



2025



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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FOREWORD

As I do every year when I sit down to write this foreword, I am struck by how quickly time passes and how unbelievable it is to think that EHRA — and that means me too — has now been here for 23 years. The challenges we face with elephants are constantly evolving, which means we must remain creative, adaptable, and responsive.

This was another year in which we recorded several newborn calves that died within the first few days of life. While the causes remain unclear, we are determined to find answers. At the International Elephant Foundation Conference, we connected with Assistant Professor Daniella Chuysd from Indiana University Bloomington and will investigate whether inbreeding, stress, or a combination of factors may be contributing to these losses. We are also examining water quality and vegetation to better understand how the harsh desert environment is affecting the Ugab and Huab elephant herds.

Despite these challenges, 2025 marked a major milestone: it was the first year in which no elephants were shot. This is powerful evidence that people and elephants can coexist when the right conditions are in place. A key reason for this success has been the Elephant Management Group structure, which empowers local stakeholders to develop solutions suited to their circumstances. Combined with strong cooperation between EHRA, conservancies, traditional leaders, and government, and the invaluable data from our satellite-collared elephants, mitigation efforts have become more targeted and effective. This balance remains fragile, but it shows what is possible.

I continue to be amazed by what we are learning about elephant movements. One young bull collared near Khorixas travelled more than 400 kilometres in just 14 days before reaching Etosha National Park. These bulls are vital connectors between elephant populations, making their protection even more important if genetics prove to play a role in calf mortality.

Our Elephant Guards continued to make a remarkable difference in 2025, providing safety training to more than 1,700 people, responding to 117 conflict incidents, protecting village infrastructure, and spending 20 nights in villages to help keep communities safe.



Their unofficial motto, #TeamNoSleep, was certainly well earned. They also organised the first-ever Elephant Cup football tournament, while, through the SEED Project, more than 280 learners attended environmental education camps, eco-clubs expanded across the region, and over 300 learners took part in an environmental awareness march through Khorixas. The new PAD Project also grew from SEED, providing reusable sanitary pads and hygiene packs to girls while addressing both environmental and social challenges.

Our volunteer teams also achieved record-breaking success. With support from the Game Products Trust Fund, we constructed 19 protective walls while creating local employment opportunities, and volunteers enabled EHRA to complete 75 field observation days through twice-monthly patrols, particularly during the rainy season when elephant movements and conflict risks increase.

As we reflect on another year, I am reminded that conservation is ultimately about people and partnerships. Every success is the result of communities, conservancies, traditional authorities, government, donors, volunteers, Elephant Guards, and our dedicated staff working together.

To everyone who shares their time, expertise, resources, and belief in this work, thank you. Together, we continue to prove that coexistence is possible, and we remain committed to securing a future for Namibia's desert elephants.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Harris".

RACHEL HARRIS | CEO



WHO IS EHRA?

THE CHALLENGE

Elephants can cause serious damage to property and infrastructure, threatening livelihoods and well-being.

Unresolved conflict often leads to retaliation or calls for removal, while climate and land-use pressures can shift elephant movement and create conflict in new areas. EHRA works where this tension is felt most directly: between people's need for safety and livelihoods, and elephants' need to move, drink, feed and survive.



OUR MISSION

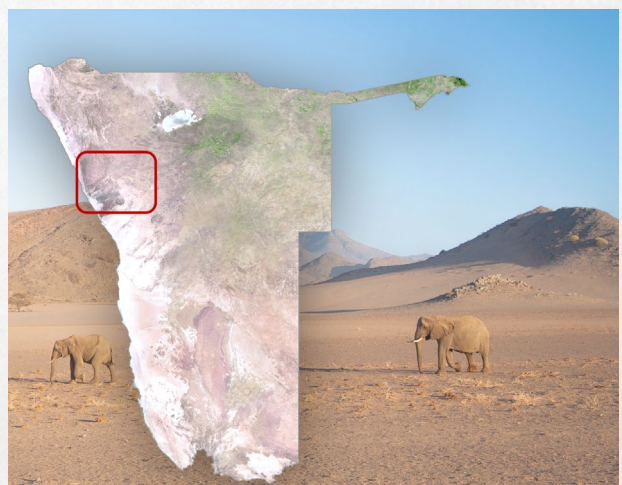
Our mission is to **develop and implement practical coexistence systems** that help communities live responsibly with wild elephants and respond to conflict with **growing independence and resilience**. Our work combines field-tested mitigation, safety education, early warning, community support and long-term monitoring.



