

Elephants
for Africa



Conservation through
Research and Education

Annual
Report
2019



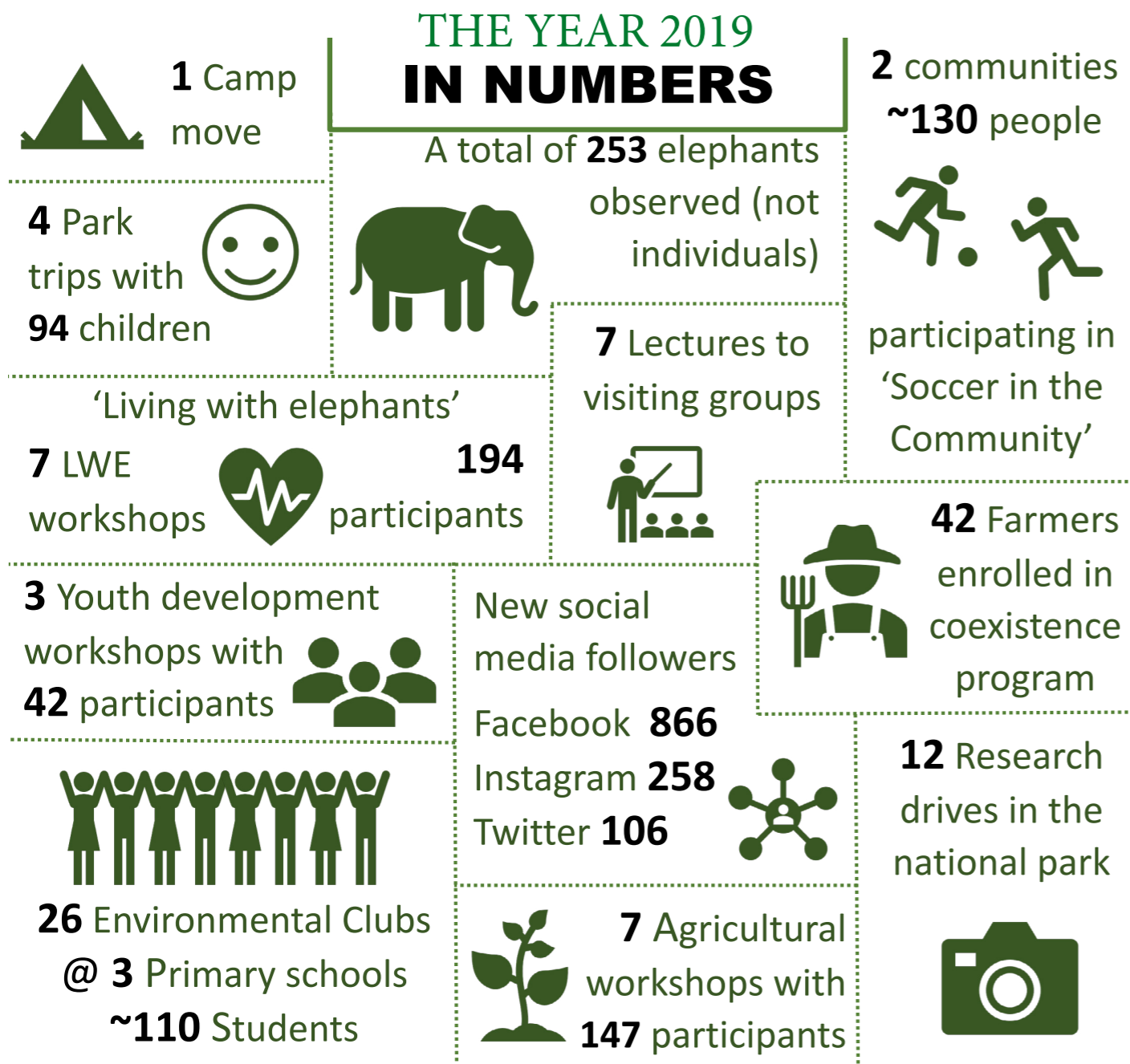


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Note from the Director

Dr Kate Evans



Perhaps now, more than ever, modern humanity is aware of the importance of nature, and how our interactions with wildlife can have both positive and negative consequences. The Covid-19 pandemic has certainly made many aware of our connectivity to the natural world and our vulnerabilities. However, this is not something new to the communities we work with, they live alongside wildlife daily, and feel and understand the pulses of nature as they struggle to survive in the harsh and challenging environment of Botswana; an ever-changing environment as weather patterns become more unpredictable.

2019 was another drought year for Botswana and the life-giving waters of the Boteti River all but dried up. Yet the resilience of the communities we work with, who let us share their daily trials and tribulations was inspiring and they continued to attend our workshops to learn about mitigation tools and conservation agriculture methods that can enhance their yields when the rains, the river and with its large numbers of elephants do return to the region. Our Community Officer Mr Mankind Molosiwa ensured that all of the farmers that did plough received the mitigation tools they needed to maximise their yields.

The male elephants of the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park continue to open the door to the world of male elephant society, under the watchful eye of our Research Assistant Mr Thatayaone Motsentwa. Our partnership with the citizen science platform, [SnapShotSafaris](#), is also shedding light into their nocturnal behaviours. Despite the drought, many of the males continued to utilise the resources of the park and surrounding areas and it was hard to see their physical condition deteriorate as the drought progressed, with some succumbing to what we believe was anthrax before the rains arrived in December.

We are all incredibly excited to have expanded our Community Outreach Programme into the village of Phuduhudu, where we will focus on opportunities for the youth at the request of the Kgosi (chief) and village elders, and we look forward to developing new workshops and activities for them in the coming years. This gives us another opportunity to visit this lovely community as this adds to our monthly commitment to the Junior school's environmental club. Our environment club programme also welcomed a new school, Moreomaoto Primary School with the programme going from strength to strength under the guidance and motivating teaching of our Community Outreach Officer, Mr Walona Sehularo.

