



E H R A

ELEPHANT - HUMAN RELATIONS AID

2022

Annual Conservation Report

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MESSAGE FROM OUR MD

————— Rachel Harris —————



What a year!

Everyone at EHRA bubbled over with energy for 2022! Having waved goodbye to COVID 19, we eagerly anticipated getting back to work properly and looked forward to welcoming back the volunteer teams. We started the year with strategic planning, focusing on ways EHRA can maximize its impact on elephant-human conflict mitigation. We implemented a holistic approach to conserve the elephants, by addressing every area of people's lives that elephants negatively affect and finding practical solutions to mitigate each one. For people to tolerate living with elephants, they must feel secure and able to handle elephant visits. Infrastructure necessary to their livelihood, such as water installations, must be protected; living with elephants must not financially challenge people. We can easily see how much our solar pump installation program positively impacts people living with elephants in this regard.

This strategy works well but we must still improve. Conflict in the eastern areas where EHRA works remains rife despite having concentrated EHRA's resources in this area for the past few years. One of the problems is that our teams get pulled from one urgent problem to the next, which means that a farmer or community might receive a protection wall from EHRA, but never benefits from the other solutions we offer. Therefore, as best as we can, we will attempt to concentrate on one area at a time, providing the complete EHRA package before moving to the next conflict hot spot.

In the western areas where EHRA has worked since 2003, most people tolerate elephants well, for the most part, making the ideal situation of peaceful coexistence between people and elephants a reality. This motivates us greatly and proves that our model works.

And then came the big flood with the ensuing chaos it created! Luckily, we survived the covid pandemic, so we knew how to manage a crisis. It turned the year into another tough one, financially crippling yet again. The flood really put our plans back a year. However, in true EHRA style, we pulled up our sleeves, got on with fundraising and began rebuilding our camp and education centre. To our incredibly great fortune, the EHRA community came to our assistance, not just financially, but also with amazing technical help in flood defense from committed EHRA volunteer and flood engineer, Fred Hoogerwerf, as well as many past volunteers who came back to help.

We could hardly wait to start our new environmental education program, the S.E.E.D. Project. Anna Sheehama, who heads the initiative, created an inspiring and informative curriculum and workbook, and we were raring to go! Anna received formal approvals from the Ministry of Education in both regions where we operate as well as from NIED (National Institute for Educational Development). Despite the unusable state of the centre, we got started, using the base camp for the first training in September. As if prearranged, all the elephants arrived in time to open the first ever S.E.E.D. Project and greet the learners from A Gariseb Primary. We all feel very proud of this important new project for EHRA.

We also reignited the Elephant Guard Program, training 4 new Guards! The Elephant Guard system enables us to massively expand EHRA's reach with the PEACE Project elephant safety training. In one year, 854 people participated in our courses! The Guards, tasked with being the first point of contact for anyone experiencing elephant difficulties, go to the scene, help repair any damages, provide training, even sleep over at villages if people want them for security. We plan to expand this vitally important program in 2023, also thanks to new partners who will fund more Elephant Guards and further training.

A really exciting development for EHRA uses technology to inform our decisions on mitigating conflict; it forms one of the main pillars of the new Corridor Project. Thanks to our partnership with EarthRanger, we now use satellite collars fitted on the elephants to create an early warning system. EHRA established a "geofence" around all villages, schools and commercial farms so that as soon as an elephant crosses the fence, we and the relevant stakeholders receive an alert on WhatsApp. In 2023, we will fit another 8 collars on elephants, mainly in the eastern high conflict areas, to monitor all elephant herds in that zone. Our team, thanks to their thorough and exhausting job of tracking and identifying all the elephants in this area, now knows all of them. The process of designing and creating a database to hold this information--the first of its kind in Namibia--which enables us to extract reports quickly and effortlessly, is now under way. This technology allows us to see clearly where elephants go and what may attract them, assisting us to plan our mitigation work with increased accuracy. The farm Geluck post provides an excellent example. We saw from the alerts that a herd constantly visited the farm; upon investigation, we found the elephants came to drink from the water dam at the elderly lady's house every day! To relieve her stress, we built a new dam 500m from the house, which now keeps the elephants at a safe distance.

Going forward in 2023, finding workable solutions for the commercial farms, so that the idea of a corridor between the commercial and communal lands becomes a reality, poses our biggest challenge. We have secured funding for elephant-friendly fence trials; with the data collected from collared elephants, we can start to see where crucial pathways need to be. Technology, specifically EarthRanger, provides the platform to hold all our data, including the last 19 years' of elephant movement information.

A big thanks to everyone in the EHRA community. We feel so very fortunate to meet so many willing volunteers every year, many who become firm friends and return again and again. As always, huge respect goes to everyone in the EHRA team; I am in awe of their dedication, hard work, kindness, and commitment to EHRA. I consider it an honor to lead EHRA and there is nowhere else I would rather be! Next year is EHRA's 20th Anniversary, and we have achieved so much together. Fingers crossed for no more pandemics or natural disasters!

Thank you to the hundreds of people who live with the elephants, who choose understanding over intolerance even when it is not easy. Rest assured EHRA will continue to provide support and solutions.



RACHEL HARRIS | EHRA Managing Director



Please watch our 2022 Donor Update Video on our YouTube Channel [here!](#)

EHRA

Board of Directors



Rachel Harris
Managing Director



Hendrick Munembome
Community Liaison



Mike Böttger
Lawyer & Pilot



Frank Bockmühl
Hydrogeologist



Dr. Betsy Fox
Veterinarian



Thimo Tjirimanga
Tour Guide



Johannes Haasbroek
Founder

Our current staff team



Victro Ouses
Volunteer & Office
Coordinator



Chris Pitot
Field Manager &
GIS Technician



**Mattias Kangumbe
Jnr.**
Camp Manager



Andreas Simbudhi
Volunteer Project
Manager



Christin Winter
Conservation
Programs Manager



Anna Sheehama
Conservation
Programs Assistant



Shitunda Diyeve
Base Camp &
Logistical Support



**Mattias Kangumbe
Snr.** Head
Elephant Tracker



Fabio Hill
Guide & Carpenter



Herman Kasona
Volunteer & PEACE
Project Assistant



**David Hambow
(Kapuku)**
Base Camp Support



Taiwin Garoeb
Elephant Guard
Sorris Sorris



Ngundee Katuaundu
Elephant Guard
Omatjete



Edla Nguaike
Elephant Guard
Omatjete



Delange Tjivinde
Elephant Guard
Otjimboyo

Saying goodbye...

