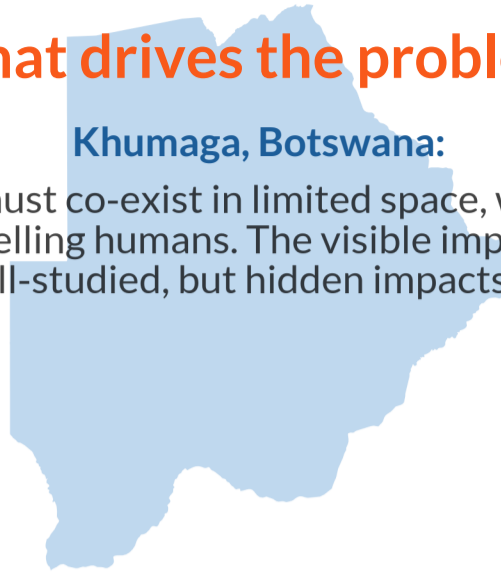
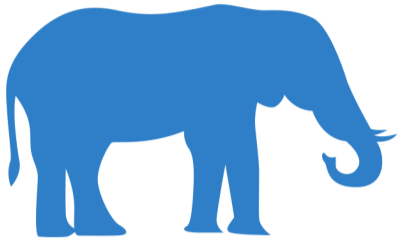


Hidden Well-Being Impacts of Human-Elephant Conflict

What drives the problem?

Khumaga, Botswana:

Humans and wild elephants must co-exist in limited space, which affects the daily routines and well-being of rural-dwelling humans. The visible impacts (e.g. crop loss, property damage) of conflict are well-studied, but hidden impacts remain poorly understood.



What are these hidden impacts?*

Safety



72% of participants feel that elephants threaten their safety



Mobility



56% of participants feel that elephants restrict their mobility

Consequences for Rural Livelihoods



64% of participants feel this inhibits access to drinking water



68% of participants feel this inhibits access to veld resources



58% of participants feel this disturbs relations with neighbours

What can we do about it?*

1. Empower rural residents with elephant safety education.



Feelings of threatened safety, restricted mobility, and subsequent disruptions to rural livelihoods are driven by fear of elephants and lack of knowledge of how to react when encountering them.

Conservation authorities, military personnel, and researchers receive adequate training - rural residents should too!

2. Facilitate access to important veld resources.



Most rural residents travel several kilometers, on foot, through elephant-occupied areas in order to secure essential resources.

Improved development of, and access to, infrastructure (e.g. community water taps) and services (e.g. transportation) can help rural residents meet their needs.