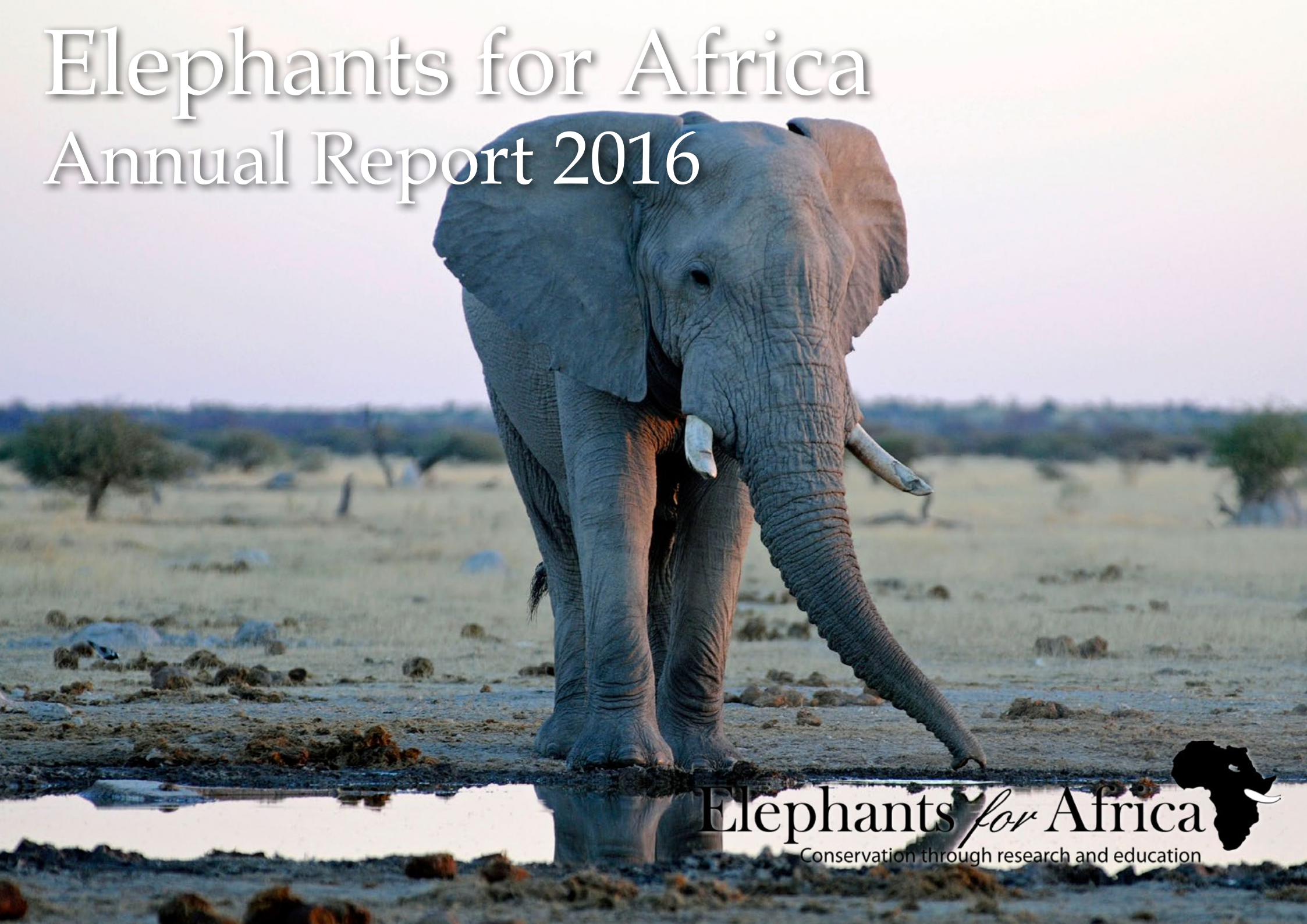
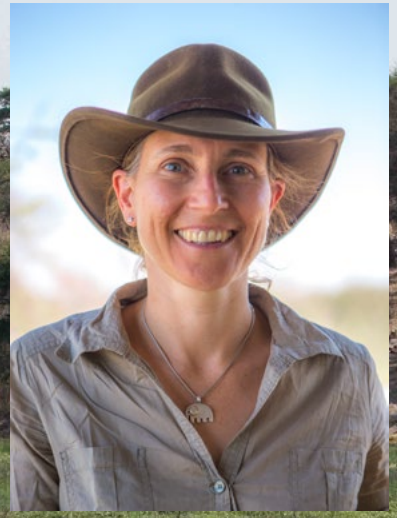
Elephants for Africa

Annual Report 2016



Elephants *for* Africa

Conservation through research and education



Dear friends,

Unfortunately, poaching still dominates the news and Botswana is far from immune, with an increasing number of reports coming in from the north of the country. Local communities turn to poaching and wildlife trafficking when they are excluded from conservation and see no benefit to wildlife that destroys their livelihood. A key role of EfA is to engage the communities living alongside the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park; we enable them to access information about preventing elephants from interfering with their crops and how to live safely alongside wildlife.

Partnering with environmental clubs in primary schools and working with farmers, through our Community Coexistence Project, has ensured we are collaborating with two key stakeholders in the sustainability of communities in this high conflict region. We are focusing on expanding our capacity in this area so we can help communities address more of the social, economic costs of living amongst wildlife, work towards human-wildlife coexistence and increase sustainability for poor rural communities so that poaching is not an appealing quick fix option.

I cannot go further without extending a heartfelt thanks to our NGO board in Botswana who double up as our Education Advisory Board. They meet four times a year to help develop our education and community programmes. Drawn from a diversity of backgrounds, our members include teachers, safari lodge personnel, professional guides and ministerial staff. This ensures that our deliverables are in line with local needs and cultures.

As always our team on the ground in Botswana, led by Dr Jess Isden, have worked tirelessly to meet increasing demands. Our staff have embraced the many challenges of working here; from the long hot hours in the field, to maintaining our camp and helping farmers establish chilli plots.

