

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on

**CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF
CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY, RISK ASSESSMENT, ADAPTATION
AND MITIGATION**

Between

THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WILDLIFE AND TOURISM

Of THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

and

THE MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, LAND AND SEA

OF THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY

The Government of the Republic of Botswana represented by **the Ministry of the Environment, Wildlife and Tourism** and the Government of the Republic of Italy represented by **the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea** (hereafter referred to jointly as the “Signatories”, and in the singular as “Signatory”);

RECALLING that the Signatories are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to the Kyoto Protocol;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Decisions 1/CP.16 and 9-15/CP.19 of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC which provides a framework for Parties undertaking actions relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Decisions 1/CP.19 and 1/CP.20 of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC which advance the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, according to which, *inter alia* all Parties are invited to identify and communicate their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions;

EMPHASIZING that enhanced action and international cooperation on adaptation is urgently required to enable and support the implementation of adaptation actions aimed at reducing vulnerability and building resilience in developing country Parties, taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of those developing countries that are particularly vulnerable;

CONSIDERING that projects on renewable energies provide potential opportunities to be designed and implemented under the UNFCCC Mechanisms, and can result in an efficient contribution to sustainable development and in the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions;

Have entered into the following understanding:

Paragraph 1

Objective

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to create a framework through which to strengthen and coordinate the efforts to combat global climate change and address its adverse effects in the Republic of Botswana.

Paragraph 2

Areas of cooperation

2.1 The Signatories will cooperate, in particular, in the following areas of common interest:

- a) collection, analysis, and dissemination of meteorological data relevant to the observation of climate change and the measurement of its impact on the potentially vulnerable sectors of the region's economies, such as: agriculture, health and tourism;
- b) support to the identification, implementation and communication of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions;
- c) identification and implementation of measures and modalities to address the drivers of deforestation and land degradation;
- d) reduction of deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks;
- e) enhancement of capacities for the implementation of Mechanisms under the UNFCCC and its related instruments;
- f) stimulation and dissemination of the economic and technological transformation towards low emission development in ensuring energy security and creating adaptation actions and opportunities;
- g) promotion and development of the use of renewable energies, in order to achieve the target established by the Republic of Botswana;
- h) development of public education and awareness campaigns on mitigation and adaptation to global climate change;
- i) resources sharing, technical co-operation and information exchange with other global climate change initiatives;
- j) capacity building for monitoring, reporting on climate issues;
- k) water treatment and sustainable water integrated management including water desalinization;
- l) waste management.

2.2 Further areas of cooperation could be included, upon approval by the Signatories.

Paragraph 3

Activities

The cooperation between the Signatories will be conducted through the following means:

1. implementation of joint projects;
2. capacity building, technology transfer and technical assistance;
3. exchange of information and materials related to environment, including programs, publications, expertise and studies' results;
4. exchange of experts, delegations visits and trainees;
5. joint organization of workshops, seminars or other meetings;
6. reciprocal participation of experts to events and projects;
7. promotion of private sector participation and activities to implement Public Private Partnership initiatives; and
8. any other form of cooperation agreed upon by the Signatories.

Paragraph 4

Work Plan, projects and activities

4.1 In order to ensure the efficient implementation of the provisions of this MoU the Signatories will establish a Joint Committee under the provisions of Article 5.

4.2 Upon signature of this MoU, the Signatories will appoint experts who will prepare a medium term work plan to be submitted for approval by the Joint Committee as stipulated in Article 5.

4.3 In the implementation of the programs, projects and activities consideration will be given to the participation of the public, private and non-profit sectors and, including where appropriate, universities, scientific and technical research bodies and non-governmental organizations and institutions of both Signatories.

4.4 Taking into account the legal frameworks of each of the Signatories and their national obligations, the implementation of programs, projects and activities will be based on principles of impartiality, equality, reciprocity and common interest.

Paragraph 5
Co-ordination

5.1 The Joint Committee will be composed by two (2) representatives from each Signatory.

5.2 The Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea will be represented by the Director General of the Directorate for “*Sustainable Development, Environmental Damage, European Union and International Affairs*” and one expert.

5.3 The Ministry of the Environment, Wildlife and Tourism of the Republic of Botswana will be represented by the permanent Secretary for the Ministry of the Environment, Wildlife and Tourism and one expert

5.4 The Joint Committee will provide general direction and advise of cooperation, approve work programs, supervise and support the cooperation activities, take financial decision for the activities and give regular progress reports on activities undertaken under this MoU.

5.5 During its first meeting, the Joint Committee will:

- a) adopt rules and procedures and establish the frequency of the meetings; and
- b) approve the medium term work plan, including projects and activities.

5.6 In the subsequent meetings the Joint Committee will:

- a) co-ordinate the implementation of the co-operation in the areas specified in Article 2; and
- b) systematically review and assess the status, progress, results achieved, and lessons learned of the co-operation activities.

5.7 The Joint Committee will meet within six months after the signature of this MoU.

Paragraph 6
Means of implementation

6.1 The Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea of the Republic of Italy will finance the implementation of the projects under this MoU in an amount not exceeding Two Million Euro (€ 2 000 000.00).

6.2 The contribution from the Ministry of the Environment, Wildlife and Tourism of the Republic of Botswana will be decided at a later stage and notified to the other Signatory during the first meeting of the Joint Committee.

6.3 The Signatories will jointly submit project proposals to various multilateral organizations, *inter alia*: the European Commission, the International Financial Institutions, the United Nations organizations, World Bank, to assist to the Republic of Botswana to fulfill its commitments under the UNFCCC and its instruments.

Paragraph 7 Contributions

7.1 Any costs regarding the subject matter including the programmes, activities, and projects under this MoU will be borne by the Signatories as advised by the Joint Committee and in conformity with their national legislation. Such costs will be met with the available budgeted resources of the Signatories and will not in any event create additional expenditures for the Government of the Republic of Botswana and the Government of the Republic of Italy.

7.2 The Signatories will agree on the financial coverage for the activities and establish a mechanism, under the provisions of the respective national laws, granting transparency of expenditures, accounting and audit.

7.3 The Signatories agree that all the financial resources allocated by the Italian Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea to the programs, projects and activities developed under the provisions of this MoU are not liable to tax, in accordance with permits of the laws of the Republic of Botswana or any other applicable law.

Paragraph 8 Applicable Law

8.1 This MoU will not supersede rights and obligations of the Signatories Parties to third parties.

8.2 This MoU will be implemented in conformity with international law principles, international conventions and protocols which the Signatories are parties to, as well as with any other obligations arising from the membership of the Republic of Italy in the European Union.

Paragraph 9

Entry into Effect, Duration and Termination

9.1 The present MoU becomes effective on the date of signing and will remain effective for five years (5 years), unless one of the Signatories notifies the other in writing, at least six (6) months in advance, of its intention to terminate it.

9.2 Termination of this MoU will have no effect on ongoing co-operation projects and initiatives by the Signatories.

Paragraph 10

Amendment

The provisions of this MoU may be amended by written agreement between the Signatories

Paragraph 11

Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute arising from interpretation and implementation of this MoU will be resolved by the Signatories amicably through consultations and will not be referred to a third party or a tribunal for adjudication.

Done in Paris on 11th Dec 2015 in two originals copies, in English language, all texts being equally authentic.

For the Ministry of the Environment, Wildlife
and Tourism of the Republic of Botswana

For the Ministry for the Environment, Land and
Sea of the Republic of Italy

Director, Department of Meteorological
Services

Director General

Thabang Leslie Botshoma

Dr. Francesco La Camera