

**ORDER FORM** (Philatelic Bureau P.O. Box 100 Gaborone, Botswana)

**Kgalagadi Biodiversity: Vertebrates**  
**Definitives 2018 | 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

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	First Day Covers, Set of 2	P150.00		
	Set(s) Stamps Mint	P96.50		
	Set(s) Stamps Cancelled	P96.50		
	Set(s) Cylinder Blocks Mint	P386.00		
	Set(s) Cylinder Blocks Cancelled	P386.00		
	Set(s) Gutter Pairs Mint	P193.00		
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	Set(s) Full Sheet of 50 Cancelled	P4,825.00		
	Presentation folder(s) with Mint set			
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	Manusals Sheetlet	P29.20		
	Birds Sheetlet	P42.70		
	Fish, Reptiles & Amphibians Sheetlet	P24.60		
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**THE K GALAGADI**

The Kalahari Desert covers a semi-arid area that spans over 900,000 km<sup>2</sup> across Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. The word "Kalahari" (or Kgalagadi, as it is called in Setswana) evolves visions of an arid environment, without much life. While it is generally held that the word "Kalahari" comes from the Setswana word "kalah" which means "dry" and by extension "Kgalagadi" which suggests a "waterless/dry/thirsty place", this ecosystem is by no means merely a sandy, species-poor desert. It is, in fact, a complex, biome-diverse, multifaceted habitat to species that vary from the smallest of desert dune-dwelling insects, to the largest of woodland-dwelling mammals.

**KALAHARI BIODIVERSITY**

Covering an area of more than 220,000 km<sup>2</sup> across one of the world's largest sand basins, Botswana's share of the Kalahari ecosystem spans the Kgalagadi, Ghanzi, Ngamiland, Chobe, Kwena, Southern and Central Districts. Within these districts are found some of Botswana's critical wildlife refuges. Most notably, within the Kgalagadi and Chari districts, in particular, are some of the country's most important protected areas - the Kalahari Transfrontier Park, and the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR), with the area in between these protected areas also important areas of conservation. Some of the towns/regions that epitomise these diverse biomes within the Kalahari ecosystem in Botswana are:

- Desert Dunes** - The Kalahari Transfrontier Park
- Woodlands** - Masefeng (near Ngwato, en route to Ukwiwi; Hukunutsi sub-district)
- Wetlands** - Lake Ngwato (near Selatshane)
- Grasslands** - Parks of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve
- Pans** - Ntasi Pans and the spectacular Makgadikgadi Pans

The biome and habitat diversity within the Kalahari Desert provides for breath-taking species biodiversity, for which Botswana has become an eco-tourism hub. The ancient fossil invertebrates and associated pans are the playground of desert-adapted wildlife including a wide range of ungulates. In addition to large herds of spectacular herbivores, the Kalahari ecosystem plays a vital role in the conservation of many of Africa's endangered predators - six of the seven large African carnivores are under active conservation by the country's government and conservation societies namely, the lion (*Panthera leo*) and cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), both of which have the world's third largest populations within Botswana's Kalahari biome; the endangered African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*); the brown hyena (*Hyena brunnea*), which is one of the two largest populations in the world; and the spotted hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*). The Kalahari is also home to hundreds of bird species, Botswana's national bird, the Kori Bustard (*Ardeotis kori*), has its global stronghold in the Kalahari ecosystem. The variety of lesser and greater mammals is staggering, while it also boasts an impressive amphibian and reptile species diversity.

This definitive series of stamps by BotswanaPost seeks to raise the profile of the biodiversity within the Kalahari ecosystem by focusing on a sample of the vertebrates (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish) within the five profiled Kalahari biome categories (sand dunes, grasslands, wetlands, woodland and open pans). The hope is to spark greater public interest to turn the tide on threats facing the region's biodiversity, and perhaps indicate an interest in non-consumptive uses of the Kalahari ecosystem, such as eco-tourism, which has great potential given the wide variety of habitats in this region.



**BATELEUR**  
 Twana Name: Pefeloa  
 Scientific Name: *Democroceus oidesomoni*  
 IUCN Status: Near Threatened  
 Description: A majestic and bulky black eagle, with a white wing patch and chestnut back, red legs and a red face. The Bateleur has a very short tail, and in flight appear almost tailless.  
 Habitat and Range: This eagle is a common resident throughout Botswana, and is more common here than in neighbouring countries.