WHERE WE WORK

EHRA works in the **semi-arid northwest of Namibia**, mainly across the northern Erongo and southern Kunene Regions.

Our project area includes conservancies, communal lands and private commercial farms where free-roaming elephants move outside national parks.



EHRA was founded in 2003.

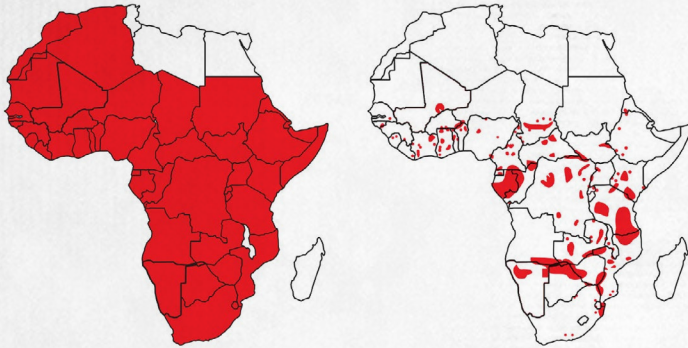


EHRA works outside national parks.



EHRA promotes Coexistence

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

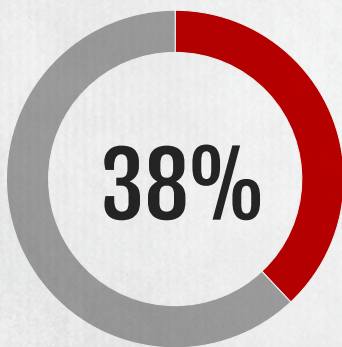


Elephants are disappearing

Across Africa, elephants have lost much of their former range. Today, many populations survive in increasingly fragmented landscapes, where movement routes, water access and safe space are under pressure. In Namibia's northwest, the future of elephants depends on whether people and elephants can continue to coexist in these shared spaces.

Desert elephants are unique

The elephants of northwest Namibia are uniquely adapted to arid life, moving vast distances and surviving on scarce, seasonal resources. They are part of one of Africa's most remarkable desert ecosystems and hold deep ecological and social value for local communities, conservancies, and tourism. Protecting them safeguards a very rare population.



Human-Elephant Conflict kills elephants

Human-elephant conflict (HEC) is a major threat to elephants outside protected areas. When elephants damage infrastructure, crops, or homes, communities bear the cost, often leading to fear, frustration, and retaliation.

In this area, **38% of recorded elephant deaths are directly linked to such conflict**, making it a key driver of population decline. Reducing conflict is therefore a critical conservation action that protects both livelihoods and elephant survival.

Without integrated coexistence programs, elephants have little chance of surviving outside national parks. Their future depends on whether communities can live with them safely, fairly and with real support. EHRA's work helps reduce fear, prevent damage, protect infrastructure and keep both people and elephants safer in the shared landscapes of northwest Namibia.



2025

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

EHRA collars elephants for the Early Warning System and to study and protect their migration routes.



6

ELEPHANTS COLLARED

19

WATER POINTS PROTECTED

75

DAYS OF ELEPHANT MONITORING

117

CONFLICTS RESPONDED TO

175

VILLAGES WORKED IN

1729

RURAL PEOPLE REACHED



COEXISTENCE SOLUTIONS

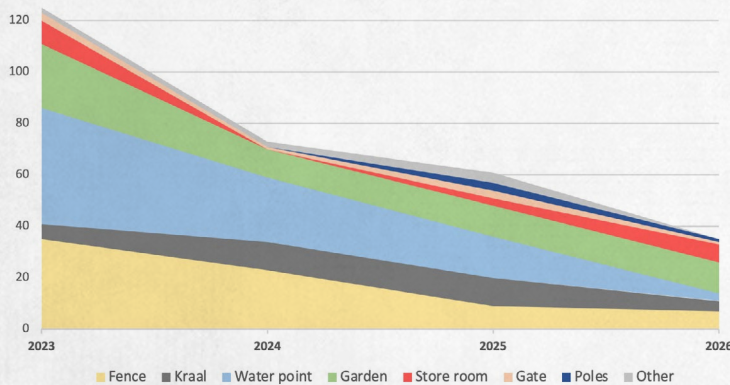
Living amongst wild elephants comes with many burdens. To live in constant fear of walking into a breeding herd with your livestock and herding dogs; to wake up to the sound of an elephant crashing the water tank beside the small house where your family sleeps; or to find the fresh fruits in your garden, about a day away from harvest, gone overnight — it's hard.

