

First Edition

BOTSWANA NATIONAL ATLAS (BNA)

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The Botswana National Atlas is an encyclopaedia of information that will significantly improve knowledge about Botswana world-wide. It gives answers to most questions concerning Botswana's past, present and future. As depicted by the artistic cover, the Atlas provides reference material for a wide spectrum of disciplines such as Geography, Education, Culture, Environment and Land use to mention but a few.

THE BOTSWANA NATIONAL ATLAS (BNA)

This is the first ever National Atlas of Botswana, a single bound book comprising 413 pages in 29 chapters: Geography of Botswana; Geology and Geomorphology of Botswana; Weather and Climate; Surface Hydrology; Hydrogeology of Botswana; Water Resources; Soils and Vegetation; National Conservation Strategy; Agriculture; Minerals and Mining; Energy; Land Use Planning; Land Information and Mapping; Land Administration; Tenure Systems and Housing; Wildlife; Tourism, Population; Education and Training; Health Services; Public Finance and Economic Development; Commerce and Industry; Transport and Communication; Botswana's International Relations; Culture and Heritage; Democracy, Governance and Politics; Law, Justice and Security; Women in Development; Youth and National Development and The Okavango Delta.



Structural framework of Southern Africa, showing major terrains in Botswana

GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY (ch. 2)

The Geological history and detailed rock formation structures are described in this chapter. The rocks of Botswana have formed over a period of over 3000 million years. The gold bearing rocks in the eastern part of the country evolved in Achaean times from two major episodes of sediment accumulation and volcanic activity, which were followed by earth movement and mountain building. Geologically, Botswana has remained stable for the past 500 million years. The Geomorphology of Botswana is divided into the Okavango Delta, the Sandveld and the Hardveld hypsographic regions. About two thirds of Botswana falls under the Sandveld or Kgalagadi desert. This region receives the least amount of rainfall compared to the rest of the country.

SURFACE HYDROLOGY (ch. 4)

This chapter deals with the realisation of the hydrological cycle as it affects Botswana. All rivers in the country are seasonal except for the Okavango and Linyanti/Chobe rivers in the northern part of the country. There are six drainage basins or catchments, which assist in the design of water resource projects such as dams. The basins differ in catchment areas and flow system, with the Okavango Delta basin being approximately 12 000 km².



Gaborone Dam



Letsibogo Dam

WATER RESOURCES (ch. 6)

The chapter describes the elements of water resources, the administrative and legal arrangements. Management of water resources is crucial to the country's economy as well as the well being of the people. Most of the rural Botswana depends on groundwater whilst the urban depends on surface water harvesting. The strategy of Botswana's future water requirements is a subject of the National Water Master Plan 1992.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY (ch. 8)

The government of Botswana is committed to conserve the environment. This is evidenced by various policies outlined in this chapter. Despite the long tradition of environmental conservation, the country has, in the last twenty years, been experiencing growing pressure on the country's natural resources due to population growth and industrial activity. This pressure necessitated the formation of the National Conservation Strategy, which promotes environmental conservation and sustainable development in the country. Botswana has taken steps to protect its environment through several means, which also include the development of a wastewater management service. Measures are outlined to improve the state of wastewater by incorporating public participation.



Dumping Site/ Sewage Works



Mining in Botswana

MINERALS AND MINING (ch. 10)

Botswana is one of the worlds leading diamond producers. Botswana has a long history of small-scale mining. The major minerals mined in the country are diamond, copper and nickel, coal, soda ash, salt and gold.

LANDUSE PLANNING (ch. 12)

Settlements in Botswana are influenced by a number of factors including Population, Natural Resources, Infrastructure etc. The population of Botswana was largely rural at independence and about 96 percent of the population resided in the eastern part. In the mid 1970's and 1980's the pattern of settlement changed, most people moved to urban centres.



Part of Serowe Village from a Hill top.

LAND ADMINISTRATION AND HOUSING (ch. 14)

There are three main land tenures categories in Botswana and these are Tribal or Communal land which is 70%, State Land which is 25% and Freehold which is 5%.



