BOTSWANA COUNTRY INFORMATION NOTE

ECONOMIC REGULATION COMMITTEE

19th to 23rd October 2026

Gaborone, Botswana

About Botswana

Botswana is a landlocked country located in Southern Africa, with a population of just over two million people. Renowned for its four decades of uninterrupted civilian leadership, progressive social policies, and substantial capital investments, Botswana stands out as one of Africa's most dynamic and stable economies.

The country boasts a well-developed communications infrastructure and a highly efficient road network that seamlessly connects it to other countries within the Southern African Development Community (SADC). In terms of internet connectivity, Botswana has been ranked as the third-best country in Africa—an impressive indicator of its growing digital capacity.

Land and natural resources are central to Botswana's livelihood and economic structure. The nation's wealth is largely derived from its world-renowned diamond mining industry, which serves as the cornerstone of national revenue. In addition to the main sector is agriculture, particularly cattle rearing, which plays a significant role in the broader economy. Botswana's beef exports, primarily destined for European markets, represent the country's second-largest source of income. Furthermore, the tourism sector – currently ranked third in revenue generational- is expanding rapidly and is poised to surpass agriculture as the government continues to diversify the economic base.

Botswana's commitment to conservation and sustainable tourism is reflected in its breathtaking natural landscapes, considered among the most stunning and ecologically diverse in Africa. Approximately 38% of the country's land area is designated as national parks, game reserves, and wildlife management areas. Notably, most of these conservation areas are unfenced, offering an extraordinary, immersive experience akin to a vast, living nature reserve.

Botswana is home to several globally significant natural wonders, including:

(i) The Okavango Delta – the world's largest intact inland delta and a UNESCO World Heritage Site;

(ii) The Central Kalahari Game Reserve – the second-largest game reserve in the world, known for its remote wilderness and sweeping desert landscapes;

(iii) The Makgadikgadi Salt Pans – one of the largest salt flats in the world, comparable in size to Portugal, offering an otherworldly and isolated environment;

(iv) The Chobe National Park – famed for its extraordinarily dense wildlife populations, particularly elephants.

Beyond its rich natural and economic endowments, Botswana is also a proud home to key regional institutions that embody and advance the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) integration agenda. As the seat of the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana plays a pivotal role in guiding the region's collective aspirations for stability, sustainable growth, and shared prosperity. This honour reflects the nation's reputation for good governance, enduring peace, and a steadfast commitment to the principles of regional solidarity.

Importantly, Botswana also hosts the headquarters of the Communications Regulators' Association of Southern Africa (CRASA). From its base in Gaborone, CRASA works with Member States to harmonise regulatory frameworks for Information and Communications Technology and Postal sectors, and drive policies that accelerate digital transformation across the region. This positioning within Botswana underscores the country's role as both a geographic and institutional anchor for the digital future of SADC.

In addition, Botswana continues to provide a safe and enabling environment for other regional and international bodies that promote policy harmonisation, cross-border collaboration, and institutional excellence. By hosting these institutions, Botswana not only strengthens the foundation of integration but also stands as a symbol of optimism for the future of Southern Africa.

Botswana remains one of the last great refuges for Nature's magnificent pageantry of life, standing as a beacon of ecological preservation, sustainable growth, and harmonious coexistence between humans and the environment.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION GABORONE, BOTSWANA

1. Introduction

The Communications Regulators' Association of Southern Africa (CRASA) will host the 2nd Meeting of the Economic Regulation Committee (ERC) in Gaborone, Botswana, from the 19th to the 23rd October 2026. The Meeting will be preceded by a Capacity Building Workshop to be facilitated by Smart Africa from 20th to 22nd October 2026.

The first ordinary in-person ERC meeting for the 2026/27 financial year is to advance the implementation of the ERC Operational Plan 2026/27 and to discuss emerging issues related to the Committee's mandate, in pursuit of advancing best practices for various thematic areas relating to the Economic Regulation of the Electronic Communications and Postal Sectors in the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Delegates are warmly welcomed to Botswana and are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the practical information contained in this note.

2. Venue and Programme of Events

The meeting will be held in Gaborone, Botswana, at Protea Hotel Gaborone Masa Square from the 19th to 23rd October 2026.

The draft agenda has been circulated together with the invitation letter. Delegates are encouraged to complete registration through the CRASA Events Management Platform prior to arrival; https://events.crasa.org/

Accommodation within the Gaborone Central Business District (CBD) is recommended to facilitate convenient access to the meeting venue.

3. Travel and Airport Transfers

Most hotels offer complimentary airport shuttle services for arriving and departing guests.