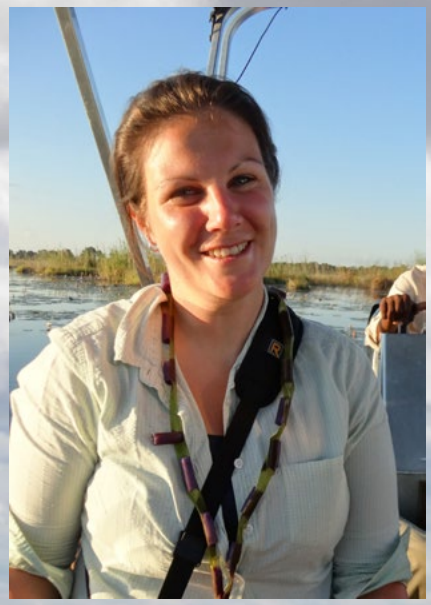
Beyond Botswana we are supported by the trustees of the charity, whose vast experience helps shape our mission and vision. Aside from grants, our work is supported financially through the dedication of our global supporters who drive many of the fundraising initiatives such as the ***Art for Elephants*** event hosted by the Memphis Zoo. We have a long history of working with artists to help tell our story; this year was no exception with the launch of ***Harmony for Elephants***. This is a unique coffee table book featuring the beautiful photographs of Lesley Wood and its accompanying CD of music specially written, recorded and donated by several world-renowned musicians including ex-Genesis band members, Steve Hackett and Anthony Phillips.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all our donors for their continued support; we hope you enjoy this update on how your donations are contributing to the long-term conservation solutions for elephants, and other wildlife, in Botswana.

Best wishes, Tlhola sentle,

Dr Kate Evans
Founder and Director of Research and Education
Elephants for Africa

A Note from the Project Manager



Dr Jess Isden

Our team in Botswana has gone from strength to strength during 2016, enabling us to develop and deliver an expanding range of research and community education objectives. The national park continues to be dominated by male elephants, and our long-term monitoring projects will hopefully provide us with information about how and why these males occur here.

Our scientific programme has continued through the dedication and hard work of our field assistants, who patiently sit in hot vehicles for hours on end to observe and record the male elephant data we need. This year, funding obtained allowed us to employ two Motswana staff as field assistants. This provided them with training and experience in field research that will hopefully continue to benefit them throughout their careers.

The Community Co-existence Project, run by EfA and supported by the ***Good Planet Foundation***, had a tricky start during the beginning of 2016; persistent drought conditions forced many farmers to abandon their crops. With the summer rains arriving more than two months later than usual, and amounting to less than half the seasonal average, it was a challenging season for all.

However, many farmers did manage to produce and protect a decent crop yield, and the project benefited from the input and experience of those enrolled. As we moved through the winter season, we worked hard with the farmers to better prepare the fields for the beginning of the next season, and our workshops and education programmes were well attended.

One of the most rewarding aspects of being part of the EfA team is working with the pupils of Environmental Clubs. We continued to work with Khumaga Primary School, which gained top place in the regional schools' exam results; a very proud achievement for both pupils and staff.

Halfway through 2016 we started our partnership with Mogolokwane Primary School, in Phuduhudu village. Environmental Club classes are held by EfA on a monthly basis, and we cover a range of topics, from wildlife ecology to recycling. We are set to continue these classes throughout 2017, and are also looking forward to establishing a pen-pal programme with overseas schools which will help broaden the horizons of pupils in Botswana.

Education

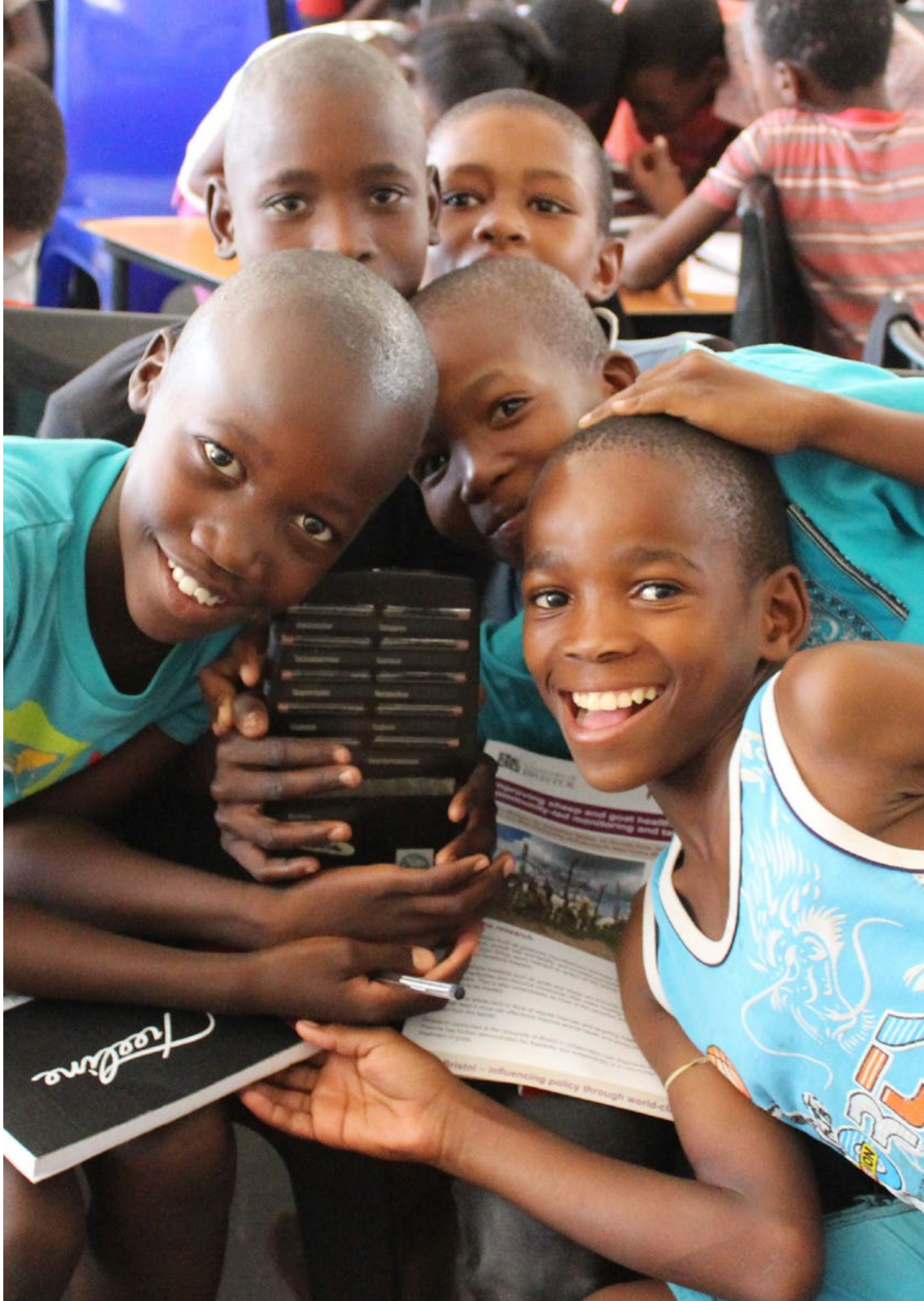
Environmental Clubs
Dr Jess Isden

Our successful involvement in the Environmental Club at Khumaga Primary School led us to set up a similar commitment in Phuduhudu; we were delighted that we could begin this in July 2016. Environmental Clubs are a government initiative throughout Botswana, which aim to increase environmental responsibility and pride in Botswana's natural resources. We have been working with Khumaga Primary School since July 2015, and the whole EfA team agrees that it is one of the most rewarding (but sometimes challenging) aspects of our work!

