

PRESS RELEASE

United States Supports Symposium on Environment and Security

The United States Embassy is pleased to announce that the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) is sponsoring a symposium on environment and security at the Gaborone International Conference Center on September 21. Ambassador Michelle Gavin will make opening remarks.

The symposium will include briefings on climate change and security, regional collaboration in environment and security, and the role of the military in environment and security. It is part of the ACSS Topical Outreach Program Series that is designed to deepen relationships with African partners by offering focused outreach and topical academic programs on U.S. policy and contemporary African security issues.

The Africa Center for Strategic Studies is the U.S. Department of Defense agency charged with working with African security sector leaders to promote collaboration on issues of mutual concern. Since the center was established in 1999, ACSS has conducted over 85 African security- and stability-focused programs and over 1,000 outreach activities reaching over 12,400 African, European and U.S. participants. ACSS programs build cross-border relationships that encourage security sector development by allowing African participants to examine complex security challenges, create their own solutions, and explore feasible strategies for implementing these solutions.

The United States has a long-standing and successful defense partnership with Botswana, demonstrated primarily in close cooperation between the U.S. Department of Defense and the Botswana Defense Force. In 2011, the U.S. provided US\$200,000 in grants for the upkeep of the BDF's C-130 fleet, which flew in August in support of Somalia famine victims. The U.S. also provided US\$700,000 in grants to send nearly sixty officers from the BDF to US military schools for training designed to improve professionalism and reinforce existing commitment to civilian authority and operating under the rule of law. The U.S. continues to assist the BDF in its fight against HIV/AIDS through programs tailored to the military and its unique environment, last year contributing approximately \$1.8 million to this effort.

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