



ELEPHANT - HUMAN RELATIONS AID

A close-up photograph of an elephant's head, partially obscured by a thick cloud of golden-brown dust or sand. The elephant's trunk and tusk are visible on the left side of the frame. The background is a bright, hazy sky.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Elephant Conservation in Namibia

MESSAGE FROM OUR MD

———— Rachel Harris ————



Dear Supporter,

I can proudly report that EHRA made it through the COVID pandemic, which by far presented our biggest challenge to date. The pandemic taught us some valuable lessons which changed EHRA for the better.

It gave EHRA the chance to expand in the areas of our conservation solutions, knowledge and span of operations. It also taught us to work smarter through collaborations and partnerships. It taught me to be more diverse with our funding platform and to ensure that we cover our project work through grants and our fundraising efforts. We faced times during the first half of the year when I could see we didn't have enough money to make it through the month! But at each of these desperate points, a miracle happened to save EHRA! We could not, of course, continue to operate in this unsustainable manner, so we adopted new measures to ensure we will not get caught off guard should another crisis hit.

One such miracle came as a donation for salaries from the Farald von Wedekind Foundation; another materialized in the form of our new partnership with AMES (Africa's Most Endangered Species) Foundation in Germany.

I like to think of the EHRA Team as a high energy, motivated bunch. They all proved me right when everyone decided to climb the highest mountain in Namibia, The Brandberg, to raise money through sponsorship of each team member for tackling this (VERY!) physical challenge. Everyone took the challenge seriously, training for months running up to the climb. Some of us got knocked down by COVID, so we needed to build ourselves up again. In the end, 12 of the team (almost everyone!) completed the climb to the highest peak. It was really TOUGH and a bit scary. But raising more than NAD500,000 made it worth every second of our pain!

Elephant Human Relations Aid UK achieved registration as an official charity. It has 4 trustees, including myself, EHRA Ambassador Catherine Edsell, Beverly O'Sullivan and Peter Turner MBE, with whom I worked at a London-based Charity before moving to Namibia in 2004. The charity enables us to access different funders, plus it provides an easy way for people to donate.

Five years ago I decided to take EHRA to the next level. I wanted recognition and acknowledgement of EHRA within Namibia as a serious contributor and expert in managing elephant-human conflict. I felt it of paramount importance for EHRA as an organization, and our data, to gain the trust and respect of all in the conservation arena to enable us to really make an impact on the conservation of these special elephants. It makes me really proud to say we achieved this, as evidenced by our memberships in The Namibian Chamber of the Environment (NCE) and NACSO (Namibian Association of Community Based Natural Resource Management Support Organisations).

We made extensive headway in our elephant ID and monitoring work, plus the new elephant corridor project started off well. This presents a huge undertaking, but it also excites us to find and pioneer solutions for commercial farmers with elephants traversing their lands. Technology already provided a great tool: the new EarthRanger program we use will change the management and productive use of collared elephant data to address conflicts.

An old low-level problem suddenly took us by surprise with its threat to all elephant lives: elephants caught in snares meant for predators. Tourists who had driven in the Huab River first alerted us in early 2021 when editing their photos. Only then they saw a young male calf with wire wrapped around the end of his trunk, which had severed it. The EHRA tracking team found the calf and the MEFT sent the State Vet to assess the injury. The calf could use the 'new' end of his trunk; the remaining portion and wire would drop off later. Over the course of the year, we had 3 other calls about elephants with feet and trunks caught in snares, and again we sent our tracking team to investigate. The two elephants with trunk injuries survived, but a snare on a foot can cause irreparable damage; the veterinarian euthanized both these elephants. Going forward we plan to launch a 'snare clean-up campaign'.

Our volunteer project quickly recovered! The number of bookings we took and the readiness of people to travel to come help EHRA surprised us. Of course, the Omicron outbreak which landed Namibia on the "red list" in several countries hit us hard, but thankfully this didn't last long. We even hosted our first big group, Make a Change, plus two brave families who volunteered at our local school and vegetable garden project. A lot of volunteers returned, which really encourages the team members who work with the groups, making them feel well-rewarded.

A stunning building now houses our new Education Centre, base office and Information Centre or 'Elephant Museum', along with a fantastic, cool space for holding our training courses and meetings. We decided to extend our elephant education program with an elephant-focused Environmental Education course for Namibian schools. This will begin in June 2022, and we excitedly look forward to opening our doors to many school learners and teachers.

Once more I thank all for the support that hundreds of people extend to EHRA in donations, all of the people who come as volunteers, and our partners both locally and internationally.

Lastly, I extend a heartfelt "thank you" with my huge appreciation to everyone on the team at EHRA. They are incredibly hardworking, motivated, kind and selfless; no challenge or task diminishes their spirit. I am so proud and excited for the future of EHRA.

Rachelle



INDEX

2021 Achievements	4
ID & Movement Study	6
Elephant Corridor Project	6
Satellite collaring elephants	8
Elephant distribution	9
Desert-adapted elephant status	10
The snaring problem	11
Human–Elephant Coexistence Strategies	12
Water Point Protection Program	12
Alternative Elephant Drinking Dams	12
Solar Water Pump Project	13
Education and Outreach	14
PEACE Project PEOPLE & ELEPHANTS AMICABLY CO-EXISTING	14
Environmental Education Centre	15
Environmental Education Program	16
Volunteer Project & Interns	17
Volunteering at EHRA in 2021	17
EHRA university internship program	18
Behind the scenes	19
Communication	20
Collaboration	22
Finances	23
Fundraising: The Brandberg Challenge	23
Cash flow	24
Donors & Partners	25
What's next at EHRA?	26

2021 ACHIEVEMENTS

Quick Facts



WE HOSTED

118 international volunteers
5 Namibian volunteers
2 volunteer families

5 Namibian interns
1 international intern



WE BUILT

12 water point protection walls
1 alternative elephant dam

WE INSTALLED

6 solar water pumps
6 camera traps



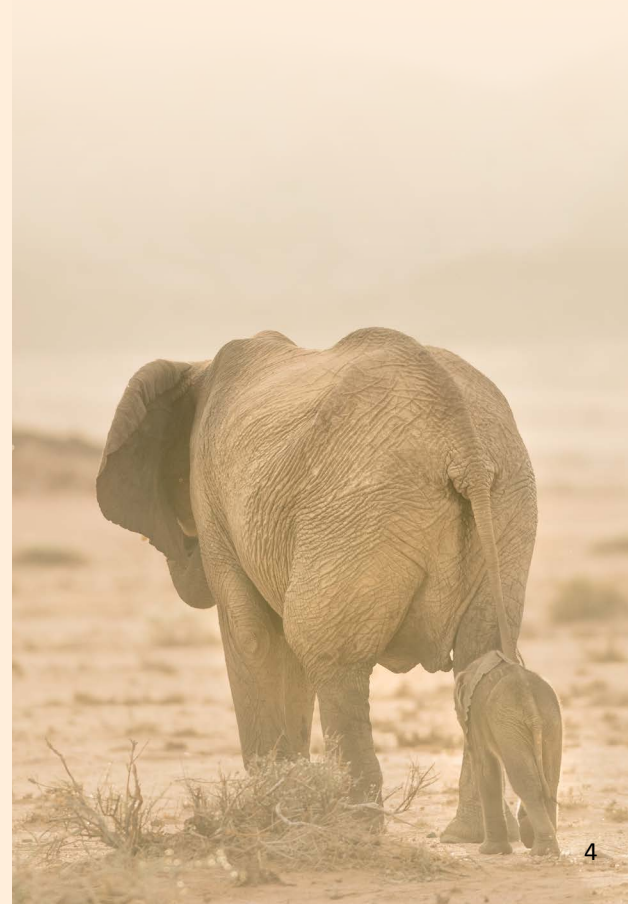
WE COMPLETED

95 days of elephant tracking
2 satellite collaring operations
49 new elephant IDs