Throughout 2016 we held monthly classes with pupils, and the clubs in both schools have gone from strength to strength. Supported by fantastic teachers and school staff, the clubs have introduced pupils (and teachers) to a range of topics that otherwise would have been difficult for them to access. We were initially overwhelmed by the number of pupils that were keen to sign up; our record class involved trying to ask 66 pupils to observe skittish wild birds at the river! Our involvement with the Environment Clubs also promotes collaborations between other community groups. We were delighted to help forge a partnership between Khumaga Environmental Club and the local safari lodge (Leroo Le Tau) who now collect recyclable waste from the school, thus reducing the school's environmental impact.

Adapting to conditions at the time, we've run a series of events that closely follow the natural environment as it changes throughout the year. As the rainy season approached, we ran classes to build home-made rain gauges from recycled materials. Pupils could take these home to record and compare the rainfall in different areas of the village. Using paper airplanes of different wing shapes and sizes to represent different birds, we investigated how different species are adapted to their environments and life strategies. We are also continuing our drive to introduce pupils to scientific principles of investigation, through surveys, monitoring and recording activities.

In 2017 we plan to recruit a Community Outreach Officer, who will be able to push forward the education programmes both in the schools and with the wider community. Using the primary schools as a focal point, drawing the community together through events and activities will help us to empower these communities in all aspects of their environmental wellbeing. We hope to continue our good relationships with the schools, and further widen their pupils' horizons through the establishment of a pen-pal programme, where letters, photographs and videos are shared with schools abroad.



Education

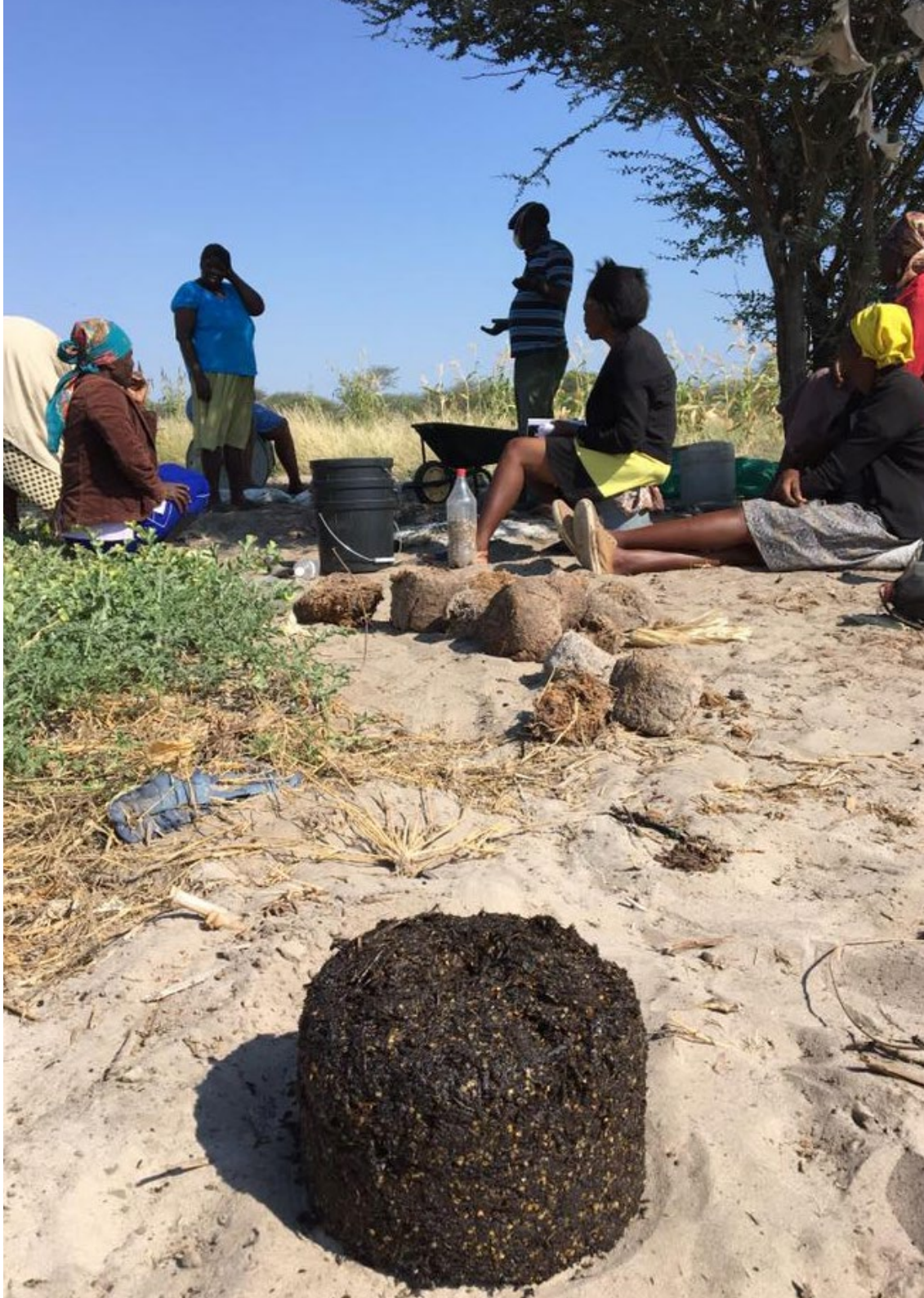
Community CoExistence Project
Dr Jess Isden & Mandkind Molosiwa

In 2015 EfA launched their Community Coexistence Project (CCP), which is supported by the GoodPlanet Foundation. We have continued our commitment to help the local farming community to coexist with elephants. In the autumn of 2016 we increased the number of farmers enrolled, from 10 to 25. We have run four major workshops with farmers, and multiple mini-workshops at individual farms, to disseminate information about using chilli as an effective elephant deterrent. We also now manage the community chilli pepper plot and have employed two assistants from the village to help ensure that it is producing the maximum amount of chilli for the farmers.