**FISH, REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS**



**KALAHARI GROUND GECKO**  
 Twana Name: Kgalala-ditshaga / Shalwe  
 Scientific Name: *Colobus wahlbergii*  
 IUCN Status: Least Concern  
 Description: This species of gecko is small with an elongate, slender body and granular, overlapping scales on the back. The toes are small, with two undivided scammers and minute claws on the hind feet of females. The prominent eyes have vertical pupils that each close to four pinholes. The nostrils are not tubular. The tail is stout and cylindrical and almost equal in length to the body. The back is light orange to brown, and the underside is white.  
 Habitat and Range: Kalahari Ground gecko prefers fat, sandy plains with scattered vegetation.



**BLACK MAMBA**  
 Twana Name: Mokwapa  
 Scientific Name: *Dendroaspis polylepis*  
 IUCN Status: Least Concern  
 Description: The Black Mamba is a highly venomous snake endemic to parts of sub-Saharan Africa. Skin colour varies from dark brown, juveniles black generally tend to be paler than adults and darker with age. It is the longest species of venomous snake indigenous to the African continent; mature specimens normally exceed 2 meters (6.6 ft) and commonly attain 3 meters (9.8 ft).  
 In a threat display, the mamba usually opens its iridescent black mouth (hence its name), spreads its narrow neck flap and sometimes hisses. It is capable of striking at considerable range and may occasionally deliver a series of bites in rapid succession.  
 Habitat and Range: The Black Mamba has a wide and fragmented range within sub-Saharan Africa. Although most mamba species are semi-dwelling snakes, the black mamba is not generally arboreal, preferring flats in terrestrial habitats in a range of terrains. These include savannah, woodlands, rocky slopes and, in some regions, dense forest.



**THREE SPOTTED TILAPIA**  
 Twana Name: Molewaga  
 Scientific Name: *Oreochromis andersonii*  
 IUCN Status: Vulnerable (VU)  
 Description: The body of this fish is silvery-grey with upper parts of head and body darker than ventral parts. The dorsal fin light is green to brown in colour. The pectoral and pelvic fins are light grey to green and the fin grey to green at its base. The margins of the dorsal and anal fin are bright red. The soft portions of dorsal and anal fins with pale tips and dots those are also sometimes visible in the caudal fin. Three prominent black spots present on the flanks and a black patch on the posterior portion of the gill cover. The three body spots are usually visible from an early age and are more pronounced in small specimens.  
 Habitat and Range: This species occurs in the Okavango. It is found in both river and swamp habitats and is adapted to fairly fast flowing rivers. It can also tolerate fresh and brackish water, preferring slow-flowing or standing water with some weed cover such as hippo pods. Adults occupy deep open waters while juveniles remain inshore among vegetation.



**AFRICAN GIANT BULL FROG**  
 Twana Name: Lemfemelo  
 Scientific Name: *Pseudisophrynus adspersus*  
 IUCN Status: Least Concern  
 Description: African bullfrogs are olive green in color. This frog has long ridges on the skin of its back and a huge head. The males have a yellow or orange throat, while female throats are cream-colored. Females may also retain the dorsal yellow stripe seen in the juvenile. African bullfrogs are large, often weighing more than 2 kg (4.4 lbs). Males may reach 20-25 cm (8-10 in) in length. Females are typically larger than males.  
 Habitat and Range: In natural habitats, they are dry savanna, moist savanna, subtropical or tropical dry broadleaf, intermittent freshwater lakes, intermittent freshwater marshes, arable land, pastureland, canal, and ditch.



**KALAHARI TENT TORTOISE**  
 Twana Name: Khudu / Khudu-Thama  
 Scientific Name: *Pseudemmydois caffer*  
 IUCN Status: Least Concern  
 Description: This species remains relatively small, with a shell length of 12-15 cm. While it shares much of its superficial outer appearance with its relatives in the genus *Pseudemmydois*, it can be distinguished by its relatively low-domed shell which is strongly serrated along its margins at the front and back.  
 Each shell scute is coloured with a radiating pattern of black rays on a tan background. The males have a longer tail and taller, more conical scutes on the back as well as a concave belly.  
 Habitat and Range: The Kalahari tent tortoise is a species of tortoise that occurs in the Kgalagadi desert regions of southern Africa named after its Kalahari habitat. Kalahari tent tortoise prefers arid savanna and scrub desert vegetation types (e.g. Kalagadi thornveld, bushveld and arid grassland).