As a small charity, our team members and supporters are family and this year we welcomed a new member, Dr Kristine Meise, who takes over from Dr Rebecca Dannock as our Project Manager, who has taken up the role of Grants and Donor Relationships Officer splitting her time between the field camp and her homeland of Australia. Kristine joins us with a behavioural ecology background and vast experience from field camps around the world, and we are very excited to have her on board to head up the team in Botswana.

Quietly keeping the cogs going of the charity is our UK-Coordinator Polly Dudley-Clayden, supporting us all in our daily administration needs, organising travel, bookkeeping, merchandising and a whole lot more.

None of our achievements would have been possible without the support of all our funders, board members and supporters; THANK YOU

Best wishes, Tlhora sentle,

Dr Kate Evans
Founder and Director



Note from Project Manager

Dr Kristine Meise

During the last year Elephants for Africa has faced many challenges. The move of our camp from the national park to a beautiful location on the western side of the Boteti river was a challenge for the whole team, which has led to a massive improvement in the quality of life for our Botswana team, being surrounded by a much nicer environment and nearer to the communities we serve and more accommodating to visitors. The continued drought throughout southern Africa is challenging to both the communities in the region and the wildlife. Only 11 of the 42 farmers enrolled in our Community Outreach Project dared to plough this year, and subsequently, of these brave and determined community members, only four were able to harvest. The Boteti river continued to recede and the lack of water in other areas drastically increased the conflict between elephants and humans as they competed for the same resource. Sadly, our partner communities suffered the loss of one community member and another was seriously injured after elephant attacks as they went about their daily chores. These tragic incidents highlighted the importance of our Community Outreach Project, especially the 'Living with Elephant' workshops. We started to hold these workshops at the larger cattle posts, as well the community centres, to make sure we reach more of the people who are most likely to come into direct contact with elephants and thus benefit most from this training. Our conservation agricultural workshops continued to ensure the farmers have access to information about how best to increase and maintain yields, particularly to prepare for the predicted lower rainfall that Botswana will face in the coming decades. We are very happy to report that we have been able to expand this aspect of our program into a second community.

Taking over as the project manager from Dr Rebecca Dannock in the middle of a drought year was a challenge, but it was made easier by the excellent team that helped me to understand the ins and outs of our various programs in Botswana and whose passion and dedication for their work inspired and continue to inspire me. Every one of them fits their role so perfectly, that I hope we won't see any changes in the team anytime soon. Walona, although having previously declared never wanting to be a teacher, has a gift in keeping the students of our environmental clubs engaged and moulding them into the Environmental Stewards of tomorrow. Thatayaone can spot an elephant in the middle of the bush thicket whilst driving; an elephant that others only see once he points them in the right direction. And finally, Mankind has the life experience and diplomacy to discuss controversial topics with the communities without raising their wrath and to get the community members on board with new initiatives. I want to thank them for all the hard work they have undertaken this past year for EfA and I am looking forward to seeing what we can achieve together in the coming year.

Best wishes,

Dr Kristine Meise

EfA moves camp and gets a much-needed upgrade

Dr Rebecca Dannock, Grants and Relationships Officer

During February and March 2019, Elephants for Africa's (EfA) Botswana team had a huge undertaking to move EfA's field research camp from the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park to the community land on the opposite side of the Boteti River. The new camp is situated approximately 6km north of the village of Khumaga, allowing easier access to the communities that EfA works in (Khumaga, Moreomaoto and Phuduhudu) and to EfA's nearest supply towns of Maun and Rakops.

To complete the move, EfA had to move all accommodation tents, outdoor shower, store tent, decks and shade structures as well as all office, storeroom, and kitchen supplies, furniture and equipment, including our solar power system. To ready the site, we had to install plumbing and sewerage and add solar power capacity to run the sewerage system. Two retrofitted shipping containers were purchased (thanks to [Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens](#) and the [Memphis Zoo](#)) one for the kitchen and one for an office, with bathrooms included on the back.

Through this move, we not only moved our accommodation, living spaces and office to a new location but also made vast camp improvements. These improvements included the installation of a reverse osmosis system to allow camp water to be used for cooking and drinking; in the old camp, all drinking water needed to be carried into camp in containers. The new camp also has a 6.5m x 8m deck area, half undercover, for dining, leisure time, holding meetings, braaiing (southern African for barbecuing) and using as an office space when the office is over-occupied. This area not only adds comfort and function for the team and guests but has also created a safer area to use after dark, by raising the area off the ground where snakes, scorpions and spiders reside. Since the move, thanks to the generous contribution of a friend of EfA, we also now have a second office, in the form of a timber and canvas building, built with the climate of camp in mind and we look forward to putting the finishing touches to it as soon as we can.

All in all, the camp move, while being a stressful and busy time for the EfA team, has been a positive change, allowing for a more functional, comfortable, safe and accessible camp for all its inhabitants. The new camp, with no rental costs or associated fees, will also save EfA money in the long run, while allowing easier interactions with the communities in which we work. Also, by being more accessible to guests, EfA will be in a better position to host visiting institutions and students.

Thanks to Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, The Memphis Zoo, Desert and Delta safaris, Chaturini Jayasuriya and Bill Wallace for your generous contributions to this camp move.

Best wishes,

Dr Rebecca Dannock



Tuskers outdoor workshop: The meeting of minds

January saw Dr Kate Evans and Project Manager Dr Rebecca Dannock head to Hoedspruit in South Africa for the 'Tuskers Elephant Workshop', which Elephants for Africa co-hosted alongside Elephants Alive and the SATIB Conservation Trust.

