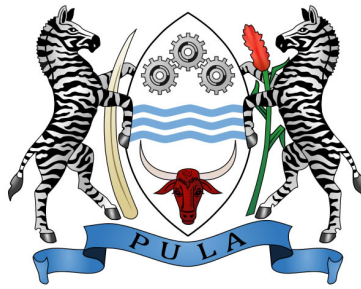


Botswana Country Profile

By: Matt Dinse

Previous to filling out this profile read “Conceptualizing the African State” & “Development Contrasts in Three Landlocked Southern African States”



Geography

What subregion of Africa is Botswana a part of?

- Southern Africa

Who are Botswana's neighbors?

- Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe

**SHORT ANSWER:* How is this subregion of Africa different from the others? What is the relationship between Botswana and its neighbors?

- Southern Africa has a much different dynamic than the other subregions of Africa. For starters, Southern Africa is much smaller than every other subregion, containing only 5 Member States. South Africa dominates the region politically, also playing a major role as a leader of the African continent. The South African Development Community (SADC) facilitates cooperation in the region and consists of 16 total Member States, which is significantly larger than the UN's designated subregion. Southern Africa is mostly known for its large abundance of natural resources.
- Relationships with its neighbors are as follows:
 - Namibia: Friendly, cooperate on economic development
 - South Africa: Rocky history, try to stay civil but relations often shift after elections
 - Zambia: Border disputes
 - Zimbabwe: Struggles to seal its border from thousands of Zimbabweans who flee economic collapse and political persecution

What are Botswana's natural resources?

- Diamonds, copper, nickel, salt, soda ash, potash, coal, iron ore, silver

**SHORT ANSWER:* What is the resource curse? How is Botswana affected by it?

- Resource curse refers to the paradox that countries with an abundance of natural resources tend to have less economic growth, less democracy, and worse development outcomes than countries with fewer natural resources. Botswana's economy is influenced by natural resources, but has been championed on the continent as one of the only

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African nations to withstand the resource curse and sustain a higher level of economic stability.

***SHORT ANSWER:** How does being landlocked affect Botswana (use the Development Contrasts in Three Landlocked Southern African States article)?

- Being landlocked often negatively affects Member States throughout the globe, particularly in Africa, as they struggle to reach the global economy because of their lack of water access. In Botswana’s case, being landlocked has hindered them in some regard, but their economy is one of the most positive success stories despite being landlocked. Botswana’s economy revolves around the export of livestock, natural resources, ecotourism, financial services, and a robust communication infrastructure. Gaborone, the capital, also is a developed center for administration and education. Despite Botswana’s lack of access to water, they are considered the most globalized country in Africa.

People

What is the population of Botswana?

- 2,249,104

What is the capital of Botswana?

- Gaborone

What is the population concentration in Botswana?

- The population is primarily concentrated in the east with a focus in and around the capital of Gaborone, and the far central-eastern city of Francistown; population density remains low in other areas in the country, especially in the Kalahari to the west
- Urbanization: 70.2% of total population

***SHORT ANSWER:** What is the urban rural divide? How is Botswana managing with this?

- The urban rural divide is the differences in technological advancements available to the urban population versus the rural population. Rural populations often lack proper infrastructure development, economic resources, communication technology, energy availability, etc. compared to Member States’ urban hubs. In Botswana’s case, being 70.2% urbanized provides most of the population with essential technological advancements, yet the rural populations still are behind. Botswana is considered a success story in helping to bridge the urban rural divide, especially through their extreme educational funding measures and developed communication infrastructure.

What is the Birth Rate of Botswana?

- 21.7 births/1,000 population (World Rank: 70)

***SHORT ANSWER:** Why has the birth rate dropped so much in recent years?

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- The birth rate has dropped for 2 major reasons. For starters, the age structure is relatively young, with almost $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total population ranging from 0-14 years old. Secondly, Botswana's population was majorly affected by the AIDS epidemic, having the highest rate of infection until 2004.

What is the age structure of Botswana?

- The age structure is as follows:
 - 0-14 years: 31.48% (male 357,175 /female 350,775)
 - 15-24 years: 18.7% (male 207,611 /female 212,874)
 - 25-54 years: 38.88% (male 412,475 /female 462,013)
 - 55-64 years: 5.61% (male 53,653 /female 72,617)
 - 65 years and over: 5.33% (male 51,304 /female 68,607)

What percent of Botswana's GDP is spent on Education? Is this low or high?

- 9.6% of GDP (World Rank: 4)
- Therefore... this is extremely high!

**SHORT ANSWER:* Why is Botswana investing in education so much?

- Botswana is highly investing in education because they have a relatively young population. Due to the HIV/AIDS outbreak in Botswana, their population has become much younger in recent years, making the education of youth an essential part of their future development. As seen in their national development plan, Botswana's government places education as a fundamental pillar to the success of their nation.

History

When and from whom did Botswana gain independence?

- September 30th, 1966 from the United Kingdom

**SHORT ANSWER:* What is the relationship between Botswana and its colonizer today?

- Botswana is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, a political association of 53 Member States who were former territories of the British Empire. Member States have no legal obligations to one another, but are connected through their use of the English language and historical ties. Their stated shared values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law are enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter.

**SHORT ANSWER:* In looking at Botswana's BBC history timeline, have there been any major events that have shaped Botswana today?