We are sad to see Shannon Diener (PEACE Project Manager) and Adolf Kaunotjie (Base Camp Support) go. We wish them only the best and thank them for their commitment to EHRA over the years.

2022 ACHIEVEMENTS

Quick Facts



WE HOSTED

180 international volunteers
4 Namibian volunteers

3 Namibian interns
3 volunteer families



WE BUILT

15 water point protection walls
4 alternative elephant dams

WE INSTALLED

10 solar water pumps



WE COMPLETED

25 elephant monitoring patrols
1 satellite collaring operation
The elephant census for the Greater Omatjete EMA



WE CONDUCTED

27 P.E.A.C.E. Projects
2 S.E.E.D. Projects

WE TRAINED

854 community members
70 school children
4 new Elephant Guards

Mission Statement

Human-Elephant Coexistence

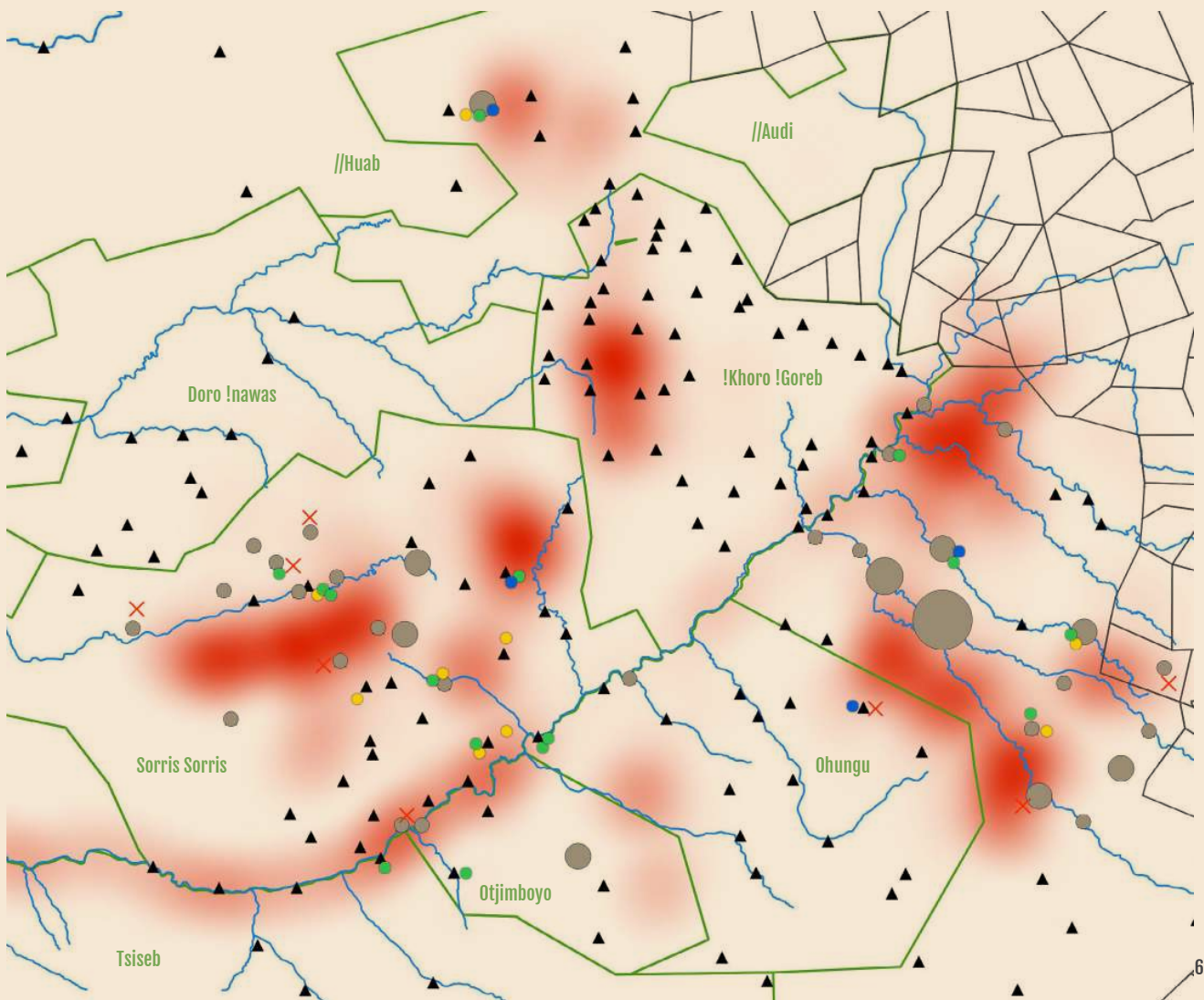
EHRA strives to identify all elements that spark intolerance and conflicts between people and elephants and to systematically implement projects that remove or lessen the impacts of these elements. We aim to make living with elephants bearable as a first step towards helping communities secure their livelihoods and wild elephants to survive. To ensure the best possible impact, we focus our activities on one landscape at a time. We expanded our work in the past two years to cover more than 168,900 hectares. The elephants using this landscape cover an estimated additional 1,000,000 hectares. All presented projects aim to reduce conflicts directly to promote peaceful coexistence.



2022 Impact & Activities

LEGEND

- | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|----------------------|---|------------------|---|
| Conflicts | ✗ | Protection Walls | ● | 2022 Elephant distribution (heatmap) | ● | PEACE Project: Number of people trained | ● | Village | ▲ | River | — |
| Solar Pumps | ● | Elephant Dams | ● | | | | | Conservancy boundary | — | Commercial farms | — |



THE FLOOD

& Rebuilding Base Camp



Valentine's Day 2022

On February 14, more than 120mm of rain fell within only a few hours in an area that receives an annual average of 150mm. A flash flood bigger than anything we have ever witnessed essentially wiped out Base Camp and large parts of our newly built Education Center. A vehicle and trailer, as well as most of our equipment, disappeared in the raging waters, carried 300 meters downstream and buried in mud.



Entire buildings destroyed

As the flood came down the valley, the waves reached as high as 3 meters! The force of the water destroyed our storage room, taking with it most of its contents, as well as parts of the tree platform. Toilets washed away, sand covered the kitchen and EHRA staff reeled in shock.

Damage of more than N\$ 1.2 million

The flood left us devastated, with damages and losses of more than N\$ 1.2 million. Incredibly, supporters from all over the world jumped to help and donated, so we started with repairs as soon as we could. Aktionsgemeinschaft Artenschutz e.V. (AGA - a German partner organization) donated EUR 23 000 and Froneri donated GBP 5 000 in emergency funding. We are very grateful for all the support that enabled us to bring Base Camp back to its former glory.



