

# Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

## CBRM Database

<b>Date:</b>	<b>May 20, 2010</b>	<b>Entry Number:</b>	<b>1064</b>
<b>Case Study Name:</b>	The effects of tourism development on rural livelihoods in the Okavanga Delta, Botswana		
<b>Authors:</b>	Mbaiwa, J.E., Stronza, A.E		
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<b>Region:</b>	Africa- south of Sahara		
<b>Country:</b>	Botswana		
<b>Ecosystem Type:</b>	Floodplain and flood forest		
<b>Social Characteristics:</b>	Remote community		
<b>Scale of Study:</b>	regional		
<b>Resource Type:</b>	mixed land use		
<b>Type of Initiative:</b>	Community-based resource management, research-drive project		
<b>Community Based Work:</b>	Resource management, co-management		
<b>Keywords:</b>	Community-based natural resource management, sustainable rural livelihoods, livelihoods, community tourism		

<b>Summary:</b>	<p>The Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) program in Botswana aims to achieve biodiversity conservation and rural development in rich biodiversity areas like the Okavango Delta. CBNRM assumes that if rural communities derive benefits from natural resources, they will be obliged to use such resources sustainably. Using the sustainable livelihoods framework, this study analyzes the effects of tourism development through CBNRM on rural livelihoods at Khwai, Sankoyo and Mababe in the Okavango Delta, Botswana, using primary and secondary data sources. Results of long-term surveys and in-depth interviews indicate that the three communities have forgone traditional livelihood activities such as hunting and gathering, livestock and crop farming to participate in tourism through CBNRM. Livelihoods in these villages have been improved as a result. Basic needs such as shelter, employment and income and social services like water supply systems, transportation, scholarships and payment of funeral expenses are now provided to community members and funded with income from CBNRM. Social capital has been built up in order to agree, manage and develop the CBNRM process. These results show that tourism development in these villages is achieving its goal of improved livelihoods, contradicting claims that community development projects are failing to achieve rural development.</p>
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