

Strategy for selective cooperation with

Botswana

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Cooperation strategy for selective cooperation with Botswana until the end of 2013

Summary

This strategy sets out the direction of Sweden's selective cooperation with Botswana for the period up until the end of 2013.

Since gaining independence in 1966, Botswana has been a stable democracy with a multiparty system and regular general and free elections. Extensive constitutional protection of civil rights and freedoms, an independent judicial system and effective civilian control over the armed forces help make Botswana one of the countries leading the way in Africa. The economic growth rate has been consistently high since independence and the country has developed into a middle-income country with extensive modernisation and improved living standards, both economically and socially, for a large part of the population. However, poverty is widespread and disparities in income in the country remain high. The effects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic have a severe impact on the country's most vulnerable groups and there is a risk of the epidemic undermining the economic progress that has been made.

Sweden has a long history of cooperation with Botswana, and good relations between the countries have grown from this cooperation. The added value Sweden can provide is based on these relations and on the fact that individual Swedish partners have built up their own relations and trust with different partners in Botswana. The Bilateral Forum for dialogue that Sweden and Botswana established in 2009 will be important for the future direction of cooperation.

Swedish development cooperation with Botswana was concluded in 1998 and was subsequently replaced primarily by cooperation in the form of contract-financed technical cooperation (CFTC), international training programmes (ITP) and support to measures to combat HIV and AIDS.

The overall objective of Sweden's cooperation with Botswana is to further develop long-term bilateral relations based on mutual interests. Cooperation is to help strengthen, expand and deepen relations between the countries. The objective of Sweden's selective cooperation with Botswana is enhanced socially and environmentally sustainable economic growth and reduced poverty.

The strategy for Sweden's selective cooperation with Botswana is to promote new forms of cooperation and multifaceted relations between Sweden and Botswana. Selective cooperation is to be dominated by partner driven cooperation based on common interests and mutual benefit. Sida has a responsibility to encourage partner driven cooperation as part of the framework of implementing the strategy. Partner driven cooperation is demand driven and the strategy, in addition to the areas specified in advance, is therefore to be open to initiatives for partner driven cooperation in other areas identified during the strategy period.

Sweden will continue to help reduce the spread of HIV and mitigate the effects of AIDS. During the strategy period, the targeted development assistance contributions within the framework of the HIV/AIDS field are to be phased out and Sida, if possible, is to provide support to HIV/AIDS within the framework of partner driven cooperation. The objective of support to the HIV/AIDS field is to strengthen the rights of people living with HIV and AIDS, and to provide people with better opportunities to protect themselves.

Sweden's overall cooperation with Botswana

The overall objective of Sweden's cooperation with Botswana is to further develop long-term bilateral relations based on mutual interests. The cooperation shall contribute to help strengthen, expand and deepen relations between the countries. Sweden's Africa policy, *Sweden and Africa – a policy to address common challenges and opportunities* (Government Communication 2007/08:67), is a key starting point for Sweden's overall relations with Botswana. Sweden's policy for global development ¹ serves as guideline and its objective of contributing to equitable and sustainable global development forms an important starting point for Swedish cooperation with Botswana.

Use is to be made of cooperation experience to date and of Sweden's comparative advantages, expertise and experiences of previous cooperation so as to strengthen and consolidate bilateral relations with Botswana in general. Sweden, together

¹ *Shared responsibility – Sweden's policy for global development* (Government Bill 2002/03:122) and *Global challenges – our responsibility*, Government Communication on Sweden's global development policy (Government Communication 2007/08:89)

with Botswana, will act to promote mutual interests through close and extensive cooperation.

Selective cooperation

1. Starting points and objectives

Selective cooperation with Botswana is based on partnership, shared values, mutual benefits and interests, shared responsibilities and non-aid funded activities. As far as possible, future cooperation will be based on the knowledge and experience gained from previous cooperation and developed in close dialogue between the countries.

The policy for partner driven cooperation in development cooperation (UD2007/46452/UP) is of key importance. The Swedish Government's three thematic priorities in development cooperation (democracy and human rights, environment and climate, and the promotion of gender equality and the role of women in development) are particularly important and are to be taken into account both when analysing the current situation and when considering new opportunities for cooperation. One important starting point for selective cooperation with Botswana is the country's development goals as formulated in the long-term vision for Botswana, 'Vision 2016', the Ninth Development Plan (NDP9) and the National Strategic Framework for HIV and AIDS.