The Phoenix rises again

The Phoenix was one of EHRA's first cars. One day in 2008 'someone' set it on fire, but we rebuilt it, earning it the name Phoenix as it rose from the flames. Fourteen years after the incident the same vehicle washed away in the raging floodwaters, drowned, and got buried in a mountain of sand. Our team dug up the car which the torrents ripped apart. They found the seats a few kilometers downriver.

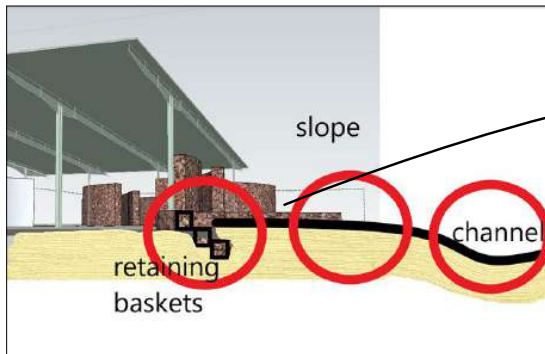
Rebuilding & flood-proofing Base Camp

During the first phase, we tried to find anything that washed down the river that could be reused, such as tents or pieces of the tree platform. We also wanted to clear the river of any material that doesn't belong there.

Previous EHRA volunteer Fred Hoogerwerf from Holland is an expert in flood defense. He consulted us and Michiel Coetzee, who built our education center, and with their help, we undertook the task of flood-proofing the Education Centre, which suffered major damage, as well as Base Camp.



Protective gabion walls



For the whole of 2022, our laborers worked tirelessly digging deep trenches around the Education Center and Base Camp. Two layers of gabion baskets filled those trenches. Everything then got covered with sand, and a year's worth of work is, essentially, not visible, as it all lies hidden below ground!



Should a similar flood happen again, the gabion-flood defense would keep the soil in place and protect the foundation of the buildings plus the camp. Additionally, we moved massive boulders and built further gabion walls around the buildings for further protection. Should another flood come, most of the water will be diverted past the Education Centre and the core of Base Camp, directly into the Ugab River.

Under the tree platform, we created a fully shaded, relaxation area where volunteers can read and relax after a tough build week. We removed the ruins of the EHRA storage room entirely. The flood defense for the Education Center nears completion, and once finished, rebuilding the damaged walls will begin. Sandrine Bierman, the architect, will come to develop new landscape plans to restore the Center's beauty.

FLOOD DEFENSE WORK AT EHRA'S BASE

Drone photos by Hector Medina



Boulders and gabions dug deep into the ground will hold the soil in place and protect the buildings from the biggest impact should a flood happen again.

Elephant Museum

Office

Education Hall



Protecting the foundation with gabion cages comprises an essential measure for flood-proofing the buildings. All walls of the Education Center had to be unpacked, straightened, and repacked.

ID & MOVEMENT STUDY

Volunteer Patrols

Keeping track of the desert herds

Through our volunteer program, we regularly keep track of the elephants in our extended project area, thus building our growing elephant identification and population statistics database.

With the volunteers, we conducted 25, 4-day-long elephant patrols in 2022. Our priority: Staying on top of the Ugab West elephants, their population trends, whereabouts, and identification. As a second priority, we continuously update the same information for the Huab West population.

For the volunteers, it's a unique experience, allowing them to visit wild places usually inaccessible to most people. They actively assist us in collecting our data and learn about elephants and elephant conservation through our project leaders. For us, it's a sustainable way to finance our work and ensure the continuation of our projects.



25

Elephant monitoring patrols

100

Elephant sightings

Tracking collared herds

In 2022, we set out with volunteers four times to track other collared elephants in the eastern Ugab River. These elephants roam areas where intense human-elephant conflicts prevail, making them extremely skittish. Such a task requires utmost patience as we hike up hills and mountains to get a safe vantage point to spot the elephants, and count the members. This important work extends our elephant knowledge across a wider area towards the east and the north.

Desert Elephant Update

New life in the desert!

On Thursday, 13th January 2022, the young female Carissa, daughter of The Duchess, gave birth to her very first calf—a female. We decided to name her Fiori, after one of our most gracious donors. Fiori is Italian and means “covered in flowers”. We find this very suitable as her birth marked the beginning of the rainy season which meant the desert would soon be covered in flowers! Fiori is the first newborn to survive its first year since 2014.

The Ugab herds since then experienced immense trauma. Irate residents shot several elephants and chased the herds, plus the drought prevented pregnant females from obtaining their required nutrients. They delivered several calves but all died shortly after birth. Seeing this strong and healthy baby elephant thrills and relieves us tremendously!



Hope teething

Hope, now 3 years old and still the youngest Huab calf, thrives! Her emerging adult tusks now show their white tips at her lip line!



/Namtani died at 3 months of age

Joy lit us up when we learned that The Duchess gave birth to a male calf, and Fiori had a brother (or rather an uncle!) to play with. But after 3 months, /Namtani showed signs of weakness. The wildlife vet from Naankuse investigated, but could not find anything specific. His condition varied and we observed him closely. However, one day he disappeared, and we never found him. That broke our hearts, as it surely similarly affected the elephants that suffered such high calf mortality for years.



Huab calf died shortly after birth

A male calf born in October 2022 died shortly after birth. Tourists filmed his mother, a young adult female from herd H2, carrying the calf around. We do not yet understand exactly why mother elephants do this. According to Dr. Joyce Poole, an elephant researcher in Kenya, she might be carrying it away to prevent predators from scavenging it. Or it may be connected to mourning.



Elephant Census

How many elephants?

When we started our identification work in the Eastern project area, the difficult terrain, the skittish elephant herds that we could only observe from afar and on foot, plus the complexity of the landscape nearly overwhelmed us. But with perseverance and use of technology, we eventually managed to create an overview of the resident elephants.

We included both the Ugab West desert elephants and the Ugab East elephants in the census for the Greater Omatjete Elephant Management Area (GO EMA).

As of publication date, we concluded that 85 elephants roam the GO EMA. This includes 67 elephants who live in 5 herds and 2 sub-herds, plus 18 independently moving males, only 5 have reached prime breeding age. No males older than 45 years roam the GO EMA. Four males are missing, with no sightings for a minimum of 4 years, so we did not include them in the overall total.