Living amongst humans comes with many burdens, too. To live in constant fear of being shot, hurt, or chased away from water after days of searching for it; to have no place where offspring can be safe; to lose the routes connecting ancient habitats; to compete over seed pods and grazing grounds with livestock — it's hard.

EHRA works at the intersection of these difficulties, striving to strike a balance and implement programmes that alleviate the burdens on both sides.



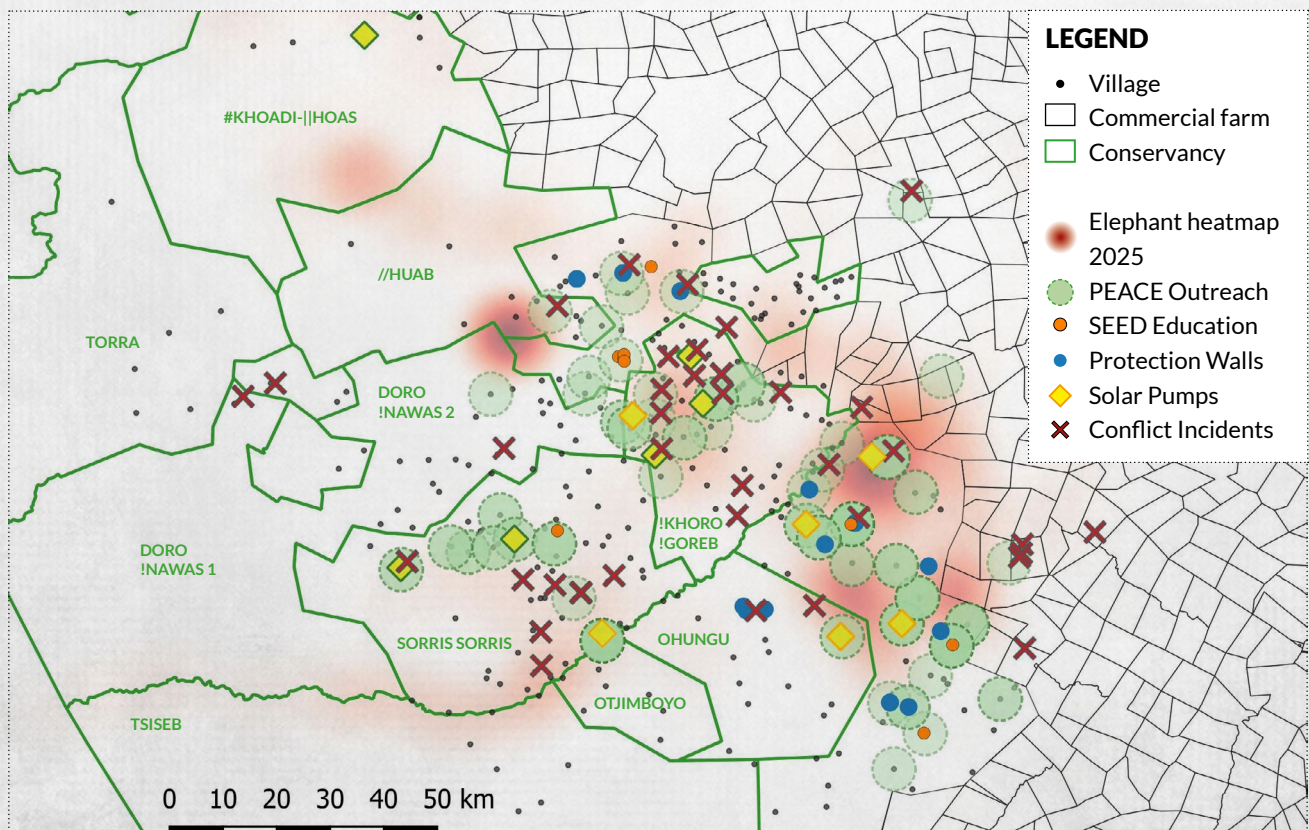
2025 brought many wins. The greatest: *not a single elephant was shot due to human-elephant conflict.*



HEC DECREASES!

