Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Botswana

1 Ramsar Site(s) covering 5,537,400 ha

Okavango Delta System

Site number: 879 | Country: Botswana | Administrative region: Northwest District
Area: 5,537,400 ha | Coordinates: 19°16'59"S 22°54'E | Designation dates: 12-09-1996

Okavango Delta System. 09/12/96; Ngamiland; 5,537,400 ha; 19°17'S 022°54'E. Controlled Hunting Area, Game Reserve, Wildlife Management Areas. The site borders Namibia and is the only inland delta in sub-Saharan Africa. Set in a semi-arid region and subject to large fluctuations in flooded area, the site includes permanent and seasonal swamp, riverine floodplains and a seasonal freshwater lake. The floodplains form critical habitat for many species of birds and wildlife at their southern limits of distribution in the region. The diverse flora and fauna includes 1060 different plant species, 32 large mammal species, over 650 species of birds, 68 species of fish, and a highly diverse insect population, all of which include rare, endangered and endemic species. Human activities include recreation, tourism, subsistence farming, fishing, and livestock grazing. The present area figure has been recalculated downward in 2006, with no change of site boundaries. Ramsar site no. 879. Most recent RIS information: 2007.