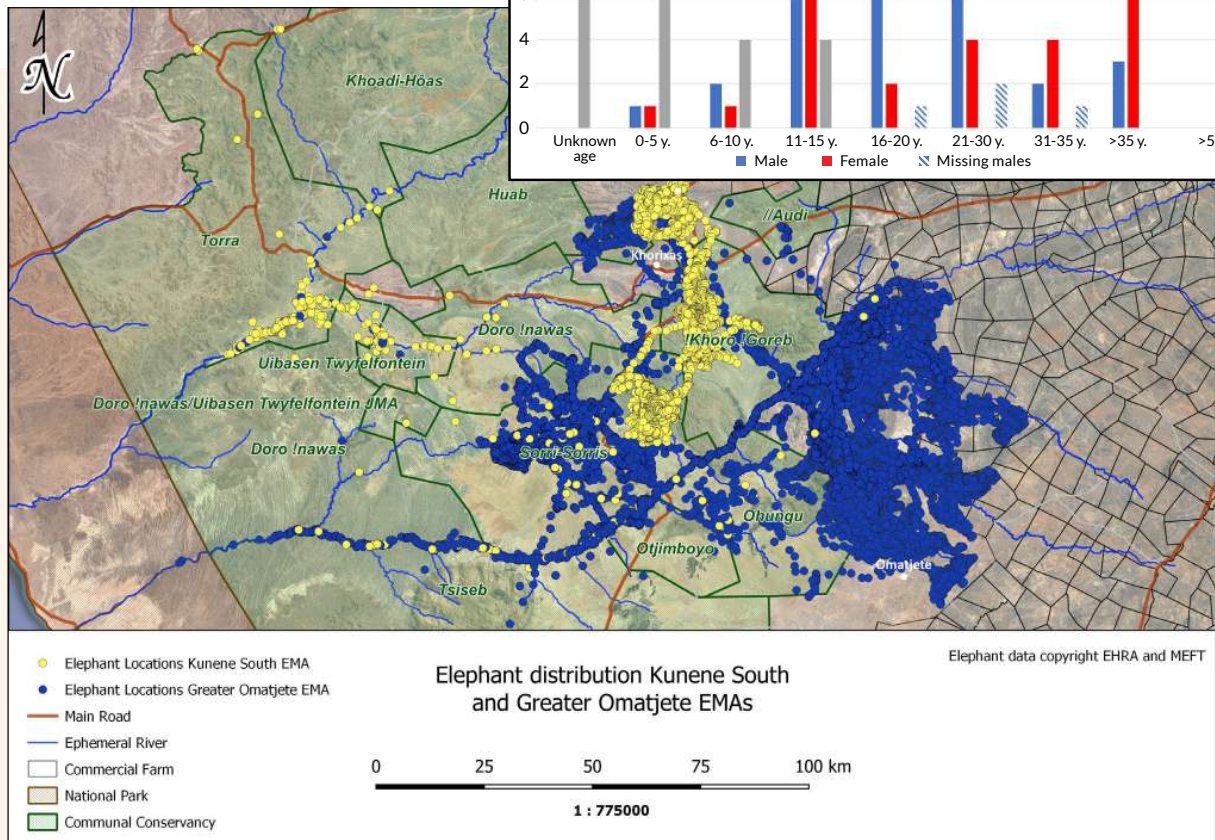
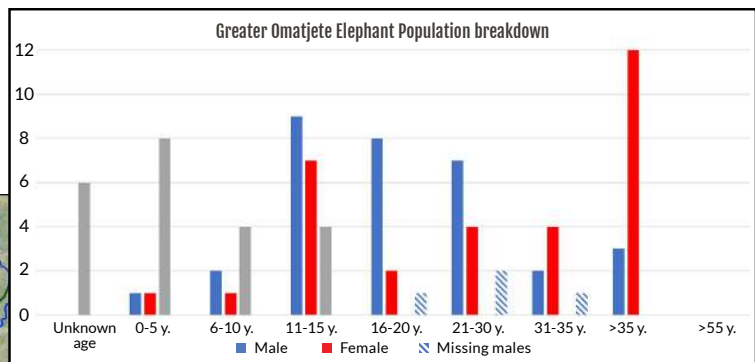
We observed young males from the age of 11 regularly leave their maternal herds to interact with other herds, which can mean that herd numbers may not be exact. One herd spends the bulk of its time in Kunene South and rarely visits the GO EMA. However, we include the herd in this census until we know more about them.



Long-term camera trap observations

We installed Browning camera traps in October 2021 at the following villages: Ongeamotjovike, Otjongoro, Okotjize, Okavakwa, Omutiwanduko, and Otjikoverua.

Over one year of data at these villages provided us with invaluable information about the resident elephant herds and bulls, complementing our direct sightings data.

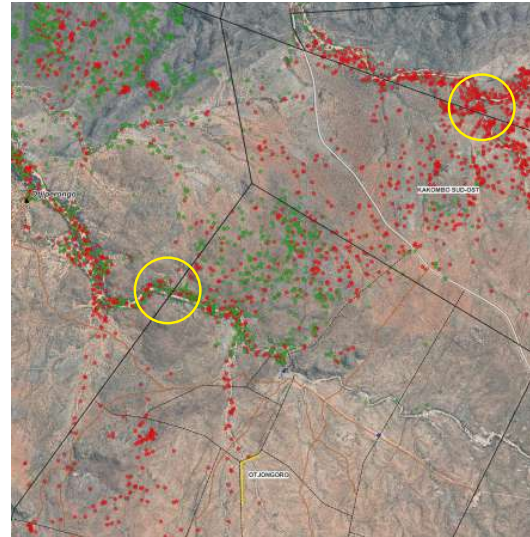


Map showing the distribution of the Greater Omatjete EMA elephant population (blue) and the Kunene South EMA elephant population (yellow). This clearly shows the overlapping homeranges and interactions of different elephant populations.

Elephant Corridor Project

Exploring solutions for commercial farms

Elephants often cross farm boundaries, damaging fences and other infrastructure, resulting in significant inconvenience and financial setbacks. Unfortunately, elephants often get shot or removed in response to such conflicts. With our Corridor Project, EHRA works on developing sustainable solutions that benefit both elephants and people. Through satellite tracking data, we monitor how elephants break into commercial farms and understand their behaviors and activities whilst on the farms. As seen on the map on the right, elephants mostly use riverbeds to enter and exit the farms. Whilst bulls (red dots) tend to wander more freely, the herds (green) stay within more defined areas. In 2023, we will trial elephant-friendly fences at such points to allow free movement, thus hopefully reducing the number of elephant-caused damages.