It was an engaging week of inspiring talks from elephant researchers and managers throughout Southern Africa, addressing the current and future elephant conservation issues. Discussions were lively, with particular focus on how best to engage local and national stakeholders, the role of women in conservation and increasing reliance on subsistence farming and community conservation efforts for the long-term survival of iconic species and wildlife areas.



The main outcomes of the workshop were 1) the need for elephant management and conservation to empower more women to have a voice, from the subsistence farmers on the ground, through to researchers and policymakers, this would lead to a more sustainable and long-term management policies for the benefit of both humans and elephant; 2) conservationist to up their game on how they communicate their findings and recommendations at all stakeholder levels; 3) landscape connectivity is key to the sustainability of elephant populations, and this needs to be pushed and communicated at all stakeholder levels 4) human-elephant competition is on the rise and practical solutions need to be shared through forums, future workshops and correspondence as much, and as quickly as possible 5) with ever-increasing human population and thus expanding footprint there will soon be no tomorrow so we must act now to bring a holistic and long-term outcome to the forefront of conservation measures. Special thanks must go to our trustees Dr Michelle Henley of Elephants Alive and Mr Brian Courtenay of SATIB Conservation Trust who worked tirelessly to bring in sponsorship and delegates for the workshop. We are very grateful to the sponsors, Elephants Alive, SATIB Insurance Brokers, Pinetown Printers, Great Plains Conservation, Ndabushi Lodge and Umlani Bushcamp for enabling this important workshop to go ahead.

Dr Henley (the founder of Elephant Alive) joined EfA's board at the end of last year and we are very excited about working more closely together in the future. With our shared research interest of male elephant ecology, it is the perfect fit to explore and compare the similarities and differences of male elephants in two very different landscapes.

We would also like to thank all the Elephants Alive staff who hosted us so graciously and we look forward to returning the favour on a return visit to our camp soon.

Research - Long-term monitoring program

Mr Thatayaone Motsentwa, Research Assistant
and Dr Kristine Meise, Project Manager



With less than a third of the usual annual rainfall in 2019, many natural water sources dried up, including the Boteti River, a river which has been a lifeline for both wildlife and humans in the Boteti region during the dry seasons. The lack of water left elephants with no options but to migrate to other areas to find water. As a result, we observed fewer elephants than normal in the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park. Nevertheless, we continued with our long term research project in the national park, trying to understand how the drought conditions affect movement and attendance patterns in the park as well as the social structure of the remaining bulls.

Towards the end of the dry season, the situation worsened, and the drought started to take its toll both on wild and domestic species that were desperately looking for food and water. The numbers of carcasses found along the roads steadily increased as the drought continued and the long-awaited rains remained mirages on the horizon, which was hard for us all to stomach. Unfortunately, the elephants were not exempt from this and when the rains still hadn't arrived in November, we started to see elephant carcasses during our research drives in the park and on the community land. Similarly, elephant deaths were being reported in other areas of Botswana, with some of these cases confirmed as anthrax. Anthrax is a naturally occurring bacteria in the dry soil of the Kalahari and during drought periods, when animals start digging up infected soil, the spores come to the surface where animals inhale or ingest them. Elephants are known to dig up roots, especially when other plant parts have become scarce during dry periods, therefore it is likely that they came into contact with the spores when searching for food, although due to the difficulty of identifying anthrax, this has not been confirmed for the dead elephants in the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park.

As our research aims at understanding the ecology and social behaviour of elephants in the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, whenever possible, we tried to estimate the age of the dead animals to see whether elephants of a particular age class were more affected. We found that age did not appear to influence the susceptibility of elephants to the infection.

Luckily the depressing landscape quickly changed, once the first rains arrived in Botswana in December. Plants in desert environments are well adapted to deal with very little rainfall and respond quickly to the arrival of the rains. Thus, the grass quickly started sprouting and bushes turned green almost overnight, providing much-needed food for elephants and other herbivores, preventing further deaths. Elephant numbers still seem to be lower than in previous years as fewer males are migrating to the Boteti region, most likely due to the lack of water in the river. The amount of rain received in Angola this year will heavily influence whether the river will return in 2020 or whether the riverbed will remain dry for another year, leaving only a few puddles for animals to quench their thirst and hippos and crocodiles to reside in.

Research - Sociality of male elephants

Miss Connie Allen, PhD student, University of Exeter

In stark contrast to my times in the Makgadikgadi wilderness, I have spent the last year living a very studious, urban and rather monotonous existence – seeing elephants only through my laptop screen for hours and hours each day. I am writing up my PhD work with Elephants for Africa and the University of Exeter – and have decided to do the process via publishing of academic papers as I go, rather than solely focus on getting my thesis done – this way the vital information discovered from my work reaches the world, and is accessible to the public, decision-makers and conservationists rather than stacked away on the university shelves.

Hopefully, soon I will be able to share with you my first published paper, which looks at how the oldest mature bull elephants lead collective movements of males through the environment on elephant pathways. We challenge the current assumption that older male elephants are redundant in the population and raise concerns over the biased removal of old bulls that currently occurs in both legal trophy hunting and illegal poaching. Removing older males could have detrimental effects on the wider elephant society through the loss of leaders crucial to younger male navigation in unknown, risky environments. Alongside this, I have also been working on an olfaction study which looks at how male elephants use olfactory information (urine and dung) from other elephants deposited on these heavily used elephant pathways. I have found that elephants use their trunk extensively during travel along elephant pathways, firstly showing elephants travelling alone monitor using their sense of smell significantly more than those travelling in groups (suggesting olfactory cues are aiding in navigation) and secondly showing elephants pay heightened interest to adult urine significantly more than subadult urine. This interesting result, suggests male elephants may monitor the movements of other males (potential affiliates or threatening individuals) they can expect to encounter ahead of them in the environment.