Where relevant, Sweden's selective cooperation is to take account of EU cooperation with Botswana, and Sweden is to be an active participant in these contexts.

As far as possible, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the EU Code of Conduct on Complementarity and Division of Labour are to guide selective cooperation.

Sida's overall responsibility to encourage partner driven cooperation includes supporting the Swedish Trade Council in its work with identifying and establishing focal points between Botswana and Sweden within the framework of the Meeting Point programme. The Swedish Trade Council's role as facilitator with a local presence and networks in Botswana is of key importance to Sweden's cooperation with Botswana. Sida will continue to work to strengthen this platform and encourage other partners to do the same.

The objective of Sweden's selective cooperation with Botswana is enhanced socially and environmentally sustainable economic growth and reduced poverty.

Selective cooperation is to be dominated by partner driven cooperation and also include targeted development assistance contributions in the HIV/AIDS field. Swedish support to the HIV/AIDS field is to continue to have a catalytic effect for Botswana in the implementation of the country's national HIV/AIDS plan. As the targeted development assistance contributions in the HIV/AIDS field are phased out, Sida is to consider whether partner driven cooperation is a viable form of cooperation within the framework of support in this field.

When implementing the strategy, account is to be taken of the fact that Botswana is open to guarantees and development loans.

The strategy's overall process objectives are as follows:

- At the mid-term review, the percentage of support directed towards partner driven cooperation is to account for most of the annual country allocation.
- The targeted development assistance contributions in the HIV/AIDS field are to be phased out by the end of the strategy period.
- National ownership and leadership is to be strengthened in the implementation of the national HIV/AIDS plan.

Sweden's dialogue is to be conducted both bilaterally and within the framework of Sweden's membership of the EU. The primary platform for the bilateral dialogue is to be the planned annual high-level meetings in the bilateral forum that has been established. This forum is expected to guide the future direction of the cooperation.

2. Partner driven cooperation

The objective of partner driven cooperation with Botswana is to encourage and strengthen the growth of self-supporting relationships of mutual interest between Swedish and Botswana partners in order to contribute to the objective of selective cooperation. In this way, partner driven cooperation will contribute to strengthening the overall contribution to poverty reduction and equitable and sustainable global development.

Partner driven cooperation is to facilitate broader cooperation between representatives, organisations and individuals, and so contribute to strengthening, broadening and deepening Sweden's overall relations with Botswana, and include many partners in accordance with the policy for partner driven cooperation. Contributions are to be based on the initiatives and interests of the partner themselves, on joint ownership, and on the needs and priorities of Botswana. Opportunities for emphasising Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) are to be used within the framework of partner driven cooperation.

Partner driven cooperation is to be used to support joint activities and projects with the aim of achieving deeper cooperation that can be self-supporting in the long term in each cooperation area. Partner driven cooperation is to contribute to generating further self-supporting relationships between Sweden and Botswana. ‘Self-supporting relationships’ means relationships that have the potential to continue in the longer term with financing that does not come from development assistance. Cooperation is primarily to be focused on areas where the overall political ambition to promote deeper cooperation coincides with the objective of the policy for global development and Swedish development cooperation, and with concrete ideas and interests on the part of relevant institutions, organisations and companies in each country. At the same time, support to contributions within partner driven cooperation can be funded via various appropriation items within international development cooperation and combined with funding from other expenditure areas.

In line with the overall objective of Sweden’s cooperation with Botswana, the following cooperation areas for partner driven cooperation are particularly important: economic growth, environment and climate, and democracy and human rights. These cooperation areas have been selected on the basis of Botswana’s priorities as expressed in Vision 2016 and NDP9, and on an assessment of existing and potential interests and comparative advantages of Swedish partners in cooperation with Botswana. However, one cannot assume in advance that partner driven cooperation will only take place within the areas chosen, since partner driven cooperation is cooperation driven by demand and may therefore also be considered in other areas identified during the strategy period. Sweden’s role is primarily to act as a catalyst and partner for Botswana in areas where Swedish actors enjoy comparative advantages. Cooperation is to be based on reciprocity consisting of a mutual interest in deeper cooperation and an explicit division of responsibilities between the partners. One distinctive feature of partner driven cooperation is that the cooperation is defined in dialogue between partners in each country.