The graph shows changes in HEC types in EHRA's core area from 2023 to April 2026. Overall, reported HEC has declined over the past three years, with a notable drop in conflicts around water points—highlighting the importance of protecting them with sturdy walls. **The program is working.** However, store-room damage has increased, while garden damage has remained relatively stable.

2025 Map of Interventions



THE WATER PROGRAM

PROTECTING

In 2025, EHRA protected 19 community water points from elephant damage.

These structures help safeguard essential water infrastructure in areas where people and elephants share the same limited water resources.

By reducing costly damage and dangerous night-time encounters at water points, this work directly improved water security and safety for approx. 152–228 households (around 760–1,140 people.)



REDUCING COSTS

EHRA replaced 14 diesel water pumps with solar-powered systems. This reduces the cost of pumping water for rural villages living alongside elephants, while also lowering diesel use and, therefore, environmental impact.

For communities that receive no formal financial benefit from elephant presence, lower water costs are an important and practical benefit of coexistence.



MINIMIZING RISKS

In 2025, EHRA built 5 elephant drinking dams outside villages where elephants previously had to pass through residential areas to reach water.

By drawing elephants away from villages, these dams reduce the risk of confrontation and help make coexistence safer for both people and elephants.



19

PROTECTION
WALLS
BUILT

14

SOLAR
PUMPS
INSTALLED

5

ELEPHANT
DAMS
BUILT

COEXISTENCE SOLUTIONS

SOFT BARRIERS

When we work with communities, we ask the following question: What can you do right now that makes a difference? What is available at little to no cost that can help you mitigate HEC now? These small tools are powerful, effective and promote coexistence resilience.



THE SOUND OF ANGRY BEES

Testimonial



Elephant Guard Taiwin Garoeb introduced a **no-cost elephant deterrent** using the sound of angry bees played through speakers or televisions. This simple community-led solution helped deter elephants without requiring additional funding.



LIGHTS DETER ELEPHANTS

EHRA continued expanding the use of sensor-triggered solar lights. By now, **over 600 lights** have been installed across our project area. Placed at gardens and kraals, these lights help deter elephants and predators, reducing the risk of crop damage, and livestock loss.

AWARDING SELF-INITIATIVE

In 2025, for the first time ever, EHRA awarded **4 x Human-Elephant Coexistence Awards** to individuals across 4 different areas. These awards recognise local initiative, resilience, and practical commitment to living alongside elephants, helping strengthen **ownership of coexistence**.



Learning from Elephant Guard, Ngundee K., Mathilda stood her ground at night, and by herself chased an elephant bull away from her garden, clapping hands and flashing lights. This is very brave.

ELEPHANT GUARDS

HEC FIRST AID

EHRA recognises that elephant damage can be costly and frustrating for communities. In 2025, our Elephant Guard team **attended to 117 cases**, assisting affected households in severe situations, with priority given to elders and people with disabilities.

At the same time, the team works with communities to understand why the damage occurred and what can be done to reduce future incidents.



OUTREACH

Alongside our longer coexistence workshops, our Elephant Guards provide continuous community outreach during their daily work. **Each interaction is an opportunity to share practical safety advice**, especially with elders at home and herders in the field.

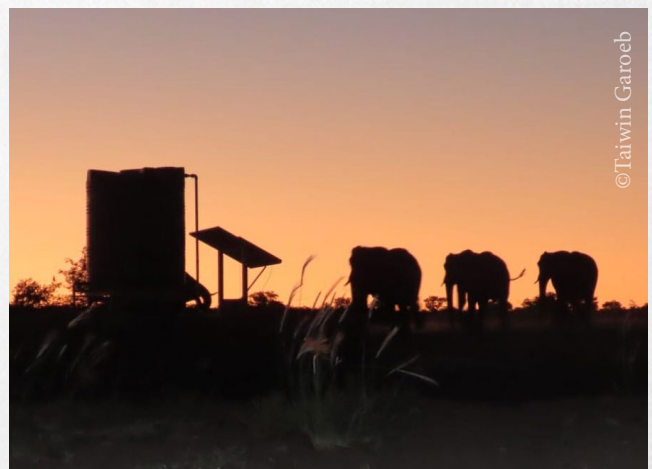
Through **daily Elephant Alerts** via phone, WhatsApp, SMS, and local radio, communities stay informed about elephant movements and key safety measures.