I now advance to my final two chapters/ papers which will use the video footage I have from my time spent observing elephants on the Boteti river between 2015 and 2018. I will be asking interesting and crucial questions, both about aggression in adolescence and how it potentially is affected by social factors such as a lack of mature bull presence; as well as looking at the social determinants of group changes, we see in these flexible male groupings at the Boteti River.

Research – Elephants and their role in biodiversity maintenance and loss

Ms Masego Jeneje Mokobela, PhD student, Nelson Mandela University

Elephants evolved in Africa as part of a unique group of mammals called the Afrotheria. Owing to their large size and feeding habits, elephants can have a considerable influence on biodiversity. They have the potential to create, modify and maintain habitats and play a key role in many ecological processes including; nutrient cycling, seed dispersion, germination facilitation, litter production and increasing land patchiness. By creating habitat complexity, they have a positive effect on species abundance and diversity. However, at high densities and under confined conditions such as fencing and expanding human settlements, elephants have been shown to have an adverse impact on habitats, transforming woodlands and forests into open shrubland or grasslands. This raises concerns about the possible eradication of plant and animal species whose existence is dependent on forest or woodland habitats.

Megaherbivores are animal species whose adult body mass exceeds 1000 kg, examples include, elephants, giraffes, rhinoceros and hippopotamus. Many landscapes have lost their megaherbivores due to climate change, human activity or both. The loss of megaherbivore browsing pressure as a result of the loss of this guild from the ecosystem, creates a state termed ‘Megaherbivore Release’ where plant and animal communities may develop differently. We do not fully understand the effects of Megaherbivore Release on ecosystem structure and composition. Megaherbivore impact research has thus far focused on the effects of megaherbivore activities on ecosystems. We, therefore, know more about the consequences of their presence on ecosystems than we know about the effects of their absence. Using elephants as a model species, I hope my PhD study will expand our understanding of the ecological consequences of Megaherbivore Release and add to knowledge on the role of this guild in ecosystems.

Moreover, some African landscapes are currently experiencing a recovery of their elephant populations after historic declines, elephants are recolonising and expanding into their historic ranges; as is the case in the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park (MPNP). It is equally important to understand land use patterns and impacts of a recolonising elephant population and how other species respond to such impacts. Should the observed changes (mostly seen as aesthetically displeasing) brought about by a recolonising elephant population be seen as negative and impacts therefore mitigated, or are the elephants influencing a change in ecosystem structure and composition that resets the habitats, restoring them to their historic state (before removal of elephants).

The MPNP is an open system with a male-biased elephant population (98% are males) that occurs at low densities and presents an opportunity to explore such questions. The extended periods of elephant presence and absences create a natural experiment which affords us a unique opportunity to study both the ecological consequences of megaherbivore release and impact of a recolonising elephant population on biodiversity (Megaherbivore Resetting). Lessons learnt can be applied in the management of ecosystems that still have megaherbivores and those that have experienced megaherbivore extinction such as in Eurasia and America.

I look forward to updating you on my findings.



Education Schools

Walona Sehularo, Community Outreach Officer

This year was characterised by the expansion and strengthening of our educational program. We completed the 22 lesson plans for our 2-year rolling curriculum for our Primary School Environmental Education programme and are ready to share it with current and new partners. Working with the teachers in our partner schools, the village chiefs and the Department of Wildlife and National Parks the lesson plans were designed so that the lessons complement the school's curriculum, and it has been very rewarding that some of our lessons are already part of schools teaching outside of the Environment Clubs that we support.

Our curriculum covers a variety of subjects, intending to build environmental stewards who will protect elephants and other natural resources in their communities. We already have an agreement with two partner NGOs; Round River and Junior Rangers Botswana, who will be using the lesson plans for their outreach activities. We look forward to sending it out to more organisations and schools in the future, as we are open and willing to share. So, whilst we focus on three local primary schools, our work, and thus the support of our funders, is far-reaching throughout Botswana.

This year we welcomed Moreomaoto Primary School to our education program, which means we now support three environmental clubs engaging circa 132 students (21 in the village of Moreomaoto, 50 in Mogolokwane and 61 in Khumaga) through our monthly activities. We continued to teach students about their environment in a fun and interactive way, encouraging them to critically think about what they see and learn, a skill that can be applied to their other school subjects, and throughout life. This year we covered the following topics; Clouds and the Water Cycle, Being A Scientist, Insects, Dangerous Animals, Nest Building, Flight; Birds, Insects and Humans, The Universe; The Earth and Stars Beyond, Electricity & Renewable Energy, The Plants Around Us, Water & Water Conservation and Extinction & Endangered Animals. The best lesson for me was the one on Water Conservation, especially important as we were experiencing a bad drought. The lesson covered the water cycle, water systems and how water loss occurs in the water system. The water loss was particularly important as whilst most students will have already learned to conserve water, many had not realized that each little bit of water that is lost throughout the system will equal a lot of water lost by the end. It is said that 'seeing is believing' and it was most certainly the case with this hands-on activity.

As well as our monthly activities, the highlight for the school leavers, and ourselves, were the two overnight trips into the national parks. Khumaga Primary School, sponsored by Bush Ways Safaris, visited the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park whilst Mogolokwane Primary School, sponsored by Kwando Safaris visited Nxai Pans National Park. The trips are aimed at familiarising the students with the beauty of the national parks in their backyards through a fun and engaging experience. The 50 children that were able to participate in these trips had the opportunity to see for themselves the opportunities available in the conservation sector from tourism to research. They learned that the roles available in conservation are more than just guides and cooks, but also supporting and managerial positions needed to keep the lodges and the parks running smoothly.

