

# ORDER FORM

## HIPPOPOTAMUS

IN BOTSWANA

Commemorative Issue: **23 November 2023**

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www.botswanapost.post



# HIPPOPOTAMUS

## IN BOTSWANA



### ARTIST PROFILE - Itumeleng Motswetla

Itumeleng Motswetla is a full time Visual Artist based in Gaborone, Botswana. Now in her twenties, she is versatile, skillful and pursuing her passion for the arts full time. Itumeleng's main media focus has been oil and acrylic paint. With these she creates either realistic artworks, abstracts or a combination of both with mixed media and recycled material. She paints commissioned portraits and art created out of free expression for both individuals and corporate clients.

The **Hippopotamus in Botswana** stamp issue is her 2nd work commissioned by BotswanaPost of which her 1st was the Mandela in Botswana stamp issue of 2021.

+267 7772 1775  
@Art by Itumeleng M

### DESIGNER PROFILE - Petrus Des Kuhlmann

In his inaugural venture into stamp design, Petrus Kuhlmann portrayed a seamless blend of historic and contemporary ability in the creation of **Hippopotamus in Botswana**.

His design approach is characterised by a minimal aesthetic appeal that served to pronounce the artists originality and meticulous craftsmanship. This commitment to detail and perspective was crafted for the benefit of the fusion of both disciplines and is visible in this philatelic triumph.

goahead@brandneue.co.bw  
@brandneueafrica



Commemorative  
Stamp Issue

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# HIPPOPOTAMUS

## IN BOTSWANA

Botswana is home to one of the largest hippo populations in Africa.

**Common names:** Common hippopotamus and Hippopotamus amphibius

**Scientific name:** *Hippopotamus amphibius*

**Setswana name:** *Kubu*

Hippopotamus in Botswana are semi - aquatic mammals found along rivers, floodplains and swamps. A large number of hippos are found on the Chobe River and in the floodplains of the Okavango Delta. Botswana is home to one of the largest hippo populations in Africa.

Hippos are the third largest mammals on Earth, with a large barrel - shaped body, short legs, a short tail and an enormous head. They have greyish to muddy - brown skin, which fades to a pale pink colour underneath. Despite their enormous size, hippos are great swimmers and can hold their breath for up to five minutes underwater. Hippos, when completely submerged, can fold their ears and nostrils fold shut to keep water out.

To stay cool under the blistering African heat, hippos spend most of their days in rivers and lakes and this helps them to regulate their body temperature. Their eyes, nose and ears are located on the top of their head, which means they can see and breathe whilst submerged in the water. What's more, these super - cool creatures sweat an oily red liquid, which helps protect their skin from drying out and acts as a sunblock.



Mostly a grazing lifestyle, hippos are herbivores and largely depend on vegetation near permanent rivers and streams. One adult hippo can eat, on average, 35 kilograms of grass each night.

The gestation period of a hippo is 243 days (eight months), they give birth and breastfeed their young ones underwater. Females can give birth every two years, usually to a single calf. Soon after the birth, the mother and her baby join up with other cows and calves for protection against predators, such as crocodiles, lions and hyenas. A hippo's lifespan is around 40 years and may reach up to 50 years.

Hippos usually live in groups or (herds) of around 10 - 20 individuals, led by one large dominant male. The other members are females, their young and a few young non-breeding males.

Dominant males are very protective over their group, to warn off rival males, they open their huge mouths and display their long, curved canines. They also make loud grunts and aggressive splashes in the water.

The hippopotamus is a very aggressive wild creature especially in their well defended water territories.

According to the IUCN Red List, the hippopotamus is classified as "threatened" due to human activity impacting their environment.



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BotswanaPost would like to thank the following:

**Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism** for assistance with the write-up for the **Hippopotamus in Botswana** stamp issue.

**Mokolodi Nature Reserve** for assistance with research for the **Hippopotamus in Botswana** stamp issue.

+267 3161955/6, +267 71321021

**email:** [bookings@mokolodi.co.bw](mailto:bookings@mokolodi.co.bw); [functions@mokolodi.co.bw](mailto:functions@mokolodi.co.bw)

**website:** [www.mokolodi.com](http://www.mokolodi.com)

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Lean Marnewick, General Manager and Elmarie Marnewick, Marketing and Administration Manager, **Mokolodi Nature Reserve** for photographic images and extensive research for the stamp issue.

Stephen Stockhall ([www.eartharktravel.com](http://www.eartharktravel.com)) and Gobusamang Mokopi for photographic images for Hippopotamus promotional materials.

**Desert & Delta Safaris** for photographic images for artist stamp reference.

+267 686 1559 | **email:** [marketing@desertdelta.com](mailto:marketing@desertdelta.com)

**website:** [www.desertdelta.com](http://www.desertdelta.com)

Oteng Solomon (Solly Rob) for photographic images for artist stamp reference and for BotswanaPost postcards.

**Contacts:** +267 71335472

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

<b>Printer:</b>	Brebner Print, New Zealand
<b>Artist:</b>	Itumeleng Motswetla
<b>Graphic Designer:</b>	Petrus Des Kuhlmann
<b>Process:</b>	Four Colour Process
<b>Stamp Size:</b>	40mm x 30mm
<b>FDC:</b>	210mm x 100mm
<b>Souvenir Sheet:</b>	180mm x 100mm
<b>Denominations:</b>	P8.00, P10.00, P20.00
<b>Date of Issue:</b>	23 November 2023

### BOTSWANA POST STAMP ISSUING POLICY

BotswanaPost 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, culture and historical heritage of Botswana.