NIGHT GUARDING

#TeamNoSleep--Elephants often come to drink at night. Using live collar data, our Elephant Guards respond when elephants move towards vulnerable villages at night.

They allow elephants to drink undisturbed, while guarding nearby homes and unprotected gardens with non-lethal deterrents such as flashlights, clapping, voices, and loud noises.



117

**INCIDENTS
RESPONDED
TO**

1729

**COMMUNITY
PEOPLE
REACHED**

20

**NIGHTS
SPENT
GUARDING**

EDUCATION + DEVELOPMENT

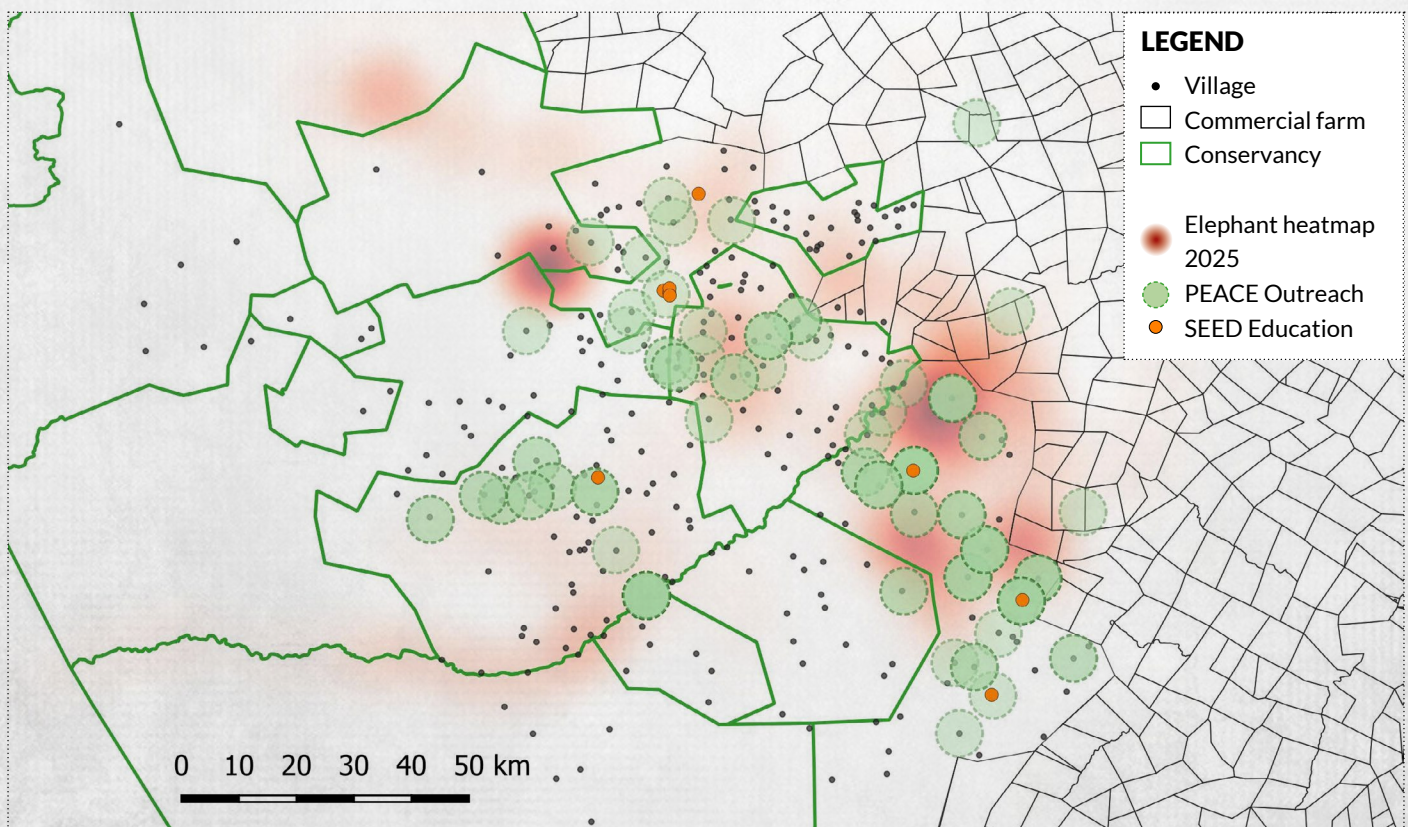


Much of EHRA's work depends on communities accepting the presence of elephants, understanding their behaviour, and feeling confident to apply simple conflict mitigation measures themselves. **Education is key to this.**

Through our **S.E.E.D. Project**, we work with the younger generation to inspire curiosity, respect, and appreciation for elephants and the natural world. For adults, our **P.E.A.C.E. Programmes** focus on elephant safety and coexistence skills, helping to reduce fear and reconnect communities with their elephants.

When people see elephants, understand them, and recognise how peaceful they can be, we build the foundation for **long-term behaviour change**.

2025 Map of Education & Outreach Initiatives



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

S.E.E.D. PROJECT

The 3-day S.E.E.D. Project (Sustainable Environmental Education for Development) teaches children environmental awareness and elephant safety.

In 2025, we reached 263 learners and 24 teachers through 13 projects, and expanded with 3 additional awareness sessions for community youth aged 10–18. A key impact is its ripple effect, as participants share their knowledge with families, extending the program’s reach beyond those directly involved.



ECO CLUBS

Eco Clubs are school groups where learners lead environmental activities.

In 2025, all 10 clubs stayed active with projects like recycling and gardening. Highlights include a school turning paper into fuel “fireballs” to reduce wood use, and learners from four schools leading a World Elephant Celebration march in Khorixas.



WORLD ELEPHANT DAY

