

UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA

Botswana - the Region

The Republic of Botswana is situated in Southern Africa, between South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Zambia. The country is democratically ruled, boasts a growing economy and a stable political environment. Botswana has some of Africa's last great wildernesses including the famous Okavango Swamps and the Kalahari desert, and the country is also the largest exporter of gemstone diamonds in the world.

Botswana has many natural features worth exploring. The Okavango, which originates in the uplands of Angola to the north-west, flows into and then spreads over the sandy areas of the Kalahari to form an immense inland delta of lagoons and labyrinthine channels, palm-fringed islands and a fertile floodplain. A number of safari lodges and camps have been established in and around the area. This wilderness and the nearby game-rich Moremi Game Reserve and Chobe National Park appeals to those interested in the natural environment as well as hunters and the fisherman.

On the mainland and among the islands in the delta there is a wealth of wildlife. Lions, elephants, hyenas, wild dog, buffalo, hippo and crocodiles congregate with a teeming variety of antelope and other smaller animals - warthog, mongoose, spotted genets, monkeys, bushbabies and tree squirrels. Interspersed throughout the country of Botswana are rich collections of historical and cultural heritage, such as the unique San rock art, geological wonders, and examples traditional art.

The University

From its initial origins as part of a multi-campus university for Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland, the University of Botswana came into existence in 1982. The university prides itself on being an autonomous institution; national in character but with an increasingly regional and global focus; a comprehensive university with undergraduate programmes (certificate, diploma and degree) and a significant growth in graduate programmes spanning a wide range of disciplines and attracting an increasing number of international students; a growing research component; a university that provides an academic and professional oversight and quality control to a range of affiliated and associated institutions; and a network university providing instruction and professional services throughout the country.

The University Ethos

The villages and traditional towns in Botswana are still laid out around the Kgotla (courtyard). The Kgotla is a public meeting place where traditional judicial proceedings are conducted and where consultations within the community take place. Public consultation is an important feature of Botswana's democratic traditions and the Kgotla provides a unique forum for open discussion and a free and proper exchange of ideas and views. The University of Botswana Kgotla seeks to extend this tradition through the provision of a series of discussion forums where members of the campus community can exchange ideas and express their opinions on academic issues.



The Taxi Park, Gaborone

UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA VISION, MISSION AND VALUES STATEMENT

VISION

The University of Botswana will be a leading academic center of excellence in Africa and the world.

MISSION

To advance the intellectual and human resource capacity of the nation and the international community.

The University will fulfill this Vision and Mission by:

- Offering quality academic and professional programs that ensure a commitment to and a mastery of life-long learning skills as well as encouraging a spirit of critical enquiry
- Developing a student-centered, intellectually stimulating and technologically advanced teaching, learning and research environment
- Producing graduates who are independent, confident, self directed, critical thinkers, professionally competent, reflective practitioners, innovative, socially responsible and thereby marketable and competitive nationally and internationally
- Advancing scholarship and generating research through the discovery, integration, dissemination and application of knowledge
- Serving as an intellectual and cultural center that draws upon the nation's indigenous knowledge base and which promotes Botswana's social and cultural heritage as well as being a community resource for new ideas, partnerships, and collaborative effort
- Providing leadership in responding to the nation's cultural, economic, political scientific, social, technological and industrial needs and contributing to the qualitative development of Botswana's higher education system
- Extending access to higher education through the utilization of information and communication technologies, within the framework of life-long and open learning
- Recruiting and developing quality staff and students, recognizing and valuing the essential contribution they make, as well as rewarding excellence in the work they perform
- Promoting the health, social, and spiritual welfare of the University community through a range of policies and programs and a diversity of positive co-curricula activities and experiences
- Enhancing the teaching, learning and research environment through the provision of a proactive style of leadership and management and efficient, effective and quality driven institutional support services.

UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA VISION, MISSION AND VALUES STATEMENT

VALUES

While achieving its Vision and fulfilling its Mission, the University of Botswana values the following:

- Students, by creating a holistic environment which ensures that learning is their central focus and by establishing and developing a range of learning, social, cultural and recreational opportunities that will facilitate the full realization of their potential for academic and personal growth
- Academic Freedom, by upholding the spirit of free and critical thought and enquiry, through the tolerance of a diversity of beliefs and understanding, as well as the open exchange of ideas and knowledge
- Academic Integrity expressed in creativity, objective analysis, experimentation, critical appraisal, independent thought, informed debate and intellectual honesty
- Cultural Authenticity by ensuring that the diversity of Botswana's indigenous values and cultural heritage forms an important part of the academic and organizational life of the institution
- Internationalism through participation in the global world of scholarship, by being receptive and responsive to issues within the international environment as well as the recruitment of an international staff and student body
- Professional and Ethical Standards by upholding the highest professional and ethical behavior and through openness, honesty, tolerance and respect for the individual
- Social responsibility by promoting an awareness of, and providing leadership in responding to, the issues and problems facing society
- Equity by ensuring equal opportunity and non-discrimination on the basis of personal, ethnic, religious, gender or other social characteristics
- Autonomy as an institution, that is, through its self-governing structures, independent in action while being responsive to societal needs
- Public Accountability by ensuring transparent decision-making and open review as well as the full participation of stakeholders in the development of the institution;
- Productivity through the setting and rewarding of high standards of performance underpinned by a dedication to quality, efficiency and effectiveness throughout the institution.

Faculties & Departments

Faculty of Business

The Faculty of Business was established in 1997 following the re - organisation of what was then called School of Accounting and Management Studies (SAMS) under the Faculty of Social Sciences. The Faculty comprises the Departments of Accountancy and Finance, Management, Marketing.

Faculty of Engineering & Technology (FET)

FET is located on a split campus that lies approximately 1.7 km from the main UB campus. It offers unique study opportunities combined with excellent career prospects for undergraduate students in the following disciplines: civil engineering, electrical & electronic engineering, mechanical engineering and technology &

educational studies. FET aims to produce qualified engineering graduates who will be able to adapt to the changing global working environment.

Faculty of Science

The Faculty of Science comprises the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Environmental Science, Geology and Computer Science.

Faculty of Social Sciences

The Faculty contains departments of Demography, Economics, Law, Politics and Administration, Statistics, Social Work, Sociology and Statistics. The Faculty also serves as a centre to provide expert consulting in areas of national development, planning, administration and management.

Faculty of Education

The Faculty provides courses for professional education - including teaching, the development of teachers, tutors and lecturers as well as other educational personnel. Advanced study enables educators and administrators to attain academic excellence and prepare for roles of leadership.

Faculty of Humanities

The Faculty places an emphasis on man in Africa and the relationship to man in the wider world. Courses on offer in the numerous departments range from languages and literature, media studies to information studies, and archive/record management.



Women at Work, Gaborone

University of Botswana Statistics

University Founded: 1982

Student numbers: 12,286

Staff total numbers: 2,025

Academic staff numbers: 696

Main Campus: 115 hectares

Library: 287,000 books, 30,000 pamphlets, 1,386 periodical titles, 300 multi-media titles

Student Population Statistics

- Full-time 10,944; Part-time 1839
- Male – 6405; Female – 6378
- Undergraduate - 11,755; Post graduate – 1028; Overall total 12,783

Botswana

The history of Botswana is characterised by migrations of peoples into the country from the north and west and particularly from the east and south, as well as internal movements of groups of people. The group which eventually emerged as most numerous, and dominant, were the Batswana. Their pattern of dividing and migrating saw the formation of numerous Tswana tribes, and their eventual occupation of all areas of the country. The term "Batswana" refers to the ethnic group of people who speak the Setswana language and share the Sotho-Tswana culture, while in its common contemporary usage, it refers to all citizens of the Republic of Botswana, regardless of their ethnic background. The singular is "Motswana": a citizen of the country. "Tswana" is used as an adjective - for example "Tswana state" or "Tswana culture".



The Railway Station, Gaborone

First inhabitants

The earliest modern inhabitants of southern Africa were the Bushman (San) and the Hottentot (Khoe) peoples. They have lived an almost unchanged lifestyle in the country since the Middle Stone Age.

The physical characteristics of the Khoe and the San are similar. Both tend to have light, almost coppery skin colour, slanted, almond-shaped eyes, high cheekbones, thin lips and tufted, tightly curled hair. Both speak click languages, though there are major differences between them. Both hunted and collected wild foods and neither grew crops.

Approximately 60,000 years ago, the peoples of sub-Saharan Africa were of one tribe, probably of Khoe/San type. It is believed that the Bantu-speaking people were an offshoot from the Khoe/San tribe. This occurred in the tropical rain forests of equatorial Africa about 10,000 years ago. The Bantu-speaking people gradually developed darker skin pigmentation and different physical attributes because of the different environments they eventually occupied.