A sand dune along the fossil Molopo River

TOURISM (ch. 16)

Tourism plays an important role in the economy of the country as it is ranked amongst the top five of the highest revenue earners. The country is also ranked eleventh among the top twenty African destinations in terms of earnings. Tourism currently relies on wildlife, which is more concentrated in Game Reserves and other Wildlife Management Areas in northern and western Botswana. Apart from wildlife there are other tourist attractions like natural historical sites, the Tsodilo Hills which are famous for their rock paintings and the Okavango Delta. The delta has all its natural beauty as it has different animal and bird species.



Paintings at the Tsodilo Hills

EDUCATION AND TRAINING (ch. 18)

Education goes back to the days before Christianity, which was imparted through the medium of schools and other institutions. There was a type of formal education called bojale for girls and bogwera for boys. Later missionaries came and started schools in order to enable the people to read the Bible. Since independence great development has occurred, now the country has several primary, secondary and tertiary institutions.



Graduation Ceremony at the University of Botswana

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (ch. 22)

Countrywide transport and communication networking is a prerequisite for development. The movement and exchange of goods, services and information are not possible without good roads, telecommunications etc. At independence Botswana had only twelve kilometres of tarred road, but tremendous development has taken place since then.



Donkey carts for transportation

PUBLIC FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (ch. 20)

There have been remarkable changes in the country's developmental and financial situation since independence. Whilst Botswana was amongst the poorest countries at Independence in 1966, it is now a middle income country, which is characterised by prudent financial management and development planning. It is often cited as one of the success stories of developing countries, especially in Africa.



Bank of Botswana

CULTURE AND HERITAGE (ch. 24)

Culture is a way of life of a nation and relates to their languages, religious experiences and generally to the way they conduct their lives. It is all the learned experiences that people inherit from generation to generation. The chapter deals with most of the historic sites of Botswana and further outlines how the country is preserving the cultural heritage among others.



Exhibition at the National Museum

LAW, JUSTICE AND SECURITY (ch. 26)

Botswana has a dual legal System based on the Roman Dutch Law and the Customary Law. These laws are made by Parliament, the administration and enforcement of the law is carried out through the Administration of Justice, Attorney General and security forces.



A customary court in session

YOUTH AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ch. 28)

Botswana is characterised by a youthful population, about 60 – 70% according to the 1991 Population and Housing Census. In most countries, issues that affect young people are unemployment, health, education and training, talent development, culture, sports, leisure and recreation, youth crime and violence. Government is therefore faced with the challenge of addressing these concerns and to ensure that young people are prepared to contribute to the development of the country.



Youth in Agricultural Production

THE BOTSWANA PC ATLAS

The Botswana National Atlas was produced through a digital process from which the book version was printed. The PC Atlas is the simplified digital product, designed for wider use in a PC based GIS platform.

PC Atlas Distribution:

The PC Atlas is distributed in four versions:

1. PC Atlas 1.0 A
It is designed for the users who have ArcView 3.2 already. PC Atlas will take all the ArcView 3.2 functions and allow the user to modify and add new data on top of the PC Atlas.
2. PC Atlas 1.0 B
It is meant for the user who does not have ArcView 3.2 as it is provided with a runtime ArcView license. The runtime license has the same functionality as a full license except for the ability to use data that is not on the CD.
3. PC Atlas 1.0 C
This is the PC Atlas data working with ArcExplorer 2.0 which is a free software from ESRI and can be downloaded from the website. It is mainly for the View/Explorer user.
4. Botswana National Atlas e-Book
This is the entire BNA in PDF format, it can be read or viewed through Acrobat Reader, the latest version of which can be downloaded from the website www.adobe.com/acrobat but will also be available for installation from the CD.

About Software

ArcView 3.2, which is aimed at more advanced users allows for additions, modifications and analysis. A runtime version with limitations with regards to using other data than that supplied on the CD will be delivered on a CD ROM with PC Atlas.

ArcExplorer, which is intended for examining the data, is a freeware from ESRI except for the specially developed MapFinder software that is used as a catalogue during production. This software has some limitations, GIS analysis is available but one can only zoom, pan, search/find and query both spatial and attribute data. Above all, the software is easy to use. The ArcExplorer software can be downloaded via the Internet, but will also be distributed together with the Atlas data on a CD.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIONAL ATLAS

Number of chapters : 29

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PC ATLAS INFORMATION

29 chapters for e-book

26 Chapters for Arcview Version

23 Chapters for ArcExplorer Version

211 maps for the ArcView version

200 maps for the ArcExplorer version



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