On **World Elephant Day (12/08)**, EHRA partnered with 4 local schools to host its first-ever Elephant Awareness March in Khorixas, under the theme **“Co-Existence with Elephants is Possible!”**

The event combined conservation messages with interactive activities like face painting and quizzes, engaging **more than 300 learners**.



287

**SCHOOL
CHILDREN
EDUCATED**

300

**REACHED
THROUGH
ECO CLUBS**

10

**SCHOOL
PARTNER-
SHIPS**

ELEPHANT SAFETY TRAINING

P.E.A.C.E. PROGRAMME

People and Elephants Amicably Coexisting (P.E.A.C.E.) has been teaching communities about elephant safety since 2009. The program has evolved over time and reached nearly 9,000 people directly.

In 2025, **79 education projects** reached **1,142 people** with the important and often life-saving info on how to safely coexist with elephants.



AWARENESS DAY

During an Elephant Awareness Day at Sorris Sorris Conservancy, **we reached 50 people (mostly elderly)** during a period of high human-elephant conflict. The session focused on connection to nature, elephant behavior, and practical ways to protect property using available resources at home.

The takeaway: Practical + implementable advice.



LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

It is important for us to equip community leaders to support their people. Our 3-day PEACE workshops focus on conservancy and traditional leaders to maximise impact. In 2025, **we ran five workshops with 10–18 leaders each**, expanding our reach into new conservancies.



1142

**COMMUNITY
MEMBERS
REACHED**

50

**COMMUNITY
LEADERS
REACHED**

79

**OUTREACH
PROJECTS
LED**

COMMUNITY CARE

Benefits from elephants are not always felt directly or financially. When basic needs are unmet, protecting wildlife is not a priority. By helping meet these needs, and linking this support to conservation efforts, elephants become part of the solution—strengthening their value within communities and supporting long-term coexistence.



RURAL SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Through our partnership with **King Alfred School** and our **Family Volunteer Projects**, we support our local partner school, A. Gariseb Primary, in creating a safe, efficient, and happy learning environment—made possible through elephants.