Running this programme is EfA's Community Officer; Mankind Molosiwa. Mankind is an experienced farmer, and has witnessed the destruction that elephants can cause. During the 2016 ploughing season, Mankind was one of the first farmers to trial different techniques in his field. He had remarkable success: "I spent a lot of time experimenting with chilli and dung ratios, to find the best mix that would burn for the longest time overnight. The smoking chilli really helps keep elephants away from my field. I found a method where I can get a chilli-dung-oil mix to burn for more than twelve hours, meaning that my crops are protected overnight whilst I sleep."

Mankind has worked tirelessly this past year to come up with new methods for fellow farmers to try; his passion for communicating this information is obvious to those he meets. Almost every farmer coming into the 2016/2017 ploughing season has adopted the row-planting technique. This produces higher crop yields, and allows farmers to separate crops that may be more palatable to elephants. Mankind reports: "This year I am planting watermelons in one patch of my field, and limiting the number that I allow to grow. I am hoping that this may help prevent the elephants from coming into my field."

The drought conditions of 2016 made farming very challenging, yet many of our farmers continued, despite the hardship, and managed to harvest. During the dry season we made repeated visits to individual farms, advising on how best to prepare fields before the next season. As we move into the 2017 season, good rains are predicted and farmers are hopeful: "I am excited about 2017 as I think that farmers will do a lot better. I want to continue talking to farmers, providing them with chilli and making sure that they use chilli in the correct ways to best keep the elephants away. I also want to encourage them to try new techniques, such as the solar beacons in the fields, and to ask them to take responsibility for their fields and work hard to protect them" says Mankind.



Research

Human Elephant Conflict

James Stevens, PhD student, University of Bristol, UK

James' research aims to increase knowledge about elephant crop raids, particularly focusing on understanding more about the demographics of the elephants involved and the characteristics of fields that may increase their susceptibility to being raided.

The 2016 ploughing season started slowly with low levels of rainfall recorded and therefore, few fields were ploughed. This resulted in a change in strategy, with many farmers choosing to plough fields in the receding riverbed to make use of ground water. James completed a final data collection season, attending crop-raiding incidences in community lands bordering the national park. In total, he attended 98 crop-raiding incidences, reported from 26 farmers. On average, farmers reported crop-raiding incidences to him 3.8 times (range=1-21).

Damage assessments completed after each crop raid showed on average, when elephants had raided a field, 9.6% of the crops were destroyed either through trampling or grazing. Whilst at the end of the ploughing season, on average 29.4% of the crop was destroyed.

Initial results suggest that fields which are more isolated and have a higher diversity of crops incur larger areas of damage. Using data from all three field seasons, there are fewer crop raids occurring during full moon phases with the frequency of crop-raiding gradually increasing from January and peaking in April.

Elephants were tracked moving towards fields and inside the field. Preliminary data suggests elephants know where they are going when moving towards fields and analysis will be completed to determine how elephants move inside fields in relation to the distribution of different crops.

At the end of the ploughing season, questionnaires were completed with all 26 farmers that had reported crop raids to determine their perceptions of the resulting value of damage. These estimates will be compared with scientifically-measured estimates of damage to determine what influences farmers damage perceptions.

Data collection for this study has now been completed and in July James returned to the UK to complete his analysis and write up his thesis.

Research Update
Human-Elephant-Conflict

Amy Chamberlain

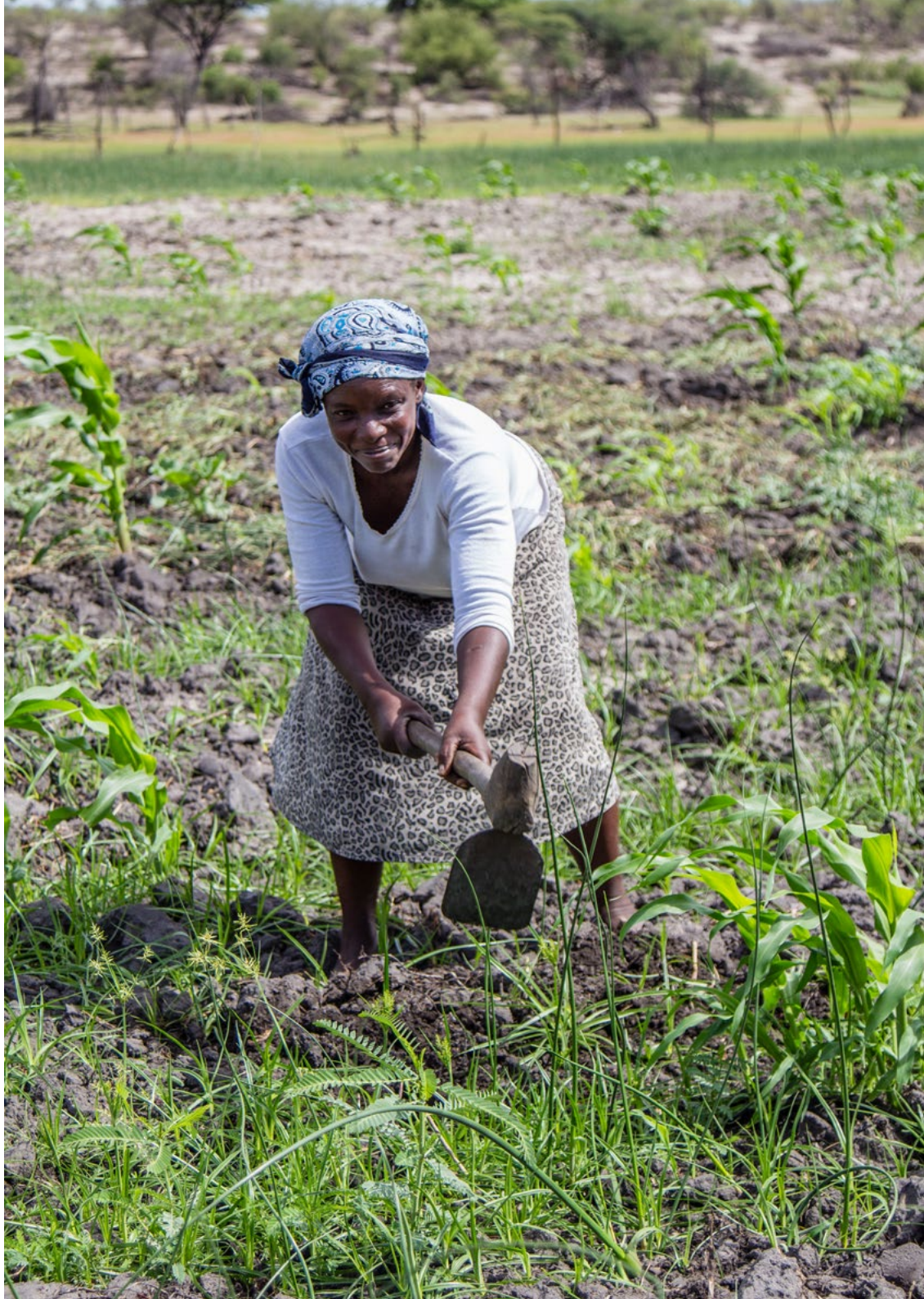
Working alongside James Stevens, Masters Student Amy Chamberlain investigated the economic costs of crop raiding and mitigation techniques. Farmers experiencing human-elephant-conflict (HEC) in the Boteti region, and across elephant range states, are predominantly subsistence agriculturalists; therefore they rely on their crops to feed their family.

