

Namibia

Movement, Population Distribution and Social Dynamics of African Elephants in Kunene and Omusati Region of Namibia

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The sustainable use of wildlife is only possible where accurate data is available and disseminated in a timely fashion to decision makers. Using GPS collars movement and home ranges of these elephants were studied and information on elephant distribution, movements, and human-elephant conflict provided to relevant decision makers at the local, national and international level. This study: 1) filled an important data gap on Omusati elephants, 2) continued long term monitoring of desert-dwelling elephants in Kunene, and 3) provided capacity-building for local people reducing human-elephant conflict in this region. Elephants are now seen as potential assets to rural populations and benefits are being generated through consumptive and non-consumptive use of wildlife. This broadened livelihood options, increased rural job creation and skills, and provided communities with local development funds.