WE CONDUCTED

16 PEACE Projects with
273 participants



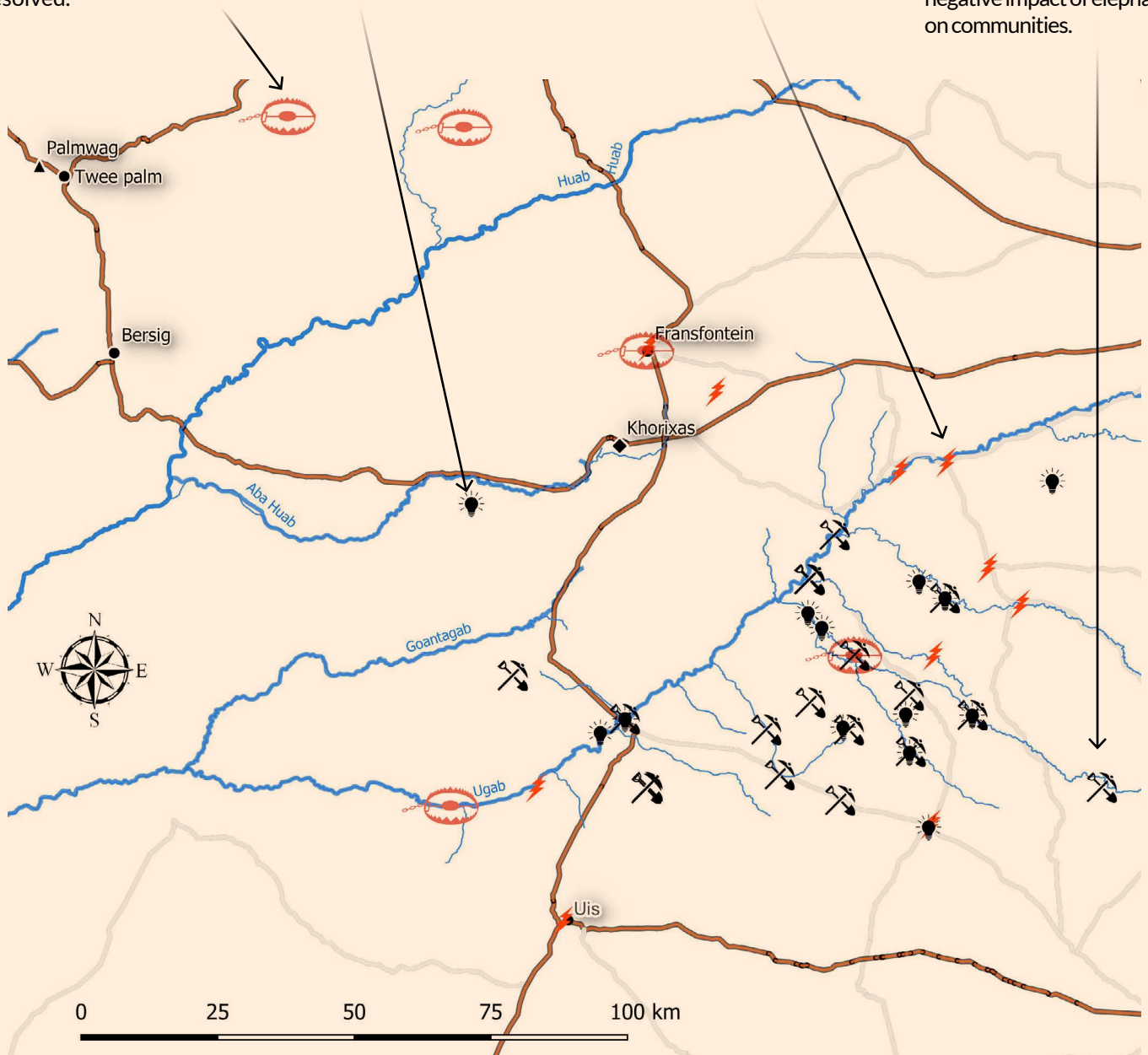
2021 Impact & Activities

What makes living with elephants OK?

EHRA strives to identify all elements that spark intolerance and conflicts between people and elephants and to systematically implement projects that remove or lessen these elements. We aim to make living with elephants bearable as a first step towards helping communities to 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 a peaceful coexistence:

<p>Snares </p> <p>4 elephants with snare injuries and 2 males with a foot stuck in a tire reported and resolved.</p>	<p>PEACE Projects </p> <p>273 people reached through educational courses about how to peacefully coexist.</p>	<p>Conflicts </p> <p>15 reported cases of human-elephant conflicts in our extended project area in 2021.</p>	<p>Interventions </p> <p>12 water points protected, 1 elephant drinking dam built and 6 solar water pumps installed to reduce the negative impact of elephants on communities.</p>
--	---	---	--



ID & MOVEMENT STUDY

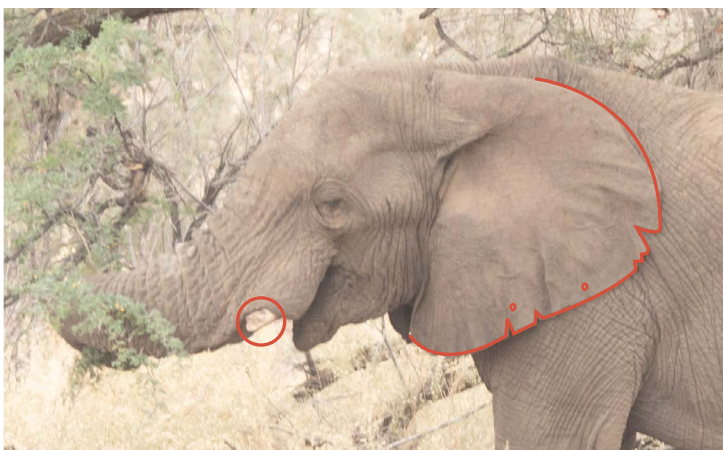
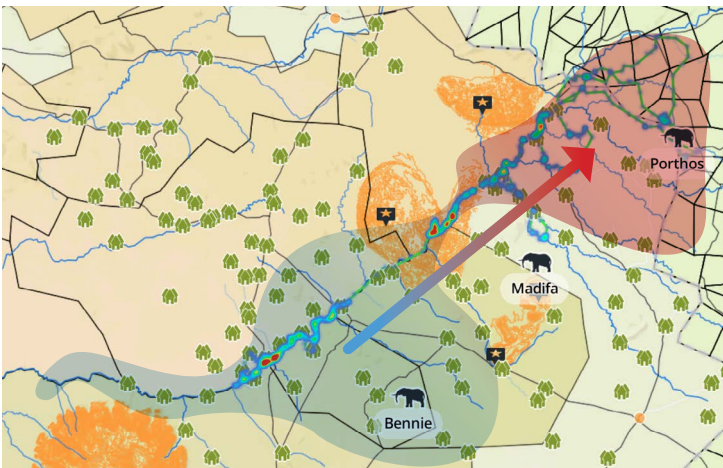
Elephant Corridor Project



By Christin Winter
Conservation Programs
Manager

Home ranges shift east

It seems that a changing climate causes elephants in the northwest of Namibia to steadily shift their home range east. As our focal desert-dwelling elephant subpopulation moved into commercial farmland in the beginning of 2020, several individuals got shot there. This alerted us to the fact that many other skittish elephants roam the complex landscape between communal and commercial farms. Farmers report damages from elephants ranging between N\$500.000 to N\$1.5 million annually due to farmed animal losses and fence breakages. It became clear that everyone involved in elephant conservation must develop coexistence solutions as elephants will always remain, and as the west dries up, more elephants may shift east onto these farms. We therefore aim to create elephant corridors to allow barrier-free movement for elephants whilst greatly reducing financial losses for the relevant farmers—a project currently in the beginning stages. Jointly with the Namibian government, Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), and other stakeholders, we discussed a long-term vision to rehabilitate elephant habitat.



How many elephants?

49 new elephants identified in 2021

Sustainable elephant management can only succeed if elephant managers know their numbers. We therefore strive to provide accurate data on elephant identification, ages and sexes, herd distribution, overall population size and home ranges. EHRA shares all elephant ID data with elephant management authorities. In 2021, we compiled 49 new complete or partially complete identification files. We recorded 7 further elephants plus a partial herd breakdown, but we could not identify them. These extremely skittish elephants move in thorny thickets, making clear observations difficult.

Since the beginning of the corridor project, we compiled a total of 125 new identification files. We saw more elephants but could not identify them due to the difficult terrain. The MEFT relocated a minimum of 22 known and identified elephants out of the project area. We see bulls more regularly as they move between different herds. Overall, herd sizes vary between 6 to 14 individuals, but we often see them join other elephants in groups of 30, especially at the end of the dry season.



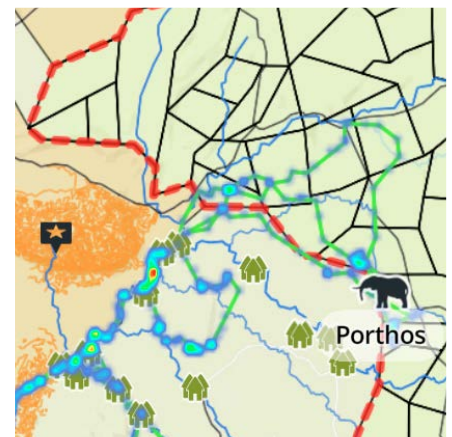
6 camera traps installed

To aid us with our identification and movement study, we placed 6 camera traps at 6 waterholes along the Ugab River on communal land, west of the first commercial farms. This helps us complete ID profiles and understand elephant distribution at specific times of year. We plan to keep monitoring the same waterholes for at least one year to assess which waterholes elephants use during each month. This assists us in planning educational outreach courses as well as elephant monitoring patrols.

