

Stakeholder Consultation in the Okavango Delta, Botswana.



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Botswana is a land locked country in southern Africa - 500,00km² with a population of less than 2 million people.





Botswana's Okavango Delta

- Fed by waters from the Angolan highlands, the Cuito and Cubango Rivers join to form the Kavango River which travels along the Namibia border into the Caprivi Strip.
- On reaching Botswana the river slows and spreads out across the Kalahari sands to form the a unique inland delta, at the end point of the entire Okavango River Basin.



The delta is internationally recognised as a key seasonal refuge for large migratory mammals.....



wildebeest & buffalo



Elephants
Africa's largest
Population of
over
100,000.

As well as these, the Okavango Delta is a refuge to threatened and endangered species including rhinos, lions, cheetahs, wild dogs ...

The delta is also a wetland oasis for many ecologically important flagship species



including
Sitatunga, Lions



and Red Lechwe



It is also a haven for smaller animals



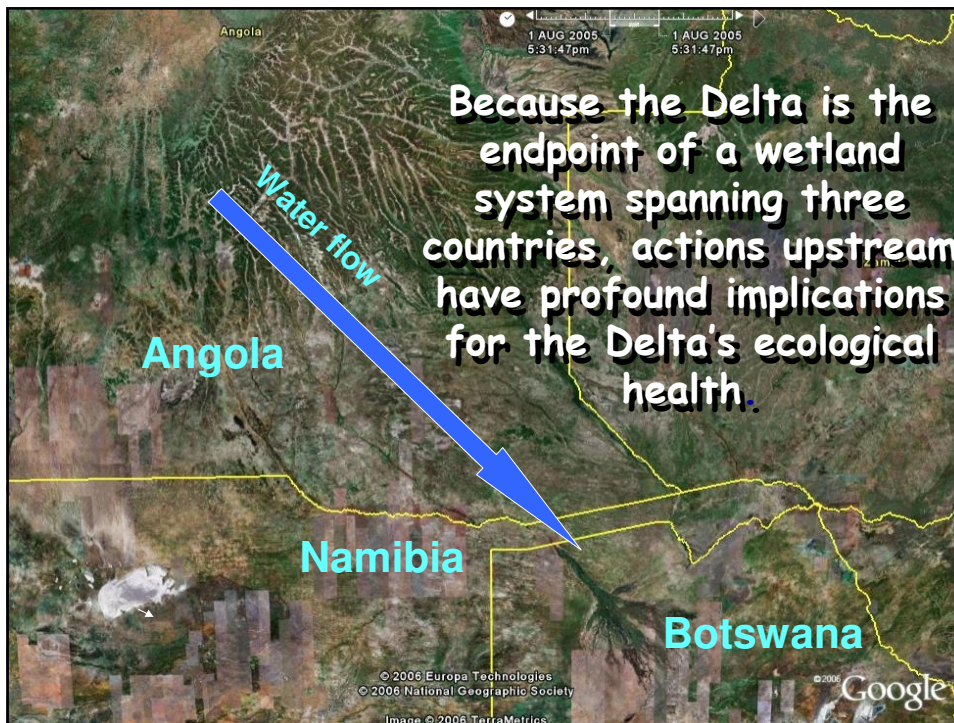
from kingfishers to reed frogs
500 sp birds, 100 species fish
and 150 sp reptiles & amphibia

But this fragile desert wetland is vulnerable to any developmental changes upstream or around its borders.

The Annual floods bring life-giving water to the Okavango Delta each year

- The annual flooding of the Delta occurs when rains in Angola collect and travel through the river basin.
- Reaching the Delta the Okavango River floods its banks across thousands of square kilometers of dry sandy grasslands.
- This transforms the parched landscape in the dry season, when food and water are most needed by the Delta's inhabitants.





WORLD HERITAGE CRITERIA

The Okavango Delta fulfills Criteria vii) to x) for Natural Sites

- vii) Contains superlative natural phenomena and natural beauty
- viii) An outstanding example of geologic process – an inland alluvial fan which is the extension of the East African Rift Valley system
- ix) An outstanding example of ecological and hydrological process
- x) A natural habitat for the conservation of biological diversity containing threatened species of outstanding universal value.

MANAGEMENT:

The Okavango delta is an International Ramsar Site, which is managed according to several government plans including the Okavango Delta Management Plan (ODMP) and the recently completed Ngamiland Integrated Land Use Plan

PROTECTION:

Apart from Moremi Game Reserve and Ramsar designation, the Okavango Delta has no other over-arching legal protection (see map below)

**OKAVANGO PEOPLE: COMMUNITIES ... THE PRIMARY
STAKEHOLDERS: 100,000 HOUSEHOLDS 4 MAIN TRIBES.**



Most of the Okavango's people live in small homesteads. All building materials come from the Okavango wetland.



Secondary Stakeholders: Tourism & associated industries, NGOs, CBOs and Academic Institutions

- 96 Tourist Camps in the Okavango (\$ 200, 000 million/year & 70 Safari Operators
- 3 Local NGOs & 12 Community Based Organisations working with Natural Resources -fishing/hunting/plants
- 3,500 fishermen but income only \$ 3 million per year



Stakeholder Consultation using traditional community structures

- Local government: district and urban councils, land boards, and village committee
- Tribal administration: Chiefs (*dikgosi*), sub-chiefs and headmen are forbidden to be in party politics
- Traditional forum: the *kgotla*, an open-air chief's court and is a Democratic system of **one person, one voice**.
- At the *kgotla* decisions are taken by majority at every community level - from family to clan to tribe to nation. **It is also a speaker's forum.**
- **Botho** is Botswana's fifth National Principle: a process of earning respect by first giving it, and includes consultation, respect, compassion, helpfulness, politeness and humility.

Financing for conservation work

- NGOs are weak but play important role in advocacy work, such as listing for Ramsar or World Heritage listing. Other work includes EE, Community development etc.
- Ramsar site funding from IUCN & Ramsar
- World Heritage work funded by Wilderness Foundation and Rufford Foundation
- Once interventions underway Government takes lead, with assistance of funds from GEF, EU, USAID and international donors

THANK YOU DUMELA!