By the mid-term review, most of the annual country allocation to Botswana is to be directed towards partner driven cooperation. Following this, Sida is to promote a continued increase in the proportion of partner driven cooperation during the strategy period. In accordance with the fundamental principles of partner driven cooperation, the following criteria are to apply to cooperation with Botswana:

- Swedish development assistance funding is to act as a catalyst and be limited in time.

- Contributions are to be designed to stimulate self-supporting relationships with joint ownership and a clear division of roles and responsibilities through such means as cost-sharing.
- Contributions are to help ensure that relationships are established that can continue over time without development assistance funding.
- Contributions are to be based on the interests, needs and experiences of Botswana and Swedish partners.

Sida is to identify relevant partners in both Sweden and Botswana who may be interested in contributing to cooperative projects via partner driven cooperation, and to specify suitable forms of cooperation with them.

Consideration will be given to opportunities regarding partners driven cooperation in the HIV/AIDS field as targeted development assistance in the field is phased out.

2.1 Economic growth

Objective: Strengthened capacity to expand trade and to increase economic diversification.

Strengthened trade capacity, increased trade and greater economic diversification are important prerequisites for furthering Botswana's economic integration regionally and globally so as to increase economic growth and reduce poverty in the country. Sida is to help encourage partner driven cooperation in this area and so create conditions for increased trade, exports and imports via better trade capacity and greater economic diversification. This will require identification of Swedish trade policy expertise and strengths, and compliance with international commitments and norms in the area of trade.

The government of Botswana has expressed interest in cooperation with Swedish partners in the area of trade in the form of capacity development and institution building via institutional and business cooperation. Efforts to encourage partner driven cooperation are to be conducted within the framework of such areas as the development of analysis and negotiation capacity within the WTO and regional trade negotiations, streamlining customs procedures and measures to comply with international standards and reduce high transport costs.

Sida is urged to continue cooperation with the National Board of Trade, which has established cooperation with Botswana aimed at strengthening institutional capacity building in the area of trade.

The Swedish Trade Council's presence in the country helps to further broaden the interface between Swedish and Botswana partners. Sida is urged to establish close cooperation with the Swedish Trade Council in this area as well.

A review of laws relating to land tenure and ownership rights is taking place in Botswana. As part of these efforts, Botswana has initiated cooperation with Lantmäteriet (the Swedish mapping, cadastral and land registration authority). Efficient systems for regulating land tenure and ownership rights are one of the points of departure for social and economic development. In this area, within the framework of partner driven cooperation, Sida is to encourage and promote partner driven cooperation between Botswana and Lantmäteriet, and to support increased contacts and cooperation between partners in Sweden and Botswana. However, the scope of cooperation is not to be such that it affects Lantmäteriet's possibilities of achieving the goals set by the Government regarding the agency's core activities.

A well developed infrastructure is necessary for a country's economic development and competitiveness. Partner driven cooperation in infrastructure development and sustainable urban development will therefore be encouraged.

Botswana is working to improve its institutional framework for transport and road safety, and has expressed an interest in cooperating with Swedish actors. Sida is to actively seek out partners in Sweden to stimulate cooperation between Swedish and Botswana partners in the area.

Particular attention is to be given to the important role that women have in achieving increased economic growth.

2.2 Environment and climate

Objective: enhanced capacity to manage and combat environmental and climate change.

The strain on Botswana's environment as a result of global climate change can be expected to lead to water shortages, increased soil degradation and drought. In this context, contributions towards urban development that are sustainable over time are important. Sida will therefore encourage partner driven cooperation between partners in Sweden and Botswana in areas such as integrated water resource management and rain water systems, sustainable management of mineral

resources and development of knowledge and technology for clean and efficient energy production and use.

2.3 Democracy and human rights

Objective: to strengthen democratic institutions and organisations represented by civil society.

Sida is to encourage partner driven cooperation that leads to cooperation that promotes the development of democratic institutions and a robust, democratic civil society. Civil society organisations are weakly organised and have a weak role as advocates of democratic principles.

Administrative reforms are important for strengthening democracy, increasing transparency within the administration and curbing corruption. Sida should therefore continue to encourage partner driven cooperation between the Swedish National Audit Office and relevant authorities in Botswana.

3. HIV and AIDS

Objective: enhanced rights for people living with HIV/AIDS and better opportunities for people to protect themselves.

