

Investigations in Biology and Chemistry II

Name: _____

Date: _____

Environmental Dynamics II Final Assessment Independent Research

Over the course of this strand, we have been looking very closely at two locations on the globe; St. Petersburg, Russia and Kodiak Island, AK. These two locales share a similar latitude and world ecosystem, yet through our studies we have seen that in some ways they are more than a world apart. In order to best study these locations, you needed to do independent data mining to supplement the information provided to you in class. This is also the case on your final assessment for the Strand.

The final assessment for this strand will focus on a location in Africa called the Okavango Delta: To find more information, access the following National Geographic site:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/okavango/maps/bigmap.html> .

This delta is fed by the Okavango River which has its start in the highlands of Angola. From there, it winds its way into Botswana. There it feeds the largest inland delta in the world, which sits right in the middle of the sands of the Kalahari Desert. The delta region is comprised of many different types of ecosystems including permanent swamps, floodplains, woodlands and savannah/scrub. At the time of year when there is maximum flooding, the delta region can cover as much as 16,000 square kilometers. A similar ecosystem in the United States is the Everglades. The Everglades used to cover most of Southern Florida, until massive human manipulation in the 20th century. To find more information, access the following National Geographic site:

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2000/12/1213_everglades.html

The Okavango Delta has been left relatively untouched over the last century. However, the ongoing shortage of good water resources in southern Africa has prompted the government of Namibia to start to explore the feasibility of piping water out of the Okavango River for use by their peoples. This plan was floated in earnest in the late 1990's. Use the following link to learn more about the project: <http://www.irn.org/pubs/wrr/9701/namibia.html> .

Over the next few days, spend some time each day researching the Okavango Delta Region. Ultimately, you will need to decide whether or not you would recommend the construction of the Okavango River Pipeline to the government of Namibia.

In order to help you focus your search, you and your group members should take out your *ED II Strand Maps*. Study them and think about what the main ideas were in each of the Components. Then, for each Component, write a statement which addresses the focus of that Component. Record your statement for each Component on your Strand Map or on the back of this page. Use these focus statements to help you conduct your research on the Okavango Delta.

You may continue your research through the last day of the Final Assessment, and you will be able to use any notes you take during the Final Assessment.