

# News flash



## Botswana

### GEF/SGP assists government in environmental conservation

**Gaborone: 7 September 2005:** UNDP's Global Environmental Facility/ Small Grants Programme has been commended for assisting the government of Botswana in her environmental conservation efforts.

The commendations were made by the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife & Tourism, Ms Tutu Tsiang, when officially their workshop this week.

GEF/SGP in Botswana contributes in the conservation of rare and endangered species such as the black rhino and the production of the red data book for birds in the country.



**Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife & Tourism, Ms Tutu Tsiang, giving a key note address**

"These are some of the areas which though very important, have not been fully addressed through government intervention. We are very grateful to GEF to give a hand," said the Deputy Permanent Secretary, adding that "Projects of this nature will

increase the tourism potential of Botswana and hence its contribution to the economy."

She also commended community based organization, non-governmental organizations and research institutions that diligently implement these projects for the betterment of the country.

Used judiciously these projects can propel the country to greater heights in sustainable environmental management, she told her audience.

Ms Tsiang further implored the participants to come up with strategies that will mainstream HIV/AIDS in their programmes. "Our efforts to save the environment will be in vain if this reality of life is not addressed," she explained.

Earlier when welcoming participants to the workshop, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Ms Viola Morgan told them that the workshop comes at an opportune time for stakeholders as the Small Grants Programme has just begun Operational Phase Three in March 2005 which aims at securing global environmental benefits through environmental protection, poverty reduction and local empowerment in the GEF focal areas through community based initiatives and actions.



***UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Ms Viola Morgan welcoming participants***

She told them that The GEF Small Grants Programme is implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the three implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility – UNDP, World Bank, and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – and executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).



***Part of the audience attentively listening to the deliberations***

Ms Morgan explained that SGP's philosophy is rooted in the belief that global environmental problems can best be addressed if local people are involved and

direct community benefits and ownership are generated.

The Small Grants Programme, with its focus on supporting local communities build capacity and initiate new action for co-managing their natural resources, exemplifies the implementation of GEF's strategic priorities such as sustainable use activities both within protected areas and their buffer zones; conservation in productive landscapes and seascapes; productive uses of renewable energy; innovative demonstrations and capacity building foundational work in international waters; implementation of innovative and indigenous sustainable land management practices, and targeted capacity building and demonstration of innovative and cost-effective technologies in the Persistent Organic Pollutants focal area, she said.



***Ms Elsie Mvimi, the GEF SGP National Coordinator***

The workshop was organized by GEF/SGP in collaboration with the Kgalagadi Conservation Society (KCS).

**United Nations Development Programme – Botswana**

**Tel: (267) 3952121 ext. 242**

**E-mail: [marx.garekwe@undp.org](mailto:marx.garekwe@undp.org)**