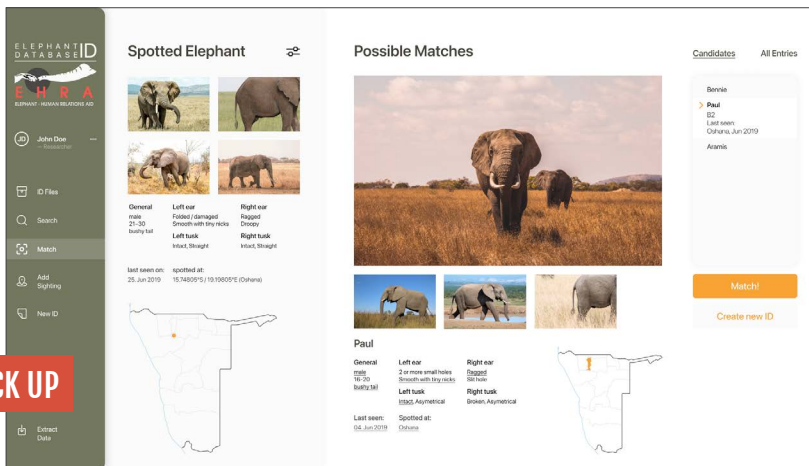
Geofencing

Setting up EarthRanger

We now use EarthRanger (ER), a remarkable software solution that combines real-time data from ranger patrols, remote imaging and many, various sensors. Fully funded by philanthropists, ER provides fantastic technical support and training for EHRA's team. It enables us to track and monitor collared elephants and other assets from one place. The first phase of testing geofencing is underway. This includes an automatic Early Warning System which alerts us and conflict-affected farmers when elephants cross into an area we identified as dangerous.



The ID Database



Enrique Fueyo and [Dorfiungs](#) (from the [AMES Foundation](#)) volunteered to jointly build an interactive elephant database. We must now test this base and define the MVP (Minimal Viable Product) in terms of functionality and user-friendly design. It challenges but also excites us to develop such a robust and intuitive system. EHRA, MEFT and elephant researchers will use the database to channel data into one place.

A holistic and long-term approach

The Elephant Corridor Project works hand-in-hand with all other projects at EHRA, as well as in strong collaboration with the MEFT and NUST. Wherever we track and identify elephants or inspect conflict cases, the PEACE Project conducts educational courses on conflict mitigation while the volunteer project focuses on protecting vulnerable water points with sturdy walls. We install solar-powered water pumps to replace diesel pumps in the same areas and, where required, build alternative elephant dams. EHRA participates in standardizing the collection of elephant identification and conflict data as well as encourages other relevant stakeholders to contribute to the dataset. These contributions expand our understanding of elephant movement and conflict escalation. We aim to unite conflict-affected farmers and community members to jointly manage the human-elephant coexistence challenge. Our long-term approach aims to help elephants sustain themselves in a complex human-dominated landscape that shows clear signs of suffering negative impacts from climate change. We expect more changes and shifts in wildlife home ranges; we intend to assist residents to adapt to ever-increasing challenges of human-wildlife coexistence.

Satellite collaring elephants

Collaring Bennie and Porthos

12.1.2021 - EHRA and the MEFT fitted satellite collars on two males of the desert-dwelling Ugab River West population to monitor their movements in real time and receive early warning alerts when elephants move into identified danger zones. A big thanks goes to the MEFT for providing their amazing veterinarian, Dr Axel Hartmann, who darted the two males from the car, then collared them once the anesthetic drug took effect. We deeply appreciate Dr. Hartmann's expertise gained from more than 35 years as a wildlife veterinarian, and we thank him tremendously for conducting these elephant collaring events.

[Aktionsgemeinschaft Artenschutz \(AGA\) e.V.](#) funded the collars that allow us to track the desert elephant population in real time and to receive alerts of sudden movements or entry into danger zones.

We decided to collar the males as one of them usually accompanies the herds and, being mindful of the extraordinary stress the females have experienced in recent times, we refrained from collaring them for now.

We have now integrated the collars into EarthRanger tracking technology and implemented geofences that, once triggered, send out early warning messages, allowing EHRA and the MEFT to respond immediately to emergencies or warn the relevant village or farm of the approaching giants.

The entire collaring operation took place on the ground and went smoothly. It took the team less than 25 minutes to dart, collar and wake the males. Both bulls were healthy and, apart from temporary stress, didn't suffer from the intervention. We believe this will greatly enhance our abilities to protect them and the rest of the desert-dwelling herds, especially as conflicts with humans arise constantly.



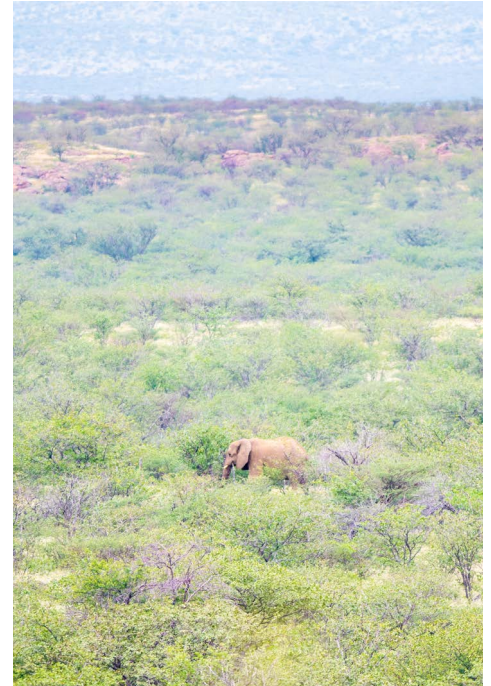
Elephant distribution

Assessing distribution range and population connectivity

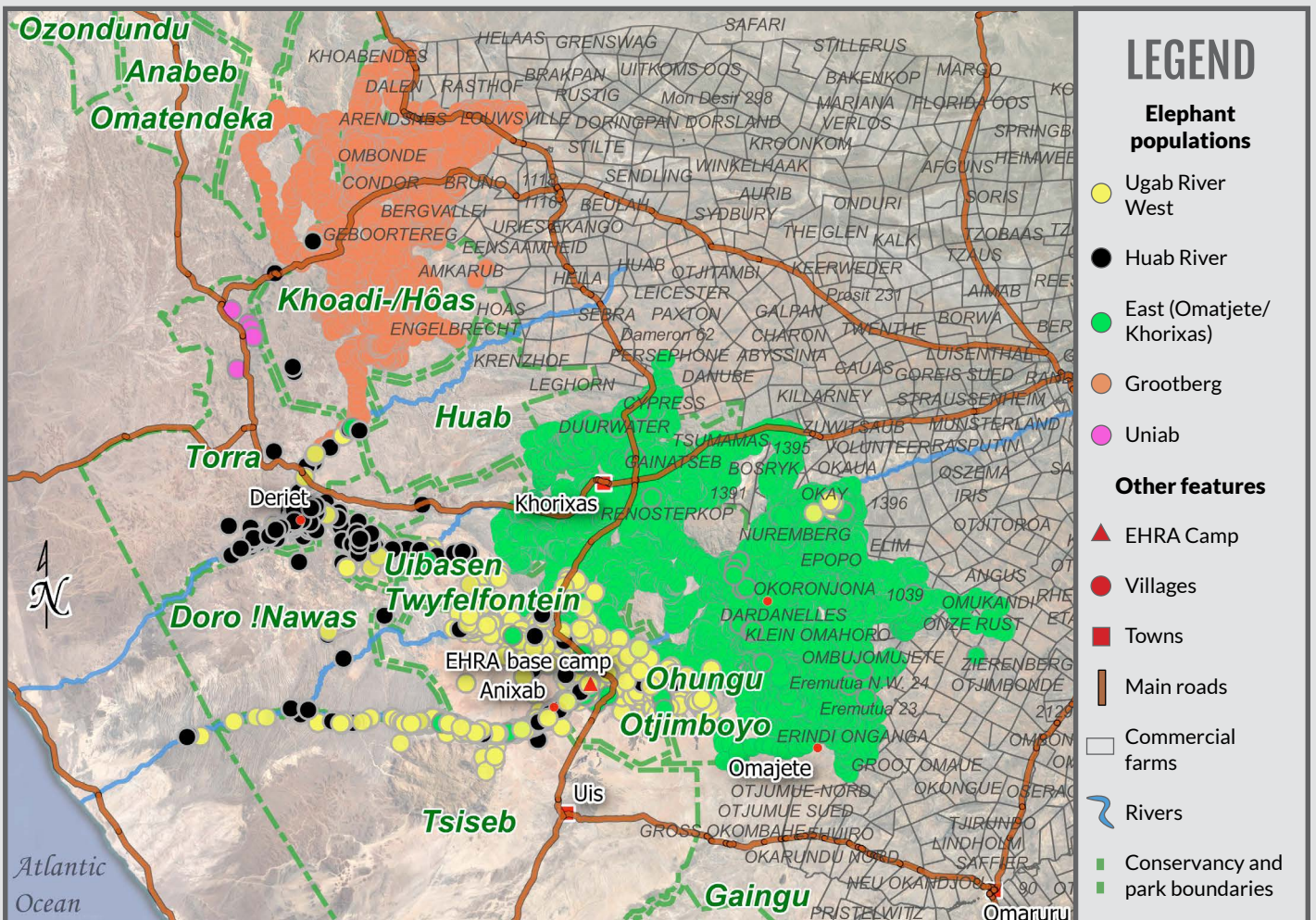
Where elephants have no collars but we can identify and recognize herds, we can trace their movements. The more data we collect, the better we understand seasonal elephant distribution and connectivity between different herds, between bulls and between bulls and herds.