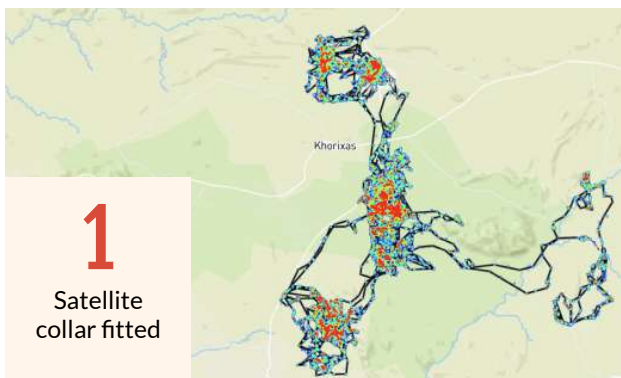


Vegetation Surveys

We conducted two, 4-day-long vegetation surveys using the point-centered quarter method on a commercial farm, and on communal land. The surveys will enable us to track vegetation availability through the years, predict extreme movements of the elephants, so we can prepare for an increase in human-elephant conflicts in certain areas ahead of time.

Fitting satellite collars

We fitted one satellite collar on a female called Fransi, the matriarch of the Aspro herd. She transits between the Kunene and Erongo Regions. Her movements already show us important elephant corridors connecting different landscapes. We also use the collar data to plan our holistic HEC mitigation work strategically with the best timing. We secured funding for a further six collars which we will assist the MEFT in fitting in early 2023.



Fransi's collar aids the Corridor Project and the Elephant Alert System.

EDUCATION & TRAINING



The P.E.A.C.E. Project

Expanding into the east

In 2022, we expanded the P.E.A.C.E. Project across our eastern project area. Overall, we educated 854 community members -- twice as many as in 2021!

With the help of our Elephant Guards, we reached 34 villages and farms: 19 in the Ugab East area (our expansion area and conflict hotspot), and 15 in Sorris Sorris Conservancy, where the Ugab desert elephants spent the bulk of their time in 2022.

The translation of our comprehensive HEC Mitigation Handout into Otjiherero added another achievement. Tourism Supporting Conservation (TOSCO) co-funded this important milestone for the project.



Course participants learn to make chilli oil to use around vegetable gardens to deter elephants from entering and eating their food supply.



4
Elephant
Guards
trained

854
Community
members
trained



Solar lights

In addition, we distributed 21 solar lights to villagers. As elephants visit villages usually at night, and rural people use a long-drop toilet in a separate building, they face a high risk of confronting elephants at night. We received multiple reports of elephants chasing children and adults on their way to the toilet. Solar lights provide a good yet affordable solution.

1-Day HEC Mitigation Courses

As many people, particularly women, can't attend the long 3-day HEC Mitigation Courses we usually host, we offer one-day workshops. During these sessions, we teach the most important points: Elephant behavior and how to stay safe when encountering them, how to safely defend your homestead, and how to prepare elephant deterrent methods.

Elephant Guard Program

Training of 4 new Elephant Guards

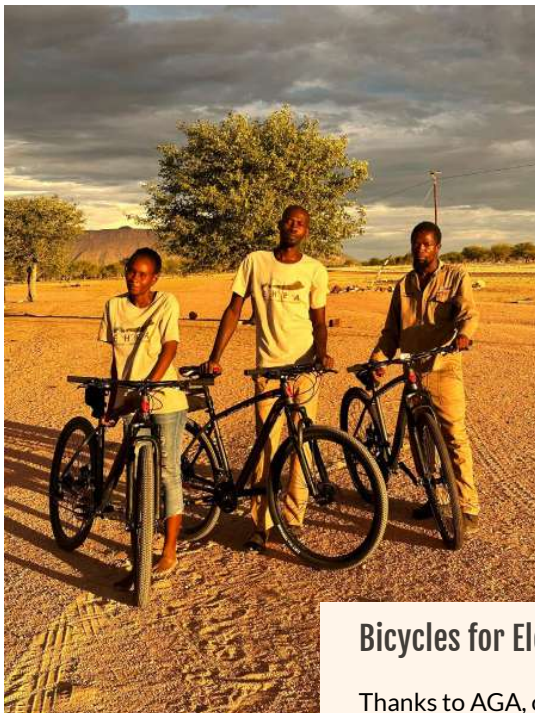
To increase our impact in our large project area and enable us to attend to elephant-related problems faster, we needed more boots, eyes, and ears on the ground!

We welcome and introduce you to EHRA's 4 new Elephant Guards: Edla and Ngundee from the Greater Omatjete area, Taiwin from Sorris Sorris Conservancy, and Delange from Otjimboyo Conservancy.

It's a tough job - to be the first responder to any human-elephant conflicts that may arise in your area. Our Elephant Guards make us very proud for taking up the challenge of attending to the conflicts, providing immediate support, reaching out regularly within their communities, and offering elephant safety advice and training. With them, we gather significantly more data about conflicts on the ground, providing highly valuable information for our work.

Independently, the Guards organize and conduct educational elephant safety courses and awareness sessions. Should someone report a conflict, they investigate any damage and advise the people how to prevent such conflicts in the future.

The Elephant Guards also assist EHRA in other projects, such as the building of walls, elephant dams, solar pump projects, and S.E.E.D. Projects.



Elephant Alerts

All Elephant Guards receive Elephant Alerts. As soon as a collared elephant crosses the geofence that we created within 2 kilometers of the villages, they receive an automatic SMS or WhatsApp alert message. The Elephant Guards will then notify the relevant village and alert them of approaching elephants. This gives the communities a heads-up and, if necessary, the opportunity to elephant-proof their property in advance.

Many people urgently need EHRA's assistance, creating high demand for our work across an area of over 168,900 hectares. As the Elephant Guards provide essential support to EHRA's overall work, we plan to train and employ more Guards. For 2023, we secured funding to employ three new Guards who we will source with the help of the local traditional authorities and conservancies, and train through our P.E.A.C.E. Project.

Bicycles for Elephant Guards!

Thanks to AGA, our Elephant Guards now have bicycles to move between villages and do their jobs even more effectively!

The S.E.E.D. Project

Sustainable Environmental Education for Development

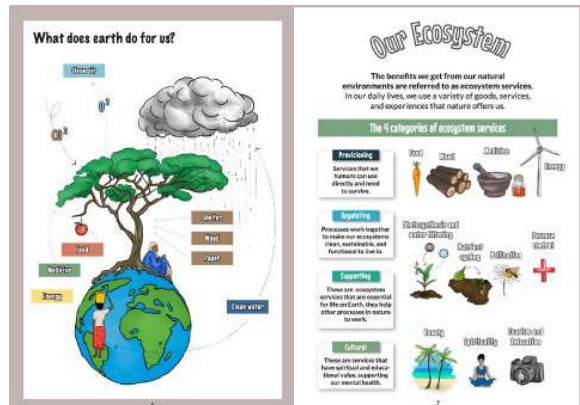
In 2022, we officially launched our new environmental education project, S.E.E.D. We hosted 70 learners and 4 teachers during our first 2 weekend courses. Our Conservation Programs Assistant Anna Sheehama created the program curriculum, which has been approved by the Namibian Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. This is a milestone as it means school learners can join the program during school days, not only on weekends.

