

OKAVANGO DELTA MANAGEMENT PLAN

PROJECT PROPOSAL – SUMMARY

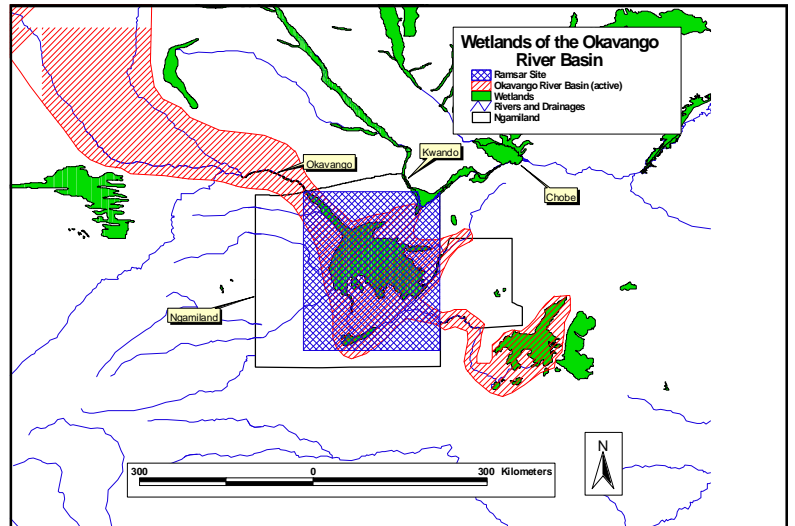
Background

The Government of Botswana ratified the Convention on wetlands “The Ramsar Convention” and became a contracting party as of the 4th April 1997.

The Okavango Delta system was listed as a Wetland of International Importance as per article 2 of the convention and, as stated in article 3, its conservation and wise use should be promoted. The site is the largest Ramsar site in the world.

Why is there a need for an Okavango Delta Management Plan?

- Threats to the delta: land use changes, veld fires, livestock encroachment, fences, wildlife distributions, over-harvesting of veld products, agricultural developments, climate change
- Water off-take and changes in the upstream river basin: planned development of dams and pipelines, land use changes in upper catchment, pollution, water nutrient changes
- Global heritage: Ramsar site (management plan obligation), wetlands biodiversity



Location of the Okavango Delta System Ramsar site

What is the overall goal of a management plan for the delta?

To integrate resource management for the Okavango Delta that will ensure its long-term conservation and that will provide benefits for the present and future well being of the people, through sustainable use of its natural resources.

What are the principles of the planning exercise?

- A process of creating and strengthening **responsibility and accountability** in existing institutions with a mandate to manage the delta and its resources;
- Active stakeholder participation** in the main stages of planning and implementation;
- A dynamic, integrative action-oriented planning process **addressing pertinent issues** as the plan is being prepared;
- Acknowledgement of **international interest** in the delta;
- Accent on **training and capacity building**.



IMPLEMENTING AGENCY	MAIN OUTPUTS / RESPONSIBILITY
NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY AGENCY (NATIONAL LEVEL)	National Coordination Project monitoring Linkages to Steering Committee Linkages to OKACOM Linkages to Convention Bureaus
NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY AGENCY (DISTRICT LEVEL PROJECT SECRETARIAT)	Project Management Coordination between components Communication/information Training & consultancy support Monitoring, evaluations and reporting Physical and economic planning through District planning officers
Department of Water Affairs (in association with DMS)	Hydrology and Water Resources Integrated hydrological model Climate change scenarios
Department of Animal Health & Production	Disease control policies Data on fishery resources
Department of Wildlife & National Parks	Biodiversity data and analysis Habitat and wildlife management CBNRM implementation
Department of Tourism	Carrying capacities for tourism Community involvement in tourism
Department of Town & Regional Planning	Settlement strategies Infrastructure development and environmental impact
Department of Crop Production & Forestry (in association with ARB)	Access to agricultural land and forest Biodiversity data and analysis Carrying capacity for livestock
Tawana Land Board (in association with DLUPU)	Land use zoning, land management; monitoring and compliance CBNRM implementation
North West District Council (in association with DSWM)	District Tourism Planning Waste Management Strategy
Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre	Data management and library Ecosystem research Participatory land use planning Training support

Who will be involved?

