

Elephants for Africa Annual Report 2012



Elephants *for* Africa



Conservation through research and education





Dear friends,

On the 1st February 2012, we celebrated 10 years of data collection on elephants in Botswana's Okavango Delta. This could not have been achieved without the support of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, the Office of the President and our donors.

Over these 10 years there have been many ecological changes here. When I came to the delta in 2002 it was going through a dry phase; now the floodwaters are much higher as we enter a predicted ten-year wet phase. With these dramatic physical changes the animals that live here are having to adapt quite rapidly. Many of the larger mammals are migrating outside of the protected areas and coming into conflict with man. It is this movement and re-establishment of old home ranges that we have chosen to study next because we feel it is really important not just for Botswana now but for our future conservation of elephants as we deal with climate change.

Throughout the world, elephants have hit the headlines. Images of their decomposing bodies show the consequences of the illegal ivory trade, which has seen an estimated 30-60,000 African elephants slaughtered for their tusks in 2012. The majority of ivory goes to Asia to fuel its ever-increasing demand. Like diamonds, oil and minerals, ivory has become the latest conflict resource in Africa. As depressing as all this news is, we have to be positive and continue our work.

Our education program hit a major milestone when our first scholarship student, Mphoeng Ofithile, was awarded his MSc degree from the University of Bristol. He is now our project leader in Botswana. Graham Bowles also successfully defended his PhD at the University of Bristol.

We are collaborating with other local NGOs and the Chicago Zoological Society, on our youth education program. In 2012 we hosted our first Cycle of Inquiry workshop and two Elefun weekends.

It has also been a busy year with people visiting our camp from the Chicago Zoological Society and the Memphis Zoo. We are always glad to have the opportunity to show our sponsors where and how their money is being spent.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters for their contribution to our mission to conserve the African elephant.

Best wishes, Tlhola sentle,

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

Behavioural Ecology

Long Term Monitoring Project

Dr Kate Evans & volunteer researchers



In 2012 we ended our study of the male elephants living in the delta. We are now studying the large social aggregations of males in the Makgadikgadi and Nxai Pan National Parks.

Our 10 year data set from the delta is being analysed for publications and will act as comparison for our findings in this new ecosystem.

A combination of observational data, camera trap data, individual recognition and DNA analysis will shed light on the importance of large social gatherings in male elephants as well as understanding the dynamics of this population.

This will help us to understand how the African elephant uses Botswana's landscape.

Whilst driving transects, researchers record any rare bird sightings for *Bird Life Botswana* (www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw) and rare animals for the Department of Wildlife and National Parks.

In addition, we log climate information on a daily basis (temperature, cloud cover, flood levels and rainfall).