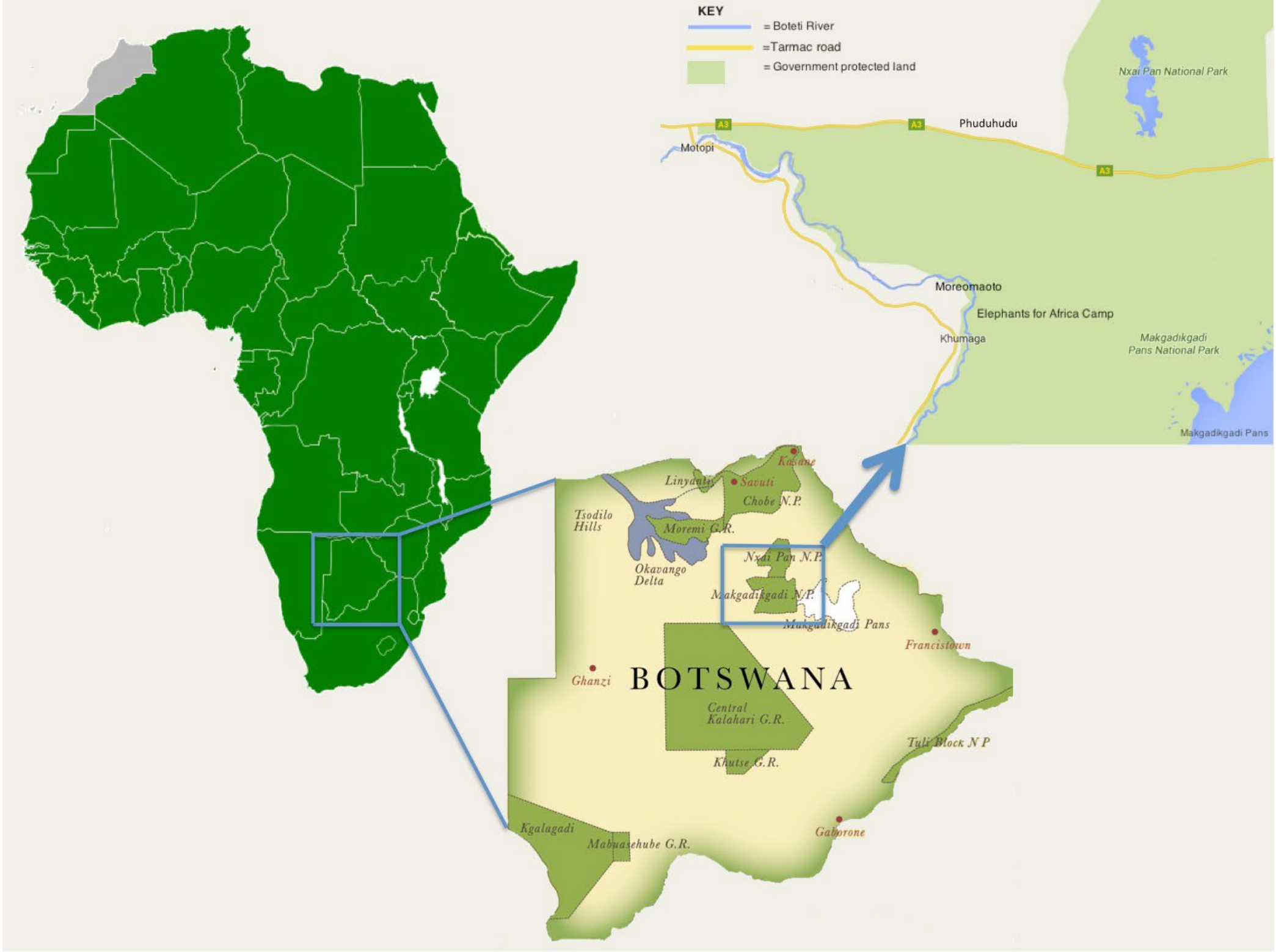
Farmers in the Boteti are reliant on government subsidies and many live below the poverty line. Consequently, the cost of implementing an elephant deterrent is likely to be a factor limiting their uptake; this cost must be offset by an increase in yield.

The economic cost of elephant damage was calculated for each field in the study area, using market prices for crops, as well as a novel subsistence price. This is the cost of replacing damaged crops with like-for-like food items and is more informative for subsistence farmers.

The cost of implementing chilli pepper and beehive fences was calculated for each field. The average subsistence cost of damage per field in 2016 was 2173 Pula ($206 USD), while the cost of implementing chilli-pepper, the cheapest deterrent, was 3326 Pula ($315 USD). These costs in total amount to 46% of the average annual disposable cash income in Botswana's rural villages.

These valuations begin to address cost as a factor limiting use of elephant deterrents, an unexplored area in HEC studies, and will help us develop our Community Coexistence Programme.




KEY
= Boteti River
=Tarmac road
= Government protected land
Nxai Pan National Park
A3
A3
A3
Phuduhudu
Motopi
Moreomaoto
Elephants for Africa Camp
Khumaga
Makgadikgadi Pans National Park
Makgadikgadi Pans
Kasane
Linyanti
Savuti
Chobe N.P.
Tsodilo Hills
Moremi G.R.
Okavango Delta
Nxai Pan N.P.
Makgadikgadi N.P.
Makgadikgadi Pans
Francistown
Ghanzi
BOTSWANA
Central Kalahari G.R.
Tuli Block N P
Khutse G.R.
Kgalagadi
Mabuasehube G.R.
Gaborone

Social Ecology - Overview

Dr Jess Isden

Our research into the social relationships between male elephants in the national park and their use of the river as a social resource, continued throughout 2016. We completed our fourth year of research drives here, contributing to our long-term dataset on the elephant population in this important bull area, as well as carrying out more targeted river "hotspot" sessions. These sessions were introduced by PhD student Connie Allen, and have been incorporated into our research assistants' weekly schedule. Throughout the year an incredible 1,256 hours were spent in the field collecting data using both methods, and we covered a total distance of 11,870km.