- In looking at Botswana's BBC history timeline, a few events stand out that shape Botswana today. First, in December 1960, the United Kingdom approved a constitution for Botswana (known at the time as Bechuanaland), which paved the way for the political rise of Seretse Khama. Seretse Khama was named the First President of the Republic of

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Botswana after the United Kingdom granted their independence in September 1966. In 1980, Botswana helped to found the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) as a measure to reduce the region's economic reliance on South Africa. Since then, other major events include Botswana's battle with the outbreak of HIV/AIDS, becoming less economically reliant on natural resources (diamonds), and attempts for the government to harmonize with the indigenous.

Government

What form of government does Botswana have?

- Parliamentary Republic

Who is the current leader of Botswana? When was the last election? What political party are they from?

- President Mokgweetsi Eric Masisi (since 1 April 2018)
- Last election was held in October 2019
- Member of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)

**SHORT ANSWER:* Does Botswana have a stable or unstable government? Why or why not?

- Botswana is one of the most stable governments in all of Africa. Botswana is the continent's longest continuous multi-party democracy, has been relatively free of corruption, and has a good human rights record. This is due to their relatively peaceful transition to independence, strong leadership, and commitment to their principles.

Economic

What is Botswana's GDP per capita?

- \$17,000 (World Rank: 101)

What economic classification is Botswana? (LDC, Upper Middle Income, Developed)

- Developing Nation, Upper Middle Income

What are Botswana's main imports and exports?

- Imports: foodstuffs, machinery, electrical goods, transport equipment, textiles, fuel and petroleum products, wood and paper products, metal and metal products
- Exports: diamonds, copper, nickel, soda ash, beef, textiles

Who are Botswana's main import and export trading partners?

- Import Partners: South Africa 66.1%, Canada 8.3%, Israel 5.3%
- Export Partners: Belgium 20.3%, India 12.6%, UAE 12.4%, South Africa 11.9%, Singapore 8.7%, Israel 7%, Hong Kong 4.1%, Namibia 4.1%

**SHORT ANSWER:* How has Botswana become one of the fastest growing economies/ how does its economic situation compare to the rest of Africa and why?

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- Botswana has become one of the fastest growing economies due to ability to economically diversify. While Botswana is rich with natural resources, their government understands that this is not sustainable, especially being a landlocked nation. Botswana has committed itself to raising livestock, ecotourism, financial services, communication infrastructure, and education. Because of this diversification, Botswana's economic situation is much healthier than almost all other African nations.

Environment

What are Botswana's main environmental issues?

- Overgrazing; desertification; limited freshwater resources; air pollution

**SHORT ANSWER:* How is Botswana affected by climate change and what have they done in response to it?

- Botswana is mostly affected by climate change through the use of land. Climate change has been a factor in the desertification of land within Botswana. Botswana has begun to tackle this issue head-on through adaptation measures with the UNDP, where they have focused on more sustainable farming measures to prevent overgrazing and maximize the use of land/soil. Botswana also produces minimal fossil fuel emissions, as reported by the UNDP's Climate Change Adaptation Programme. Due to their development status and lack of emissions produced, Botswana focuses more on adaptation to climate change rather than mitigation.

Comparative

**SHORT ANSWER:* In looking at this completed country profile & Agenda 2063, where is Botswana at in thinking about development as an African country? What characteristics make its priorities similar or different from Agenda 2063 for Africa as a whole?

- In looking at Botswana's country profile and Agenda 2063, I believe it reaffirms why Botswana is so successful right now. Their country goals and identity are aligned very similarly to the goals outlined in Agenda 2063. The main similarity I saw between the two documents was the effect that corruption has on an African state. Corruption plagues the continent and when researching Botswana, you can see how prosperous a state can be with a stable government. That brings me to my main difference, as many African states aren't as fortunate as Botswana. Botswana had a relatively peaceful independence from the UK and had a great leader who led their transition after independence, which has set up Botswana well for future leadership and prosperity. Evident throughout Agenda 2063, many African states aren't as lucky and face issues with proper leadership, finding their cultural identity, and breaking their reliance from their colonizer.

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International Organization

What regional organizations is Botswana a part of? What is their role in them?

- ACP: African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
 - No significant role, voice of landlocked African nations
- AfDB: African Development Bank
 - Beneficiary country
- AU: African Union
 - Signatory to 3 major AU documents:
 - African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA)
 - Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM)
 - Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, Goods and Services
- SACU: Southern African Customs Union
 - Participant within this Southern African trade bloc
- SADC: Southern African Development Community
 - Headquartered in Gaborone
 - Chairperson from 2015-2016

When did Botswana join the UN?

- October 17th, 1966

Does Botswana hold any special positions internationally?

- UN Voting Blocs and Caucuses
 - Group of 77 (G-77)
 - Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)
 - African Group
- UN Specialized Agencies and Organizations
 - CTBTO: Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
 - FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
 - IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency
 - IBRD: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - ICAO: International Civil Aviation Organization
 - ICSID: International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
 - IDA: International Development Association
 - IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development
 - IFC: International Finance Corporation
 - ILO: International Labor Organization
 - IMF: International Monetary Fund

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- ITU: International Telecommunications Union
- MIGA: Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- OPCW: Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- UNWTO: United Nations World Tourism Organization
- UPU: Universal Postal Union
- WBG: World Bank Group
- WHO: World Health Organization
- WIPO: World Intellectual Property Organization
- WMO: World Meteorological Organization
- WTO: World Trade Organization