

BOTSWANAPOST PHILATELIC BUREAU BACKGROUND

The Philatelic Bureau, established in 1965, is responsible for the designing and issuing of Botswana's stamps. The concept, design and printing of stamps are always of high standards and reflect a balance of interests, with a preference for themes and events that bear relevance to Botswana's historical development and its economic and social activities.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Printer: Southern Colour Print, New Zealand

Date of Issue: 15 August 2019

Period of sale: 2 years

Sheet Format: 2x20 panes with Gutter

Colours: CMYK

Denominations: P0.50, P2.00, P3.00, P5.00, P7.00

Printing Technique: Offset

ARTIST PROFILES

Anja Denker

Anja Denker, currently working as a Wildlife photographer, has been designing Stamps for Namibia Post since 1999, she has also designed stamps for other SADC countries that were participating in the Southern African Postal Operators Association Stamp issues, of which 3 series in total were issued.

The Southern African Postal Operators Association issue "National Birds" was awarded as the Best Souvenir Sheet for Botswana in 2005 in China, and shortly afterwards she was commissioned by BotswanaPost to design their Christmas Issue "Doves & Pigeons" in 2005. The other joint Issue designed for Southern African Postal Operators Association is the 2010 FIFA World Cup Stamp Issue.

Monkgogi Samson

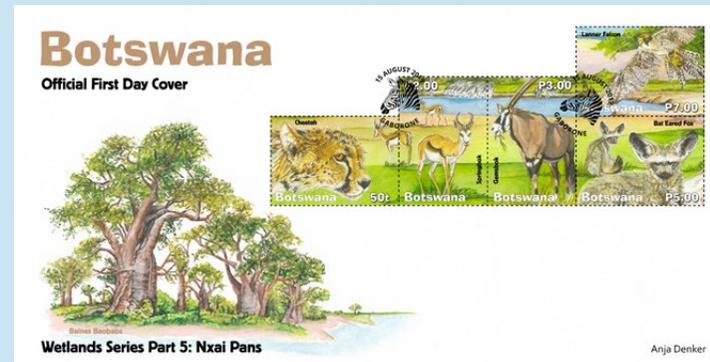
Born in Palapye, graduated with a B-Tech Degree in Graphic Design from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa. He has been working as a Visual and Brand Communications designer for over 10 years, designing for corporates, non - profits, academia, governments and the private sector. His first Stamp Issue was the Invertebrates of the Kalahari No:1 Insects of 2019.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

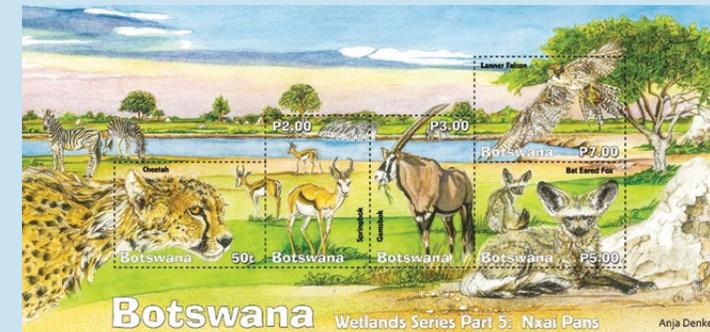
BotswanaPost would like to thank the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism.

Dr Kabelo Senyatso, BotswanaPost Stamp Advisory Committee Chair, for assistance with the write-ups for the "Wetlands Series Part 5: Nxai Pans".