Delegates are kindly requested to submit their travel itinerary, including:

- Flight number(s)
- Arrival date and time
- Departure date and time

4. Departure

Delegates departing from Sir Seretse Khama International Airport (SSKIA) are advised to:

• Arrive at the airport at least two (2) hours before departure.
• Comply with airline baggage requirements and security procedures.
• Ensure that all travel documents are readily available for immigration clearance.

5. Customs Procedures

Standard customs procedures apply to all delegates entering or leaving Botswana.

6. VISA Requirements

All delegates entering the Republic of Botswana must present a valid national passport, valid for at least six (6) months from the date of entry. Kindly note that temporary passports and emergency travel documents are not accepted.

Botswana has introduced an online visa application system. Delegates who require a visa are encouraged to apply via the eVisa platform and retain their reference numbers for tracking and follow-up. To apply, please use: https://evisa.gov.bw/#/

Should you require a visa support letter from CRASA, please contact the Secretariat as soon as possible with your eVisa reference number.

7. Logistics and Administrative Guidelines

7.1 Yellow Fever Certificate

A Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is required for delegates travelling from or transiting through yellow fever endemic countries within the last 72 hours.

To be granted entry, delegates must present:

- A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate
- A body temperature below 38.5°C
- Willingness to report symptoms for six (6) days

Vaccination must be done at least 10 days prior to arrival in Botswana.

7.2 Time Zone

Botswana operates on Central African Time (CAT), which is UTC +2 hours

7.3 Climate and Weather

Botswana has a semi-arid climate, characterised by hot and dry conditions for most of the year, with rainfall concentrated in the summer months.

- The meeting period falls within the Winter season (June-August).
- Daytime temperatures can reach up to 36°C, though occasional cloud cover and brief rainfall may occur.

Rain is highly localised and unpredictable—a downpour in one area may not affect a nearby region. Showers in Botswana are often followed by strong sunshine, which means that a significant portion of the rainfall does not penetrate the soil but is instead lost to evaporation and transpiration.

The word *"Pula"*, one of the most heard in Botswana, is not only the name of the national currency, but also the Setswana word for rain—a reflection of its immense value and symbolic importance. Given Botswana's semi-arid climate, much of the country's social and economic activities depend on this vital, yet often scarce, natural resource.

For updated weather forecasts, please refer to: *https://www.accuweather.com/en/bw/gaborone/36781/february-weather/36781?year=2024*

7.4 Currency and Banking Services

The official currency is the Botswana Pula (BWP) (subdivided into 100 thebe = 1 PULA).

- The approximate exchange rate: USD 1 = BWP 13.33 (subject to fluctuation)
- Major debit and credit cards are widely accepted
- Banking Hours is from 09h00 to 15h00 CAT (Monday to Friday)
- Forex bureau, located in different parts of the City, are typically open from 09h00 to 16h00 daily.

7.5 Electricity

- Voltage: 220–240V AC, 50Hz
- Plug type: Type M three-pin round plugs (common in Botswana)
- Adapters are recommended, though some hotels may provide them. It is recommended that delegates bring their own adapters for convenience.



7.6 Internet Connectivity

High speed Wi-Fi will be available at the meeting venue. Most hotels and lodges offer complimentary internet access, though some may charge a fee.

For delegates seeking immediate connectivity upon arrival, major mobile phone service providers have outlets located in the airport's arrival section, beyond customs clearance, where SIM cards and other related products are available for purchase.

8. List of Accommodation Facilities

a. Grand Aria Hotel and Conference Center
Standard room: ±BWP1,300.00
Contact: +267 3104584

b. Hilton Garden Inn Gaborone
Standard room: ±BWP2,400
Contact: +267 3704200/ gbegi_res@hilton.com

c. Protea Hotel Gaborone Masa Square
Standard room: ±BWP1750
Contact: +267 3159954/ info@masasquarehotel.com

d. Cresta Lodge Gaborone
Standard room: ±BWP1,332.00
Contact: +267 3163004/ res2lodge@cresta.co.bw

9. Emergency Contacts

a. Botswana's National Emergency Services

The following emergency numbers are available throughout Botswana:

- Police: **997**
- Fire: **999**
- Paramedical and first aid services: **118**

b. For any assistance related to the meeting or general support during your stay in Botswana, please contact the following CRASA officials:

Lebogang Kabomo
Email: crasa@crasa.org/lkabomo@crasa.org
Mobile: +267 7225 4945

Benedictor Mothibi
Email: Email: bgmothibi@crasa.org
Mobile Phone +267 73106070

CRASA extends a warm welcome to you to the Republic of Botswana and wishes you an enriching stay.