

A Traveller's Guide to the Okavango Delta Flood

The Okavango Delta is one of Africa's most magical places, and water is the heart of that magic. The annual flood shapes everything: the scenery, the wildlife, and the activities you can enjoy. Understanding how it works helps you choose the right camps, the right month, and the right experience.

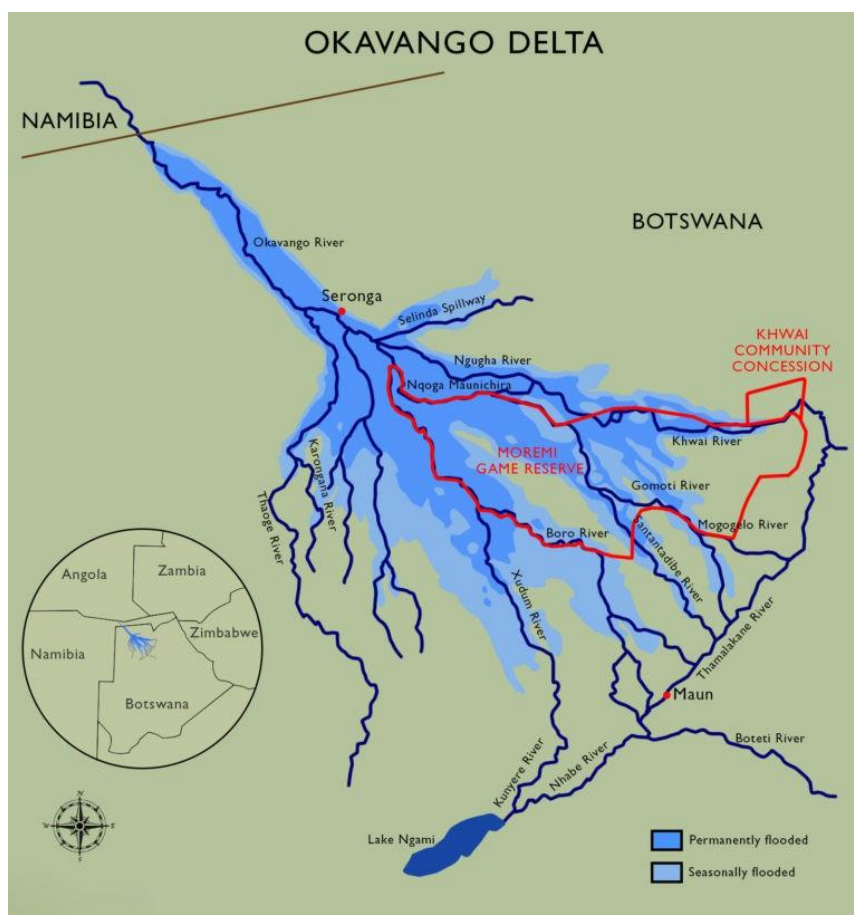
Where the Water Comes From

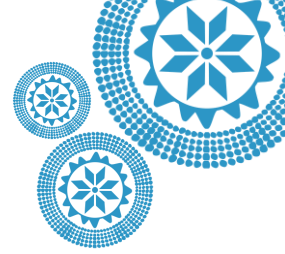
Surprisingly, the Delta's floodwaters don't come from Botswana. They begin as summer rain in the Angolan highlands, hundreds of kilometres away. That water flows south, entering Botswana at Mohebo, with levels usually peaking around April to May. A few months later, around August, the water reaches the southern parts of the Delta near Maun.

How the Flood Moves

As the water spreads out:

It moves down the Panhandle and fans out across the Delta. Different river channels fill each year, changing the shape of the landscape. Rainfall, dry riverbeds, and natural shifts in sand and peat influence how fast and how far the water travels.





Why the Flood Matters to You

The flood transforms the Delta dramatically.

When the Flood is High:

- Dry plains become sparkling lagoons and waterways
- Wildlife spreads out widely across newly watered areas
- Water activities like mokoro trips and boat safaris open
- Birdlife flourishes

When the Flood is Low:

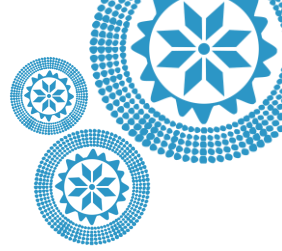
- Animals gather around limited water, creating great wildlife sightings
- The scenery becomes more Kalahari-like
- Water activities may be limited in some areas

Where to Experience the Flood

There are two main types of camps:

1. **Land-Based Camps** – great for game drives, wildlife, and seasonal water activities
2. **Water-Based Camps** – ideal for mokoro and boating experiences





In a Nutshell

The Delta changes annually; its unpredictability is part of its charm. For water activities, choose a water-based camp and travel between May and July. For better wildlife sightings, the later months from August to October are excellent.

