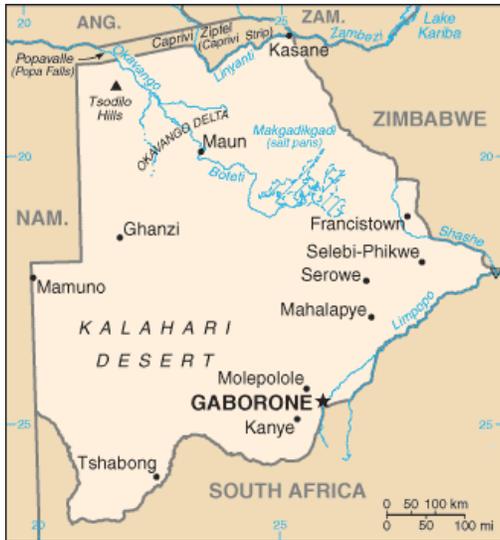


## BOTSWANA SETSWANA



Area: 225,000 sq. mi. (like France)  
Population: 2.25 million  
Religion: Christian (73%),  
GDP: \$44.3 b, Per Capita GDP \$18,653  
Exports to US \$82m, Imports from US \$461m  
U.N. Human Development Index: 0.717 (101 out of 179)  
Government: Unitary Parliamentary Constitutional Republic  
President: Mokgweetsi Eric Masisi since 2018  
Memberships: U.N., African Union, SADC, Commonwealth of Nations

The **Republic of Botswana** is a landlocked country in Southern Africa. Formerly the British protectorate of Bechuanaland, Botswana adopted its name after becoming independent within the Commonwealth. Since then, it has been a Unitary Parliamentary Constitutional Republic, with a consistent record of uninterrupted democratic elections and the best perceived corruption ranking in Africa since at least 1998. It is currently Africa's oldest continuous democracy.

Botswana is topographically flat, with up to 70 percent of its territory being the Kalahari Desert. The Okavango Delta, the world's largest inland delta, hosts the largest concentration of African elephants.

In October 2019, researchers, using genetic, archeological, linguistic and climate evidence, reported that Botswana was the birthplace of all modern humans about 200,000 years ago. Evidence left by modern humans, such as cave paintings, are about 73,000 years old.

The US-Botswana bilateral relationship is strong and grounded in a shared commitment to democracy, good governance and human rights. US cooperation with Botswana has been in the fields of health, environment, human rights and defense.

Today, Botswana has the highest income per capita of the region, comparable to countries like Costa Rica or Mexico. Economic growth in Botswana has been inclusive: the share of people living in poverty has declined from 34.8% in 1993 to an estimated 10.6% in 2019. Botswana's economy is dominated by mining(diamonds), cattle and tourism. Botswana's success is closely linked to its strong political and economic institutions.

In June 1964, the United Kingdom accepted proposals for democratic self-government in Botswana. The seat of the government is Gaborone, which is located near Botswana's border with South Africa. The country held its first general elections under universal suffrage and gained independence in September 1966. Seretse Khama, a leader in the independence movement and the legitimate claimant to the Ngwato chiefship, was elected as the first President, and subsequently re-elected twice. Like George Washington, he chose democracy over monarchy and like Ambassador Newman, his bi-racial marriage illustrates the multi-racial tolerance of the people of Botswana.