PAD: GIRLS HEALTH

The EHRA **Periods are Dignified (PAD)** Project addresses a key problem: girls missing school because they lack menstrual products. By providing hygiene kits and menstrual health education, the project reached **147 girls across 8 schools in 2025**.

FIRST EVER ELEPHANT CUP



Elephant Guard, Taiwin, initiated the first ever Elephant Cup! **Over 300 attendees** listened to his Elephant Coexistence message before kick-off.



SCIENCE + TECHNOLOGY

Technology has become an integral part of EHRA's work, shaping both daily decisions and long-term strategy. Live data from elephant collars helps us alert communities, guide Elephant Guards, and identify areas where interventions are most urgent. It also continues to surprise us, offering a rare behind-the-scenes look at where elephants move and how they use the landscape.



DATA WE COLLECT

We track:

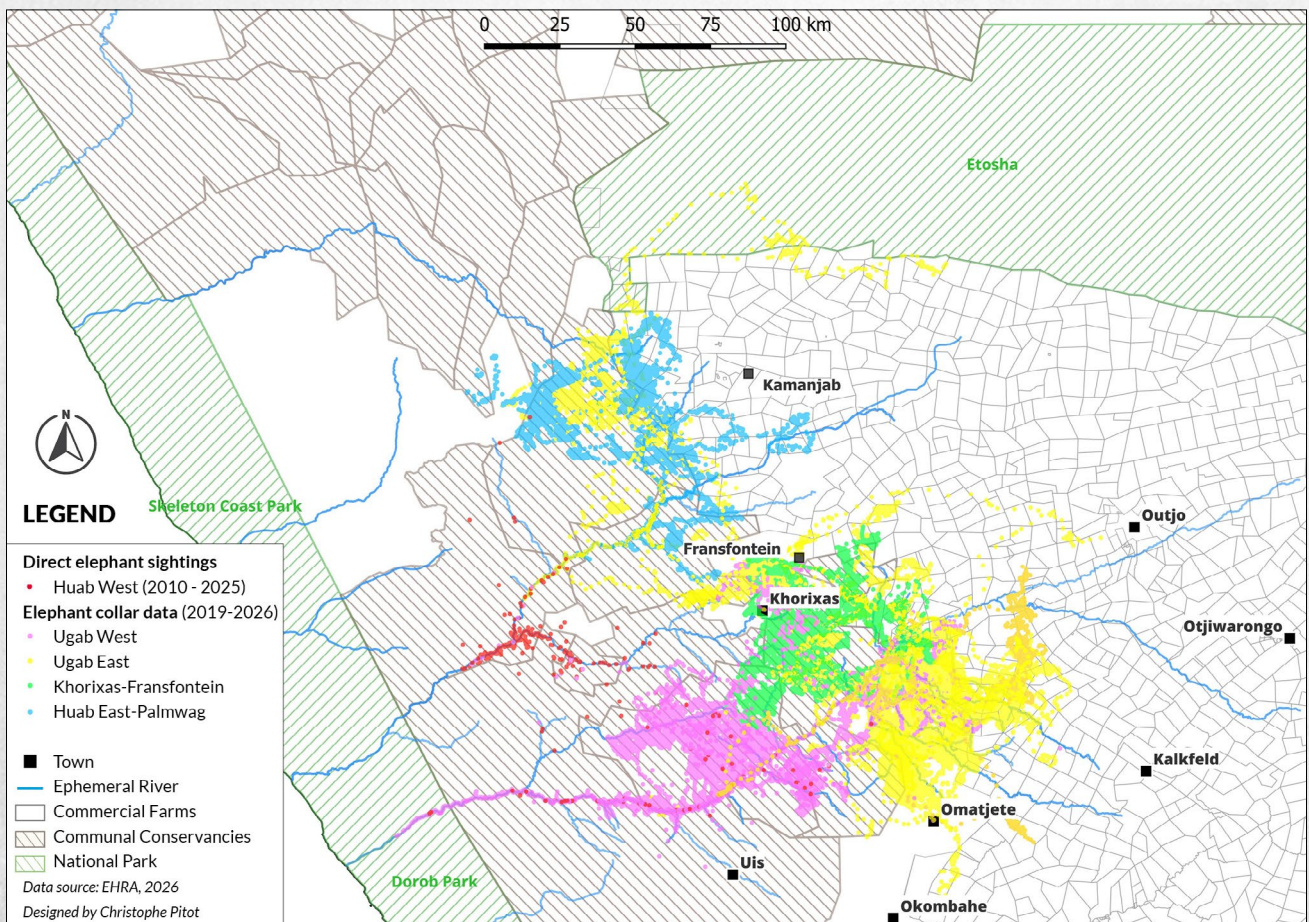
- Elephant movements
- Elephant sightings
- Game sightings
- Elephant body condition
- Conflict incidents
- EHRA activities

