

## AISI-Connect National ICT Profile BOTSWANA (BW)

GENERAL DATA	ICT-INFRASTRUCTURE	ICT POLICIES
Capital: Gaborone	Fixed lines (K) '98: 86	Competition in local loop: Monopoly
98 Population (M): 1.57	97-98 % Fixed Line Growth: 0.0	Competition in telephone terminals: Yes
Currency: BWP	98 Mobile Lines (K): 23	Independent regulator: Yes
Exch rate (/US\$):	Mobile Line Growth (%):	Private Wireless Data allowed: No
Currency Stability:	Cities with Internet POPs: 4	Independent Internet VSAT Allowed: No
97 GDP US\$/person: 3252.0	Local Call National Internet: No	VSAT License Fees:
97 Total GDP (\$B):	Dialup Internet subscribers: 20000	Satellite Phone access: No
Local Stock Exchange: Yes	International Bandwidth (Kbps): 6144	Universal Service Obligations:
Personal Safety: 6	Internet Hosts: 953	IAP License Fees (\$/yr):
Political Stability:	Internet domains:	Private Phone Kiosks: No
Tertiary ICT Students:	Dialup Internet Cost 20hrs/mnth (\$):	Public VOIP Allowed: No
ICT Training seats:	64K Local Internet link (\$/mnt):	Business Ownership Rules:
ISDN: No	64K Internat Internet Link (\$/mnt):	Repatriation of Profits Rules:
VPN Services: No	Local phone call cost (US\$/hr: 2.4	Restrictions on market entry:
UNDP Human Devel Index:	Monthly tel line rental (\$/mnt):	Export Credit Guarantees:
.	Telephone waiting time/Wait List:	.
.	Internet Access Providers 3	.
.	Mobile Operators:	.
.	Fixed Line Telecom Operators:	.

[Key to table values](#) All figures above in US Dollars (\$)

### ICT Profile:

#### Internet:

The PTO (BTC) provides the backbone Internet service. **Info Botswana** is the largest ISP and also the CompuServe representative. The other two main ISPs are **GIA Botswana** and **Mega**. There is a cybercafe in Gaborone - 4-Site Holding's Sakeng Internet Access Point in the Gabarone Mall.

## **Telecommunications:**

A bill passed by government in '96 makes provision for establishing an independent regulator (the **Botswana Telecommunications Authority** BTA) and ending the monopoly of the national operator - **Botswana Telecoms Corporation** (BTC). The members of the BTA are appointed by the **Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications** in model similar to the Swedish system. While the bill allows for new entrants to the market and for BTC to enter into joint ventures, the company will remain 100% state owned for the foreseeable future.

BTC operates an advanced network with almost 100% digital exchanges and an optical fibre transmission system around the whole country. The microwave network is one of the most extensive in Africa, linking 50 automatic exchanges and providing connections to South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

A GSM cellular service was recently established as a joint venture between BTC, EcoNet (Zimbabwe) and France Cable & Radio (FCR).

## **Communication Costs:**

BTC charges:

P4 425/month for 64Kbps national access with a 16Kbps International channel

P10 000/month for 64Kbps national access and 64K not guaranteed (shared with 3 others)

P15 000/month for 64Kbps national access and a guaranteed 64Kbps international link.

Info Botswana:

Dialup: Unlimited Use - P150 per month, payable quarterly or P100 per month, payable annually

Email only: P80 per month, payable quarterly or P53 per month payable annually

GIA Botswana/Abacus Computing:

Dialup: Setup - P140, Unlimited use - P80/month / P470/year

Web space hosting: - up to 2MB for private individuals free.

Local Calls Cost P0.22 for 6 minutes (US\$0.6/hour). In off peak periods - 9 minutes between 8pm-7am and weekends costs P0.22).

## **National ICT Activities:**

There is no national information infrastructure planning process, but the government, regulator and telecom operator are generally very aware of ICT issues.

## **Organisational Activities in the ICT Sector:**

**Botswana Technology Centre** The **Botswana Technology Centre** (BTC) is an an autonomous government body with wide ranging responsibility for technology transfer and development.

<http://www.info.bw/~botec>

**Botswana Telecommunications Authority** The regulatory authority for the telecommunication sector Mr C M Lekaukau <mailto:bta@info.bw,%20bta@global.bw>

**Government Computer Bureau** While there is no national information infrastructure planning process or academic/research network in Botswana currently, the **Government Computer Bureau** (GCB) has recently established an advanced TCP/IP based network using frame-relay and FDDI

links. <http://www.gov.bw/>

**Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications** The ministry under which the regulator falls. Hon DN Magang

**Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications** The ministry under which the telecom regulator, BTC falls.

[http://www.gov.bw/government/ministry\\_of\\_works\\_transport\\_and\\_communications.html](http://www.gov.bw/government/ministry_of_works_transport_and_communications.html)

**Botswana Telecommunications Corporation** The PTO (BTC) provides the backbone Internet service which is sold to private ISPs for resale to dialup customers. The BTC's international link is a 256Kbps connection to the US with a 128Kbps backup link to South Africa. The link is provided by the Sprint/France-Telecom/Deutche-Telecom alliance - Global-One, which also provided the hardware, software and training.

BTC operates an advanced network with almost 100% digital exchanges and an optical fibre transmission system around the whole country. The microwave network is one of the most extensive in Africa, linking 50 automatic exchanges and providing connections to South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

A GSM cellular service was recently established as a joint venture between BTC, EcoNet (Zimbabwe) and France Cable & Radio (FCR). <http://www.btc.bw/>

**GIA Botswana** One of the other two ISPs (other than Info Botswana.) <http://www.gia.bw/>

**Info Botswana** Info Botswana is the largest ISP and also the CompuServe representative. With about 600 users Info Botswana have established points of presence in Gaborone, Francistown and Maun, as well as a training centre/executive cybercafe in Gaborone. <http://www.info.bw/> Steve Jump <mailto:steve@info.bw>

**Mega** An ISP. <http://www.mega.bw/>

**Botswana College of Agriculture** The **Botswana College of Agriculture** (BCA), about 15kms out of town is the only other tertiary/research institution connected to the Internet. (Apart from University of Botswana.)

**National Institute of Development (University of Botswana)** The **National Institute of Development Research and Documentation** (NIDRD) at the University of Botswana, has been one of the more active networking agencies in the country. It is the UNESCO/IIP and UNECA national focal point. Mrs. S. Monagent, Principal Documentalist.

NIDRD co-ordinates the University's research programmes held a conference on "Sharing Women and Gender Issues Information in Botswana" April 20-22nd '98 <http://www.gov.bw/> Mrs. S. Monagent [rathapos@noka.ub.bw](mailto:rathapos@noka.ub.bw)

**Botswana Information Technology Society** The **Botswana Information Technology Society** (BITS) is a membership organization which has contributed to the Information Technology component of a national process to formulate Science and Technology Policy. Dr. Sunday O. Ojo [ojoso@noka.ub.bw](mailto:ojoso@noka.ub.bw)

**Institute of Development Management** The **Institute of Development Management** (IDM) conducts a number of training courses in basic computer applications and has established local area networks in its offices in Gaborone as well as in Lesotho and Swaziland.

**Botswana Gazette** One of the daily newspapers. <http://www.info.bw/~gazette> [gazette@info.bw](mailto:gazette@info.bw)

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Source:

AISI-Connect database - <http://www2.sn.apc.org/africa> Telecom/GDP stats source: ITU/World Bank. Internet hosts: Network Wizards

If located in Africa and not listed here, [add your organisation to this page](#).