Behavioural Ecology

Seasonality

Mphoeng Ofithile

MSc with the University of Bristol



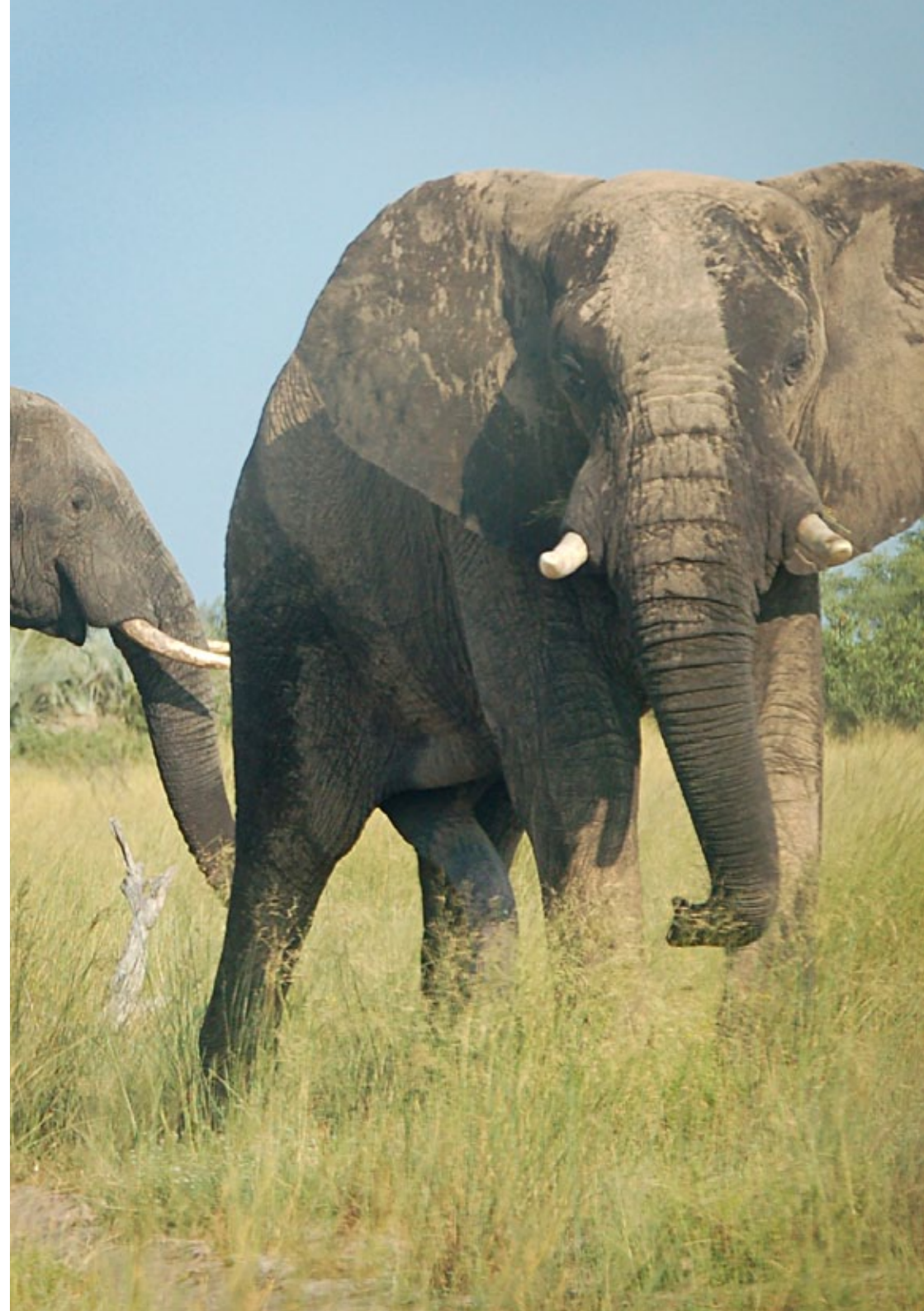
Mphoeng Ofithile successfully defended his thesis in June 2012 and gained his MSc.

In the Okavango Delta, season plays a pivotal role in the sociality of male elephants. Mr Ofithile found that season has an impact on the social grouping of male elephants, with the number of lone male sightings being higher in the flood compared to the rainy season.

The floodwater restricted feeding resources so male elephants may be solitary to reduce competition for limited resources.

We need to develop novel ways to manage human-elephant conflict. This study adds to the body of science which will help to understand male elephants and their management.

Knowing more about the seasonal requirements of male elephants, which are the main crop raiders, will hopefully assist with predicting crop-raiding and therefore be used as an early warning system for farmers to help prevent damage.



Communication

Infrasound Communication
Graham Bowles
PhD with the University of Bristol



Graham Bowles successfully defended his thesis in November 2012 and gained his PhD from the University of Bristol.

This study has brought a greater understanding of the diversity and use of low frequency calls within a herd of elephants.

It has increased our understanding of the form and function of the rumble call and how such cues might be used to determine essential information about the identity, emotional state and behaviour of the sender.

This study also highlighted the importance of external influences on the calling behaviour for a herd of elephants.

Overall this is still a fertile area of study, with advances in technology allowing greater insights into understanding the rumble call and how this influences the social behaviour of elephants as a whole.

This thesis is available to download from our website:
www.elephantsforafrica.org





Health & Welfare

Parasite Study

Lydia Baines

MSc with the University of Bristol

Our parasite study on elephants was expanded to include other mammals in the study area when Lydia Baines joined *Elephants for Africa* to carry out her Masters degree.

It was found that a wide range of factors had a significant effect on parasite presence and density in wild elephants in the Okavango Delta. These include: sex, age, group dynamic, group size, month and year.

The month of the year also had a significant effect on parasite prevalence in captive elephants.

Although the elephants of the Okavango Delta do not appear to be sharing the same fluke species as sympatric grazers, further genetic work is required to determine whether elephants and grazers are sharing the same nematode species.

The study on parasite ova found in both elephant and sheep faeces illustrated that 10% formalin has some limitations as a storage medium, and may not be the optimum long-term preservative for eggs, especially at high storage temperatures.

The broad results of this study provide a base from which further work can be directed, as well as providing an insight into the under-researched area of African elephant parasites of the Okavango Delta.