The development of the plan will be facilitated, coordinated and supervised by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Environment through the National Conservation Strategy Agency (NCSA) who are the government focal point for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

The following leading agencies have been identified:

- National Conservation Strategy Agency (NCSA): national and district level (District Development Committee and Okavango Wetland Management Committee) – **policy, planning and strategy (including communication)**
- Department of Water Affairs (DWA) – **hydrology and water resources**
- Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) – **wildlife management**
- Department of Tourism (DOT) – **sustainable tourism**
- Department of Animal Health and Production (DAHP) – **fisheries and animal health**
- Department of Crop Production and Forestry (DCPF), in association with the Agricultural Resources Board (ARB) – **vegetation resources**
- Department of Town and Regional Planning (DTRP) – **physical planning**
- Tawana Land Board (TLB) in association with the District Land Use Planning Unit (DLUPU) – **land use planning and land management**
- North West District Council (NWDC) – **local authority services' provision**
- Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre (HOORC) – **research, data management and training**

COORDINATION

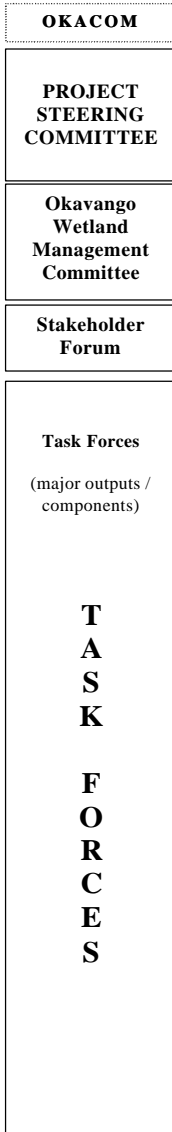


FIGURE 2. PROJECT COORDINATION

The lead agencies have their own programme and budget for planning activities, which will feed into the overall management plan for the delta. All stakeholders including communities, CBOs, NGOs and the private sector will be involved at various stages in the process (see figures 2 and 3).

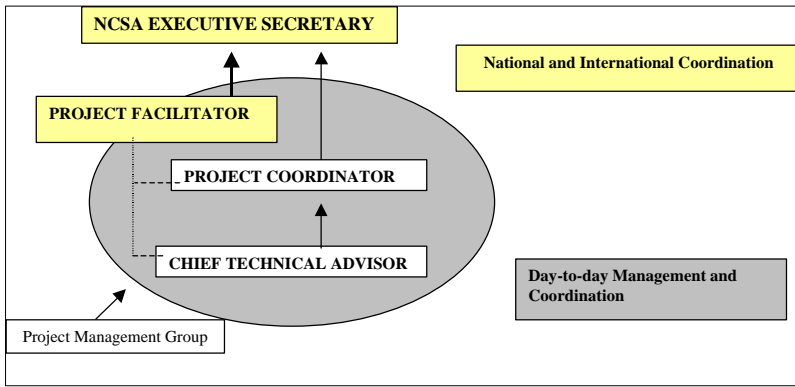


FIGURE 1. PROJECT MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Government of Botswana	3.522.000
IUCN (Water and Nature Initiative)	1.000.000
DANIDA	1.509.000
SIDA	681.000
DED (German Development Service)	190.000
Total	US\$ 6.902.000

How will the project be managed?

NCSA will be the lead agency with the Executive Secretary as Project Manager, assisted by a Project Facilitator; and a Project Coordinator and Chief Technical Advisor both based in Maun; see figure 1.

What will the project cost?

The total project budget is currently estimated at US\$ 6.9 million for a period of 39 months; the intended starting date is September 2002.