To achieve the objective, Sweden must provide support to the implementation of the national plan for HIV/AIDS. Botswana's development plan (NDP9) specifies development of human capital, including issues related to HIV/AIDS, as a priority policy area. Swedish support is expected to have a catalytic effect for Botswana in the implementation of this national plan, and will primarily focus on capacity development. Capacity development is to be nationally owned, demand-driven and results-oriented.

At present, support to the HIV/AIDS field is channelled via targeted development assistance. During the strategy period, targeted development assistance in this field will be phased out. Also during the strategy period, Sida will make an active effort to create conditions for partner driven cooperation in this field.

4. Forms of development assistance

Support to the cooperation areas economic growth, environment and climate, as well as democracy and human rights programmes, will only be given in the form of partner driven cooperation. Targeted development assistance in the field of HIV/AIDS will be phased out during the strategy period and Sida is to promote the transfer of cooperation in this field to partner driven cooperation.

Apart from donor-funded development cooperation, Botswana is open to guarantees and untied development loans.

Support to contributions within partner driven cooperation can be funded via various appropriation items within international development cooperation and can be combined with funding from other expenditure areas.

5. Scope, implementation and follow-up

Sida's country allocation to Botswana amounted to about SEK 45 million in 2009, and will amount to about SEK 40 million annually for the period 2010–2013. This volume roughly corresponds to the volume that was planned for 2008.

One objective is that the proportion of support directed towards partner driven cooperation is to make up most of the annual country allocation at the mid-term review. This is to be achieved by Sida working proactively with communication and the promotion of meetings between Botswana and Swedish actors, primarily in the fields of pro-poor economic growth, environment and climate, and democracy and human rights. For this reason, Sida is to develop a communication plan that is to support work on partner driven cooperation, inform parties about different forms of funding, work on meeting venues and hold an ongoing dialogue with Botswana's embassy and parties in each country.

Where funding via Sida forms the basis of other agencies' activities, Sida is responsible for annual monitoring and governance regarding these agencies. Sida is also to hold an ongoing dialogue with facilitators and partners in order to ensure that the principles for development assistance-funded, partner driven cooperation are followed. This dialogue is to particularly focus on the purposes of development assistance-funded, partner driven cooperation and the principles that facilitators and actors must comply with in order for partner driven cooperation to be financed with development assistance funds.

Reporting and operational planning within the framework of partner driven cooperation is to take place in consultation between Sida and the relevant partners or facilitators.

Monitoring of targeted development cooperation is conducted annually. Sida's annual reports and operational planning are the main mechanisms for monitoring in this area.

A mid-term review of selective development cooperation will be carried out in 2011. Recommendations will then be made regarding its future direction and

scope. If any changes are proposed, consultation is to take place between the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida. Sida is responsible for maintaining the dialogue, in accordance with the forthcoming communication plan, with other facilitators and partners involved in partner driven cooperation.

The principles on aid effectiveness and the commitments made in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action are to govern the implementation of all targeted development assistance. These are also to be the guiding principles in efforts to implement partner driven cooperation. It is particularly important to ensure that efforts conducted via partner driven cooperation are governed by demand and that they have clear Botswana ownership. In line with the Accra Agenda for Action, partner driven cooperation should also help strengthen democratic ownership of Botswana's development policy by allowing partners other than central government to take part in the development dialogue and development measures.

All contributions are to be designed so as to combat corruption. Measures to prevent the emergence and spread of corruption are to be an actively integrated component of cooperation.

Performance monitoring will take place annually in consultation with Botswana. In connection with the annual performance reports, particular account must be taken of the Government's three thematic priorities. The mid-term review is to evaluate how development cooperation via selective cooperation has worked out, with particular focus on partner driven cooperation, and to make recommendations on the future direction and on whether cooperation is to be phased out, in view of decisions previously taken on phasing out.

Background

1. Summary performance assessment of previous cooperation

Swedish development cooperation with Botswana was phased out in 1998. Subsequently, cooperation has primarily been conducted in the form of contract-financed technical cooperation (CFTC), international training programmes (ITP) and support to measures to combat HIV/AIDS. The total volume has increased over time, mainly because of support to the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Support to the fight against HIV/AIDS

Sida's regional HIV/AIDS team based in Lusaka is responsible for the support to HIV/AIDS efforts in Botswana. There are few bilateral donors in the area and experience shows that Sweden, despite a limited financial contribution and the

fact that larger donors such as the UN and the EU provide considerable support in the area, can play an important role with its broad prevention agenda and approach regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights. Some of the main issues pursued by Sweden are the right to free abortion, sex education and contraceptive advice.

