

Elephants for Africa

Annual Report 2013



Elephants *for* Africa

Conservation through research and education





Dear friends,

Our first full year in our new camp within the Makgadikgadi National Park has seen our research areas expand as well as our team. Our work here is having a bigger impact than ever because we are in a prime location to work with local communities, the government and other NGOs.

This location really highlights the issues that threaten the survival of the African elephant because the boundary of the national park is along the Boteti River where wildlife moves through the fence and in to community land and livestock utilises the national park. This leads to conflict on both sides. Our work on human-elephant conflict, and livestock-wildlife disease as well as our education programs involve input from the community with long-term aims of conflict resolution.

The illegal ivory trade is still rife throughout Africa and recent events have shown that the effect is not limited to elephants. Ivory is easy money for terrorist organizations and militia; many people are now living in fear. Botswana is the elephants' last remaining stronghold with the largest remaining elephant population left in the world. Unsurprisingly, Botswana's elephants are in the firing line of the international syndicates that profit from this horrific trade and poaching rates are increasing on its borders.

Our holistic approach to elephant conservation engages the communities that live alongside wildlife and works with them towards sustainability and reducing conflict. We aim to encourage citizen-policing of illegal activities which we hope will lead to a decrease in poaching. This helps communities to prosper in the long-term, rather than poaching for short-term gains.

Mphoeng Ofithile is now project leader in Botswana, as the charity shifts towards locally-led projects. He is now hoping to complete a PhD which will further his career as a conservation biologist. We hope we will be able to continue supporting his endeavors through the Boyce-Zero Scholarship Fund. His role has been vital as we build our relationships with the communities nearby.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters for their contribution to our mission to strive towards a world of human-wildlife coexistence.

Best wishes, Tlholo sentle,

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



Behavioural Ecology

Long-Term Monitoring Project

Mphoeng Ofithile & other researchers

Male elephants dominate our sightings in the national park and we are considering what role these large groups have in male elephant society. Our time is spent identifying elephants to be able to understand how the males socialise. We hope to develop a computer program to speed this process up in the future. The role sociality has in the long-term conservation of elephants and many other species is only slowly being realized. The survival of many species is much more complex than just ensuring we have enough of each species.

There are a few very elusive female herds in the area, but they are so skittish it is hard to know if we are seeing the same herds or if they are new ones moving through because we have yet to reliably identify them. The camera traps have helped capture their presence in a non-intrusive way and we have also been able to capture sightings of the endangered white rhino. We plan to deploy more cameras to help us understand the role of the fence line in limiting access to water and the possibility of this being relocated in the future.

Unfortunately, our limited resources means that we have not been able to include the Nxai Pan National Park in our study area. Additional funding is required for a vehicle, fly camp and staff members to cover this vital ecosystem that provides a link between the Okavango Delta, Chobe National Park, Makgadikgadi National Park and beyond.



Behavioural Ecology

Seasonality

Mphoeng Ofithile



The seasons are very different here in the Makgadikgadi, but no less dramatic. The rainy season brings lush vegetation to sustain large wildebeest and zebra herds through the bleaker dry season where they must travel vast distances between food and water. 2012 was not a good year for rain and much of the wildlife suffered. As the wildlife was drawn to the river for water, the surrounding habitat was decimated and we were concerned about what nutrition the animals were getting. The same was happening outside the park and so pressure increased from livestock utilising the area.

Monitoring the habitat use of elephants and other wildlife through our monthly road surveys is assisting the Department of Wildlife & National Parks with their long-term management of this vital, yet fragile environment. This will assist in the long-term conservation of Botswana's wilderness, which is an important resource for many migratory species. The surveys are carried out throughout the year so we can see how large animals utilise the national park in different seasons and compare these to our findings in the Okavango Delta.

Stefanie Nett of Mainz University in Germany has joined us to study the effect habitat and seasonality has on the behaviour of the male elephants in the area.



Health & Welfare

Wildlife-Livestock Interface

Josephine Walker (PhD student)
University of Bristol

Josephine joined the team in October 2012; she is working on her PhD studying the transmission of parasitic worms between wildlife and domestic animals. The project's goal is to improve our understanding of the interaction between domestic animals and wildlife at the border of the park, and whether intestinal parasites are being transmitted between species. With this knowledge, we can target regular parasite treatment to times of high risk for each community, which will be a cost effective method of improving the health of livestock.

The communities here are dependent on their livestock for food, transport and as cash investment. Improving the health of the animals could have a big impact on human health, economic resilience, and food security. It could potentially reduce human-wildlife conflict in future.

In the field, Josephine collects faecal samples from zebras, elephants, wildebeest, cattle, sheep, goats and many other species, to analyse parasite species overlap. She has also been working closely with 47 farmers in three villages bordering the national park. She is training them to recognise signs of worm infection in their goats and sheep and providing de-worming drugs for the individual goats and sheep which are most affected by the worms.

The communities have been involved in the design of the project from the very beginning, when Josephine and Mphoeng Ofithile, held focus group discussions to determine what livestock diseases farmers were concerned about. We will continue to engage and empower the local communities to improve the health of their livestock and learn about the challenges that face communities living next to a national park.