The origins of the Tswana tribes

In Botswana, about 1,000 years ago, large chiefdoms began to emerge in the area between Sowa Pan and the Tswapong Hills. Large settlements developed on hilltops. These people are known as the "Toutswe", after the first of their capitals, which was excavated on Toutswe Mogala Hill. Soon these communities were eclipsed by the Great Zimbabwe Empire, which spread its domain over much of eastern Botswana.

Around 1300 AD, peoples in present-day Transvaal began to coalesce into the linguistic and political groups they form today. This resulted in the emergence of three main groups: the Bakgalagadi, the Batswana and the Basotho, each of which had smaller divisions. Each group lived in small, loosely knit communities, spread widely over large areas of land. They spoke dialects of the same language and shared many cultural affinities. Two central features of the history of the Batswana are fission and fusion. Groups of people broke off from their parent tribe and moved to new land, creating a new tribe and absorbing or subjugating the people they found there. This is how a single group of Batswana living in the Magaliesberg Mountains in northern Transvaal evolved into the numerous Tswana tribes, which exist today.

In 18th century further movements and split-ups of the Batswana resulted in the major Tswana tribes which exist today: Bakhurutshe, Bangwato, Bakwena, Bangwaketse, Bakgatla, Batlhokwa, Barolong, Batlhaping and, much later, the Batawana. The earlier farming inhabitants of Botswana - the Bakgalagadi - also split into several groups, namely the Bakgwateng, Babolaongwe, Bangologa, Baphaleng, Bashaga and many smaller groups. This then was how the Tswana tribes came to be living in Botswana as they were until about 200 years ago.

The Difaqane wars

The Difaqane wars were a devastating wave of tribal wars that swept across Botswana and much of southern Africa in the early 1800s. By the early 19th century, populations in southern Africa had expanded to such a point that most fertile land was occupied. During the 1700s, the slave and ivory trades increased rapidly in southeastern Africa - minor kings were attacking their neighbours and selling their captives to slave traders. Along the Orange River, white bandits began to terrorize people living in the east.

Nguni peoples (Bantu-speaking peoples including the Zulus and Xhosas) began to form themselves into stronger units to resist these pressures. In 1816 King Shaka seized control of the Zulu chieftdom, and, by forcefully incorporating other smaller tribes, rapidly formed a powerful, war-like nation. Conquered peoples, began to move northwestwards in vast numbers (80,000 - 100,000) destroying everything in their path. Towards the end of the Difaqane wars, tribes slowly began to re-establish themselves. The chiefs, in their efforts to reconstruct, began to exchange ivory and skins for guns with European, Griqua and Rolong traders, who began to infiltrate the African interior at that time.

Missionaries and traders

In the 19th century numerous missionary societies were formed in Europe and America to send out proselytizers around the world. The London Missionary Society was one of the first to preach amongst the Batswana. It set up a mission station at Kuruman (near present-day Vryburg in South Africa) in 1816. The untiring Robert Moffat headed the station for 50 years. The famous Dr. David Livingstone arrived in 1841, worked out of Kuruman for about two years, and then married Moffat's daughter, Mary. Though much more interested in exploration than missionary work, and later much more involved in the abolition of the slave trade, Livingstone set up a mission station at Kolobeng amongst the Bakwena.



Dr. David Livingstone

From Kuruman, Christianity very gradually spread to the interior. Missionaries settled amongst the people, often at the invitation of the chiefs who wanted guns and knew that the presence of missionaries encouraged the traders. By 1880 every major village of every tribe in Botswana had a resident missionary and their influence had become a permanent feature of life. The missionaries worked through the chief, recognizing that the chief's conversion was the key to the rest of the tribe. Chiefs' responses varied - from Khama's (of the Bangwato) wholehearted embrace of the faith, to Sekgoma Letsholathebe's (of the Batawana) outright rejection, which he claimed was in defence of his culture.

British Rule

The European colonization of Africa was at its peak. The British, French, Belgians, Germans and Portuguese were vying for power to exploit the rich natural resources of Africa - to feed their growing industrial machines at home.

This competition, or "scramble for Africa" as it was called, became so intense that, had it not been for the Berlin Conference in 1884, it could have led to war. Here, without the knowledge or consent of the people already living there, the colonial powers divided up the continent for themselves.