We developed and illustrated a workbook titled “I need the Earth and the Earth needs me”. It contains core messages promoting environmental awareness. During the first S.E.E.D. Project, the children learned not only about elephants, which underpin the course as our focal study animal and keystone species, but also about conserving the environment as a whole. We cover topics from protecting the soil, alleviating climate change, saving water, and much more. Each topic includes entertaining games or exercises to enhance learning.

And the elephants visited us for the opening session! For most of the learners, it marked the first time they watched elephants in silence and let them approach close. Their visit provided a life-changing experience that taught everyone that elephants are peaceful animals if we show them respect. The future of S.E.E.D. excites us!

“We attended a successful program with S.E.E.D. in the year 2022. S.E.E.D. teaches that it is our moral responsibility to protect our earth and that the conservation of our natural resources is important for the sustainability of planet Earth.”

Rudly-Jane K Tjiurutue,
Teacher at A. Gariseb Primary School



The S.E.E.D. Booklets compiled by Anna Sheehama; design by Christin Winter.

S.E.E.D. trial was successful!

We launched the project with our partner school A. Gariseb Primary. The learners stayed at Base Camp-- a real treat for them! As soon as our new Environmental Education Centre is rebuilt, we will host the project there!



4
Teachers trained

70
School children trained

School Partnership

King Alfred School in the UK

For the 17th time, 16 schoolchildren from the King Alfred School (KAS) in England traveled to Namibia to help EHRA renovate a rural school! KAS and EHRA formed a partnership 19 years ago, and we hugely appreciate their incredible commitment towards EHRA and our partner communities. At A. Gariseb Primary School in Anixab, our primary partner school, the KAS volunteers repainted classrooms and boys' dormitories, creating a fresh, clean learning environment. We also paid for children who live in the village to eat three meals a day at the school hostel, and contributed towards the construction of a new dining hall which will help to accommodate the growing number of pupils attending this popular school.

How does renovating a rural school help protect elephants?

Assisting a rural school in this way provides living proof that elephants bring development and funding into the area. It increases the value of live elephants and the overall tolerance towards them!



Family volunteer groups help, too!

Two family projects with 3 families overall continued the work of the KAS students. The families repainted more classrooms and repaired dormitories. We, as well as the entire school, gratefully thank the families for their assistance. What a difference they made!

Internships

Johannes Hishikushitya | Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST)

Johannes joined EHRA for 6 months, from January to July 2022, completing his practical placement for his Bachelor of Natural Resource Management (Nature Conservation). He investigated the research question: *Why do desert-adapted elephants migrate between the Sorris Sorris Conservancy and the commercial farmland?*



Kakunamuua Alex Tjiningire | University of Namibia (UNAM)

Alex interned at EHRA for one month, from June to July 2022. While working towards a Master of Science in Wildlife & Ecotourism, he chose EHRA as a placement to gather hands-on experience in the sector of his interest.

3

Namibian interns hosted

Charmone Buys | NUST

Charmone interned at EHRA for one month, from October to November 2022, as part of her studies for her Bachelor of Science at NUST.



COEXISTENCE STRATEGIES



Water Point Protection Walls

Volunteer work & grant support

With the help of more than 180 volunteers and additional grant support, we protected 15 rural water points with sturdy protection walls. This remains one of our core projects and, as we now cover a massive area, demands continue to rise.

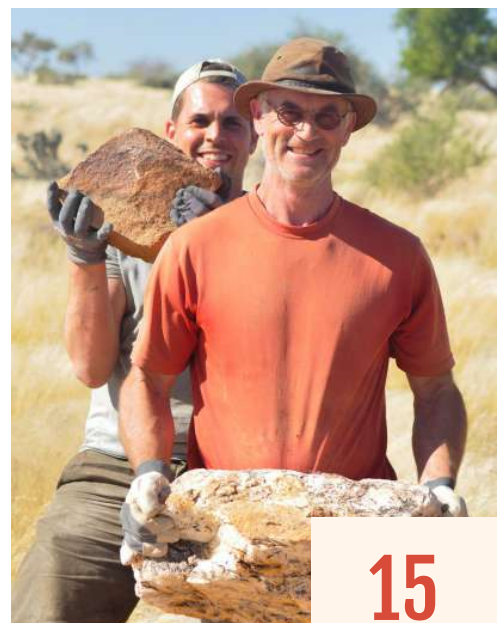
A protection wall around a water installation serves as a first and essential step towards securing the communal water source, which translates to more peaceful coexistence with elephants. Communities submit wall applications to EHRA. We then visit the villages on patrol and investigate the problems. Depending on the urgency, we prioritize our work.

"Taking part in the EHRA volunteer program was an incredible experience. With the structure of the program, I felt like I made a really valuable contribution to help aid relations with the local community and wild elephants by building the protective wall and we were rewarded with a wonderful few days observing these incredible animals in their natural habitat.

The program felt really well established and organized helped by the local EHRA team who, with their knowledge, expertise, and humor made the experience all the more enjoyable.

An unforgettable trip of a lifetime, thank you EHRA team! "

Keith Bailey (Age 43) London, UK



15

Protection walls built

Solar Water Pump Program

Increasing tolerance of sharing resources with elephants

Through the gracious support of NUll Icecream and Wild Ark, we continue to replace old diesel water pumps with solar pumps in villages sharing their water sources with the local elephants.

In 2023, we installed 10 solar pumps in the following villages: Houmoed, Rooipoortpost, Otjitoporo, Freyer, Heinrich Velde, Irene post, Irene, Manikams, Loerkop Opstal, and Okamaere.

To date we have already installed 19 pumps. In the coming year, we plan to replace a further 23 diesel pumps.

This initiative positively influences how people living in rural villages experience sharing their land and water with elephants. Having a solar pump means an enormous reduction in living costs and human-elephant coexistence costs. Not only do the solar pumps ease HEC, but they also reduce the environmental damages caused by diesel pumps, including the amount of fuel consumed as well as oil leaking onto the soil.