This thesis is available to download from our website:
www.elephantsforafrica.org



Behavioural Ecology

Ecology and protection of the African elephants of Babile Elephant Sanctuary in Ethiopia

Sintayehu Dejene

PhD with Addis Ababa University

Sintayehu is a lecturer and researcher at Haramaya University. His interest lies with population ecology and conservation of mammals. He has conducted research into sustainable wildlife utilisation, population ecology, human-wildlife conflict resolution, sustainable development and climate change mitigation.

In 2012 he started his PhD through Addis Ababa University on the elephants living within the Babile Elephant Sanctuary (BES) in Ethiopia. In recent times his emphasis has had to change to try and stop the poaching of the remaining elephants in the sanctuary.

BES is one of the protected areas in Ethiopia that were established in 1970, to try to conserve the only elephant population in the Horn of Africa. These elephants have been separated from other populations in Ethiopia for more than eight decades. Due to an influx of a large number of farmers and their livestock, the home range of the elephants in BES has shrunk by 65%. Recently 100km² in the northern part of the sanctuary has been given to a private company engaged in the production of biofuel.

Local communities around the area are dependent on the sanctuary's vegetation for fencing, medicine, construction and fuel. Detailed studies are urgently needed on the elephants here, to determine the population and its importance to the ecological communities of the area.

Human-elephant conflict is very high in this area; it affects people's livelihoods as well as the elephants themselves, so this project works with the communities towards human-wildlife coexistence. Today, the sanctuary has limited protection from the law because it is not a national park. By becoming a national park, BES would be allocated a higher budget to enable the anti-poaching team to better carry out their work.



Whilst carrying out his studies in 2012 Sintayehu came across 32 dead elephants with an additional 10 found by the rangers of the sanctuary and Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation and Development Authority.

Out of the 32 bodies of elephants that Sintayehu found, the tusks of 21 elephants had been removed, which links these killings to the illegal ivory trade rather than conflict with local communities.

Sintayehu is working with *Elephant for Africa*, to provide good scientific data, which will help upgrade BES to a national park. Attaining a PhD will enable him to start a research group at Haramaya University and therefore expand his conservation work and increase involvement of local people.

Education

Boyce-Zero Scholarship
Mphoeng Ofithile
On-going since 2009



It is with huge pride that we announce that Mphoeng Ofithile, our first Boyce-Zero Scholarship student, has successfully defended his Masters thesis at the UK's University of Bristol in June 2012.

Mphoeng joined *Elephants for Africa* in 2008 and developed his Masters plan after learning the ropes and understanding what area of research would be of most interest to him. He has grown to become a very important part of our team and is now our project leader in the Makgadikgadi & Nxai Pan National Park.

The Boyce-Zero Scholarship program was started by *Elephants for Africa* in memory of two passionate conservationists who gave their all to Botswana and its wildlife.

The scholarship is aimed at local Motswanan conservationists to help them develop their career. We are now searching for the next student. To support this scholarship please donate online at:
<https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/elephantsforafrica>



Education

The Global Conservation Leadership Program for Youth-Botswana In collaboration with the Chicago Zoological Society

Our Elefun weekends now come under the larger umbrella of The Global Conservation Leadership Program for Youth-Botswana. Throughout Botswana, the elephants' home range has expanded; consequently human-elephant conflict has risen.

This program intends to improve the local young people's attitude towards elephants and other wildlife. It also intends to build their skills and give them the opportunity to access careers in the ecotourism industry.

The young people are members of school-based environmental clubs. Children of this age (8-12) are still interested in wildlife. Through mentoring and positive experiences with wildlife, we hope to foster this interest into becoming a life-long passion.

The first phase of this project targeted local youth from Moreomaoto village, which is 43km from the entrance to the national park, in central Botswana. This program in particular opened doors for dialogue with a new array of possible partners to collaborate on environmental education efforts in the area (that has one of the highest reported rates of conflict in Botswana). The response has been very positive.

Cycle of Inquiry Workshops

This program has been designed to train local educators to be better at enabling children to learn about nature. These informal education and community officers represent key partners and NGOs as well as the Department of Wildlife & National Parks who are already working, or planning to work here.

In Botswana, it is common to teach in a traditional rote learning style. On this course we aim to inform educators in how to teach children basic scientific principles, which they can then apply to their own simple experiments. This then promotes independent, critical thinking.



Elefun Weekends

Elefun weekends were hosted for the children of both Moreomaoto and Khumaga villages that are situated on the boundary of the National Makgadikgadi Park.

Participants learnt new skills, like identifying evidence of elephant presence, tracking elephants, exploring ecological interactions with elephants, discussing elephants' relationships with humans, and reflecting as a group on how they relate to elephants and wildlife.

