “Contribution of Sustainable Natural Resource Management to Economic Growth, Poverty Eradication and Achievement of NDP 10 Goals.”

The government is in the process of modifying its Integrated Support Programme for Arable Agriculture Development (ISPAAD) to ensure that farmers access the right type of seeds informed by the findings from PEI’s Poverty and Social Impact Analysis (PSIA) of the programme. This is likely to enhance overall arable productivity and effectiveness of the main agriculture programme and further contribute to rural poverty alleviation and the government of Botswana’s pursuance of food security.

Legislators in Botswana advocated for the integration of P-E linkages into Water Sector Policies during the presentation of the draft water sector policy to the parliament in 2012. Engaging with legislators at the sector and local level has shown to be an effective way of mainstreaming P-E linkages into national planning.

Active involvement of the government in preparations for the Rio+20 Conference, including the development of an issue paper highlighting the opportunities and possibilities for a green economy. The paper formed the basis for Botswana’s position paper to the Rio+ 20 preparatory process and the production of a sustainable development strategy. The government also hosted a Summit for Sustainability in Africa in preparation of the Rio+20 Conference which adopted the Gaborone Declaration; the latter has a strong focus on sustainable natural resource management and natural capital accounting.

Local Economic Plans have taken into consideration the key poverty-environment linkages within the districts. PEI supported this process through the provision of funding for technical experts to identify P-E linkages in Chobe and Kgalagadi. PEI also trained district planners in integrated assessment and planning, and informed the content of the Manual for Local Economic Development (LED) planning.

A scoping study for the Public Expenditure Review (PER) of the Environment and Natural Resources sectors (2013) provided an overview of public sector expenditure in the ENR sector. It recommended integrating environmental budget codes into the Government budget and expenditure system. It also provided guidance for undertaking a full PER in the future.

## LESSONS LEARNED

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PEI’s engagement in the national policy dialogue is important to ensure that it responds to the political economy and national development priorities which are aligned to Government development objectives and decision-making for poverty-environment mainstreaming.

The nature of PEI activities requires a medium to long-term commitment to in-country advisory and capacity building services. Further, increased attention needs to be paid to the poverty aspect of the PEI programme as well as to budget processes and sectors to ensure implementation of poverty-environment objectives in national and sector plans.

There is a need to ensure that implementation of PEI country programmes remain focused on delivery of pro-poor environmental sustainability mainstreaming in development policy and budget processes and those efforts are closely coordinated with UNDP country offices and Government partners.

## THE WAY FORWARD

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From April 2014, PEI Botswana is transitioning from a full country programme to a technical advisory support programme more closely linked to the Government of Botswana’s Poverty Eradication Strategy led by the Office of the President and Sustainable Development Strategy led by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Tourism. The technical advisory will be more integrated within UNDP’s Country environment, poverty and climate focused programme in support of Government led programmes.