We now can clearly see distinct or overlapping home ranges, as well as distinguish between wet and dry season ranges. This information helps us focus our conflict mitigation efforts and implement better co-existence management schemes.

Thus far we can distinguish between the Huab and Ugab western desert-dwelling elephants, the Grootberg and Uniab elephants, the Ugab eastern elephants and the Khorixas-Fransfontein elephants. Having gathered more data recently, we can see how the latter two subpopulations seem to merge and in fact move between both areas. Elephants use specific pathways to move from one area to the next - an exciting observation which helps us identify key elephant corridors.



Elephant distribution 2010 - 2021



Desert Elephant Status

Ugab West Elephants – Vulnerable

Since farmers shot four Ugab West desert elephants in a short timeframe in 2020 due to escalated conflicts, we prioritized monitoring these elephants plus regularly engaging with the relevant farm owners in 2021. Our presence and communication contributed to the protection of the remaining Ugab West elephants. No Ugab elephant died in 2021. They remained on commercial land for up to five months of the year, only returning to the west in the cold dry season (June-August).

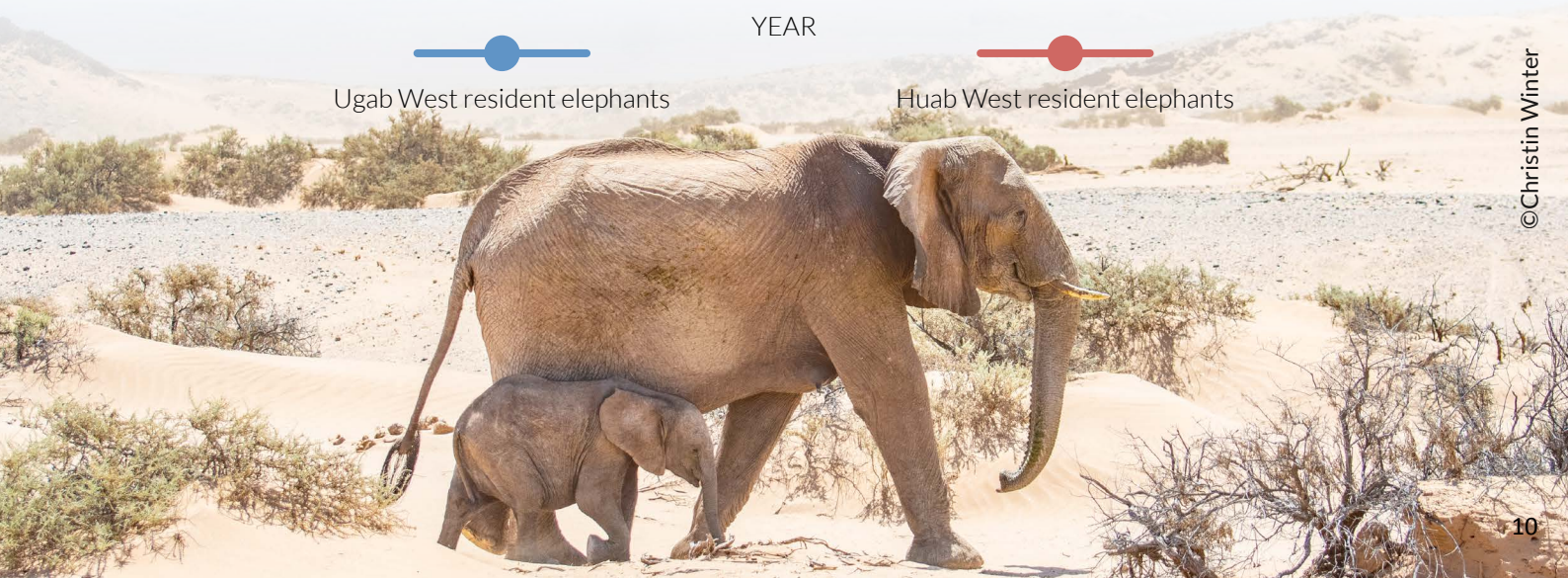
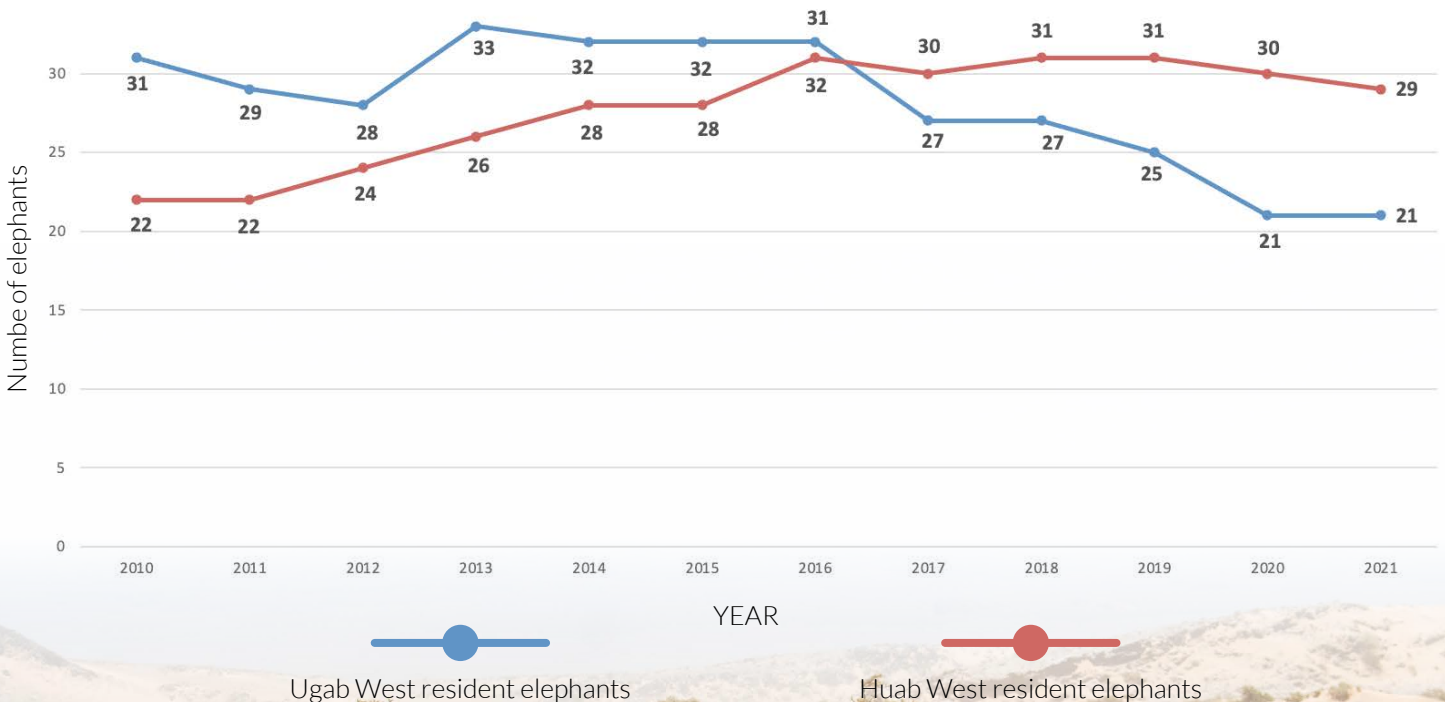
In the time span of four years (2016-2020), 12 adult elephants died, reducing the Ugab West population from 32 to 21 elephants. One male permanently moved into the area. 9 out of 12 elephants got shot either as problem or trophy animals; one elephant died of unknown causes several days after her immobilization and collaring. In the time span of 6 years (2015-2021), a minimum of 10 newborns died shortly after birth, halting population growth.

Main concern: The low number of adult females (5) and breeding bulls (3) remains a significant concern.

Huab Resident Elephants – Stable

The Huab resident elephant population decreased by one individual in 2021. The breeding bull Gentleman (D3) apparently died before January – cause of death unknown. Although numbers steadily increased over the past 10 years, the low number of bulls still worries us. Only one resident male of breeding age remains in the Huab River (D2 - Longshanks). However, several other small herds and young adult males regularly visit the river's resident herds. This interaction hopefully contributes to a diverse gene pool.

Ugab and Huab desert elephant population trend 2010–2021



The snaring problem

4 elephants with snare injuries

EHRA received reports of 4 snare injuries to elephants, mostly in the Grootberg area. Of the four injured elephants, the attending veterinarians euthanized two.

In each case, EHRA sent a tracker to locate the elephant and the MEFT financed the vet and field team to tend to the animal.

Dr. Axel Hartman, State Veterinarian in Etosha National Park, disinfected and stitched a wound suffered by one young bull. We haven't spotted the elephant since. We can only trust his wound healed and he survived.

In January, we learned of a male calf with a snare tightly wrapped around his trunk. However, by the time EHRA located the herd a second time, ready to interfere with Dr Hartman, the snare had already fallen off. The vet decided that the wound didn't look life-threatening. We continued to monitor the herd and the calf we named Jabari (the brave one). Although he will never be able to use the tip of his trunk, the wound healed well and he drinks and feeds normally. At his young age he could adapt to his disability and survive.

