

Farmers and animals struggle in drought-hit Botswana

August 30 2019



Southern Africa has been hard hit by intensifying extreme weather conditions such as drought and flood

A calf struggles neck-high in the stew-like mud, kicking frantically to make its way across the mire.

Around 38,000 livestock depend on the waters of Lake Ngami in northern Botswana, but the animals—like the lake itself—have been stricken by a crippling [drought](#).

Grazers have to walk long distances in hopes of finding anything to eat. Some succumb to the heat and vultures can be seen feasting on their corpses in the sludge of the [lake](#) bed.

In May, President Mokgweetsi Masisi officially declared Botswana to be in drought after months of unevenly distributed rains, [heat waves](#) and dry spells.

Rural households have been especially hit, and are looking to the government for help.

Southern Africa has been hard hit by intensifying [extreme weather conditions](#) such as drought and floods, leaving millions in need of food aid.

Zambia is in the throes of a drought which has affected the 2018/19 farming season. Around 2.5 million people are facing [food shortages](#), according to official figures.

In Zimbabwe, nearly a third of the 16 million population are in need of aid and at least half of these face acute hunger, according to the World Food Programme (WFP).



Some grazers succumb to the heat and become fodder for vultures in the sludge of the lake bed



Lake Ngami is home to around 100 hippos, half of whom have cannily migrated to parts where life is easier



In May, President Mokgweetsi Masisi officially declared Botswana to be in drought after months of unevenly distributed rains, heat waves and dry spells

Lake Ngami is also home to around 100 hippos, half of whom have cannily migrated to parts where life is easier.

"Only the livestock is trapped in the muddy waters," the acting director of wildlife and national parks, Moeti Batshabang, told AFP.

© 2019 AFP

Citation: Farmers and animals struggle in drought-hit Botswana (2019, August 30) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-08-farmers-animals-struggle-drought-hit-botswana.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.