



Elephant Deaths in Botswana

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Why in News

In the past two months, hundreds of elephants have died mysteriously in **Botswana's Okavango Delta**.

Key Points

- The **cause of the deaths is yet to be established**. However, poaching has been ruled out since the dead elephants were found with tusks.
 - Several live elephants appeared to have been weak, lethargic and skeletal, with some showing signs of disorientation, difficulty in walking or limping.
- **Okavango Delta**: It is one of the **very few major interior delta systems that do not flow into a sea or ocean**.
 - This delta comprises permanent **marshlands** and **seasonally flooded plains**.
 - The delta covers part of **Kalahari Desert** and owes its existence to the **Okavango (Kavango) River**.
 - It is home to some of the world's most endangered species of large mammal, such as the cheetah, white rhinoceros, black rhinoceros, African wild dog and lion.
- **Botswana**: It is a landlocked country in Southern Africa. Its 70% territory is covered by **Kalahari Desert**.
 - **Botswana has the world's largest elephant population**, estimated to be around 130,000.
 - It is Africa's oldest continuous democracy.



Source: TH