At about the same time, Tswana chiefs were facing another external threat. The Boers, who had ousted Mzilikazi in the northern Transvaal and had occupied eastern Tswana lands, now informed the Tswana kings that their land and people were under Boer control. Some Tswana kings resisted, but the Boers attacked their villages - burning homes, destroying crops, and taking Batswana away as slaves to work on their farms. Then Tswana kings decided to ask Britain for protection, believing that this strong colonial power could save them from Boer domination.

At first the British refused, but then in the 1880s, the British Government made an abrupt about-face. The 'missionary road', which ran north from South Africa through Botswana, became increasingly important. Gold had been discovered in 1866 at Tati, and in 1867 in present-day Zimbabwe. Cecil Rhodes and the missionaries, who were trying to protect the Batswana from Boer encroachment, persuaded the British Government to change its mind, and on 30 September 1885 Botswana was declared the British Protectorate of Bechuanaland.

This surprised the Tswana kings, who openly queried this sudden shift in position. Whilst they agreed to their land becoming a protectorate, they also made it clear that they did not want the British to interfere with their laws and government, nor did they want any of their land to be sold. There seemed to be no clear understanding as to what this actually meant. Eventually, the protectorate status was accepted by all the Tswana kings.

Botswana had been saved from Boer domination, and even inclusion into the South African Republic. But shortly thereafter, another threat was imminent. During the late 1880s early 1890s in another land scramble, concessionaires started arriving in their droves, seeking land to set up businesses. They were supported by the British Government, which wished to use them to colonize as cheaply as possible. Amongst these concessionaires was Cecil John Rhodes, the wealthy mining magnate and South African politician. He wanted to colonize Mashonaland and exploit its wealth of natural resources (hence the colony's name - Rhodesia). He also wanted to take over Bechuanaland, and incorporate it into his northern colony.

Understanding Rhodes' enormous power and influence, three Tswana kings - Khama, Bathoen and Sebele - went to England in 1895 to persuade the British Government not to transfer the Protectorate. At first unsuccessful, the kings then took their case to the British public. While this contributed to the British Government's reversal of its decision, the major factor was the Jameson Raid in 1896 - a failed invasion of the Transvaal by one of Rhodes' administrators for which Rhodes was blamed and his British South Africa Company was forced out of the Protectorate.

Bechuanaland faced other threats, particularly after the Union of South Africa was formed in 1910 and the intention was made known to incorporate Bechuanaland, Swaziland, Basutoland (today's Lesotho), and Rhodesia. This was met with the continual vigorous resistance of the Tswana kings - expressed both inside and outside Bechuanaland, and it was this that saved Bechuanaland from inclusion into either Rhodesia or South Africa.

Botswana remained a protectorate for the next 80 years, during which time a number of autonomous but related Tswana states were forged into one country. Almost nothing was done in the realms of health, education, economics and communications. However, the majority of Batswana were spared having to undergo the mistreatment, pain and humiliation of the regimes both north and south of their territory.

Independence

Growing dissatisfaction with British protection and an increasing nationalism among Batswana found expression through tribal leaders, who exercised considerable power at a local level. From the 1930s, demands for self-determination were increasingly vocalised through the African Advisory Council, which often found itself in conflict with the colonial administration.

After 80 years as a British protectorate, Bechuanaland attained self-government in 1965, becoming the independent Republic of Botswana on September 6, 1966, and maintaining a position of stability and harmony ever since. Sir Seretse Khama was elected the first president and served until his death in 1980. One of the world's most impoverished nations at the time of independence, the discovery of commercially exploitable diamonds in 1967 paved the way for economic prosperity, with Botswana becoming a shining example of an African success story.

The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) has been in power since the first democratic elections in 1966, and continues to draw support from a wide range of Botswana's population. Mr. Ketumile Masire served as Botswana's second president, taking over from the late Sir Seretse Khama in July 1980 and continuing a tradition of good governance. This eloquent former journalist ruled Botswana for 18 years, during which time it became one of the richest countries in Africa.

Sir Ketumile Masire voluntarily retired from office in 1998 at the age of 72, and was succeeded by his vice president and former finance minister, Mr. Festus Mogae. Headed by President Mogae and Vice-President Ian Khama, son of the country's founder president, the ruling BDP swept to victory in the democratic election held during October 1999, securing 33 of 40 seats in the nation's Parliament.

Geographical Info

Botswana is a land-locked country dominated in geographical terms by the Kalahari Desert - a sand-filled basin averaging 1,100 metres above sea level. The country lies between longitudes 20 and 30 degrees east of Greenwich and between the latitudes 18 and 27 degrees approximately south of the Equator.