2 males spotted with a tire around a foot

One known (Ulysses) and one unknown bull had a tire stuck around a foot. Although EHRA, MEFT and Naankuse Foundation were on stand-by to intervene, both males freed themselves without lasting injuries.

The regularity of the occurrence of snare or tire injuries rings alarm bells for EHRA. How many cases that ended fatally remain unknown? EHRA aims to focus anti-snare and clean-up campaigns in the Grootberg area as a first step towards tackling the problem.



Trunk snare injury treated and healed.



A snare cut the foot off a 1-year old calf. Due to advanced infection, the veterinarian (Dr de Schepper) euthanized the calf.



On Christmas eve, we received a report of a young male with his foot stuck in a tire. Thankfully, he freed himself several days later.

Wildlife suffers too!

Living with humans and navigating across a changing and human-dominated landscape becomes increasingly difficult for wildlife. People often set snares intended to decrease predators (lions, hyenas or jackals), but all too often non-target animals suffer from these deadly devices too.



Jabari's snare wound healed and he eats and drinks despite his disability.

COEXISTENCE STRATEGIES

Water Point Protection



12 walls built

In search of water, elephants break pipes, tanks and other infrastructure (such as windmills or solar panels). This remains the main conflict driver in the semi-arid desert environment in Namibia. Protecting the water points from elephants by building large stone walls averts such conflict-causing damage.



EHRA started building protection walls with the help of our volunteers in 2003 as a main step towards a more peaceful coexistence between people and elephants.

Listen to feedback from our volunteers [here](#).

In 2021, EHRA built 12 walls, one completed in collaboration with the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) and Youth Rhino Rangers.

Elephant Drinking Dams

One alternative drinking dam built

The water reservoirs usually stand in the middle of the village. Even if protection exists for water tanks, pipes and pumps, elephants must still walk through the village to drink at the reservoir. If it's empty, dirty or the water level is too low, elephants become desperate and might smell water stored in nearby houses. To avoid these conflicts, villages can apply to EHRA to build a water dam specifically for elephants at the outskirts of the village. This way, elephants can still drink but don't need to walk through the village. This simple action mitigates the risk for HE confrontations and other conflicts, plus it greatly reduces stress on both elephants and people. We built one such dam in 2021 in the village Ongeamotjovike.



[Aktionsgemeinschaft Artenschutz e.V.](#) in Germany funded this dam through the Cents For Help initiative.

Solar Water Pump Project



By Christophe Pitot
Field Conservation
Manager

6 solar water pumps installed

An adult elephant can drink 150-200 litres of water at any one time. This can deplete water reservoirs on farms quickly and leave people and livestock thirsty. Farmers usually pump water with diesel pumps. Diesel prices not only rise constantly; obtaining it can require a journey of more than 20km one way.

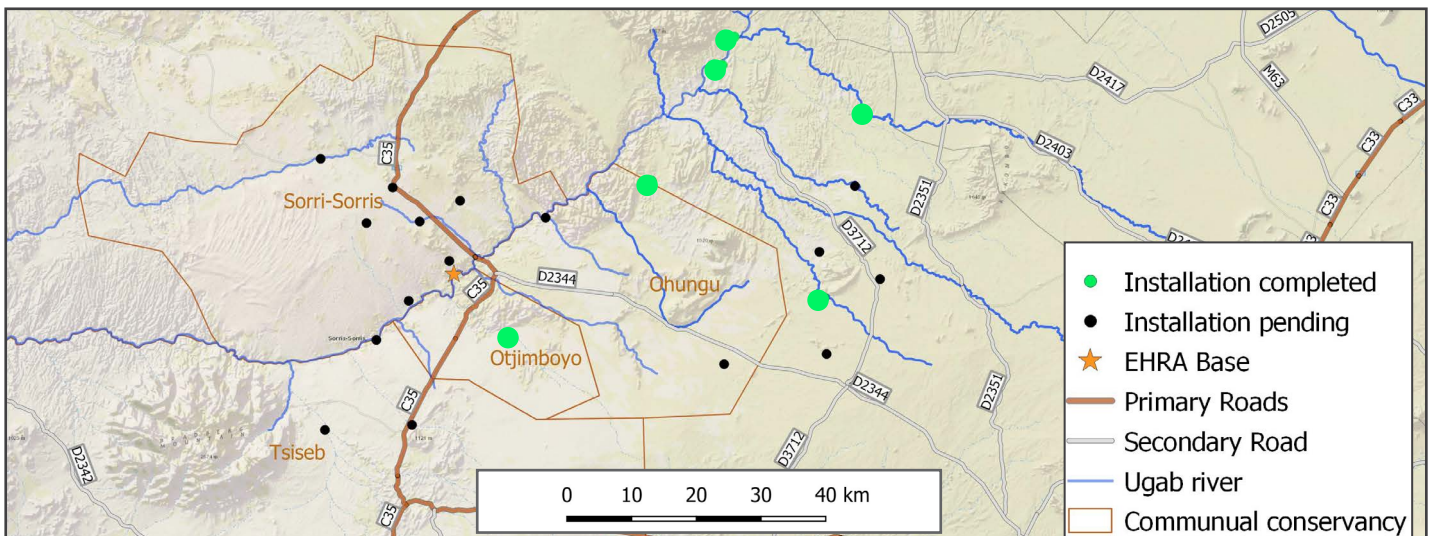
We therefore decided to replace diesel water pumps with solar water pumps at villages suffering from frequent elephant visits. This greatly reduces the financial burden of living with elephants and creates a more peaceful cohabitation. Despite many unforeseen challenges, we managed to install 6 solar water pumps in 2021. Overall, we aim to install 40 solar water pumps by mid-2023.

Villagers who received a solar pump have greatly changed their perception of elephants. As living with elephants doesn't cost them much anymore, a sturdy stone wall protects their water infrastructure and, in some cases, an elephant dam now provides water for elephants at the outskirts of the village, the fear of elephant visits decreased noticeably. Recipients of solar pumps now save the money they previously spent on diesel, thereby reaping an additional financial benefit from the elephants' presence. This project significantly propels our conservation and human-elephant coexistence work forward.



and Shitunda Diyeve
Base Camp and Logistical
Support

Dedicated and hardworking, Shitunda assists with solar pump installations and water point management. He is being trained to take a leading role in the future.



Overview of farms that received a solar water pump and those pending installation of a pump. Through new farm surveys in 2022, we will complete the list of solar pump recipients.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

The PEACE Project



By Shannon Diener
PEACE Project Manager

273 people reached through our PEACE Project!

Through our engaging PEACE Project, we change attitudes towards elephants, one person at a time. Even with Covid-19 restrictions, 2021 finished as a success for the PEACE Project, as we held workshops in all four of our partner conservancies, plus in two additional conservancies in southern Kunene, Doro !Nawas and #Khoadi //Hoas. In 2021 we taught a total of 273 community members about elephant behavior and safety around elephants. We held two courses with the Omatjete Rural Women's Assembly, a group working to empower rural women economically through sustainable food production and informed decision-making. We felt honored to share elephant safety information with these potent ladies because they really embody the custodianship of seed, soil and life!

The PEACE Project remains the only project in Namibia teaching community members how to mitigate conflict with elephants and how to safely co-exist with wild elephants.



and Hendrick Munembome
PEACE Project Leader

Other Namibian conservation organizations, TOSCO and IRDNC, recognized the importance of the PEACE Project's work, which sparked a heightened collaboration with the two organizations for the northern Kunene game guard training. Twenty-three community game guards from different conservancies attended the 4-day training, which included 3 days of theory classes and 1 day of practical elephant tracking and observations in the Huab River. The game guards learned important information about safety around elephants and protecting their homes from elephant damage, which they then shared with their fellow community members.

In the coming year we aim to collaborate with other conservation organizations concentrating their efforts in the Kunene Region, to spread the message of elephant conservation and conflict mitigation far and wide.



Shannon asked a PEACE Project Participant: Imagine you are an elephant in your area. If you had an opportunity to talk with your conservancy management team, what would you say to them?

The answer: "I am sorry for the damage that I cause to your gardens and homes, I only do this because of the drought and little space that I have to share with you, your children and your many livestock. Please stop killing me and my family. We are very little in number and me and my children are slowly dying out. Let us learn to appreciate the benefits we get from each other and find a way to live together peacefully."

Environmental Education Centre

The Base Office

Closer to the action

EHRA Base Camp and the Swakopmund EHRA Office lie 250km apart – approximately a 4-hour trip. So far, we find network only on hilltops, making communication between our two operation hubs a challenge at best. The Base Office will bridge the gap, make strategic planning, communication, instant decision-making, and rapid action considerably more efficient. If we can develop adequate computer functioning in the vicinity of the camp, we will save on fuel costs as well as on travel time. This possibility builds great excitement for us all!