First Day Cover

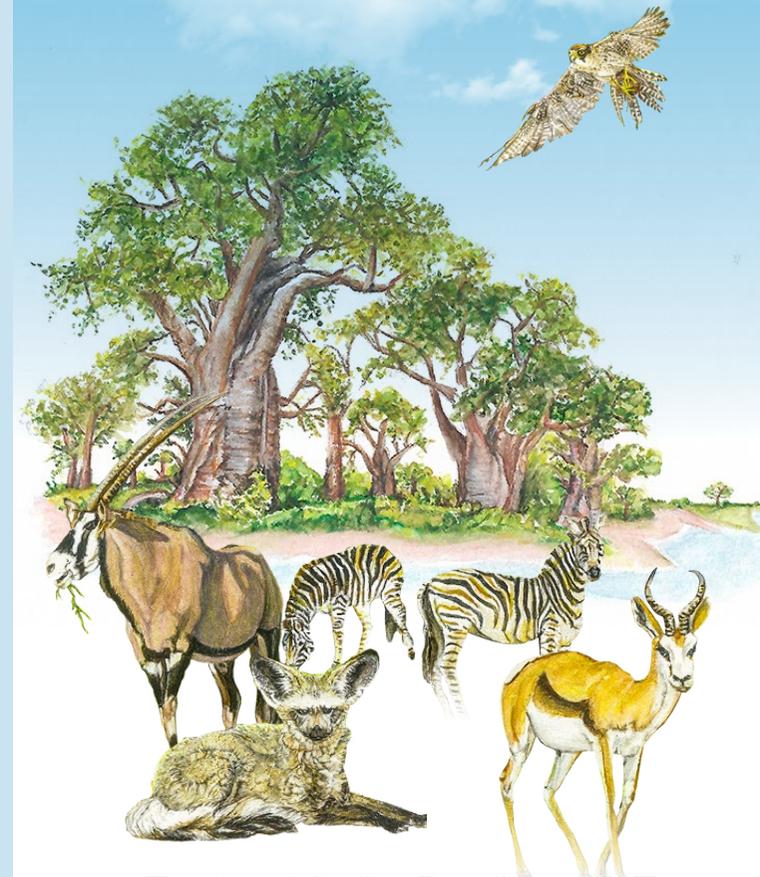


Souvenir Sheet



BOTSWANAPOST STAMP ISSUING POLICY

Botswana maintains a conservative issuing policy. A Definitive Set is released every 5 years, illustrating a theme of international interest. Commemorative sets are issued 4 or 5 times per year, illustrating themes that reveal the environment, cultural and historical heritage of Botswana.



WETLANDS SERIES PART 5: NXAI PANS



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MAKGADIKGADI / NXAI PANS NATIONAL PARK, BOTSWANA

"Nxai" Pans, which in Sesarwa (San) language means "an open area", was formerly known as "Paradise Pans". The pan itself is a fossil lake-bed about 40 square km in size, which was once part of the great prehistoric lake that covered most of north-central Botswana. Located just north of the Maun-Nata road in northern Botswana, the Nxai National Park (established in 1971) was extended and amalgamated with the Makgadikgadi Pans Game Reserve in 1993 and renamed The Makgadikgadi/Nxai Pans National Park. The entire park covers nearly 7 500 square km from Ntsetse Pan up to the Boteti River incorporating Nxai Pans, Baines' Baobabs and Kudiakam Pan.

BAINES' BAOBABS

The Nxai Pans are home to the famous "Baines' Baobabs", a cluster of seven ancient giant baobab trees which perch on the southern side of the park, at the edge of a salt pan. The trees were immortalized by and named after Thomas Baines, an artist and explorer who depicted them in drawings and paintings in 1862.



VEGETATION OF THE AREA

As the region the park is located in is semi-arid, the vegetation around the pans is largely grasslands, dotted with clusters of umbrella thorn acacia trees *Vachellia tortilis*, purple pod *Terminalia prunioides*, and Mophane trees *Colophospermum mopane*.

ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA

- Game drives in open 4x4 vehicles. The drives are typically in the mornings and late afternoon to avoid the heat conditions during the heat of the day, since animals are more active when it is cool (and thus more likely to be seen in the morning and late afternoon).
- Historical tours to Baines Baobabs.
- The Nxai Pans is in a national park and an ecologically-sensitive area, and for these reasons people cannot drive off road or at night.

OTHER FAUNA IN THE AREA

Other animals that the Nxai Pans is well known for is its huge springbok population and, once the rains have started, gemsbok (oryx), elephant, and extraordinarily large herds of giraffe (which can number up to 30 in a group). Also to be seen are eland, greater kudu and red hartebeest. At times, rhinos have also been sighted. The rains also attract a huge diversity of birds to the pans. The large herds of zebras, springbok, and wildebeest attract many predators, including lion, cheetah, black-backed jackal, bat eared fox, both the spotted and brown hyena, as well as wild dog and leopard. The park also supports large numbers of raptors that prey on the rodents and reptiles.

The Nxai pans have small privatized camping facilities and Department of Wildlife and National Parks offices only.



NXAI PANS ZEBRA MIGRATION

The rainy season (typically November to April), with its abundance of grass, attracts large herds of zebra, many of which give birth in the area. Recent research has revealed seasonal movements between Namibia, the Okavango Delta, Nxai Pans, and the Makgadikgadi Pans, representing the longest zebra migratory route in the world! What makes this migratory pattern extraordinary is the discovery that even after this migratory route was cut in the last century due to fences that were erected to separate domestic animals from wildlife, once conservation efforts and the establishment of wildlife corridors resulted in the removal of the fences, the zebra miraculously re-established these migratory routes, many decades later! It was presumed prior to the forced cessation of the migratory route that vital information directing ungulate migratory routes was passed on from one generation to the next by young zebra following their parents. However, with the re-establishment of the old migratory routes after the physical barriers were removed, it seems that adult zebra innately know how to find these routes again without learned behaviour.

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 Elisa Lajini
 Philately Manager

Philatelic Bureau
 P.O Box 100, Gaborone, botswana
 Tel: (+267) 395 2806
 Fax: (+267) 391 3599
 Toll Free: 0800 335577
 Email: philatelic@botswanapost.co.bw
 Website: www.botswanapost.co.bw

POSO HOUSE, Plot 539552
 Khama Crescent, Gaborone

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