Botswana is bordered by Zambia and Zimbabwe to the northeast, Namibia to the north and west, and South Africa to the south and southeast. At Kazungula, four countries - Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Namibia - meet at a single point mid-stream in the Zambezi River.

The Chobe River runs along part of its northern boundary; the Nossob River at its southwestern boundary; the Molopo River at its southern boundary; and the Marico, Limpopo and Shashe Rivers at its eastern boundaries. With the exceptions of the Okavango and Chobe areas in the north, the country has little permanent surface water.

The country is situated in the southern African region and about two-thirds of Botswana lies within the Tropics; it is bisected by the Tropic of Capricorn (the imaginary line of latitude which is 23° 30' south of Equator) just south of the town of Mahalapye (see maps). This is the most southern latitude where the sun is directly overhead at noon. This happens on December 22st, the longest day of the year in this hemisphere.

The distance between the extreme north and the extreme south of Botswana is about 1,110 kilometres. It is 960 kilometres across at its widest. The area of Botswana is approximately 581,730 square kilometres and is about the size of France or Kenya. It is approximately 500 km from the nearest coastline, to the southwest.



The eastern hardveld, where 80% of the country's population lives and where its three largest urban centres are situated, is a wide strip of land running from the north at Ramokgwebane to the south at Ramatlabama. It has a more varied relief and geology with *inselbergs* (outcrops of resistant rock) and *koppies* (rocks that have been weathered into blocks) dotting the landscape. The south eastern hardveld also has a slightly higher and more

reliable rainfall than the rest of the country (except Bobirwa, which is about dry as Kgalagadi); indeed the natural fertility and agricultural potential of the soils, while still low, are greater than in the Kalahari sandveld.

The Kalahari Desert stretches west of the eastern hardveld, covering 84% of the country. The Kalahari extends far beyond Botswana's western borders, covering substantial parts of South Africa, Namibia and Angola.

“Desert”, however, is a misnomer: its earliest travellers defined it as a *'thirstland'*. Most of the Kalahari (or Kgalagadi, which is its Setswana name) is covered with vegetation including stunted thorn and scrub bush, trees and grasslands. The largely unchanging flat terrain is occasionally interrupted by gently descending valleys, sand dunes, large numbers of pans and, in the extreme northwest, isolated hills, such as Aha, Tsodilo, Koanaka and Gcwihaba. Many of the pans have dune systems on the southwest side, which vary in size and complexity. The pans fill with water during the rainy season and their hard surface layer ensures that the water remains in the pans and is not immediately absorbed. These pans are of great importance to wildlife, which obtain valuable nutrients from the salts and the grasses of the pans.



The Central Market, Gaborone

In the north-west, the Okavango River flows in from the highlands of Angola and soaks into the sands, forming the 15,000 sq. km network of water channels, lagoons, swamps and islands. The Okavango is the largest inland delta system in the world a bit smaller than Isreal or half of Switzerland. The northeastern region of the Kalahari Basin contains the Makgadikgadi Pans - an extensive network of salt pans and ephemeral lakes.

Although Botswana has no mountain ranges to speak of, the almost uniformly flat landscape is punctuated occasionally by low hills, especially along the southeastern boundary and in the far northwest. Botswana's highest point is 1,491m Otse Mountain near Lobatse, but the three major peaks of the Tsodilo Hills, in the country's northwestern corner, are more dramatic.

Climate

Botswana's climate is semi-arid. Though it is hot and dry for much of the year, there is a rainy season, which runs through the summer months. Rainfall tends to be erratic, unpredictable and highly regional. Often a heavy downpour may occur in one area while 10 or 15 kilometres away there is no rain at all. Showers are often followed by strong sunshine so that a good deal of the rainfall does not penetrate the ground but is lost to evaporation and transpiration.

'Pula', one of the most frequently heard words in Botswana, is not only the name of Botswana's currency, but also the Setswana word for rain. So much of what takes place in Botswana relies on this essential, frequently scarce commodity.

Currency

Botswana's unit of currency is the Pula (P), which is divided into 100 Thebe (t). The word '*Pula*' means rain and '*thebe*' means shield. The shield appears on the national coat of arms. Bank notes come in denominations of P10, 20, 50 and 100, and coins in denominations of 5t, 10t, 25t, 50t, P1, P2 and P5. Major credit cards, including Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Diners Club, are accepted widely. Most hotels and lodges accept foreign currency or travellers' cheques.