The Workshop Hall

Home of the PEACE Project & other Workshops

Our PEACE Project team has long held the dream of a cool, shaded and spacious learning centre located within elephant range. Until now the team conducted the important elephant education seminars in the shade of a tree without any ablution or kitchen facilities. We can now happily and comfortably host community members and provide a scenic camp and eco-friendly ablutions, enhancing the overall learning experience at EHRA for everyone. We will also host other workshops, courses plus our upcoming Environmental Education program here.

The Elephant Museum

Learn about elephants!

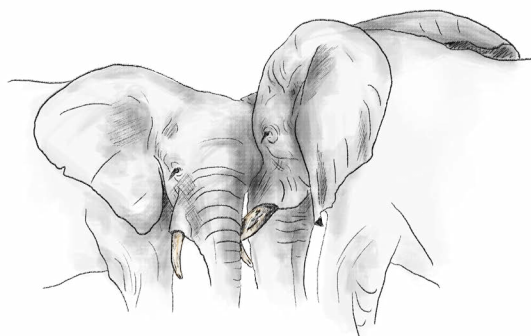
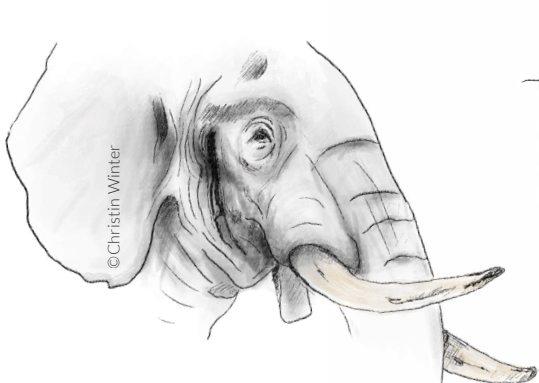
We aim to present all aspects of elephants and elephant conservation in our Elephant Museum. The PEACE Project will come alive! National and international visitors can learn about these fascinating animals through illustrated info posters, maps and a life-size elephant statue. Learners from our education programs as well as tourists can immerse themselves in the many forms of information and may, perhaps, fall a little more in love with elephants. [TOSCO Namibia](#) will fund the printing of the 60+ posters.

DESERT ELEPHANTS

DESCRIPTION	WHERE THEY OCCUR
Desert elephants or desert-dwelling elephants are not genetically distinct, but are African savannah elephants (<i>Loxodonta africana</i>) with unique characteristics. These elephants have made their home in the Namib desert in Namibia, Africa, and they exhibit adaptations to the extreme terrain and temperatures.	There are only 2 populations of desert elephants in the world: Mali and Namibia. In Namibia, they live in the arid to semi-arid desert northwest, encompassing 115,154km ² of mostly sandy desert, rocky mountains and arid gravel plains.

In Namibia, the desert elephants roam the Kunene and Erongo Regions. In Mali, they live in a harsh area southeast of Timbuktu.

DESERT-DWELLING ELEPHANTS ADAPTED TO THE HARSH CLIMATE IN THE DESERT!



All about elephants!

Environmental Education Program



By Anna Sheehama
Conservation Programs
Assistant & Environmental
Educator

In 2018, Anna completed her 6-month internship at EHRA. She impressed us so much that we offered her the job as Conservation Programs Assistant. The leadership and passion she displays in her everyday tasks earned her the opportunity to develop EHRA's EE program!

Big plans for our Environmental Education Centre!

From 2022, EHRA will offer a 5-day environmental education program designed to fit into the national school curriculum. This program will fill the gap of environmental education in northwestern Namibia's rural schools and provide a great opportunity for learners to gain environmental awareness by presenting them with learning opportunities they wouldn't otherwise experience.

We invite all schools all over Namibia to participate in our environmental education program; however, we mainly focus on rural schools in the Erongo and Kunene regions where EHRA operates. Environmental education remains profoundly neglected in rural Namibian schools. We see clear evidence of this when we work in the schools in our area, where environmental clubs rarely exist or exist in a state of dormancy.

In 2021, in preparation for launching our education program, EHRA participated in an EE/ESD Training hosted by Namibia's leading EE centre, NaDEET (Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust). The training offered a great opportunity to gain hands-on experience in "learning to live for a sustainable future" through the NaDEET infrastructure. During this training, Dr. Jim Taylor, former chairman of EEASA, the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (the first regional EE organisation), who currently engages stakeholders within the Orange-Senqu River Basin, joined the team at NaDEET to share his expertise. He gave useful tips on action learning, emphasizing the importance of engaging one's audience through dialogue, respect, kindness, and the need to take action for the environment.

In addition to this, our organization received an invitation to attend a two-day stakeholder Consultative Workshop for the implementation of EE/ESD Policy in Namibia's capital, Windhoek. The workshop outlined the implementation and action plan and mapped the way forward for EE/ESD in Namibia. Throughout the workshop, the culture of networking and the sharing/exchange of views concerning EE/ESD in Namibia grew continuously amongst the stakeholders. Networking plays an increasingly important role in bringing the quality of EE programs to scale. The future of EE in Namibia greatly excites us!



Volunteers & Interns

Volunteering at EHRA



By Victro Ouses
Volunteer Coordinator



and Andreas Simbushi
Volunteer Project
Manager

Volunteers helped us despite Covid-19 restrictions!

We encountered many challenges due to COVID in 2021. Our booking numbers dropped drastically; at one point two trips and one family trip cancelled due to travel restrictions, plus some countries where most of our bookings originate placed Namibia on their “red list”.

The world-wide uncertainty and spontaneously imposed travel bans or quarantine regulations made it difficult for us to plan and conduct volunteer projects. But we took the risk and accommodated each and every volunteer who wanted to help us. Sometimes we had to drive volunteers to the airport in the middle of the week, if the government announced new lockdowns, but we happily did so as our volunteers come here for a good cause. We had a total of 127 volunteers in 2021; pre-Covid we usually hosted on average 300 volunteers per annum. This meant we earned half of our usual annual income through volunteers and had only half of our usual women power available during build weeks. But with the additional help of strong community members, we still completed 12 water point protection walls despite the smaller groups of volunteers.

At the project sites, the communities greatly appreciate the help from the volunteers. Often, communities live in very poor conditions and do not have the financial means to either repair damage or implement protective methods. Their appreciation is a huge motivation for our amazing volunteers!



Challenges & Highlights of the Volunteer Project

During tightened travel restrictions due to Covid, we sometimes had groups as small as 2 volunteers. This often meant that it took particularly long to finish the building projects, as the work load was too much for a few people. Many times, though, the communities would jump in and help us with the hard labour which sped up the process.

Volunteers come with never-ending enthusiasm and so much energy; they are so motivated, which fuels the teams. The groups always go the extra mile to complete the project, to push through the rough, hot times together -- quite literally to make the dream work. Volunteers know what they came here for, so they put in maximum effort.

Internships at EHRA

6 university interns at EHRA

This year, we hosted five Namibian and one international university students. EHRA funds the placement of Namibian interns as part of our commitment to nurturing the next generation of enthusiastic conservationists. Interns assist our Volunteer Project Manager during the volunteer trips, therefore gaining valuable field conservation and conservation tourism experience. Interns can complete the practical component of their degree and conduct their own research with EHRA. We gladly host up to five interns per year for 3-6 months each from the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the University of Namibia (UNAM).



Esty Emosho

Esty joined our internship program for 3 months, gaining practical field experience in conservation and wildlife-based tourism, as part of the requirements for her Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management and Ecotourism (Honours) at UNAM.

Hans Heinrich Tuaundu

Also from UNAM, Hans joined us as an intern for the month of February 2021 as part of his degree requirements for his Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management and Ecotourism (Honours).



Mujame Tjingeo

Mujame, also known as David, works toward his Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management and Ecotourism (Honours) at UNAM as well. He completed a 1-month internship with EHRA, where he learned about group management, conservation tourism and practical, community-based elephant conservation work.

Evelina Sheehama

Evelina, who seeks a Bachelor of Natural Resources Management (Nature Conservation) degree at NUST, interned at EHRA from March to June 2021. Her research focused on "Investigating the impact of different types of water pumps on the communities' attitude towards the desert-adapted elephants in the Ugab and Huab catchment areas".



Alexander Shikongo

Alexander completed his Bachelor in Natural Resources Management (Nature Conservation) at NUST, including a 6-month internship with us. He worked with dedication and proved to be such an asset to EHRA that we decided to take him on as a Project Assistant in 2022 (after completing his driver's license)!

Sophia Hoch

Sophia completed her 8-week practical internship at EHRA as part of her BSc in African Development Studies in Geography at the University of Bayreuth in Germany. She assisted the volunteer project leader with enthusiasm and also helped Shannon on a PEACE Project. She gained valuable experiences in conservation.



Behind the scenes



By Kabwata Kangumbe
Camp Operations
Manager

Keeping Camp and Field Operations running smoothly

I and my team had another busy year in base camp. Not only do we have a fleet of 7 vehicles here in camp which requires constant maintenance and servicing, but also the base camp takes a lot of work to keep running. Our operations really centre around the base camp; we store all our equipment here, but I spend most of my time in the workshops. My team and I feel really proud of the camp we have built up over the years; the volunteer groups love it and so do we! To help with financing, we opened the base camp to both local and international tourists. This meant the team also must deal with tourists plus always keep the camp in perfect condition. Completing the building of the Education Centre stands as our greatest achievement of the year. None of us could believe just how amazing the buildings turned out! It demanded intense, hard work, but the EHRA team, especially Adolf and the team of local laborers, did a fantastic job. We all learnt new skills. Seeing the building come together with people using it highlighted the ending of a very satisfying year for us.

