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Botswana is widely regarded as an exceptional African success story. As UNDP observed: "For Botswana, the Millennium Development Goals are a concept that resonates so well with the country's development ideals as espoused in the National Vision 2016, a development ideal which predates the MDGs by some two years, articulates Botswana's long-term development aspirations and provides a broad framework for development. The aspirations of Vision 2016 and the MDGs are complementary and therefore none needs to be promoted at the detriment of the other" [www.unbotswana.org/bw/undp/mdg.html].

"The MDGs and the pillars of Vision 2016 require a broader relevance in the University graduates" accentuates also Prof. B. K. Otlhogile, Vice Chancellor of the University of Botswana, "we believe that our graduates need to leave UB fully knowing they are a part of the wider African and global citizenship. The Master's in Development Practice will help achieve this aim and provides an exceptional opportunity to further promote both agendas."

However, UB's MDP framework will considerably differ from the other selected programs (delivered in 25-27 months of fulltime study) by integrating a compulsory in-company research project and by its modular delivery. Considering that Botswana has a population of 1.8 million dispersed over a territory of around 600,000 km² (combined area of Germany and UK), UB's MDP will allow for professional capacity development for participants living outside the capital's catchment area, from Botswana as well as from other member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The MDP will be based on eight intensive residential modules and two practical placements with an opportunity to participate in a field-training programme to be set up in collaboration with the University of Florida at UB's Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre (HOORC). The latter utilises HOORC's comprehensive know-how and unique location, the gateway to the Okavango Delta and Moremi Game Reserve, in order to focus on the local development and conservation issues and to reflect the political, managerial, and practical dimensions in the region of Ngamiland and Maun, its administrative centre and tourism capital of Botswana.

By fully complying with the Commission's recommendations and international accreditation requirements, UB's MDP program comprises a total of 21 weeks of residential lecture requirements in Gaborone and Maun, demanding 8 visits over a time span of 2.5 years. All modules are self-contained to create convenient one-visit exchange opportunities for MDP network staff and students and early programme accreditation in Europe will provide an internationally accepted currency of recognised credits devoid of bureaucratic hurdles concerning course recognitions.

With this framework, UB also hopes to encourage many of the international volunteers in Botswana interested in further studies to participate in the MDP programme, fully or partially. To learn more about the University of Botswana's MDP program, please visit (www.ubotho.net) or write Prof. Ulli Schmitt at (schmittu@mopipi.ub.bw).

The modules are:

- Essential Research Methodologies (focus on quantitative methods and econometric techniques for policy makers),
- Fundamentals of Development Practice (focus on economic and policy analysis),
- Tropical Agriculture & Pre-Field Study (focus on tropical agriculture and commodities management),
- Health Sector Management (focus on population sciences, reproductive health, health policy/education, epidemiology, disease control),
- Ecology & Development Interventions (focus on human ecology, sustainable development, and multi-sectoral development interventions),
- Towards a Knowledge Society (focus on macroeconomic policy, knowledge management, advanced applications of policy/planning tools),
- Sustainable Development Practice (focus on international energy and environmental policy, engineering and urban and rural planning),
- Sustainable Infrastructure Development (focus on environment, water, climate science and methods of sustainable development practice).

An option in Wetland Ecology & Water Management will also be available. The gaps between the residential modules are based on the assumption that participants in employment are able to devote 12 hours per week for the required preparatory and post work.