**PUKU**  
 Twana Name: Puku  
 Scientific Name: *Kobus vardonii*  
 IUCN Status: Near Threatened  
 Description: Puku is very similar to Lechwe, but slightly smaller with thicker necks and shorter curved horns. The hair of its golden yellow coat is long especially on the back and loins where it is usually curly. The forehead is brownish in colour than elsewhere on the body and they have white fur near the eyes and under the belly, neck, and upper lip. The ears are fringed with black and the tail is short, narrow and fringed and has a darker tip.  
 Habitat and Range: Puku occupy grasslands near permanent water within savannah woodlands and floodplains. They tend to prefer dry, narrow grassy banks of rivers and swamps rather than the wet open floodplains. Populations of Puku occur in north-west Botswana on the Chobe River floodplain.



**LESSER (SMALL) SPOTTED GENET / COMMON GENET**  
 Twana Name: Tshipa  
 Scientific Name: *Genetta genetta*  
 IUCN Status: Least Concern  
 Description: The Lesser or Small-spotted genet has a long slender body and tail, with short legs. The body is dull white and marked with dark-brown to almost black spots and bars edged with rust. These are more or less arranged in several rows. A characteristic crest of longer black-tipped hairs runs along the spine from the shoulders to the base of the tail. The long tail is ringed in black with a white tip. The ears are fairly elongated, rounded and thin, they appear almost transparent. The face is grey with large eyes, characteristic of its nocturnal lifestyle with distinct white patches underneath.  
 Habitat and Range: Widespread in most of Southern Africa. The Small-spotted genet tends to prefer all types of wooded habitats, where it is often associated with rivers, but it is a generalist and can be found in other habitats where there is suitable prey. It avoids open habitats, but may occur even in small fragments of woodland in farmland or near villages.



**BLUE WILDEBEEST**  
 Twana Name: Gqokong  
 Scientific Name: *Connochaetus taurinus*  
 IUCN Status: Least Concern  
 Description: The blue wildebeest is silvery-grey in color with a brown stripe and are uniquely marked by dark vertical stripes on the shoulders and back and down the flanks to long, heavily beaded tails. The horns are spirally twisted and thin long. Its head is massive with a broad flattened nose and face covered by black hair. The horns are unridged, have a perennating shape.  
 Habitat and Range: Blue wildebeest can be found in a wide variety of habitats, from dense bush to open woodland and floodplains, however, they appear to prefer acacia savannahs and plains with rapidly re-growing grasses and moderate soil moisture levels.



**BAT-EARED FOX**  
 Twana Name: Mofhofo  
 Scientific Name: *Otocorys megalotis*  
 IUCN Status: Least Concern  
 Description: The Bat-eared Fox has tawny fur with black ears, legs, and parts of the pointed face. It averages 55 centimetres (22 in) in length (head and body), with ears 13 centimetres (5.1 in) long. It is the only species in the genus *Otocorys*.  
 Habitat and Range: The Bat-eared Fox commonly occurs in short grasslands, as well as the more arid regions of the savanna. It prefers bare ground and areas where grass is kept short by grazing ungulates. It tends to hunt in these short grass and low shrub habitats. However, it does venture into areas with tall grasses and thick shrubs to hide when threatened. The Bat-eared Fox has a disjoint distribution range, occurring across the arid and semi-arid regions of eastern and southern Africa in two discrete populations separated by about 1,000 km.



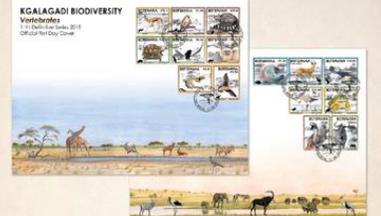
**SPRINGBOK**  
 Twana Name: Tshupe  
 Scientific Name: *Antidorcas maurusalis*  
 IUCN Status: Least Concern  
 Description: Cinnamon coloured upper body, white underparts and a broad dark brown stripe on either flank stretching from the front legs to the rear legs. The short white tail is brown tufted. The rump is marked by a triangular-shaped white patch, flanked by a dark brown stripe with the apex on the top of the hindquarters. Their head is white and they have a dark brown stripe that runs from each eye down to their upper lip.  
 Habitat and Range: Springboks are found in the grasslands and semi-arid regions of southern Africa. Springbok also migrate in response to environmental changes. Today most Springbok are confined to game reserves and privately owned land but in remote areas of Angola and Botswana groups of 1,500 individuals can still be seen.