The focus was on engaging the children in the environment and seeking solutions to questions through skills learnt on the Cycle of Inquiry workshop. The children collected data, summarised it and presented their findings to staff members at the national park.



Trustees

Elephants for Africa is fortunate to have three very supportive trustees:

Our longest serving member is Pat Sillence, who became a founder trustee in 2007. He is a retired serious fraud investigator who worked for Barclays Bank. His experience is being put to good use as Treasurer of the charity.

John Graham became a trustee in 2011. He has 34 years of investment experience with major financial institutions. He is Head of Marketing at Rogge Global Partners in London.

Brian Courtenay joined the board of trustees in 2010. Now semi-retired from the family business (SATIB), he brings business experience as well as a deep knowledge of African wildlife conservation issues to the charity.

Celebrity Patrons

Nick Knowles is a writer, director and one of Britain's most versatile television presenters. He met Kate Evans whilst filming the BBC television series *Wildest Dreams* and became the charity's patron because of his passion for wildlife.

James Honeyborne is the director of the wildlife drama: *Meerkats*. He is also a producer and director of many award-winning BBC TV wildlife documentaries. At the heart of his work lies a passionate belief in the need for conservation.



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 donors as well as the numerous small donors that support our work.

Organisations

Chicago Zoological Society
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
Dallas Zoo
Jack Hanna and the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
Memphis Zoo
The Chicago Board of Trade
The Conservation Endowment Fund
The Wilderness Trust
Tigress Production

Individuals

Ann Atkin
Barbara Kipper
Fernando Faro
James Jalenek
Paul & Olivia Edwards
John & Martha Graham
Kathy Faltin
Lesley Wood
Lis Meeker
Marcia Buckingham
Michael Fripp
Michelle Field-Chez
Molly Leight
Robin Ashby
Steve Stockall www.eartharkbotswana.com
Su Lees
Chris Baldwin
Wilmar Schmit & Peter Schmit

Financial Statement: Year Ending 31st December 2012

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds Year Ended 31 December 2012	Total Funds Year Ended 31 December 2011
Incoming Resources				
Grants and Donations Received	62,266	7,176	69,442	74,154
Adoptions Received	1,141		1,141	1,701
Fund Raising Income	1,838		1,838	3,612
Interest Income	37		37	38
Total Incoming Resources	65,281	7,176	72,457	79,506
Resources Expended				
Fund Raising Costs	2,225		2,225	9,039
Direct Charitable Activities:				
Scholarship			0	172
Education	5,350		5,350	15,106
Research Expenses	5,528	376	5,904	0
Equipment and Consumables	3,364		3,364	2,622
Printing, Postage and Stationary	0		0	405
Telephone and Communications	1,978		1,978	1,107
Computer Costs	0		0	0
Travel and Subsistence	15,275		15,275	11,147
Subscriptions	0		0	0
Dr. Kate Evans Stipend	20,487		20,487	18,260
Depreciation	3,898		3,898	995
Management and General	1,797		1,797	1,661
Governance Costs:				
Independent Examiners Fee	0	0	0	0
Accountancy	0	0	0	0
Total Resources Expended	59,902	376	60,278	60,515
Net Movement in Funds	5,379	6,800	12,179	18,991
Fund Balances Brought Forward 1 January 2012	40,637	1,336	41,973	22,982
Transfer Between Funds	8,218	-7,674	544	
Fund Balances Carried Forward 31 December 2012	54,234	462	54,696	41,973



How to Donate

Should you wish to make a donation, we have a range of options available that we trust you'll find quick, easy and secure:

1. You can donate online in a variety of ways:

www.PayPal.com by sending a payment to Order@ElephantsforAfrica.org
<https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/elephantsforafrica>

Or directly to our bank account -

Account name: Elephants for Africa

Account Number: 65345975

Sort Code: 08-92-99

SWIFT: CP BK GB 22

IBAN: GB07CPBK 089299 65345975

Bank: The Co-Operative Bank PLC

Bank Address: P.O. Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT, UK

2. We accept cheques made payable to *Elephants for Africa*.

Please send them to:

Elephants for Africa

c/o Mrs Marcia Buckingham

45 Twycross Road

Burbage

Hinckley

Leicestershire

LE10 2SF

UK



Contact Us

If you would like to know more, please visit us online:

Website: www.elephantsforafrica.org

Twitter: www.twitter.com/elephantkate

Facebook: www.facebook.com/elephantsforafrica

Or email: info@elephantsforafrica.org



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