



## **BOTSWANA STATEMENT AT THE 6<sup>th</sup> GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY ASSEMBLY HELD IN DANANG, VIETNAM FROM THE 27<sup>TH</sup> TO THE 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018**

The issue of an integrated natural resources management approach, based on sustainable development principles, has always been a key component of Botswana's development agenda.

This approach is beneficial to community livelihoods, resilience building, and ecosystem integrity and to the national economic diversification efforts.

As Botswana, we hold the view that the environment we live in is fragile and as a result, must be managed with the ultimate care - thus enabling for the achievement of sustainable development goals.

In this regard, we believe that there is need for effective planning, sound policy and legislative measures, stronger regulatory institutions, private sector investments, technology development and transfer and sharing of knowledge across nations.

Notably, effective planning, which is cross-cutting and links with other national priorities and international obligations is a key aspect towards realisation of the objectives that are pursued by the Global Environment Facility.

Mr Chair, Botswana has benefitted immensely from the Global Environment Facility from the past 6 funding cycles. Botswana has utilised the funds allocated in projects that impacted on sustainable livelihoods; sustainable land management; community resilience; climate change; wetland management; land restoration; ecosystem integrity; and on strengthening the integration of environment into decision making processes.

These projects have contributed towards the attainment of Botswana's Vision 2036 and Botswana's Development Agenda. At this point Mr Chair, let me extend our great appreciation to countries that have provided funding to the Global Environment Facility, thus enhancing developing countries like Botswana to effectively participate in efforts towards a better world for all.

Let me further take this opportunity Chair, to highlight that as we go into the new funding cycle, there remains a few challenges which we hope will be addressed as we go forward. This includes among others the need to have full flexibility for countries; and for the easing of conditions for Upper Middle Income countries as regards to co-financing and other aspects.

Chair, The world today poses questions and greater challenges, which require concerted efforts for us to address. We are faced with climate change, land use conflicts, alien invasive species, desertification and land degradation, illegal wildlife trade, poaching, extinction of species, and chemical management.

For us to effectively address these issues there is need for countries to cooperate and work together in project

development and implementation, and providing technical support to each other. Importantly, researchers and the private sector should be engaged and involved. These challenges need all of us, to pull together for a common goal – a better world for us and the future generations.

Thank you.