"We as the Garettes Community would like to express our gratitude for the support you have given to our community through the EHRA program. Thank you for hearing our cries and building us the Solar protection wall and the elephant dam. We are really proud of the flexibility and hard work that was displayed by your company. I am especially grateful for teaching our community members about teamwork, as I believe that together we can make things happen, thus I call your company (The Brave Star of the Community) because I have personally experienced how you care about people as well as the animals and dedicate yourself to protect both.

I really appreciate you Mrs. Rachel, Mr. Chris, and the team for your hard work, I would also like to apologize for the times that we would butt heads, with me talking hard and sometimes crying."

Mrs Linda Nerongo
Chairperson of Garettes Waterpoint Committee



10
Solar pumps
installed

Elephant Management Units

Strategy meetings with stakeholders

The elephants we monitor cover a vast area and move across a landscape with many different political boundaries. Their range covers 3 conservancies, dozens of commercial and resettlement farms, 3 government regions, and communal land not registered as a conservancy. Each one individually managed its area and the elephants roaming through it, which often led to challenges and confusion.

Therefore, the Namibian Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) initiated Elephant Management Units (EMU) that include all stakeholders sharing the same elephant populations. EMUs aim to provide a platform to jointly manage the elephants sustainably and mitigate conflicts long term. EHRA participates in two EMUs, namely the Greater Omatjete and Kunene South EMUs.



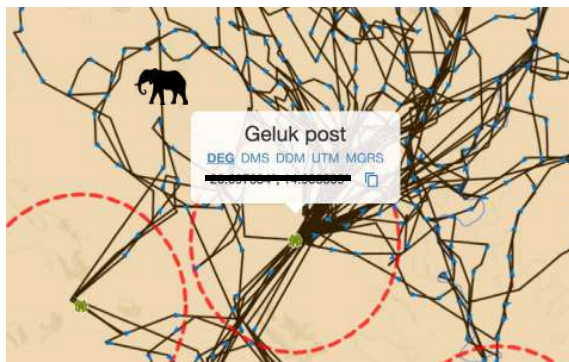
Elephant Dams

Building dams exclusively for elephants

As part of the peaceful coexistence package EHRA offers, our teams build elephant dams upon request of the village and the local headmen. The dams, built a safe distance from the village, connect to the main water source.

We exclusively choose villages where we already installed a solar water pump to avoid the problems of additional costs involved in filling the dams. As elephants usually drink from the main reservoir in the middle of the village, these dams provide a drinking place for elephants only. This way, they don't have to walk through the village at night. This reduces the risk of confrontations with villagers.

For 2022 and 2023, we secured funding for 8 elephant dams; we completed 4 in 2022. Demand for these dams continues, and we would be unable to supply them all without the financial support of AGA, Stiftung Entwicklungszusammenarbeit Baden-Württemberg (SEZ), and the European Outdoor Conservation Association (EOCA) for this initiative. We humbly thank each with deep appreciation.



Using collar data

We saw how newly-collared Fransi and her herd used the farm Geluk post every night for months, drinking at an elderly lady's home. The dam EHRA built away from her house helped ease the situation.

4
Elephant dams built

EVENTS & ADVENTURES



The Matriarch Adventure

Ladies only!

Catherine Edsell, a UK EHRA Trustee and Ambassador, founded the Matriarch Adventure in 2018, through which she brings groups of women to EHRA to raise funds for our work.

In 2022, she brought two groups to EHRA, one through the travel company Love Her Wild. The groups provide additional funds which we use for emergency projects, extending our reach, as well as for conducting elephant monitoring and identification work.



The Mother & Daughter Adventure

In addition to the regular Matriarch Adventure, Catherine organized one adventure just for mothers and their daughters. Between learning from and about the communities EHRA works with, from watching desert elephants to making bracelets, the bond between mothers and daughters grows stronger with a shared unique experience in the Namibian wild.



2

Matriarch
Adventures
hosted

If you want to
learn more,
please visit
www.cathadventure.com

EarthRanger User Conference in Kenya



EarthRanger and elephant monitoring

Rachel Harris and Christin Winter attended the **EarthRanger User Conference** in November 2022 in Kenya. We shared how we use the EarthRanger app to capture elephant movement data to mitigate human-elephant conflict in three ways:

Rapid response

As soon as a collared elephant moves toward a risky area, we do whatever we can to safeguard both the elephant and the community.

Elephant Alert System

for communities and farmers: EHRA is one of the first NGOs in Namibia to use EarthRanger as an early detection tool for warning communities of collared elephants in their area.

Planning for the future

Captured data can help us identify and protect elephant corridors and develop long-term human-elephant conflict mitigation solutions.

Ever since implementing EarthRanger in our mitigation strategies, peaceful coexistence has improved immensely. We connected with conservationists from all around the world, learning how technology improves conservation efforts elsewhere.

Environmental Education

Launch of the National EE and Education for Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan

In 2019, Namibia launched its National Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development Policy (EE/ESD), with the vision of an “educated and empowered Namibia with environmentally literate people taking responsibility and action for a sustainable future.” Our Conservation Programs Assistant, Anna Sheehama, attended the National EE/ESD Strategy and Action Plan 2-day stakeholder workshop in 2021.

EHRA at the launch

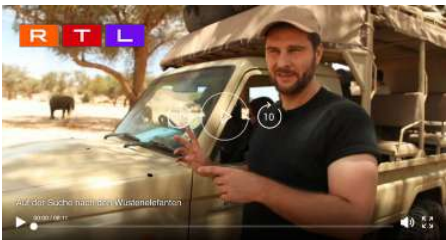
In 2022, all the stakeholders involved in Environmental Education attended the launch of the EE/ESD Action Plan (2022-2026) in Windhoek, thus helping ensure its successful implementation. Our Anna Sheehama participated, as she developed our new EE program S.E.E.D.



From UNESCO Windhoek Office - The EE/ESD Task Force Members



Media Exposure



RTL

Auf der Suche nach den Wüstenelefanten

[Click here](#)



CNN

Desert Elephant Conservation

[Click here](#)



Lea Magazine
#29 (2022)



NDR

Hannah Goes Wild

[Click here](#)

EHRA has hosted multiple film crews throughout the years that documented the work we do to help elephants and communities live alongside each other. To view those and other videos, please visit our YouTube page.

[EHRA's YouTube Channel](#)

COLLABORATION

& Memberships



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
FORESTRY AND TOURISM

We work closely with the **MEFT** (Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism).

NAMIBIAN CONSERVANCIES

We work with the following conservancies to mitigate HEC: Sorris Sorris, Tsiseb, Ohungu, Otjimboyo, Ojetu (not yet registered), Doro !Nawas, #Khoadi //Hoas.



Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations

Since 2021, EHRA is a proud member of NACSO.