Community Coexistence Project; introducing our newest partner community

Dr Rebecca Dannock, Grants and Relationships Officer

In 2019 we expanded our Community Coexistence Project to include the village of Phuduhudu; a community that is flanked both by the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park to the south, and Nxai Pan National Park to the north and east. Due to its proximity to two unfenced protected areas, this community suffers high levels of human-wildlife conflict while being restricted in terms of industry, as their land use is governed by the conservation status of the area. We have worked with the community of Phuduhudu for a number of years. However, until this year, it has only been a collaboration with the primary school, Mogolokwane. We have been looking for ways to assist Phuduhudu for quite some time; unlike Khumaga and Moreomaoto, the community have rarely been the benefactor of NGO community outreach programs and the community itself is quite marginalised.

A high proportion of the community is Basarwa (often referred to as Bushmen), a historically marginalised group, and in the past, the community has been reliant on the hunting industry for employment, often as trackers. With Botswana ceasing hunting for a number of years, this community has been through increased economic hardship. This is something their new chief, Kgosi Ngwengare, is trying hard to overcome.

Throughout the year, we held a number of talks with the Kgosi and the community elders to see whether EfA could help them achieve their goals. As a new Kgosi for the community, Kgosi Ngwengare has many plans for improvement, and as an ex-head teacher, he is a strong advocate of education, not handouts, to uplift his people. He was and is enthusiastic for EfA to come and share our learnings on human-elephant conflict, through our Living With workshops, and help uplift the youth through employability training, on topics such as how to write a CV, effective marketing (of enterprises and individuals) and how to write business plans and perform bookkeeping functions. For him and the community, youth upliftment is a key part of their strategy to overcome the community's high unemployment rates.

Funding from the International Elephant Foundation enabled us to implement our Living with Elephants workshops immediately, but we needed more if we were going to work with the youth. Thankfully, once we had an understanding of where EfA could help the community, it didn't take long to get a supporter on board. Conversations with Dandridge Safaris led to an offer to fund monthly workshops and/or training sessions in Phuduhudu. We're now a number of months into our work with Phuduhudu and are constantly energised by the support we are getting from the community elders to make our program the most beneficial it can be for the people of Phuduhudu. It is a rewarding community to work with and we look forward to what the partnership will bring in 2020.

Human-Elephant Competition

Dr Kate Evans, Founder & Director

One consequence of the drought that has gripped Botswana is the lack of farmers committing to cropping and thus the lack of crops available to raid, as a consequence the number of crop-raiding incidences were very low this year. However, conflict with elephants is not just about them eating crops. Living alongside elephants is a demanding situation, community members must be constantly on guard when they move around their community. With the river receding, community members have had to walk further for water not only for their household needs but also for their livestock, increasing the possibility of interactions with potentially dangerous wildlife. It is with a very heavy heart that we have to report the loss of a young man's life this year. Returning to the kraal with his employer's cattle, after visiting friends at a neighbouring kraal, he came across an elephant and was trampled, dying from his injuries. Unfortunately, our 'Living with Elephants' workshops had not reached his cattle post and thus he had not had access to the vital information that may well have saved his life.

Another incident involved an elderly couple being charged by an elephant as they returned from the river where they had watered the donkeys, they had used to plough their field. The husband managed to escape unharmed, but the woman was attacked and suffered a broken leg and arm. With these injuries, she was not able to contribute to the household for many months. Even a year after the attack she still has to use a walking stick and the mental trauma and the fear of elephants this has caused is something that she is unlikely to recover from in the near future. Nevertheless, she is a very determined woman and we watched with awe as she returned to the field this season, ploughing alongside her neighbours to support her family.

Our deepest sympathies are with the families that have suffered such trauma and loss. These incidents and those throughout Botswana have deepened our resolve to reach as many people as we can with our workshops and expand our work as and when we can to limit the potentially dangerous interactions communities may have as they live alongside wildlife. Working with the communities and our local NGO board we are developing strategies and programmes that address their needs and concerns and work towards reducing the costs of living alongside wildlife and increasing the benefits.



Education - Extra outreach Activities

Mr Walona Sehularo, Community Outreach Officer
Soccer in the community

2019 was the second year we welcomed football coaches from Soccer in the Community from the USA to host football training camps in the region, followed by a local tournament. It was another great success and more so this year as we brought in some youth from the village of Phuduhudu for the tournament, an action we hope builds relationships between the two communities who both live on the outskirts of the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park and are equally affected by their proximity to the park.

In total, we had 150 participants, young girls and boys, from Khumaga, and both male and female youth (18-30-year old's) from Khumaga and Phuduhudu. The activities spanned one week and were divided into two sessions (morning and afternoon), one for younger kids and one for the youth. They participated in conservation-based games, developed by Mr Paul Gibbons a football coach with extensive experience in using soccer as an educational outreach tool. One such game is the "Florida Panther game", named after the critically endangered cougar found in the United States of America. The panthers are threatened by human encroachment on their home ranges and human activity, especially cars. Thus, to move around, the Florida panther has to avoid human settlements and cars. This situation is similar for some endangered animals in Botswana, thus this game proved to be an important tool to teach the participants how human activity can affect the migration and behaviour of wildlife in Botswana.

Compared to the previous year, we had a lot more participants, word had spread as many who were spectators last year wanted to join this year. They said that they now understood what the soccer camp was about and wanted to partake, some to keep fit, others to learn. The Soccer in the Community team hopes to be back next year and to hold the camp in both villages.

