

Elephants *for* Africa

Conservation through research and education



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Elephants for Africa go beyond conservation, through our holistic approach to understanding and supporting the needs of both elephants and local people. Partnering with local stakeholders, we are working towards coexistence.



THREE PILLARS OF ACTION

Elephants for Africa promotes the conservation of African elephants through research and education in schools and communities in Botswana.

Contributions to our work go to:

- **Environmental Education**
- **Community Coexistence**
- **Elephant Research**

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Our education program is a collaboration between Elephants for Africa, local stakeholders and our local and international funding partners. The program seeks to improve the long-term survival of elephants and the quality of life of local communities by creating capacity-building opportunities for local youth leading to increased employment into the wildlife sector.

Partnering with local primary schools, we offer hands-on learning experiences and opportunities to meet local role models in order to broaden children's horizons for new opportunities and future careers.



AIMS

- Inspire the next generation of conservation leaders
- Increase employment into the environmental sector for rural youth
- Empower the youth of today to be the problem-solvers of tomorrow

COMMUNITY COEXISTENCE

A key pillar of our work is to enhance human-wildlife coexistence in a rural farming community. One of the most rapidly growing threats to elephants is conflict with humans. Rural farmers in regions bordering protected areas suffer a great deal from the effects of elephant crop raiding. Therefore, mitigating the conflict that arises, between people and elephants, is vital for the healthy existence of each. As part of our Community Coexistence pillar, we work with farmers like Gofetswemang Johane (featured on p7). We hold community workshops to teach farmers how to deter elephants by burning crushed chillies with elephant dung and oil, staying in their field to provide active mitigation and using improved fencing to keep elephants out of fields.

Our Community Coexistence Project delivers a range of educational and practical information to farmers and local school children, which aims to increase ecological understanding, empower local people with knowledge of how to reduce crop-raiding, trial existing conflict mitigation measures that have been used elsewhere, provide materials to enable farmers, students and the community at large, to implement these measures and to increase the use of conservation agricultural methods improve overall yields.

Our dedicated Community Officer is able to advise and disseminate information to farmers, and as a farmer himself can actively demonstrate these techniques to others.

PROTECTION

Elephants hate chillies! We are encouraging local community members to grow their own chilli to be used in mitigation to protect their crops. Dried chilli is added to dung, made into chilli bricks then burned, with the smoke deterring the elephants.

We are also working with local farmers to help them build solar-powered electric fences to help protect their crops. These fences are successful at deterring elephants, and other crop-raiding species, from fields and they give farmers great peace of mind that their crops are safe. This is a new and exciting avenue for Efa, and one we hope to expand.

As part of our Community Coexistence pillar, we work with farmers, training them on how to prevent elephants from raiding their crops. Using such deterrents requires dedication to nightly vigilance in their fields.



ELEPHANT RESEARCH

Conducting research on African elephants is vital to their conservation, since it helps us to understand their behaviour, resource requirements, and responses to changing environmental conditions.

Our research focuses on male elephants, which have been relatively little studied to date, but can present more challenges to conservation than breeding herds. Males cover great distances, often breaking through fences and walking through to human settlements, where they can be responsible for crop raiding, damage to property and, occasionally, fatal interactions with humans. While breeding herds can also cause these issues, some areas are home to predominantly male populations, like the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park.

BEHAVIOURAL ECOLOGY

Studying male elephant behaviour in natural settings, inside protected areas, helps us to determine the motivations behind behaviour leading to human-wildlife conflict. The large social groupings in our area are not currently seen elsewhere, enabling us to contribute to the understanding of male elephant social and ecological requirements for their long-term conservation and management.

HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Our research is not limited to the National Park, and we are also conducting research in the unprotected community areas that border the National Park. Here, the need to focus on human-elephant conflict mitigation is paramount.

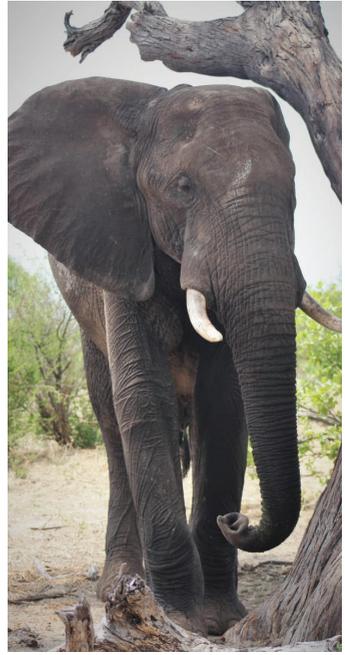


THE ELEPHANT'S STORY

Elephants face an uncertain future as they struggle to survive in a sea of humanity, with 70-80% of the remaining population (estimated at 350,000) requiring the use of lands outside of protected areas. Botswana is home to over a third of the remaining African elephant population and is therefore vital to the long-term survival of this iconic species.

