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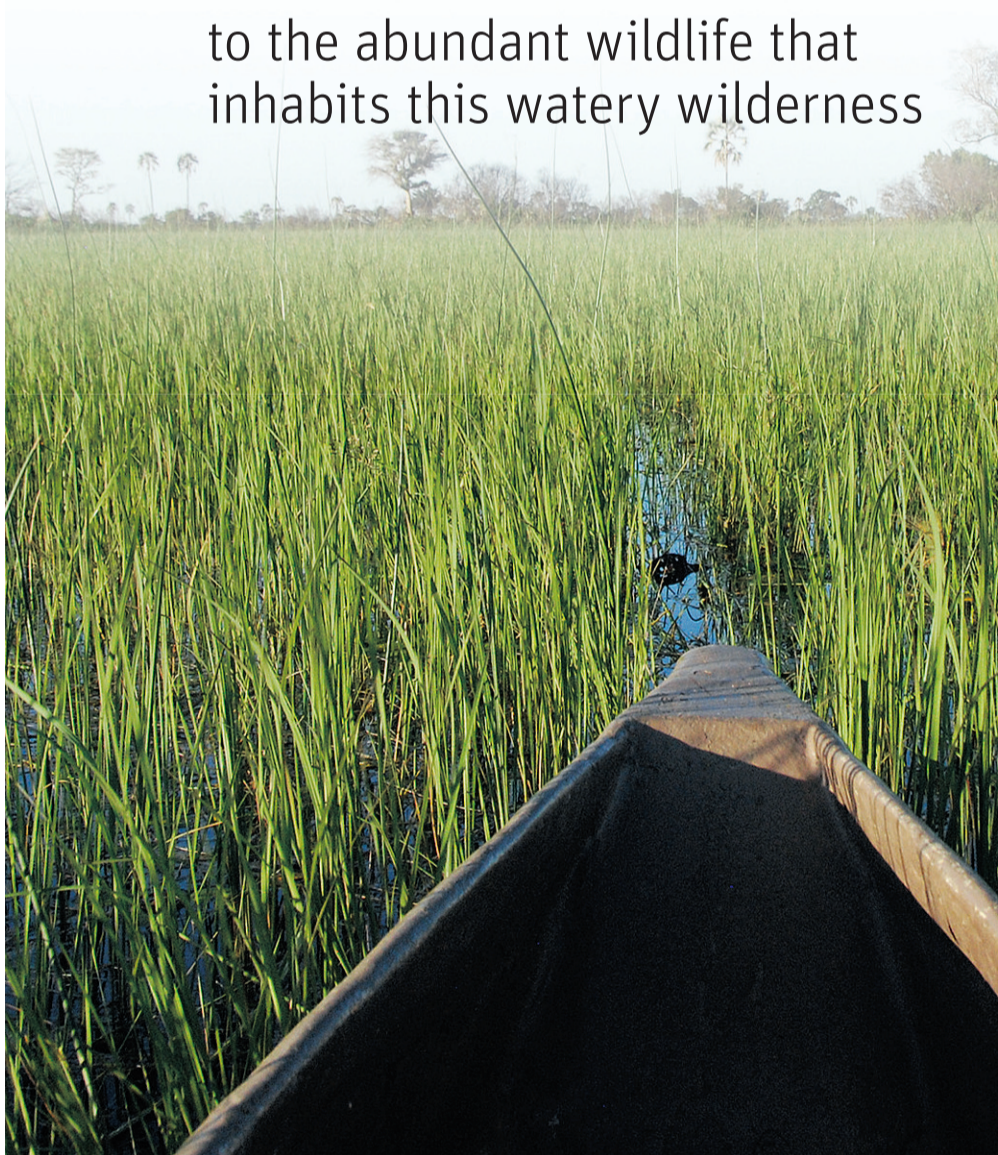
AFRICA



BOTSWANA'S

AMAZING OKAVANGO DELTA

Guides take visitors close to the abundant wildlife that inhabits this watery wilderness




SUZANNE MORPHET
SPECIAL TO THE SUN

Three lions are eyeing their next meal, if only they could catch it. A dozen red lechwe — a type of antelope — are standing about 100 metres away. In between the lions and the lechwe lies a shallow channel, choked with reeds, purple and white water lilies, and probably a crocodile or two. “Lions need an element of surprise,” says our guide, Emang. “They’re probably wondering how they can get closer without the lechwe seeing them.”

We had intended to spend the morning exploring this sliver of Botswana’s Okavango Delta by mokoro, the traditional dugout canoe. But when we arrive at the small dock where the mokoros wait, we discover the lions — a mother and her two sub-adult offspring. They sit in the shade of some trees, intently watching the lechwe. “Ladies first,” Emang jokes. But there’s no way we can leave the safety of the vehicle for the mokoros. Besides, when nature hands you a spectacle this good, you take it. We settle in to watch something that could be straight out of a National Geographic documentary.

CONTINUED ON H2

PHOTOS: SUZANNE MORPHET



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