



# Botswana

*Joined the Commonwealth 1966 - visited by the Queen in 1979*



**Botswana is a land-locked nation in central southern Africa**

Pop: (2011) 2,031,000      Capital: Gaborone      Area: 582,000 sq km

Botswana lies on a plateau averaging 1,000m high across the Tropic of Capricorn. Its climate ranges from semi-arid through to subtropical and temperate though 85% of the country consists of the vast, arid sandveld of the Kalahari desert. It is wetter in the south-east bordering South Africa where crop farming is possible. Most of the major towns are here.

Botswana is a stable country with a strong economic growth though it has suffered from the recent recession. Since 1999, it has been the largest producer of gem quality diamonds in the world – an important source of income. With its three national parks and five game reserves harbouring abundant wildlife (50,000 elephants in Chobe National Park,) eco-tourism is thriving. The River Okavango drains to an inland delta in the north-east where its water eventually peters out. The delta supports world famous varieties of water birds and attracts thousands of other animals in the dry season.

*The Okavango delta*