Publications

Evans, K., Moore, R. & Harris, S. (2013) The release of a captive-raised female African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) in the Okavango Delta, Botswana. *Animals* 2013, 3, 370-385

Evans, K., Moore, R. & Harris, S. (2013) The Social and Ecological Integration of Captive-Raised Adolescent Male African Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) into a Wild Population. *PLoS ONE* 8(2): e55933. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0055933

Presentations & Posters

Evans, K (2013) Update from the field, the ivory crisis and Botswana. Paper at the 34th Annual Elephant Managers Association Conference, Dallas Zoo, Dallas, USA 6th-10th October

Evans, K & Ofithile, M. The social ecology of male African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) in Botswana Poster at the Elephant Managers Association Conference, Dallas Zoo, Dallas, USA 6th-10th October

Evans, K & Ofithile, M. The social ecology of male African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) in Botswana. Poster at the 9th International Conference on Behaviour, Physiology and Genetics of Wildlife Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, Berlin Germany 18th-21st September

Evans, K & Ofithile, M. The social ecology of male African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) in Botswana. International Elephant Foundation Conference, Pittsburgh Zoo, Pittsburgh, USA, August 2013



Education

Boyce-Zero Scholarship

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

Mphoeng Ofithile, our first scholarship student, successfully achieved his Masters thesis at the UK's University of Bristol in June 2012. 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 scholarship is aimed at local Motswanan conservationists to help them develop their career.

Unfortunately we did not manage to recruit a student in 2013, due to a lack of funding. We hope 2014 will see another local student supported through this initiative.

To support this scholarship please donate online at:
<https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/elephantsforafrica>



Education

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

It has been a busy year of school visits, talks and science with young people from the villages of Moreomaoto and Khumaga. We have also had discussions with the DWNP* and the BIUST* to understand what gaps need to be filled in the environmental education sector which will be covered by our program.

There have been some challenges along the way, but our ground work in 2013 will see the establishment of a local advisory board made up of environmental educators, safari guides and lodge owners. The board will guide the program on how to develop the skills in young people to lead to increased employability within the environmental/tourism sectors.

Another major deliverable for 2014 will be a Train the Trainers Workshop. This is for environmental educators, which *Care for the Wild* is funding and the *Chicago Zoological Society* will run. It is a follow-up from our successful Cycle of Inquiry workshop of 2012.

This will then be followed up with facilitating more regional workshops for the trainers to train others within their sectors, making sure that the knowledge is in-house and now dependent on *Elephants for Africa* and our partners in the future.

*Department of Wildlife and National Parks

*Botswana International University of Science and Technology





Trustees

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.

Pat Sillence has been a dedicated founder trustee since 2007. At the end of 2012, he decided to step down as trustee and treasurer to enable him to enjoy more time with his family.

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

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 a director and producer 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 supporters as well as the numerous small donors that support our work.

Organisations

Berlin International Women's Club
Berlin Metropolitan School
Birmingham Zoo
Chicago Zoological Society
Department of Wildlife and National Parks, *Conservation Trust Fund*
Memphis Zoo
Milwaukee Zoo, *Elephant Appreciation Day*
St Louis Zoo, *River's Edge Elephant Care Team*
The Chicago Board of Trade

Individuals

Ben Waddams
Charlie & Lucy Milner
Elizabeth Baillie
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Geoff & Lucy Wild
Jan Geiss
Jill Corkish
John & Martha Graham
Lesley Woods
Mr & Mrs Fripp
Barbara Kipper
Joyce Fordy
Mrs Simons
Rick Stewart
Su Lees
Tara Darby
The Friday volunteers of the Brookfield Zoo
Matt Dawson
James Jalenak
Jamond Bullock
Brittney Boyd
Dorothy Collier
Hillary Butler
Tom & Lisa Lillywhite

Financial Statement: Year Ending 31st December 2013

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds Year Ended 31 December 2013	Total Funds Year Ended 31 December 2012
Incoming Resources				
Grants and Donations Received	41,193	4,925	46,118	68,292
Adoptions Received	195		195	1,141
Fund Raising Income	1,134		1,134	1,838
Interest Income	30		30	37
Total Incoming Resources	42,551	4,925	47,476	71,307
Resources Expended				
Fund Raising Costs	3,492		3,492	2,225
Direct Charitable Activities:				
Education	731	109	840	5,350
Research Expenses	10,337	689	11,026	5,904
Equipment and Consumables	2,818	328	3,146	3,364
Telephone and Communications	1,235		1,235	1,978
Travel and Subsistence	6,477	101	6,578	15,275
Stipend	18,462		18,462	20,487
Depreciation	3,898		3,898	3,898
Management and General	5,195		5,195	1,797
Goverence Costs:				
Independent Examiners Fee	0	0	0	0
Accountancy	0	0	0	0
Total Resources Expended	52,644	1,228	53,872	60,278
Net Movement in Funds	-10,093	3,697	-6,396	11,030
Fund Balances Brought Forward 1 January 2013	44,580	462	45,042	34,012
Fund Balances Carried Forward 31 December 2013	34,487	4,159	38,646	45,042



How to Donate

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

1. You can donate online:

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

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