Elephants for Africa believes that a comprehensive understanding of male elephant ecological and social requirements is vital to effectively target conservation efforts, particularly in light of ever-increasing anthropogenic and environmental change. Our research in the Boteti River region of the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park is important because we are located in a bull-dominated area with very few females present. This gives us a unique opportunity to unravel more about the nature and significance of male elephant social behaviour.

We now know that male elephant social systems are highly complex and males selectively chose who they spend time with. Males tend to seek out the company of the oldest males in a social group, and (in a similar way to female matriarchs) it is now believed that these older bulls are repositories of social and ecological knowledge that is vital to the stable functioning of populations. The loss of key elders in a bull population can therefore have far-reaching consequences and could affect the elephant population's ability to respond to environmental change. Understanding how these sources of knowledge can shape key behaviours, such as navigation, foraging, dominance, and even crop-raiding, will help us shape future conservation efforts that ensure that important elephant ecological and social needs are taken into account.



THE FARMER'S STORY

Gofetswemang Johane is one of the farmers that we work with and is one beneficiary of a solar-powered electric fence to protect her field. Mma Johane has since seen many elephants come to her field but turn away upon observing the electric fence and so far, she has not had an elephant raid her field since the fence was installed.

One of the most rapidly increasing threats to elephants is competition with humans. In turn, rural farmers in the regions bordering protected areas suffer a great deal from the effects of the elephants' crop-raiding. Therefore, mitigating the conflict that arises between people and elephants is vital for the sustainability of each. Alongside the use of her electric fence, Mma Johane has, in the past, benefited from having chillies for burning and a tent to sleep in, to actively protect her field from approaching elephants. But, she says, the electric fence is the best deterrent and she is encouraging other farmers to invest in solar-powered electric fences, with our help.



THE CHILD'S STORY



Living alongside elephants and other wildlife has its challenges, when walking to school early in the morning or visiting friends in the evening could lead to a potentially dangerous encounter with an elephant. Daily chores such as collecting water, firewood and herding the family's goats can take much longer than planned due to avoiding elephants, taking valuable time away from school, play and family. This scenario means that children in rural communities bordering protected areas only see and hear about elephants in a conflict

situation. Beyond delivering our monthly Environment Clubs to local primary schools, another aspect of our work is offering the opportunity for students to visit their National Park, the park that their village borders and which they can see from the school. These trips enable children to see wildlife up close in the wild with conservationists nearby to answer their questions, often dispelling local myths about elephants and other wildlife. This leads to understanding and respect rather than hatred and fear. For most of the children these trips are the first time that have ever been to a National Park or seen wildlife in a non-conflict situation.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

PARTNERSHIPS

Why become a corporate partner?

A vital way for Elephants for Africa to raise funds, a partnership with Elephants for Africa will also benefit you and your team.

- Raise your profile among a audience
- Build positive brand recognition
- Engage your workforce in a partnership to enhance the sustainability of rural communities and the African elephant
- Transform communities with access to information to empower them to live alongside wildlife
- Contribute to the long-term conservation of the African elephant
- Demonstrate your company's commitment through matching gifts and workplace giving

INDIVIDUAL SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

We are also interested to hear from individuals who would like to contribute to our work, either financially or through their valuable time. Gifts are acknowledged on our website, however we also recognise that some people may wish to remain anonymous.

TARGETED GIVING (IN USD)

- \$10 Food and accommodation for a researcher for a day
- \$20 Support a farmer for a trip into the National Park
- \$105 Camp maintenance costs for a month
- \$125 A year of environment club lessons for a single student
- \$145 One month of vehicle maintenance for one vehicle
- \$175 Farmer workshop about mitigation & improving crop yield
- \$190 A week of food for research, education & community team
- \$200 Community-wide workshop on living with wildlife
- \$225 An environmental club lesson for a local school
- \$650 Supporting a Research Assistant for a month
- \$850 Supporting a Community Outreach Officer for a month
- \$2,200 Support community and farmer workshops in a community for a year

Elephants *for* Africa 
Conservation through research and education

Elephants for Africa is a registered charity in England & Wales, (1179318) and a registered NGO in Botswana CR12058.

www.elephantsforafrica.org

© Elephants for Africa 2019.