Botswana

Priority Areas

Country Profile

2023

Blockchain and Digital Transformation in Africa.

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Fintech

Digital Payments	**Orange Money:** Orange Botswana, a major telecoms company, offers mobile money. It lets mobile users make bill payments, person-to-person transfers, and merchant payments. Orange Money has a nationwide network of agents to deposit and withdraw cash from mobile wallets.
	Kazang: Botswana-based fintech Kazang provides electronic vending solutions. They offer prepaid airtime, power, bill payments, and money transfers. Kazang agents and kiosks accept cash payments and issue electronic vouchers and credits.
	DumaPay: Botswana's smartphone-based digital payment system. The app enables QR code scanning, mobile numbers, and NFC (Near Field Communication) technologies for a variety of transactions.
Financial Inclusion	**Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH): The** government encourages local innovation, particularly fintech businesses, through BIH. It promotes financial technology innovation in Botswana via resources, coaching, and money.
	Botswana Innovation Fund (BIF): BIH funds innovative Botswanan projects and enterprises. This fund supports fintech solutions for underprivileged groups to promote financial inclusion.
	Botswana Fintech Association (BFA): The non-profit BFA brings together fintech stakeholders, including entrepreneurs, financial institutions, and government organizations. BFA promotes innovation, collaboration, and knowledge sharing among its members to increase financial inclusion in Botswana.
	Stanbic Bank Botswana Mobile Wallet: One of the country's largest banks offers a mobile wallet solution that allows people use their phones to access financial services. This digital wallet helps Botswana achieve financial inclusion with money transfers, bill payments, and airtime top-ups.
Mobile Banking	**Orange Money:** Orange Botswana, a key telecom operator, offers mobile banking with Orange Money. Orange Money accounts allow mobile banking services like money transfers, bill payments, airtime top-ups, and savings accounts.
	First National Bank (FNB) eWallet: FNB Botswana's eWallet facilitates mobile banking. eWallet enables users send and receive money, buy airtime, pay bills, and withdraw cash from FNB ATMs or selected retail outlets.
	Botswana's Standard Chartered Bank: It offers mobile banking services. Standard Chartered Mobile Banking lets users securely manage their accounts, make payments, transfer funds, and access a variety of banking services from their

	phones.
	Barclays Bank Mobile Banking: Customers can access their accounts, transfer funds, pay bills, and execute other financial operations using their mobile phones with Barclays Bank Botswana's mobile banking service.
Blockchain Technology	**Blockchain Summit in November 2016:** The Satoshi Centre, GDG Gaborone, and partners held the first Botswana Bitcoin & Blockchain Summit in November 2016. The event educated Botswanans and Africans about Bitcoin and blockchain technology's possibilities. US, South African, Kenyan, and Ghanaian speakers addressed 150 summit attendees[1]. Businesses, students, farmers, and unbanked people were targeted by the organizers. They believed Bitcoin and blockchain would spur change. Again, a developer training course with the Blockchain Academy in South Africa focused on building Bitcoin protocol apps. HardBTC and Playbetr were the sponsors. Thus, the event educated developers and promoted Bitcoin and blockchain awareness.
	SatoshiCentre: This Gaborone-based fintech and blockchain hub supports African innovation through mentorship, training, and co-working spaces. They help fintech and blockchain firms get investors and finance. The hub hosts online live pitch competitions for entrepreneurs to pitch investors. SatoshiCentre Lab also incubates selected businesses. The hub promotes fintech-blockchain collaboration and creates public-use business models. Thus, the center supports African fintech and blockchain firms by providing a stable, stakeholder-friendly environment.
RegTech (Regulatory Technology)	**Uqudo:** provides real-time KYC (Know Your Customer) and AML (Anti-Money Laundering) solution for Botswana enterprises. Their digital identity verification procedure includes scanning and extracting data from identity documents, facial recognition, government database validation, AML, and sanctions screening, passwordless login, and biometric authentication. Onboarding platforms can incorporate the solution to swiftly verify customer identities and comply with regulations. uqudo checks Botswana ID cards, passports, and driving licenses. Their full-stack identification solution includes document scanning, face verification, document verification, increased due diligence, AML and sanctions screening, and biometric authentication. Their Web SDK, Mobile SDK, and RESTful API provide easy integration with current systems.
	4actionTM: It is backed by RSM Botswana, is a configurable and powerful action tracking program. It lets employees amend management-assigned actions and tasks in real time. Mobile-friendly software supports iOS and Android. The solution offers managers with a complete audit trail of assigned actions and responsibilities. An easy-to-use interface lets users record