Sanctuary Retreats, Baines Kid's Camp

In July 2019, ten students that receive support from Tower Family Support Services in Maun, which provide intervention measures for families and orphans in need, attended the Sanctuary Retreats Children's Camp at Baines in the Okavango Delta. During the three-night trip, the participants were joined by EfA for one night and two days during which they learnt about EfA, elephants, conservation and human-elephant conflict and coexistence. EfA staff also attended two game drives which included nature walk activities, led by Sanctuary guide, Ice, to teach the students about tracks and spoor.

The students in attendance were all from vulnerable families or were orphans; Tower Family Support Services provides much-needed support to nurture children and strengthen family relationships to build stronger communities. Thus, this trip was not only an important trip to help improve the education and environmental awareness of these students but was also a way to give them an experience that they will never forget and unlikely ever to experience without the generosity of Sanctuary Retreats Camp. The feedback from the staff of Tower and Sanctuary Retreats and the students was strongly positive, with all hoping that EfA and Sanctuary Retreats can continue to run these trips in the future. The trip was sponsored by Sanctuary Retreats while further funding came from Elephants for Africa's unrestricted funding and in-kind support.

National Geographic gets a crash course in elephant conservation

Dr Rebecca Dannock, Grants and Relationships Officer

This year, two groups of high school students accompanied by National Geographic trip leaders spent time with us learning all aspects of our work, to give aspiring conservationists and wildlife photographers a real-life look into the world of wildlife conservation. The students spent time in the community to understand the human-wildlife conflict from the local perspective and in the field to learn about how we collect our data. All in all, it was a great opportunity for EfA to spread the conservation message and do so in a way that educated a group of mostly western students on the challenges of living with wildlife. By far, the most illuminating part of the trips was when the students were asked to think critically about the topic of hunting.

Trophy hunting in Botswana is a controversy with many tourists and westerners being appalled by the resumption of elephant hunting in 2019, while many local communities appreciate it as they expect a reduction in human-elephant conflict. Working in Botswana with local communities in order to protect the African savannah elephant, means that we listen to the communities' opinions on the matter and try to understand how we can assist them to resolve the conflict, thus reducing the need for elephant hunting. For most students, hunting in Africa has been something their media has portrayed as evil. We wanted them to also consider the people of Botswana and their thoughts alongside the scientific understanding of male elephant ecology to fully understand the complicated situation on the ground. In an activity with the students, we asked them to think about their views on hunting in Botswana and stand along a spectrum of pro-hunting to anti-hunting. There was a mad rush as the majority went as far towards anti-hunting as possible. We then took the students out into the community to learn about human-elephant competition for resources, politics and general life in Botswana.

Back in camp, we split the group into pairs that had to mock-debate Botswana's hunting policy, but from the viewpoint assigned to them: farmers, scientists, local politicians, the tourism industry and the hunting industry. They had to present their case to the 'President of Botswana'. This unleashed an hour of impassioned pleas for hunting, from 'farmers' and the 'hunting industry' and well-thought-out arguments from the 'scientists'. We were impressed with how the students got into the mindset of their characters and used critical thinking to develop arguments for their position, and planned rebuttals, knowing what the other groups would counter with.

This was a refreshing part of the trip as we saw these students think analytically about everything they had heard in the past and re-evaluate the information, having heard from the local stakeholders. Upon being asked a second time to stand in the spectrum, everyone rushed to the centre. A clear sign that they realised the hunting issue is not as black and white as the media suggests. We could almost see the lightbulbs click on, as the students realised how biased their news media generally is against the people who have to live with wildlife. We were glad to see how much more open-minded the students were to all sides. After all, having an open mind, and including locals in the conservation process, is the only way conservation will win.



Global fashion brand, BOSS, supports the charity Elephants for Africa for its Holiday 2019 campaign

November 2019 marked the start of a collaboration between BOSS (one of HUGO BOSS' premium fashion brands) and Elephants for Africa for the BOSS Holiday 2019 campaign. The brand chose to support Elephants for Africa to help raise awareness of the challenges that African wildlife face and showcase the beauty of the 'African Big Five'; elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion and leopard, through a unique clothing collection.

The campaign was truly global with their flagship stores throughout the world showcasing the clothing range and Elephants for Africa. Our Founder, Dr Kate Evans, was invited to talk at two of the official launch events in Dubai and Johannesburg, a wonderful opportunity for her to highlight the importance of our work and how this campaign will create real change in the lives of those living alongside the Big Five in Botswana.

As an NGO that is committed to conserving the endangered African savannah elephant through research, education and raising awareness, Elephants for Africa was the perfect fit for this campaign. We were extremely pleased to have the support of BOSS, an organisation that understands and recognizes its responsibility towards society, humankind and wildlife, and is committed to supporting worldwide access to education. It is this last commitment of Elephants for Africa in particular that led BOSS to make a donation to one area of Elephants for Africa's conservation work; its school's education program. These funds will enable Elephants for Africa to continue, and expand, its education projects. These initiatives share knowledge with local school children creating the environmental stewards of the future and give the students opportunities to see their wildlife in their national parks as well as meet local role models working in the environmental and tourism sector. All these activities ultimately help them live alongside elephants safely and realise the benefits of wildlife to their ecosystems and economy thus, becoming the guardians of their elephants and other wildlife.

As a small charity, we are continuously working hard to raise funds to keep our projects going, so we are exceptionally grateful for this donation from BOSS. We will be able to run our existing education programme partnering with three primary schools throughout 2020 and expand it by taking our tried and tested methodologies to Motopi Junior Secondary School, -the school our partner primary schools feed into. This means we can help significantly more children to remain safe when sharing land with wild animals, continue environmental education into secondary education and give them the skills required to become the environmental problem solvers of their communities.