The dry season of 2016 was the most challenging since EfA's move to the Makgadikgadi in 2012, following two years of drought. The Boteti River, a vital water source for many species within the national park, stopped flowing and was reduced to a few small pools. The number of elephants recorded in the park during this period reduced massively. The individuals that we did see were in much smaller groups, many of them alone, as competition for resources increased. The elephants were also in a much poorer condition than the healthy, well-rounded individuals that we see during the rainy season when food is in abundance. As much of the vegetation dried up and became over-grazed, we began to see interesting changes in foraging behaviour. The elephants turned to digging up the roots of trees and plants; the only succulent, nutritious food source remaining. Thankfully, with the eventual return of the river in August, the elephant numbers increased, and by mid-November, hundreds of elephants were by the river.

Due to the extremely dry conditions, at the beginning of July we reinstated four of our camera traps on animal highways leading to the river. They help us to observe and document the response of the animals in the national park. We have also been continuing to process and analyse the huge quantity of images collected by the camera traps that were running between June 2014 – March 2016. We now have over 182,000 images from these two periods.

Our work in the park is not only limited to our main research objective; during our research drives and hotspot sessions we have continued to collect data for the DWNP (Department for Wildlife and National Parks) on livestock which trespasses into the park. This data is mostly important to guide the park boundary fence maintenance and for the overall management of the national park. On research drives, 69% contained at least one sighting of a domestic animal. There has been a small shift in the species of domestic animals that we are seeing, with cattle reducing to 46% of sightings and donkeys in particular increasing to 30%. Goats remain the next highest species recorded (21.5%). We hope to gain more and more insights into the social and ecological requirements of African savannah elephants in 2017 as we continue with our research work in the national park.

Social Ecology

Connie Allen, PhD student, Exeter University, UK

Male African elephants in the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park: Social dynamics and communication.

The Boteti River is a crucial resource for the transient male elephant population that utilises the national park. At EfA we hypothesise that not only is the river vital in providing fresh water to this population, but it also acts as a central hub of social activity. My research is focusing on how males are congregating at particular hotspots along the Boteti to reap the benefits that come from socialising.

Male elephants of any age could potentially achieve different benefits from this opportunity to socialise, considering an otherwise solitary existence. African elephants are famed for their complex social lives, yet there is surprisingly limited information about the intricacies of bull social hierarchy and dynamics beyond the knowledge that dominance changes with age and sexual state (the phenomena of musth). Through video analysis comparing the behaviours, time budgets, groupings and social partners of different aged elephants utilising the river; my research is teasing apart the nature and value of relationships that occur between different ages of male African elephants.

Perhaps adult non-musth bulls come to the area for a period of respite from the competition they may experience in habitat with receptive females, or to bulk up free from feeding competition with the breeding herds in the northern regions of Botswana. Younger adolescents may be benefiting from mentorship and exposure to experienced older bulls having left the female-dominated breeding herd, or through meeting similarly-aged friends to develop essential life skills through activities such as sparring. Or perhaps just as importantly adolescents and adults alike are simply using the area to establish/reaffirm themselves amongst the broader fission-fusion male social network.

I will return to the park for a second field season in June 2017 to continue this research, as well as bring in a second experimental protocol as part of a PhD extension from my initial masters. We know from our long-term camera trap study that elephants utilise highways on their daily movements towards the river. I anticipate presenting elephant urine samples of known aged elephants along these highways and using a series of discrete cameras to monitor the responses of passing elephants. This will provide fascinating insights on the effectiveness of olfactory communication for male African elephants to convey messages over space and time concerning age, status and condition of the depositor.

Publications

Completed Theses & Publications

Chamberlain, A.L. (2016) *An analysis of the human elephant conflict situation in the Boteti area, Botswana: The economic cost of elephant crop-raiding*. MRes Thesis, University of Bristol.

Walker, J.G. (2016) *Theory and practice of parasitic nematode management at the wildlife-lifestock interface*. PhD Thesis, University of Bristol.

Mayberry, A. (2016) *Hidden well-being impacts of human-elephant conflict infographic*

Presentations, Talks & Posters

Elephants for Africa team presentation to the guides and staff at Leroo Le Tau Lodge, Botswana. August 2016.

Evans, K. *The Elephant in the Room: Addressing the needs of male elephant welfare in captivity*. Elephant Wellness Workshop. Jacksonville, USA. March 2016.

Evans, K. News4Jax interview about Elephant workshop. Jacksonville, USA March 2016.

Evans, K. Somerset County Gazette article about Elephants for Africa and Harmony For Elephants book and EP. March 2016.

Evans, K. BBC Somerset Radio interview about elephants and the Harmony for Elephants book. April 2016.

Evans, K. *In the Footsteps of elephants*. Conservation Science Group, Cambridge University. July 2016.

Evans, K. *Harmony for elephants: Working towards Coexistence*. Zoo Atlanta. August 2016.

Evans, K. *In the footsteps of elephants*. Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens, USA. March 2016.

Evans, K. *Harmony for Elephants*. Memphis Zoo. August 2017.

Evans, K. Interviewed for Giant Steps' article. BBC Wildlife Magazine. August 2016.

Evans, K. Radio interview for Cara Jones, USA. September 2016.

Evans, K. Live radio interview on tbs eFM Primetime, South Korea. September 2016.

Evans, K. *Life as a Zoologist*. Kenilworth School. November 2016.

Isden, I. Presentation to Maun Research Talks, Botswana. November 2016.

Isden, I. Presentation to the Biological Science Department, University of Botswana. November 2016.

Mokobela, M. Presentation at the Maun Research Talks, Botswana. August 2016.

Pitfield A. *Social network analysis of male African elephants in a bull area*. Annual social network workshop at the Max Plankt institute for Ornithology in Radolfzell, Germany. January 2016.

Stevens, J. *Local farmers' attitudes towards African elephants in the Makgadikgadi region, Botswana*. Maun Research Talks, Maun, Botswana. May 2016.

Stevens, J. *Human-elephant conflict in and around Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, Botswana*. WildlifeACT students, Maun, Botswana. June 2016.