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[1] FRISCO D'ANCONIA, "Botswana Bitcoin & Blockchain Summit Will Train Developers to Build Apps," Cointelegraph, September 27, 2016, https://cointelegraph.com/news/botswana-bitcoin-blockchain-summit-will-train-developers-to-build-apps.

updates and track progress. Its dashboards help discover problems. Users can dig down to individual actions using these dashboards. Thus, they view essential information on customisable dashboards. 4actionTM also divides actions into stages and assigns users. Actions can have subtasks for tracking and time management. As a result, the technology improves action visibility, accountability, and reporting efficiency to achieve optimal risk Management and compliance outcomes.

DeFi

Regulatory Development and Compliance	Botswana's lack of regulation and government distrust of cryptocurrencies and blockchain affects DeFi significantly. Decentralized money struggles without clear guidelines. Traditional financial institutions are likely to avoid DeFi platforms due to the government's caution. Cryptocurrency businesses must be licensed under new legislation that regulates digital asset transactions. This protects investors but complicates DeFi compliance. However, blockchain startups and regulatory initiatives may cause the government to reconsider. Thus, DeFi's benefits and responsible stakeholder actions will persuade policymakers to improve regulatory conditions
Financial Inclusion and Digital Services	**The Botswana Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF):** It promotes banking and finance excellence in Botswana. It promotes financial inclusion and industry digitization. **Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA**): BOCRA regulates communications in Botswana. It manages telecommunications, IT, and digital financial services. BOCRA facilitates financial inclusion and digital service growth. **BotswanaPost**: Botswana's postal service now offers savings accounts, money transfers, and mobile payments. This aids remote underprivileged populations. **Botswana Insurance Holdings Limited (BIHL**): Botswana's major financial services group offers insurance and investment products. Its subsidiary, Botswana Life, offers mobile apps and digital platforms for insurance services.
Decentralized Lending and Credit Access	**Letshego**: Botswana's top pan-African financial services business offers digital loans. Letshego's internet platform provides personal and business loans to customers rapidly. **Steward Bank:** Econet Wireless' Botswana affiliate Steward Bank also offers digital banking. Customers can quickly apply for short-term and salary-based loans through its mobile banking app. **Orange Money Loan:** Orange Botswana's mobile money service offers mobile-based loans. Customers can use their mobile phones to get small loans with Orange Money.
Cross-Border Remittance and	**BitPesa:** A blockchain-based payment platform for African commerce and cross-border remittances. BitPesa uses blockchain technology to send and receive money internationally, saving time and money.

Payment Solutions	**Thunes:** A cross-border payments platform that intends to develop a new payment infrastructure. They have developed a global network of direct connections to local payment companies, allowing businesses and consumers to send and receive payments worldwide regardless of payment method. Thunes improves cross-border payments by connecting old and new payment systems. They aim to connect everyone to the global economy. Thunes serves platforms and marketplaces, banks, money transfer operators, eCommerce, creative economy, mobile wallet operators, and payment service providers. They offer rapid, transparent, and cost-effective payment options for buyers and sellers worldwide.
Decentralized insurance and risk management products	**Botswana Insurance Holdings Limited:** The Group Risk Forum, Group IT Governance Committee, and Group Executive Committee approved the Group I&IT Risk Management Policy. It requires businesses to hire an information and IT risk manager and establishes an IT risk management framework.[2] The policy covers incident reporting, evaluation, and management. It also emphasizes maintaining and growing IT resources and platforms in line with changes in the Group's business environment and ensuring effective backup and disaster recovery methods. The policy ensures IT system stability and availability for the Group's activities.

[2] Botswana Insurance Holdings Limited: , "Annual Report 08," 2008,
https://www.bihl.co.bw/sites/default/files/documents/bihl_annual_report08.pdf.

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