

PROPOSED STRATEGIES FOR THE
CONSERVATION AND
MANAGEMENT OF ELEPHANTS IN
BOTSWANA

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BACKGROUND

- Elephant population increasing at an increasing rate. (55 000 around 1990 to 123 000 in 2003)
- 70% outside protected areas
- Human population also increasing and agricultural activities encroaching wildlife areas (37% of the land)
- Increased elephant-human conflict
 - Crop damage
 - water supplies
 - farm fences
 - loss of humans

Background continues

- Impact on ecosystem
 - decline in large tree composition
(37% in 1972 to 5% in 1992)
 - decline in acacia species
 - decline in Chobe bushbuck population
 - decline in birds of prey
 - increase in galliformes and impalas

The elephant management goal

- To conserve and optimize elephant population while ensuring the maintenance of ecosystems and biodiversity
- Promote the contribution of elephants to national development
- To minimize their negative impacts on rural livelihoods

Management principles adopted

- Management will be precautionary
- Only options with least risk will be selected
- Management options shall be process-based
- Only feasible, practical, economic and acceptable management options shall be adopted

Management strategies

- Reducing human-elephant conflict
 - creation of elephant-free zones
 - reduce number
 - train communities on how to live with elephants and problem animal measures
 - improve public awareness
- Reduce elephant induced environmental changes

Management strategies continues

- Maximize the utilization of and benefits from elephant game viewing, citizen hunting and safari hunting meat and hide products within Botswana
- Protect elephants through law enforcement
- Meeting international obligations
- Research and monitoring