Walker, J.G. Evans, K.E. Rose, H. Van Wyk, J. & Morgan, E. R. *Optimal treatment timing to reduce nematode transmission in a multi-host system in Botswana*. SouthWest Epidemiology, Ecology and Evolution Team (SWEEET) meeting: Mathematical modelling for the control of ecological processes and infection spread, University of Bath. June 2016.

Financial Statement: Year Ending 31st December 2016

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds Year Ended 31 December 2016	Total Funds Year Ended 31 December 2015
Incoming Resources				
Donations and Legacies	44,650		44,650	53,726
Charitable Activities	854		854	970
Other Trading Activities	-		-	-
Investments	-		-	-
Other - intersect received	0		0	14
Total	45,505	-	45,505	54,710
Resources Expended				
Raising Funds	7,022		7,022	14,785
Charitable Activities	48,237		48,237	43,429
Separate material expense item	7,366		7,366	12,285
Other	353		353	
Total Resources Expended	**62,978**	**-**	**62,978**	**70,499**
Net Income before tax	-17,474	-	-17,474	-15,789
Net Income before investment gains	-17,474	-	-17,474	-15,789
Net Income (expenditure)	-17,474	-	-17,474	-15,789
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for charity's own use				
Other gains (losses)				
Net Movement in Funds	**-17,474**	**-**	**-17,474**	**-15,789**
Reconcilliation of Funds				
Total funds brought forward	**22,857**	**-**	**22,857**	**38,646**
Total funds carried forward	**5,383**	**-**	**5,383**	**22,857**

Botswana Financial Statement: Year Ending 31st December 2016

	Vehicles	Equipment	Total
Property Plant and Equipment			
Additions	161,600	23,412	185,012
Balance at end of year	161,600	23,412	185,012
Accumulated Depreciation			
Depreciation for the year	42,200	7,804	50,004
Balance at end of year	42,200	7,804	50,004
Net Book Value	**119,400**	**15,608**	**135,008**

Cash and Cash Equivalents	**2016**	
Current Account	157,457	
Call Account	51,380	
Cash	11,825	
	220,662	

Income	**2016**	
Donations	308,995	
Donations receieved by controlling UK charity	304,820	
Grant Funding	198,068	
Total Income Resources:		**= 811,883**

Administrative Costs:		
Bank Charges	3,143	
Computer Supplies	909	
Donations to local community	500	
Fuel	42,142	
General Administrative costs	112,089	
Legal and Professional	1,050	
Staff costs	62,269	
Travel & subsistence	**80,474**	
Utilities	8,239	
		= **310,814**
Other Operating Costs:		
Car Servicing	123,379	
Depreciation	50,004	
Marketing	770	
Repair & Maintenance	37,136	
		= 211,290

Trustees

John Graham joined the board of trustees in 2011 and is the Chair of the Board for its current term. He has 37 years of international investment experience with major financial institutions. Having retired in 2016 from his role as Director and Senior Portfolio Manager at Rogge Global Partners, he took up the position of Chair Person. He has a Master's Degree in International Affairs and his time as a Peace Corps Volunteer gave him a passion for education. He is married with three children and lives in London.

Brian Courtenay joined the board of trustees in 2010. Past chairman of Ivory Group/Satib Insurance Brokers, he is now retired and has more time to dedicate to his passion of conserving the wildlife heritage of Africa. He is on the board of a number of South African and international NGOs involved with the environment and conservation. Brian is married with two adult sons and three grandchildren.

David Matthias QC joined the board of trustees in 2015. He is a barrister and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators specialising in environmental, public and commercial law. David is committed to conservation and the preservation of wildlife. He is delighted to be able to contribute his legal and commercial expertise as a trustee for EfA. He lives with his wife Sarah, their four children and three dogs in north London.

If you are interested in becoming a trustee for ***Elephants for Africa***, please express your interest by sending us an email: info@elephantsforafrica.org

Scientific Advisors

Darren Croft is Professor of Animal Behaviour at Exeter University. Darren combines experimental and observational work on wild and captive animal populations with controlled laboratory experiments. The research topics covered include: the evolution of cooperation, life history evolution, social recognition and sexual conflict. He works on a wide range of study systems ranging from small fresh water fish to resident killer whales.

Alice J. Hovorka is Professor in the Department of Geography and Planning and Director of the School of Environmental Studies at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada. As a social scientist, her research program explores human-animal relations and the ways in which humans shape the lives of animals. Alice has worked in Botswana for two decades, conducting research on human relationships with chickens, donkeys, cattle, domestic dogs, African wild dogs, lions and elephants.

Donors

Elephants for Africa would not be able to continue its valuable work without the support of its generous donors. We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to our main supporters as well as the numerous small donors that support our work.

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Memphis Zoo
Rendcomb College
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The Maryland Zoo

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Simply donate online through the MyDonate website, where you can set up a single or monthly contribution. This also takes care of Gift Aid for UK tax payers. To donate via this method visit: https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/elephantsforafrica

Gift Aid
If you are a UK tax payer, then for every £1 you give we can claim 25%. To download a Gift Aid declaration form please visit http://www.elephantsforafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/GiftAidDeclaration.pdf and email it to: info@elephantsforafrica.org

Giving through Your Employer
This is a tax efficient way of giving to charity. Many employers now offer the opportunity of matched charitable donations and/or pay the administration.

Free Giving
You can raise money through recycling your printer cartridges and mobile phones (www.recycle4charity.co.uk/Register) or cars (http://giveacar.co.uk), and through your online shopping (www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/elephants)

If you are feeling really inspired why not organize a fundraising event, such as a cake sale, sponsored walk or run a marathon (https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/elephantsforafrica)

Direct Bank Transfer
For details of our bank account please email: info@elephantsforafrica.org

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Dr Kate Evans
2 Priest Park View
Warwick Road
Chadwick End
Solihull
B93 0BP

