

Country Development Cooperation Policy for the Republic of Botswana

September, 2023

1. Purpose of Development Cooperation

Since its independence in 1966, democratic elections have been held, without any form of civil war or coup d'état, Botswana is a country that shares fundamental values such as democracy and the rule of law with Japan. Botswana's economy has achieved steady growth owing to the development of mineral resources, specifically diamonds. Botswana is classified as an upper middle-income country with its per capita GNI of US\$7,350 in 2022¹.

Because of Botswana's high reliance on the diamond industry, and the poor labor absorption rate of the industry, industrial diversification and employment creation have been acknowledged as national challenges. Since the country's rapid economic growth caused income disparity and poverty, the country still has to alleviate poverty and in turn, improve the quality of people's lives. In addition, supply chain disruptions caused by COVID-19 and the Ukrainian crisis, in early 2020, have exposed the vulnerability of the Botswana economy and society, making it difficult to tackle these challenges.

The Government of Botswana, under VISION 2036², is currently working towards moving away from being economy dependent on the diamond industry, and developing knowledge-based industries, while prioritizing the promotion of industrial diversification, human resources development, social development, sustainable use of natural resources, enhancing the efficiency of the public sector in charge of these policies and improving the capacity of the public sector to implement and manage these policies as priority areas in its successive National Development Plans³. With the Reset Agenda⁴, Botswana also seeks to move away from the negative socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 through digital transformation (DX), value chain development and awareness-raising to improve productivity.

The Government of Japan has been supporting the efforts of the Government of Botswana to solve social challenges. Through the continuous support of the Botswana Government in those priority areas, the Government of Japan will contribute to stable economic growth and the creation of employment in Botswana, and also promote investment by Japanese companies. Furthermore, Japan will enhance the friendly and cooperative bilateral relationship with Botswana.

¹ World Bank

² VISION 2036: VISION 2036 is the national transformational agenda from 2016 to 2036 that defines an ultimate goal, "Achieving Prosperity for All." It has the following four pillars: Sustainable Economic Development, Human and Social Development, Sustainable Environment and Governance, Peace and Security.

³ National Development Plan (NDP): Since independence, Botswana has adopted a development planning approach. In an extraordinary session of Parliament on 6 October 2022, it was decided to postpone the implementation of NDP 12, which follows NDP 11, to April 2025 after the general elections and to formulate and implement the Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP) from 1 April 2023.

⁴ Reset Agenda: A 2021 initiative to reset government priorities due to new and unforeseen challenges, such as COVID-19, by improving focus on priority areas and promoting evolution.

2. Basic Policy of Japanese ODA : Assistance for Industrial Diversification and Poverty Reduction

Based on “Vision 2036”, “NDP11” and “Reset Agenda”, the Government of Botswana has been striving to move away from its dependence on the mining industry, to tackle unemployment and to eradicate poverty. Japan will contribute to Botswana’s efforts through assisting the improvement of the environment for industrial diversification, the reduction of poverty and the betterment of quality of life.

3. Priority Areas

(1) Infrastructure Development and Human Resource Development for Industry Diversification

Japan will cooperate in the development of economic infrastructure, essential for industrial diversification (in sectors such as mining, transport, energy, agriculture and tourism), and in the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable development through DX and Green Transformation (GX). In addition, in order to develop human resources in the private sector directly responsible for industrial diversification, and promote private sector development policies including support for SMEs and start-ups necessary for industrial diversification, Japan will improve the efficiency of the public sector, which is responsible for these policies, and its capacity for policy implementation and management.

(2) Development Facilitation in the Area of Poverty

In order to eliminate economic disparities and inequalities in basic social services caused by rapid economic growth, geographical factors and others, Japan will support poverty reduction and quality of life through community development, improvement of healthcare systems, provision of educational opportunities and the empowerment of vulnerable groups in society.

4. Points to be considered

(1) In achieving 3. above, in addition to technical cooperation (including the dispatch of JOCVs), attention should be paid to the synergistic effects of ODA by organically utilizing various schemes and methods, and the knowledge and technology from different actors including the use of concessional finance (yen loans) that takes debt sustainability into account. To this end, all possible measures will be taken in close cooperation with government authorities and Japanese counterparts.

(2) In the formulation and implementation of development cooperation projects, the TICAD⁵ process and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)⁶ should be

⁵ Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD): Since 1993, the Government of Japan in collaboration with the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the African Union Commission (AUC), etc organized TICAD. TICAD VI, Africa's first TICAD, was held in Kenya in August 2016.

⁶ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): International targets for the period 2016-2030 set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted at the UN Summit in September 2015.

harmonized, whilst the perspective of cooperation with regional economic communities (RECs) such as SADC⁷ should be borne in mind with regard to regional cooperation such as the regional deployment of cooperation results⁸.

(3) Botswana will strive to follow up on TICAD 8, held in 2022, and provide detailed support, including cooperation with international organisations, with a view to TICAD 9 to be held in 2025.

(4) Botswana has adopted the Japanese system (ISDB-T system) as the standard for terrestrial digital broadcasting and has started its operation. Based on these achievements, the Government will continue to cooperate in the digital field.

Annex: Rolling Plan

⁷ Southern African Development Community (SADC): Founded in 1992, SADC advocates economic integration and common markets, as well as further conflict resolution and prevention. The current 16 member states are Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Mauritius, Congo (civil), Madagascar, Seychelles and Comoros Union.

⁸ The One Stop Border Post (OSBP) at the Kazungula Bridge is a mechanism or initiative to enable the efficient movement of people and goods by integrating border facilities of two neighboring countries into one, or by allowing customs clearance and immigration procedures to be carried out in one place at a facility in the country of entry.