



Oral Statement  
Minority Rights Group International  
HRC 23<sup>rd</sup> session  
Adoption of UPR report Botswana 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle  
June 2012

Thank you Mr President,

Minority Rights Group International is grateful for the opportunity to address the Council as it proceeds to adopt the Report of the Working Group on the UPR of Botswana.

MRG welcomes the commitment of Botswana to focus on the situation of the San people and their rights (recommendation 115.98 by Norway). In keeping with this commitment, MRG would seek reassurance from Botswana, that recent media reports about the evictions of San from Ranyane in order to make way for a wildlife corridor<sup>1</sup>, are incorrect. MRG would also seek assurance that this community's right to their traditional lands, as provided for in the UN Declaration of Indigenous Peoples Rights, which Botswana voted in favour of, will be fully respected.

MRG also welcomes Botswana's commitment to take appropriate measures to protect and promote the rights of disadvantaged groups (as recommended by Finland). MRG would like to ask Botswana to provide specific examples of measures to implement this recommendation. MRG would hope that Botswana would agree that fulfilment of this commitment would be considerably assisted, if full recognition was given to Botswana's many different tribes, something which is provided for under the Bogosi Act 2008. However, MRG understands that five years after its adoption, this Act remains unimplemented.

Furthermore, MRG seeks clarification as to how Botswana considers it can adequately implement the recommendation on disadvantaged groups, which includes tribal and ethnic minorities, when at the same time, Botswana rejected recommendations on indigenous peoples' participation (recommendation 117.36 by Finland) and on abolishing laws that provide for discrimination based on ethnicity, language and culture (recommendation 117.2 by Germany).

Lastly, MRG would like to call on the Botswana government to consider the situation of peoples from non-Tswana heritage, particularly in relation to their right to mother-tongue schooling and right to safe water.

Thank you, Mr President.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.survivalinternational.org/news/9253>