**BIRDS**



**KNOB-BILLED DUCK**  
 Twana Name: Sebudi  
 Scientific Name: *Sarkidiornis melanotos*  
 IUCN Status: Least Concern  
 Description: This bird is also more commonly called the African comb duck. This is a large, heavy and highly distinctive white and grey-black waterfowl with a black speckled white head and neck. Males possess a large fleshy knob which protrudes above the bill (which is the source of its common English name); females lack the knob.  
 Habitat and Range: The species is an intra-African migrant undertaking poorly-understood seasonal movements in relation to water availability. Large flocks also gather in the dry (non-breeding) season on suitable waters across many of Botswana's wetlands, but these break up and disperse to breeding grounds (including the Okavango Delta and the Chobe wetland systems) at the onset of the rains.

**FIRST DAY COVERS**



**SHEETLETS**



**BOTSWANAPOST STAMP ISSUING POLICY**  
 Commemorative stamps are issued 4-5 times per year, normally with 4-6 stamps in a set, and occasionally with an associated miniature sheet. An official First Day cover accompanies each issue.  
 Definitive stamps are issued once every 5 years, definitive issues also being accompanied by First Day Cover. Certain special events may be recognized by a commemorative hand stamp at the discretion of the Stamp Advisory Committee.

**KGALAGADI BIODIVERSITY: VERTEBRATES**



**11th Definitive Series 2018**

BotswanaPost  
 BotswanaPost

**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**

Date of issue	30-08-2018
Period of sale	5 years
Printer	John Erschede
Sheet format	2 x 25 panes with Gutter
Denominations	10c, 20c, 30c, 40c, 50c, P1, P2, P3, P9, P10, P20, P30, STD, STDA, STDB and Postcard rate
Paper	110 gsm stamps and S/Sheet paper: 120 gsm Wood free
Stamp size	28x33.35 mm.
Colours	CMYK
Printing Technique	Offset

**ARTIST PROFILES**

Philip Hubsch is one of Botswana's foremost wildlife artists, working from his own personal collection of photographs. He is the artist of a number of BotswanaPost stamps including the 1987 Annual of Botswana Definitives, the 2007 *Burtonia* of Botswana, the Elephants in Botswana in 2008 and Save Valures in 2015. The 11th Definitive Set: Kgalagadi Biodiversity: Vertebrates, will celebrate Philip's 31<sup>st</sup> Definitive issue 20 years after his first issue for BotswanaPost! For this BotswanaPost issue to congratulate and thank Mr. Hubsch for his excellent long service and partnership with our Philatelic Bureau.  
 Ifran Kabali is a graphic designer with 12 years experience in the field of communication design. He has worked on a number of BotswanaPost stamp projects starting in 2014 and this marks his first collaboration on a Definitive Set. Mr. Kabali and Mr. Hubsch have also collaborated together on the Save Valures stamps in 2015.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** BotswanaPost would like to thank the following:

- Philip Hubsch for the paintings and sketches of the Stamps and First Day Covers. Many of the reference images that the stamps were based on were from his own personal photograph collection.
- Ifran Kabali of Citizen Design for graphic design work on the Stamps, First Day Covers, Sheetlets, Canceller, Booklets and Posters.
- Daryl Buffon, Ian White, Ian Haggerty, Steve Spaak, and Adam Clark for providing photographic images for stamp references.
- Dr. Kabali Seyorato for extensive research consultation on the Kgalagadi Biodiversity: Vertebrates issue as well as written contributions to the brochure.
- BirdLife Botswana for research information and assistance with the write-ups for the "Birds" stamps of the Kgalagadi Biodiversity: Vertebrates issue brochure.
- Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism for assistance with the write-ups for the "Mammals", "Amphibians, Fish & Reptiles" stamps of the Kgalagadi Biodiversity: Vertebrates issue brochure.