



## Fieldwork in Botswana

### *a two-page checklist for short-term researchers*

#### 1

### PLANNING

Develop a [collaborative relationship](#) with a Botswana-based research institution that includes planning for joint activity, preferably with a local student

If a natural science investigation, [investigate organisations that support social development](#) for possible funding of community engagement activities

Include Botswana Government and local NGO reports in [preliminary literature review](#) when selecting a research topic

Consult and make specific reference to [priorities](#) identified in the latest Botswana Government research strategy

If working on a natural science topic, learn about the [geography and people of the region](#) where the fieldwork is to be done

Include in the proposal a [data management plan](#) that indicates how data collected will be made available to support further research in Botswana

#### 2

### IN BOTSWANA

On arrival in the country, make [in-person visits to Botswana Government offices](#) at both Headquarters and the region of work, and to the contacted research institution, and ask to make a presentation about the planned research.

[Keep regional government officials informed of progress](#) and interim results throughout the fieldwork with personal visits at least at the beginning and end of the fieldwork period



Make a personal [visit to the local community leadership](#) to explain the work: offer to make a presentation, and listen to comments

Keep a reflective [field diary](#) where all interactions and the insights they provide are recorded

Submit [required reports on time, and include questions](#) to receiving officials so they will associate an action with the report content

Participate in any relevant local, regional or national [events](#) by making presentations or sharing experience

### 3

## FOLLOW-UP



When writing up the results, include [acknowledgment](#) of local interactions and support

Create plain-language, local language, and management [summaries](#) of the work and share with all Botswana contacts, including local news media. Consider sharing findings in [accessible media](#) such as short video

Ensure that [final document\(s\) are submitted](#) to both the government agency that issued the permit and to national library and archive bodies

Send [links to documents deposited in online repositories](#) to Botswana contacts

Follow up on [data management commitments](#)

Offer to [mentor other researchers](#) who are planning work in Botswana



This checklist has been taken from the Stellenbosch University PhD study, *[The Uptake of Wildlife Research in Botswana: a Study of Productive Interactions](#)*, by Monica Morrison. The study found that more research carried out in the country was used by other researchers and by Botswana's stewards of wildlife when there were meaningful interactions between researchers and the potential users of the research throughout the research 'pipeline' -- from planning to publication stages.

The 'productive interactions' suggested in this checklist help to ensure local relevance of the research, build awareness and trust, and result in the multi-directional learning needed to move science into policy and practice. Build these interactions into your research practice to see your work recognised more broadly and considered for use.

For official guidance, see research permit guidelines from the Botswana Ministry of Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism: <https://www.gov.bw/learning-and-teaching/application-research-permit>; Tel. (+267) 391 4955 /364 7900; [mentpermits@gov.bw](mailto:mentpermits@gov.bw).

And enjoy your research!