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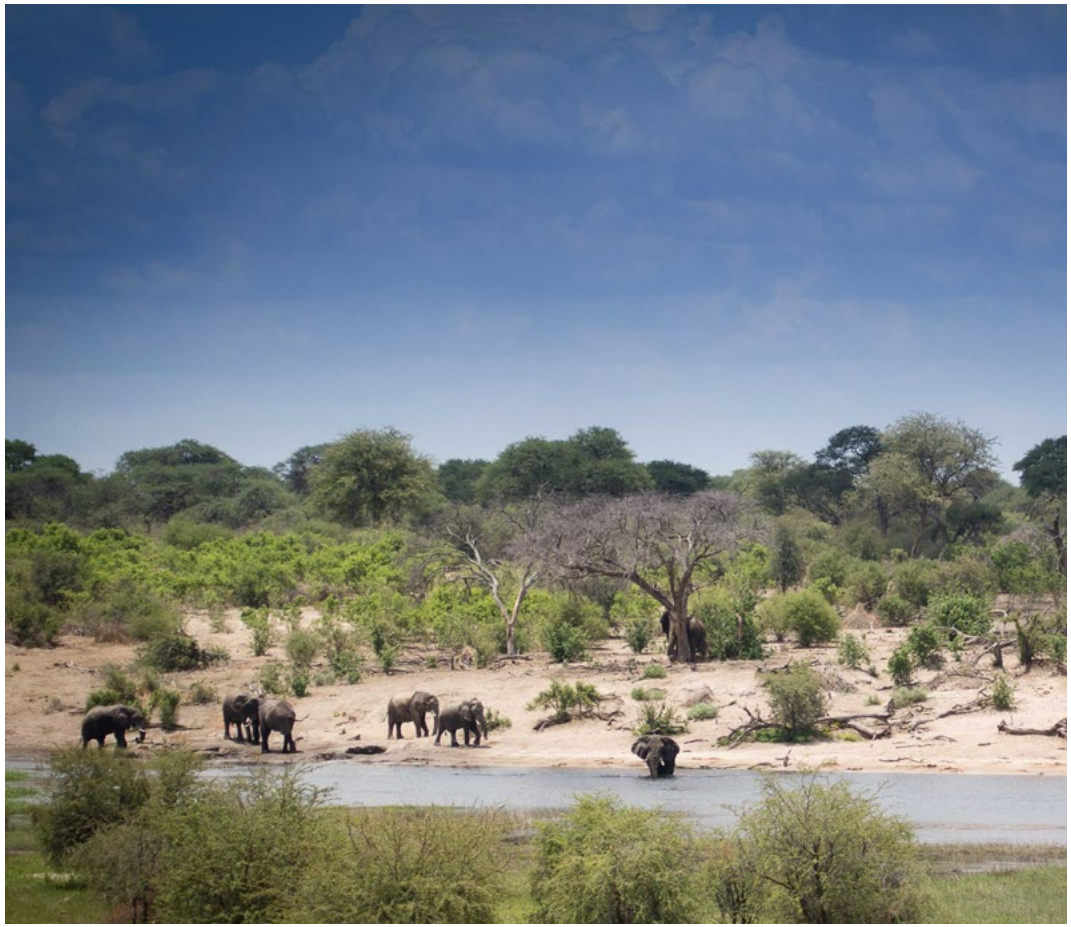
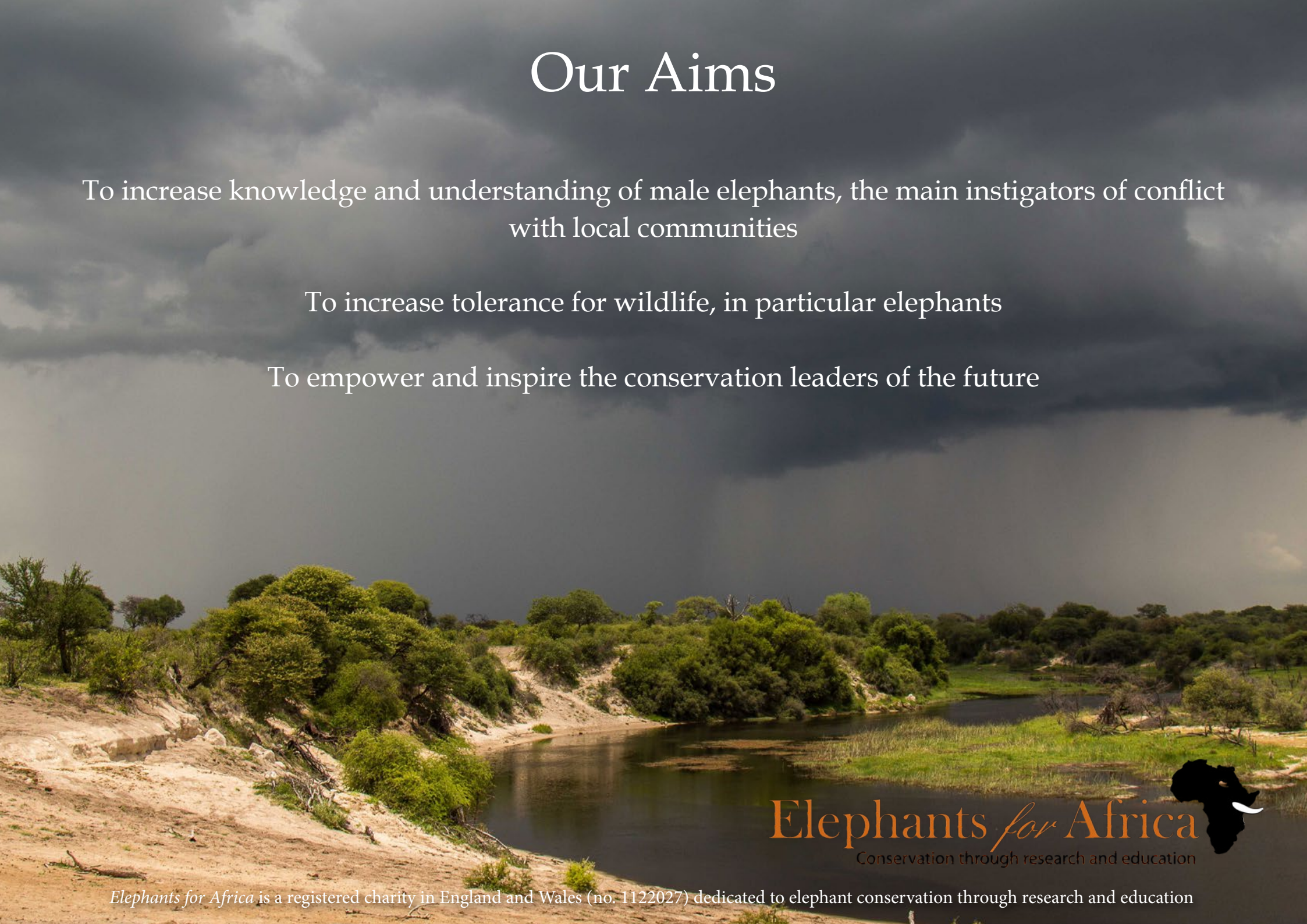


Our Aims

To increase knowledge and understanding of male elephants, the main instigators of conflict with local communities

To increase tolerance for wildlife, in particular elephants

To empower and inspire the conservation leaders of the future



Elephants for Africa is a registered charity in England and Wales (no. 1122027) dedicated to elephant conservation through research and education