Our sincere thanks goes to BOSS for providing us with funds that will make a real difference to peoples lives and we look forward to reporting on how their donation has helped us deliver high quality environmental education in Botswana.



Finances

REVENUE

Donations & Legacies - £68,140

Grants - £28,577

Merchandise & sundry - £2,582

TOTAL £99,299

EXPENSES

Income Generation - £7,587

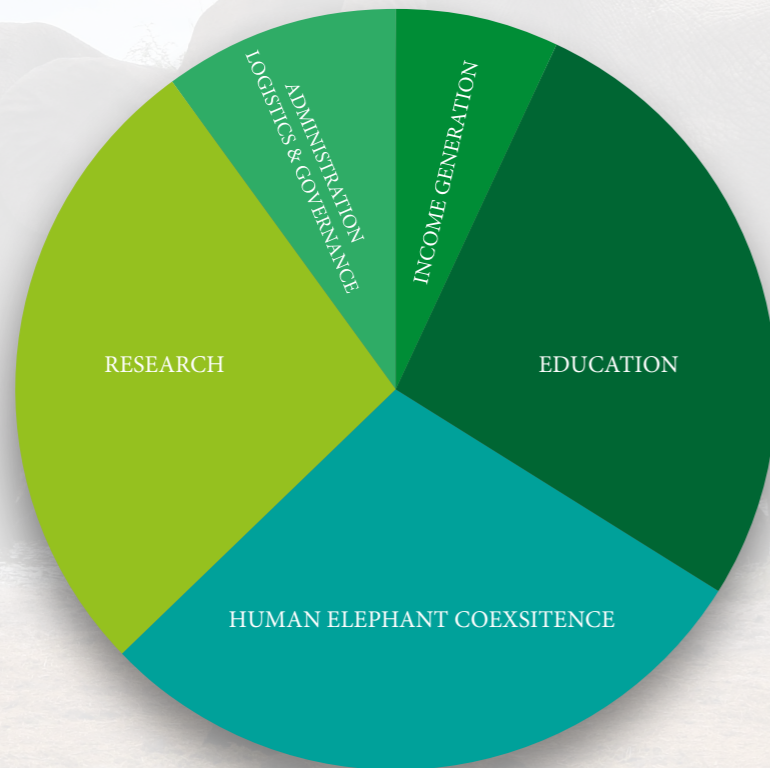
Research - £28,806

Human Elephant Coexistence - £30,982

Education - £28,531

Administration, Logistics & Governance - £10,257

TOTAL - £106,163



Our Boards

CHARITY TRUSTEES

David Matthias QC joined the board of trustees in 2015 and is Chair of the Board for its current term, taking over from John Graham at our AGM in October 2019. 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 is married to Sarah, has four children and two dogs and lives in north 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.

John Graham joined the board of trustees in 2011 and was the Chair of the Board until our AGM in October when he handed over the reins to David Matthias. He has 37 years of international investment experience with major financial institutions. Having retired from his role as Director and Senior Portfolio Manager at Rogge Global Partners, he joined Elephants for Africa's Board as Chairman. 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.

Dr Karen Ross joined the board of trustees in 2017. Born and raised in Africa, she has a doctorate in wildlife ecology from Edinburgh University and has spent most of her career working mainly in the Okavango Delta in Botswana. Author of Okavango: Jewel of the Kalahari, her book was first published as a companion to a BBC documentary of the same title. Karen's subsequent work in the Okavango Delta was part of some critical conservation activities in Botswana, including the protection of the delta from mining threats; from upstream water withdrawals from Namibia; and taking the lead in the dialogue against cattle veterinary fences being built in the wilderness surrounding the delta. From 2007 she collaborated with the government of Botswana, Okavango communities and numerous national and international stakeholders, to nominate the Okavango Delta as a UNESCO World Heritage site. She was chief editor of the Nomination Dossier and in 2014 the Okavango Delta was inscribed by UNESCO as the 1,000th World Heritage Site.

Dr Michelle Henley joined the board of trustees in 2018. She is Co-founder, CEO and Principal Researcher at the South African based NGO, Elephants Alive. Her PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg focused on the sex and age related distinctions in the feeding ecology of the African elephant, which formed the foundation of Elephants Alive. She is a Post-doctoral Fellow at the Applied Behavioural Ecology and Environmental Research Unit of the University of South Africa and is on the management committee of the Elephant Specialist Advisory Group of South Africa and a member of the African Elephant Specialist Group. Michelle is an award-winning conservationist.

If you are interested in becoming a trustee for Elephants for Africa, please express your interest by sending us an email:

info@elephantsforafrica.org

NGO BOARD MEMBERS

Dr Emily Bennitt (Chairperson), Mr Bapaletshe Motlamma (Vice-Chairperson), Ms Kgomotso Belinda Mothibi (Secretary), Ms Di Robson (Treasurer), Brian Courtenay, Mr John Graham, Ms Kealesitse Kebannetse, Ms Kennie Kgotathe, Ms Theda Knyphausen, Ms Wabotlhe Letubo, Mr David Matthias QC, Ms Veronica Ridge, Dr Karen Ross, Mr Steve Stockhall, Ms Patritia Thabano, Ms Maggie Hilthang

Donors

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS

Professor 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 freshwater fish to resident killer whales.

Professor 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.

Dr Ryan Wasserman is an academic at the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST), an Adjunct Research Fellow at Monash University Malaysia (MUM) and a Research Associate at the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB). Ryan has a broad interest in ecology and has worked across a range of environments and on various taxa. His research interests lie in interactions among aquatic organisms and how these interactions drive distribution and abundance. He is particularly interested in trophic interactions within the context of global climate change, invasion biology, pollution ecology, and cross-ecosystem subsidies.