Namibian Chamber of Environment
NCE NURSARY FUND 2022

Since 2020, EHRA became a proud member of NCE. NCE funded our first EE projects in 2022!



NAMIBIA
UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY



Biodiversity Research Centre

Since 2016, EHRA hosts students from NUST. Since 2020, BRC and EHRA collaborate on elephant movement studies and corridor identification.



TOURISM *supporting* CONSERVATION
tosco.org

Travel Responsibly
The Namibian way.

TOSCO assists EHRA in many ways, from funding PEACE trainings, bringing our Education Centre to life, to translating the PEACE education materials into Otjiherero.



UNAM
UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

Since 2016, EHRA hosts students from the University of Namibia.

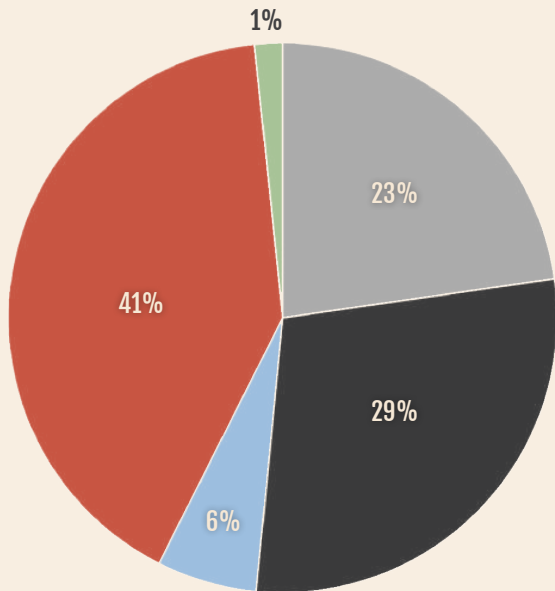


A product of AI2

EarthRanger provides all their excellent services and technology free of charge.

FINANCES

Income in N\$

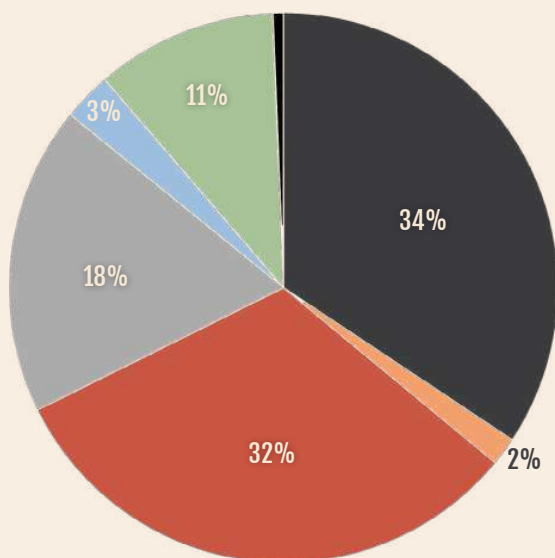


Donations	2,346,812.00
Self-generated	2,974,660.59
Grants	607,652.00
Volunteer project	4,222,860.00
Flood insurance	171,000.00

Total	10,322,984.59
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Self-generated funds include fundraising campaigns such as Adopt an Elephant, fundraising projects such as The Matriarch Adventure, and sales from our merchandise.

Expenses in N\$



Salaries	3,178,147.00
Marketing	152,556.00
Operating costs	2,934,046.50
Project costs	1,681,269.00
Repairs & maintenance	264,661.00
Flood repairs	988,441.00
Donations to schools	58,139.00

Total	9,257,259.50
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Donors & Supporters

Our deepest appreciation goes to our supporters:

All EHRA Volunteers

Aktionsgemeinschaft Artenschutz e.V.

Farald von Wedekind Foundation

International Elephant Foundation

AMES Foundation

Prince Bernhard Nature Fund

European Outdoor Conservation Association

Stiftung Entwicklungszusammenarbeit Baden-Württemberg

WildArk

NUII Icecream

Oxford Scientific Films

Namibian Chamber of Environment

TOSCO - Tourism Supporting Conservation

Deutsche Umwelthilfe (Hand-in-Hand Fonds)

Rotterdams Steenzetbedrijf B.V

Nepada Wildlife

Community Conservation Fund of Namibia

King Alfred School

Balance Wines

WML Coast Structural Engineers

Tsaurab Wildlife Development cc

Namibia Tracks and Trails

CathAdventure

Love Her Wild

Damarana Safaris

Brandberg Restcamp

Weiman's Carpentry CC

Rotary Club Swakopmund

Sanderine Bierman

Michiel Coetzee

Asco Car Hire

And our amazing individual donors worldwide!

Thank you!

Without you none of our work would be possible.

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING OUR WORK

Donate today!

What's next?

Upcoming projects



Elephant-friendly fence trials

Inspired by the collapsible fences created by the manager of farm Chairros, we intend to work with mechanical engineers to upgrade the existing design to a two-way bounce-back fence to allow elephants to move freely between commercial farms and communal land. We secured funding for this through the AMES Foundation!



Training more Elephant Guards

Due to the success of the program and the high demand, we will train and employ a minimum of three more communal Elephant Guards. We aim to employ at least one more Elephant Guard in the Greater Omatjete area, and another one in Sorris Sorris Conservancy, due to the sheer size of these areas.



Elephant Census in Kunene South

We are going to focus on the elephant census of the Kunene South Elephant Management Area, which reaches from Sorris Sorris Conservancy, over Khorixas and Fransfontein, to the Torra Conservancy. Elephants roam across a vast area, and sometimes come into contact with our core study animals. Knowing the numbers is key to sustainable elephant management.



Rolling S.E.E.D out nationwide

In 2023, we will focus on getting S.E.E.D off the ground, and merge the school part of the PEACE Project with S.E.E.D. We are targeting rural schools, as well as private schools, to reach as many children as possible.

... & so much more!



Help us protect elephants

Each donation helps us continue our work:

NAMIBIAN ACCOUNT:

Account name: EHRA
Bank: NEDBANK
NAMIBIA,
Swakopmund
Account number: 11000105416
Branch code: 461052
SWIFT code: nedsnanx

EHRA UK CHARITY ACCOUNT:

The Co-operative Bank
Account Number: 68783589
Sort Code: 08 92 50

Thank you

Please address correspondence regarding this report to:

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Rachel@ehranamibia.org
+264 81 233 2148

ELEPHANT-HUMAN RELATIONS AID

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Report designed and compiled by Christin Winter. Text reviewed and edited by Dr Betsy Fox.
Cover photo by Christin Winter.

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