

## WORLD WETLANDS DAY COMMEMORATION 2018

Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism through Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) will on the 2nd February 2018 commemorate the World Wetlands Day under the theme “Wetlands for a sustainable urban future” in Gaborone. The commemoration is to start with a Green March on the 1st February 2018 as activation for the main event from DEA (Old Lobatse road, Travinglin House) parking area to the Gaborone Dam and is expected to commence at 0600hrs. This will be followed by a panel discussion on the 2nd February 2018 at Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC), Gaborone from 0800hrs.

The theme provides a platform for encouraging society to adopt a more sustainable approach to urbanization, one which recognizes the need to protect the natural resource base that sustains urban areas. The planned Panel Discussion will provide DEA with an opportunity for bringing together various stakeholders involved in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management, including policy and decision makers in a forum to discuss in line with the year’s theme the importance of conserving and managing wetlands as a means for obtaining a sustainable urban future.

The World Wetlands Day is an annual event which is widely celebrated internationally on the 2nd February. This day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on International importance, known as the Ramsar Convention, which was signed on the 2nd of February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar. The Convention is an inter-governmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. It was first commemorated internationally in 1997. Botswana became a party to this convention on the 9th April 1977 and started commemorating this day in 2004.