Many thanks go to:



Adolf Kaunotjie
Logistical Support and
Education Centre
Foreman



Fabricio Luigio Hill
Carpenter and
Joiner



Mattias Kangumbe
Head Elephant
Tracker



Herman Kasaona
Volunteer Project
Assistant

Huge thanks also go to:

Michiel Coetzee
Education Centre Architect and
Project Manager

Sanderine Biermann
Education Centre Architect and
Project Manager

Education Centre Builders:

Josef Eiseb
Helmuth Eiseb
Salatiel Gaoseb
Samuel Rikambura
Uatonda Kapuu
Gerson Gaoseb
Nico Narib

Colin Valentine
EHRA friend & supporter

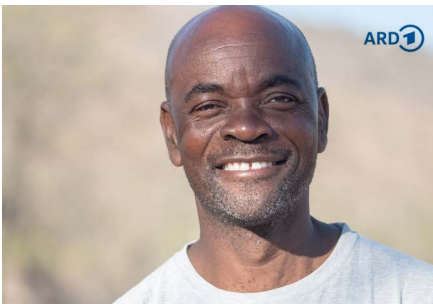
Gotlieb Tjiurutue
Elephant Guard trainee &
Ohungu Game Guard



COMMUNICATIONS

EHRA on TV & Radio

ARD WELTSPiegel



[CLICK HERE](#)

RTL LIFE



[CLICK HERE](#)

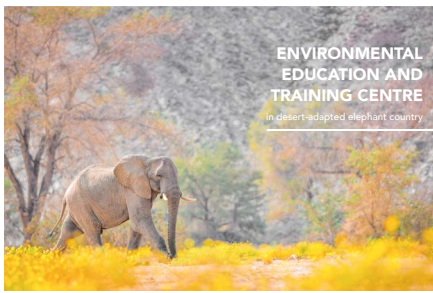
RADIOWAVE



[CLICK HERE](#)

EHRA featured in print

NCE | Conservation and the Environment in Namibia



Anna Sheehama about EHRA's Environmental Education & Training Centre

[CLICK HERE TO READ](#)

TINA | WOMEN'S MAGAZINE IN GERMANY



Interview with EHRA's Conservation Programs Manager, Christin Winter

The Namibian



Why is it important to save the elephant?

[CLICK HERE TO READ](#)

The Namibian, Erongo & Republikein newspapers



The Brandberg Challenge: EHRA raises N\$500,000 for conservation

International Elephant Foundation Symposium

EHRA presents during the 17th IEF Online Symposium (15–19 November 2021)

Due to Covid-19, IEF organized its Symposium as an online event. We presented on the two projects that IEF has funded since 2019: The PEACE Project and The Elephant Corridor Project. IEF invited our team to roundtable discussions to connect with other researchers and organizations focusing on the topics of Human-Elephant Conflict and Education/Community Engagement.



Christin Winter, Conservation Programs Manager

Topic: Human-elephant coexistence challenges and solutions in Namibia's desert Northwest



Shannon Diener, PEACE Project Manager

Topic: Assessing perception of local communities towards the African savannah elephant and determining the impact of PEACE Project education courses on participants and human-elephant conflict

CASE STUDY | The impact of the PEACE Project's education courses on the communities where EHRA operates

Shannon compared the attitudes of the communities towards elephants in the Doro !Nawas Conservancy and the Omatjete area.

Case study 1: The government registered Doro !Nawas Conservancy in 1998, but the elephants only moved back into that area around 2011. During that time, EHRA immediately conducted a PEACE Project there to tackle the problems. "I remember it was just around the time that elephants had started to move into that area, the atmosphere was very stiff and community members hadn't really accepted elephants or the PEACE Project", remembered Hendrick Munembome, EHRA. Participants dished out only negative feedback: "We don't want elephants, the training did not solve our problem". But over the years, tourism developed in the area which boosted the local economy. Wildlife became a valuable resource as its presence ensured job opportunities. Doro !Nawas Lodge and other campsites employ over 300 people from the conservancy today. The income benefits the conservancy by funding human-wildlife conflict mitigation projects. The resulting reduction in poverty and improved standard of living empowered the community members. This positive development links directly to the presence of elephants. Today, community members peacefully tolerate elephants, which resulted in a relaxed and growing local population of elephants.

Case study 2: The Omatjete area has not formed a conservancy; its residents receive no benefits from elephants. For many years, community leaders loudly announced their dislike of elephants. It formed an anti-elephant group which threatened to take matters into its own hands. Because people did not accept the presence of elephants, they also did not accept EHRA's assistance. But since 2019, EHRA began concentrating its efforts in Omatjete; slowly but surely things turned around. It helped that Shannon Diener, PEACE Project Manager, originally comes from this part of Namibia, where people already widely respected her. Since then, more than 600 people attended the PEACE Project courses to learn how to mitigate conflicts. We specifically focused on women empowerment projects, hands-on practical conflict mitigation solutions and, jointly with the MEFT and traditional authorities, promoted conservation and the registration of a conservancy. The Omatjete area has now started its conservancy registration process (Ojetu Conservancy), which will help the community kick-start tourism projects in the area. Today, we regularly receive PEACE Project training requests and sense that the attitudes towards elephants have started to change positively.

COLLABORATION

Strong Collaboration Partners

Successful conservation can only happen in collaboration with strong partners. We gratefully thank the multiple organizations and individuals in Namibia that work with and support us.



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 became a proud member of NACSO.



Namibian Chamber of Environment
NCE NURSARY FUND 2022

Since 2020, EHRA became a proud member of NCE. NCE will fund 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.



NNF provided co-funding and manpower for protecting a community garden with a wall.



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



EARTH RANGER
A product of AI2

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

FINANCES

Fundraising Challenge



The Brandberg Challenge: N\$500,000.00 raised!

On Friday, 10 September, the EHRA Team made its way up Namibia's highest mountain, the Brandberg, to climb its Peak, Königstein, in order to raise money for our elephant conservation work.

We started our hike preparation in March, planning to hike in May or June when the mountain still holds water. But the team experienced many drawbacks, as several team members suffered from Covid-19 at different times. Each time we postponed the hike because we aimed to do this together, as a team. New regional lockdowns restricted movements once again, so EHRA hiked up Brandberg probably at the latest possible opportunity, in the second week of September. Fantastic porters from Uis dropped 200 litres of water at the first camp, and Mr Seth Ga'aseb from the National Heritage Council of Namibia guided the group up the mountain, making the hike possible.

International and national supporters sponsored each team member and helped EHRA reach our goal of raising N\$ 500,000.00 to continue our conservation work! Thank you to everyone who sponsored our awesome team to complete the challenge and raise funds for our important elephant conservation programs.



WATCH THE BRANDBERG SERIES

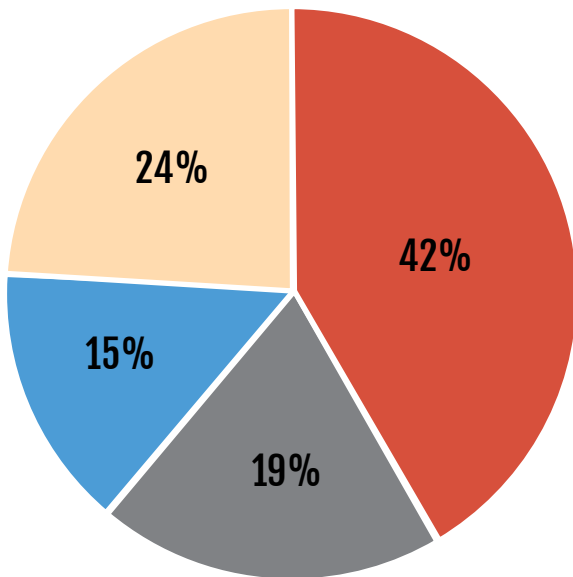
You can watch the team prepare for the hike, the background story of the challenge and the final climb on YouTube. It was a huge physical challenge, but the incredible teamwork made it possible for us to complete the hike. "Knowing we were in it together put me at ease. I think I have a newfound respect for the team and the work we do", Anna Sheehama said. We feel very proud of our team and grateful to everyone supporting us -- literally all the way.