Elephants for Africa would not be able to continue its valuable work without the support from its generous donors. We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to our main supporters of our work in 2019 (listed below) and those who wish to remain anonymous.

FOR A FULL LIST OF DONORS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.elephantsforafrica.org/how-you-can-help/new

ORGANISATIONS

African Voyages
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Dimitri Syrris
Susan Lees

INDIVIDUALS

Mr & Mrs Arnett
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Anthony Travis
Mr & Mrs Buckingham

Publications

PAPERS AND THESES

- King, K. (2019). African savanna elephant group size and behaviour in the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, Botswana. Honors Thesis. Environmental Studies Program. Colby College, USA.
- Evans, K. Bull elephants – their importance as individuals in elephant societies. In Research, Wildlife and the Decoding Science post series; African Geographic. <https://africageographic.com/blog/bull-elephants-their-importance-as-individuals-in-elephant-societies/>
- Evans, K.E. (2019). Elephants for Africa: male Savannah elephant *Loxodonta africana* sociality, the Makgadikgadi and resource competition. *International Zoo Yearbook*. 51 (30) 200-207
- Evans, K.E. (2019). The Elephant in the Room. In *Elephant Wellness* ed. Morris, M.C., Segura, V.D., Forthman, D.L. & Maple, T.L. pp146-156
- McFarlane, H.R. (2019). Physiological and Environmental Factors which Influence Temporal Gland Secretions in Male African Savannah Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*), in the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, Botswana. Master thesis, University of Glasgow

PRESENTATIONS, TALKS & POSTERS

- Evans, K.E. Elephants for Africa: An Introduction. Tuskers Elephant Workshop, South Africa. January 2019
- Evans, K.E. Social ecology of the Botswana elephants: A male's perspective. Tuskers Elephant Workshop, South Africa. January 2019
- Evans, K.E. & Henley, M. Women are like elephants – bread baskets and back bones Tuskers Elephant Workshop, South Africa. January 2019
- Dannock, R. Elephants for Africa's Environmental Education Program. Tuskers Elephant Workshop, South Africa. January 2019
- Dannock, R. Elephants for Africa's Community Coexistence Project. Tuskers Elephant Workshop, South Africa. January 2019
- Evans, K.E. presented "Male elephants and female farmers: Conflicts to resolutions. Ladies Circle Dorridge Methodist Church, United Kingdom. February 2019
- Evans, K.E. Beyond the school gate: STEM in the field" to the Kenilworth School, United Kingdom. February 2019
- Evans, K.E. Life as a Zoologist. Kenilworth School, United Kingdom. February 2019
- Evans, K.E. In the footsteps of elephants: communities journeys to coexistence. International Women's Club. Gothenburg, Sweden. April 2019
- Sehularo, W. & Songhurst A. Human-Elephant Coexistence Alert System. Human-Wildlife Coexistence Working Group, Maun. April 2019
- Evans, K.E. Camera Trapping and Citizen Science. Colby College, Portland Maine, USA. September 2019
- Evans, K.E. Male Elephants & Female Farmers: Conflict to Resolution. Colby College, Portland Maine, USA. September 2019
- Evans, K.E. Male Elephants & Female Farmers: Conflict to Resolution. The Maryland Zoological Society, Baltimore, USA. September 2019
- Evans, K.E. Male elephants, the Makgadikgadi & working towards coexistence. Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington DC, USA October 2019
- Evans, K.E. Male elephants & female farmers; conflict to resolution. Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Virginia, USA. October 2019
- Evans, K.E. Male elephants & female farmers; conflict to resolution. Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, Florida, USA. October 2019
- Evans, K.E. Art for Elephants. Elephants for Art. Memphis Zoo, USA October 2019
- Evans, K. Launched the BOSSxMeissen Holiday 2019 Campaign, raising awareness of Elephants for Africa's work and the importance of environmental education in conservation. Dubai, UEA October 2019
- Evans, K. Ecosystem drivers of elephant movement. Gothenburg Global Biodiversity Centre, Sweden November 2019



How to Donate

HOW TO DONATE

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

ONLINE GIVING

Simply donate online through the Virgin Money Giving 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://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/donation-web/charity?charityId=1015488&stop_mobi=yes

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: 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.

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You can raise money through recycling your printer cartridges www.recycle4charity.co.uk/Register or cars <http://giveacar.co.uk> and through your online shopping www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/elephants

FUNDRAISING

If you are feeling really inspired why not organize a fundraising event, such as a cake sale, sponsored walk or run a marathon https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/donation-web/charity?charityId=1015488&stop_mobi=yes

DIRECT BANK TRANSFER

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

CHEQUES

Made payable to Elephants for Africa. Please email info@elephantsforafrica.org for our postal address.

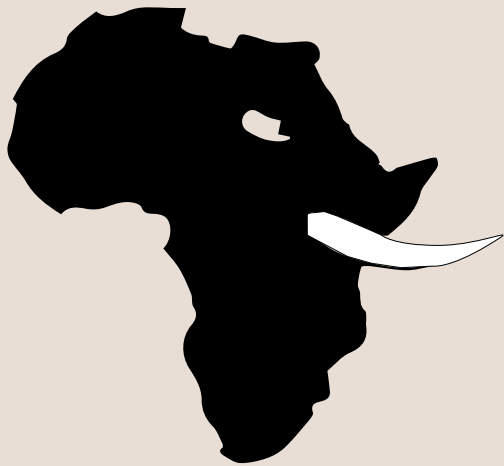
Our Aims

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

Conservation through
Research and Education

JOIN THE HERD

For more information on our work follow us on



www.elephantsforafrica.org

info@elephantsforafrica.org

UK Charity - Number 1179318
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