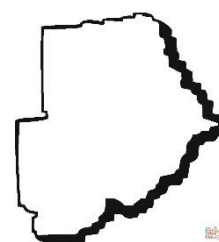


The VNR in a Nutshell – National Strategies for SDGs.

Botswana

Capital	Gaborone
Population	2,007,000 (2010)
Area (in sq. km)	582,000
National language	Setswana
Official language	English
Poverty rate	19.3%
GNI Per Capita	USD14,792
Human Development Index	109
Currency	Botswana Pula



International
Tourist Arrivals (2015) (thousand)

Sources: 2014 HDR; Botswana Poverty Survey; Statistics Botswana; and World Bank

The recognition of the role of tourism in sustainable development and the emphasis placed in the SDGs on the development of public policies for sustainable tourism is a landmark breakthrough that provides a unique opportunity for all governments to create a sound and favourable policy foundation.

The first two years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda have shown that countries are making headway in aligning national strategies, adapting institutional frameworks and adjusting policies to realize the SDGs.

The countries' efforts have been reported in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), presented by UN Member States during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2016 and 2017.

Title of VNR: Voluntary National Review on Sustainable Development Goals 2017

Presenter for VNR: Slumber Tsogwane, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development

National Thematic Focus:

Botswana National Development Plan (NDP) 11 overall theme are Inclusive Growth for the Realization of Sustainable Employment Creation and Poverty Eradication. The NDP seek to capture the spirit of the SDG agenda, acknowledging the development challenges facing the country, and the need to align the focus of the Plan with global, continental and regional initiatives.

The stated national priorities of NDP 11 mirror those of Vision 2036 and very closely relate to the SDG agenda. These are:

- (i) Developing diversified sources of economic growth;
- (ii) Human capital development;
- (iii) Social development;
- (iv) Sustainable use of national resources; and
- (v) Implementation of an effective monitoring and evaluation system.

Institutional Arrangement:

Botswana established a National Steering Committee (NSC) co-chaired by the Government and the United Nations to drive the policy agenda. Its members include personnel from Government, Private sector, Development Partners, Youth Groups, National Assembly, Ntlo ya Dikgosi (formerly House of Chiefs), Civil Society Organizations, Trade Unions and other Non-State Actors.

NSC established a Technical Task Force (TTF) whose membership is also multi-sectoral. These committees are serviced by an SDGs Secretariat in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MFED) supported by the UN.

The SDG rollout process will be further supported by four Thematic Working Groups (TWGs): These are

- (i) Economy and Employment,
- (ii) Social Upliftment,
- (iii) Sustainable Environment, and
- (iv) Governance, Safety and Security.

TWG comprises a cluster of related sectors whose membership is derived from state and non-state actors.

SDG Incorporation to National Framework:

Botswana underwent a lengthy consultation process in the development of its national Vision 2036 (2016-2036), National Development Plan 11 (2017-2023) and the associated District and Urban Development plans to ensure these documents were aligned to the SDGs. Both Vision 2036 and NDP 11 were formulated while the SDGs were being finalised giving Botswana the opportunity to embrace them at planning stages.

Through the leadership of the national statistics office (Statistics Botswana) the country has mapped all SDGs' indicators relevant and measurable in Botswana, and aligned them to the country's Vision 2036, NDP11 and the African Union Agenda 2063.

Tourism Ministry /NTA portfolio: [Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism](#)

Tourism and SDGs in Botswana:

Opportunities

- **Partnerships**
- **Finance and Investment**



- Botswana brought together the Tourism Ministry in National SDG Dialogues on Sustainable Development. As part of its journey towards Sustainable Development, Botswana has identified the integration of sustainability into financing and investment as a building block for its broad-based framework for Sustainable Development.
- In this regard, Botswana held its first High Level National Symposium on Sustainable Finance on 7 April 2016, bringing together Ministers of (a) Finance and Economic Development (b) **Environment Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism** (c) International Trade and Investment (d) Local Government and Rural Development and CEOs from financial services sector. CMI society, development partners and international experts.

Challenges

- **Industry Transport and Infrastructure**
- **Poverty Eradication**



- **Tourism infrastructure, particularly in aviation is limited.** This inadequacy limits how the tourists move around to the many wildlife areas of Botswana. The consequence gets what are referred to as 'day tourists' who make bookings in neighbouring countries where the infrastructure is well developed (Livingstone in Zambia or Victoria falls in Zimbabwe and Johannesburg in South Africa) and cross over to Botswana during the day only to return to their base in the evening without having reached the Botswana hinterland.

- Botswana records high tourist entry figures and low tourist expenditure and yet connecting flights into the hinterland could have generated longer stays and more expenditure from such tourist, thereby assisting to grow the sector and create opportunities for poverty alleviation. There are many **opportunities for community led tourism that need to be established that can help in alleviating poverty.**

Resources and Useful Links

[Botswana VNR](#)