WATCH NOW

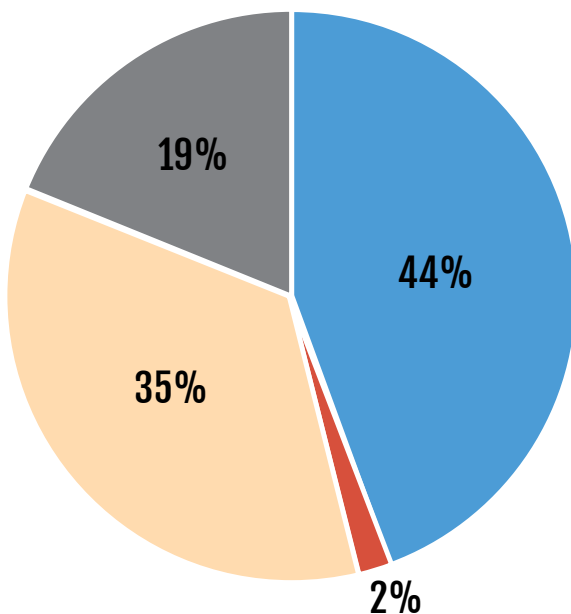
Cash flow

INCOME



Donations	N\$ 3,049,040.00
Self-generated Elephant adoptions, merchandise, camping, Brandberg challenge etc.	N\$ 1,430,326.47
Grants	N\$ 1,108,515.74
Volunteer Project	N\$ 1,755,939.81
<hr/>	
	N\$ 7,343,822.02

EXPENSES



Salaries & Wages	N\$ 2,646,222.50
Marketing	N\$ 104,030.35
Operation Costs Food, vehicles, fuel, admin	N\$ 2,079,210.98
Project Costs PEACE Project, Solar Pump Project, Education Centre building, Corridor Project	N\$ 1,131,415.01
<hr/>	
	N\$ 5,960,878.84

NEW

WE NOW GAINED THE STATUS OF A REGISTERED CHARITY IN THE UK!

Since 2021, Elephant Human Relations Aid UK became a registered UK Charity (Reg. No. 1196422). People in the UK can now make tax-deductible donations through the charity. Rachel Harris, Catherine Edsell, Beverly O'Sullivan and Peter Turner (MBE) direct the charity as UK Board Members.



Partners & Donors

Our deepest appreciation goes to our supporters:

WildArk
NUII Icecream
AMES Foundation
Aktionsgemeinschaft Artenschutz e.V.
Farald von Wedekind Foundation
Prince Bernhard Nature Fund
European Outdoor Conservation Association
Stiftung Entwicklungszusammenarbeit Baden-Württemberg
Namibian Chamber of Environment
International Elephant Foundation
TOSCO - Tourism Supporting Conservation
Deutsche Umwelthilfe (Hand-in-Hand Fonds)
Community Conservation Fund of Namibia
Pupkewitz Motors Division
Miami Zoo
King Alfred School
Ohorongo Cement
Balance Wines
First Rand Foundation
Oxford Scientific Films

Tsaurab Wildlife Development cc
Namibia Tracks and Trails
CathAdventure & Love Her Wild
Damarana Safaris
Brandberg Restcamp
Rotary Club Swakopmund
Weimann's Carpentry
Hefer Projects
Asco Car Hire

All EHRA Volunteers
Our amazing individual donors worldwide!

Thank you! Without **you none of our work would be possible.**



What's next?

Upcoming projects

Collaring more elephants

We plan to fit more collars on elephants to use the available technology to mitigate human-elephant conflict and gain more insights into elephant movement -- all in aid of the Corridor Project.



1-day Conflict Mitigation Crash Courses

Funded by Hand-in-Hand Fonds, the courses focus on women and goat herders, who usually cannot attend the 3-day PEACE workshops due to domestic workloads. We aim to include everybody in our HEC mitigation program.



Surveys

Funded by EOCA, we will conduct vegetation, water and attitude surveys which form part of our Corridor Project. We aim to identify the main movement motivators and zones of tolerance towards elephants.



Anti-snare campaign

As snaring injuries occur more often, we plan to organize an anti-snare campaign to discourage the use of snares and to help stop the often fatal injuries due to these indiscriminate killers.



Launching the Environmental Education Program

In 2022, we will launch our Environmental Education program for schools which we will host in our new Education Centre. We will mostly target rural schools to promote a better relationship towards the environment and conservation as a whole.

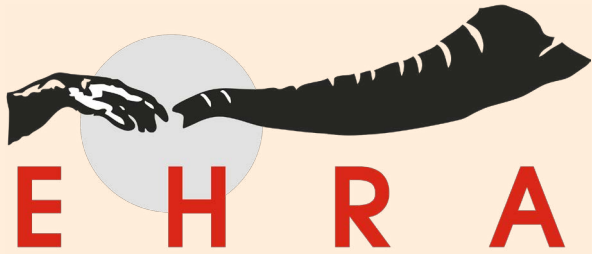


New EHRA Board & Team Members

We excitedly welcome soon-to-be EHRA Directors Mike Böttger (lawyer and pilot) and Frank Bockmühl (geo-hydrologist and commercial farmer) to the EHRA board. We further intend to employ previous intern Alex Shikongo as our new Volunteer Project Assistant.



We look forward to the next phases at EHRA!



ELEPHANT - HUMAN RELATIONS AID

Help us protect elephants

Each donation helps us continue our important work:

NAMIBIAN ACCOUNT:

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

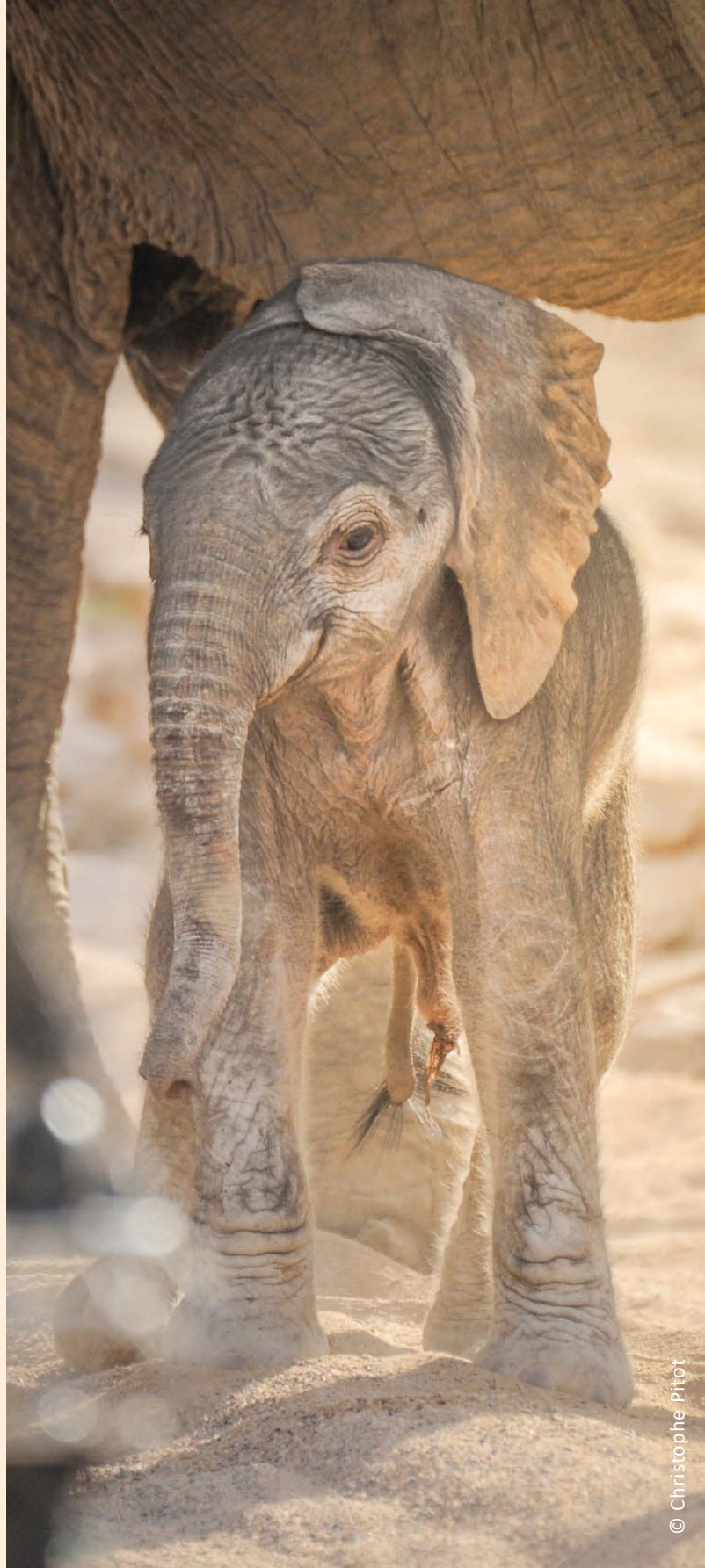
EHRA UK CHARITY ACCOUNT:

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

Thank you

Correspondence regarding this report should be addressed to:

Rachel Harris | EHRA Managing Director
Rachel@ehranamibia.org
+264 81 233 2148



© Christophe Pitot

ELEPHANT-HUMAN RELATIONS AID

Namibian NGO reg. no. 21/2003/630

www.ehranamibia.org

PO Box 2146 Swakopmund, Namibia
Tel: +264 64 402 501 / Cell: +264 81 2332148
info@ehranamibia.org

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

©Elephant-Human Relations Aid, 2022