Support that has continued after the actual phase-out of Sweden's development cooperation has increasingly been expressed in coherent and strategic terms, focusing on capacity development at local level and of civil society, and on national leadership. Support has primarily been channelled via Forum Syd, the National AIDS Coordinating Agency (NACA), and various government bodies such as the Ministry of Local Government (MLG) and direct support to the Kuru Family of Organisations, which works with marginalised minorities.

Support to the MLG has produced good results when it comes to treating and supporting people living with HIV/AIDS. Examples of these results include reduced sickness absence, successful home-based care programmes, programmes for orphans and more efficient use of human resources, since home visits examine the needs of the entire family, not just those of an individual, as was previously the case. This leads to qualitative improvements in family needs assessments and to a stronger referral system. During the first year, activities have mainly helped with capacity and organisation development, and in developing networks in those areas of civil society that work with HIV/AIDS. This responds to a substantial need identified in Botswana's national plan for HIV/AIDS prevention.

Prevalence among people aged 15–49 decreased from 31 per cent in 2003 to 24 per cent in 2007. In 2002, Botswana became the first country in Africa to offer free anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs. Today, 83 per cent of all those in need have access to ARV compared to 7 per cent in 2003.

Contract-Financed Technical Cooperation (CFTC)

During the period 2004–2007, CFTC amounted to some SEK 14 million and received half of its funding from Sweden and half from Botswana. The cooperation during this period involved public broadcasting and meteorology. This cooperation included training for 460 employees of the Botswana Department of Broadcasting Services, which in turn has resulted in higher programme quality, improved management and production capacity, better meteorological monitoring and networks for data collection, and better capacity for long-range forecasts, climate analyses and climate change studies. The activities have been approved by Botswana's Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, which guarantees ownership and ensures that the activities have been deemed relevant.

The effectiveness of the individual measures appears to have been satisfactory and results have been achieved at output level, thus creating a platform for continued cooperation. Studies of CFTC in Botswana consistently indicate strong Botswanan ownership that in part can be attributed to integration into regular

national planning processes and in part to clear demand management. The conclusion is that there are good prospects for further developing actor-driven cooperation as a form of assistance in Botswana.

2. Summary analysis of Sweden's role in Botswana

2.1 EU political decisions and processes that are relevant to cooperation

Since 2000, EU political, economic and development cooperation with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries has been regulated in the Cotonou Agreement. Negotiations on an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the EU and the ACP, including the Southern African Development Community (SADC), which is led by Botswana, were initiated in 2003 and resulted in an interim agreement in December 2007. A complete EPA is under negotiation.

The European Commission's (EC) country strategy for Botswana covers the period 2008–2013, with a budget allocation of EUR 77.3 million. The strategy focuses on economic and social development. The fight against poverty will be conducted by means of support to economic diversification and increased global competitiveness. Like other donors, the EC also focuses on HIV/AIDS and support to strengthen civil society.

The EU Code of Conduct on Complementarity and the Division of Labour in Development Policy is an important starting point in this cooperation.

2.2 Coherence for development

In most policy areas, the strategy is expected to have a positive impact even if it does not produce direct synergies. In other respects, synergy effects with other Swedish commitments are expected at sub-regional, regional and global levels.

Sweden plays a prominent role internationally with regard to trade-related development cooperation and supports several trade-related initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa through such organisations as the National Board of Trade, the Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SWEDAC) and the National Food Administration. The Swedish National Audit Office has initiated cooperation with Botswana on administrative reforms. Potentially, this cooperation can have a positive effect on individual activities, particularly those in which the Botswanan authorities are involved, and on the implementation of the Swedish cooperation strategy as a whole.

2.3 Swedish partners and Sweden's comparative advantages

There are currently a limited number of Swedish partners operating in Botswana, including Eltel Networks, Volvo, Atlas Copco, Scania, Sweco, Lantmäteriet, Forum Syd and the Swedish National Audit Office. The presence of Swedish companies can provide an opportunity for spreading awareness of CSR. Sida has entered into agreements with the Swedish Trade Council and during the first year of the strategy period will work proactively to initiate cooperation with other facilitators to identify and establish focal points between Botswana and Sweden and thus contribute to collaboration within the framework of actor-driven cooperation. In general, Swedish partners are considered to be well-skilled in cooperation areas that are relevant to the strategy.