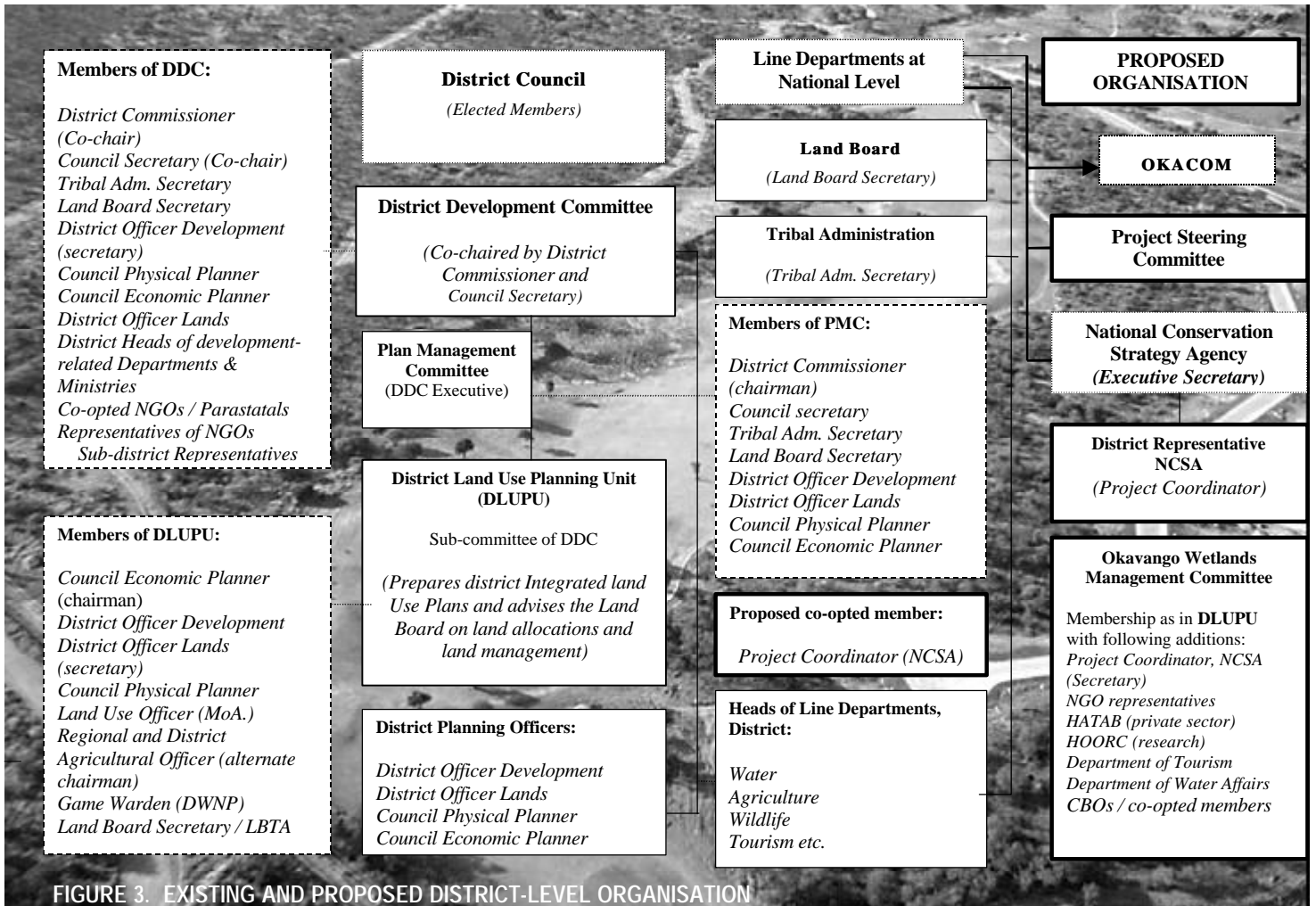


FIGURE 3. EXISTING AND PROPOSED DISTRICT-LEVEL ORGANISATION

What kind of outputs can we expect?

- *Okavango Delta Management Plan*
- *Plans, policies and strategies* developed as part of preparing the Okavango Delta Management Plan e.g. District Tourism Development Plan, District Settlement Strategy, District Waste Management Strategy, Okavango Delta Eco-tourism Action Plan,
- *Studies, models and assessments:* e.g. Economic valuation study, Integrated hydrological flow model, Climate change scenarios, Biodiversity assessment, Vegetation studies, Wildlife inventories
- *Maps, reports, data bases, guidelines, carrying capacities, recommendations*
- *Natural resource management projects*

How will we benefit from the project?

- Less conflict over land and natural resource use
- sustainable levels of resource use
- additional information on delta flora and fauna
- (eco) tourism development actions
- new policies and strategies
- less waste and pollution
- more knowledge about the delta's hydrological system
- natural resource-based employment and income opportunities
- better appreciation of the economic value of the delta as part of the regional river basin
- guidance to rural investment and development
- etc.

For more information

National Conservation Strategy (Coordinating) Agency
Ministry of Lands, Housing and Environment
Private Bag 0068
Gaborone

Tel: 302050 / fax: 302051

Email: envirobotswana@gov.bw