Even though support from the UN, the EU and other donors focuses on HIV/AIDS, it is considered that Sweden has a role to play in preventive efforts. Botswana has been very successful when it comes to increasing access to anti-retroviral drugs for people who are HIV-positive, but much remains to be done in the area of prevention. Sweden's support and focus on rights aspects linked to HIV/AIDS are therefore important. Sweden is viewed as a credible partner without colonial ties or an agenda of its own, and in light of this, Sweden has a solid foundation on which to continue building within selective cooperation with special focus on actor-driven cooperation. Experience shows that Sweden's support, focusing on prevention, and Sweden's approach regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) play an important role in the HIV/AIDS field in Botswana.

3. Considerations concerning objectives and direction of future cooperation

It is considered that Swedish support will produce the greatest added value for poverty reduction if it is provided in the form of partner driven cooperation in the areas of economic growth, environment and climate, democracy and human rights, and targeted development assistance contributions to the fight against HIV/AIDS. The prospects for partner driven cooperation between the countries are considered to be good and will be given higher priority during the strategy period. Emphasis will continue to be placed on shared priority areas, which may also be outside the areas mentioned above where the conditions are considered to be particularly favourable. However, considerable flexibility should be sought with the aim of involving more partners during the period. The will and capacity of the actors are particularly important factors. Swedish partners have shown clear interest in cooperation with and in Botswana, and partners have been identified in ministries, government agencies, organisations, universities, private institutions, companies and other forums. Sida's capacity and ability to efficiently inform,

facilitate and bring together partners in Sweden and in Botswana will be crucial in the implementation of the strategy.

Trade is an important prerequisite for achieving economic growth and increased diversification, which in turn is a prerequisite for reducing poverty. The government of Botswana has expressed interest in cooperation with Swedish partners in the area of trade in the form of capacity development and institution building. Support to cooperation between partners in this area will be relevant during the strategy period and should continue to be given high priority. The National Board of Trade's discussions with Botswana on development assistance-funded cooperation aimed at institutional capacity building in the area of trade are a good example. Internationally, Sweden has a prominent role in the area of trade-related development cooperation, and this is to be reflected in future cooperation with Botswana.

Efficient systems for regulating land tenure and ownership rights are one of the points of departure for social and economic development. A review of laws relating to land tenure and ownership rights is taking place in Botswana. As part of these efforts, cooperation with Lantmäteriet has been initiated. This cooperation is expected to have the potential of paving the way for increased contact and cooperation between partners in Sweden and Botswana, which should be taken into account.

The high prevalence of HIV and the AIDS epidemic may be the single greatest challenge that Botswana faces. For this reason, Swedish support in this area will continue to be given high priority during the strategy period, primarily via targeted development assistance efforts. In a longer perspective, contributions targeting HIV/AIDS should also be suitable for new forms of cooperation, such as partner driven cooperation. The focus in partner-driven cooperation that is placed on such matters as gender equality and the situation and human rights of women means that measures targeting HIV/AIDS fit in well.

Poverty, unemployment, economic gaps and social exclusion can form serious obstacles to the country's continued stability as well as to its economic and social development. There is a risk that the global economic crisis can have a far-reaching impact on both Botswana and the region. Sweden's measures will take this into account and contribute to socially and economically sustainable development, and give particular emphasis to neglected groups.

Climate change risks increasing the strain on Botswana's environment, resulting in such problems as water shortages, increased soil degradation and drought. Botswana has identified this as a priority area. Cooperation opportunities between partners in Sweden and Botswana can be found in fields such as integrated water resource management and rain water systems, sustainable management of mineral resources and development of technology for clean and efficient energy

production, in which Swedish institutions and other actors are highly skilled. Opportunities for expanding cooperation with Botswana in the fields of environment and climate should therefore be examined.

Civil society organisations in Botswana are weakly organised and have a weak role as advocates of democratic principles. It should be possible to increase cooperation initiated during the strategy period within the framework of partnerdriven cooperation to strengthen civil society organisations, the democratic culture, and respect for and promotion of human rights. In particular, cooperation should highlight gender equality and the role of women in development, issues that concern sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the importance of a broader democratic arena.



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