Reason:

- Understand connectivity + range
- Elephant census + population trends
- Understand game species distribution
- Be alert of sick elephants + diseases
- Identify + address conflict hotspots
- See and improve our impact

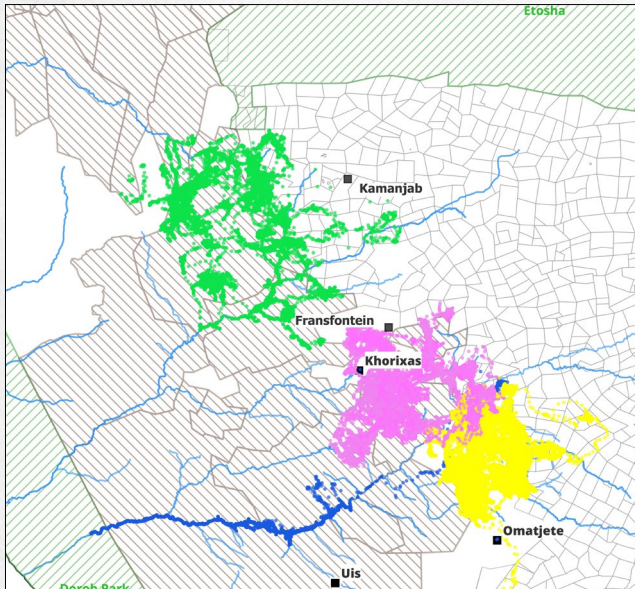
ELEPHANT RANGE

The elephants determine where we work: their range is our project area. We prioritise carefully to create strong impact in one area before expanding, but protecting a population means making the wider landscape they move through as safe as possible. This is challenging, especially when considering the vast areas these elephants use:



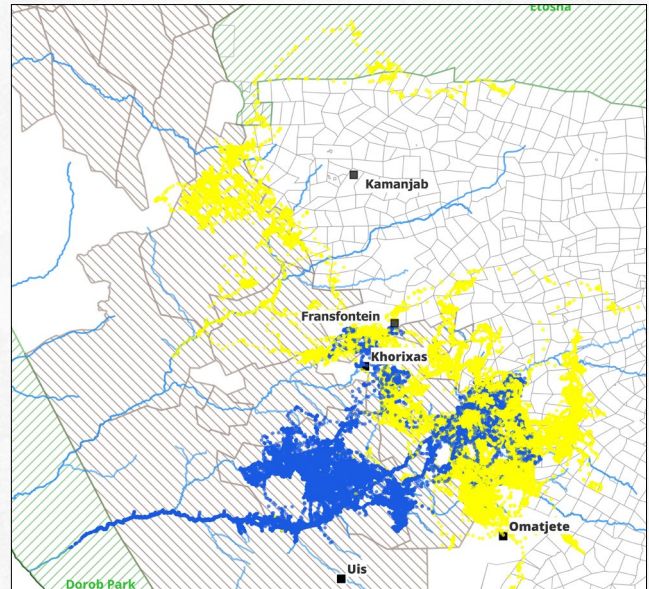
SATELLITE TRACKING

FEMALES



• Ugab West 1 collar
 • Ugab East 4 collars
 • Huab East 1 collar
 • Khorixas 2 collars

MALES



• Ugab West 3 collars
 • Ugab East 4 collars

MALES ARE THE EXPLORERS

Female elephants remain in breeding herds and usually keep within fairly clear home ranges, adjusting their movements mainly in response to rainfall and fresh vegetation.

Male elephants roam much further. They connect landscapes and subpopulations, spread genes over long distances, and often explore new areas first. Young males may test unfamiliar places before returning to the females and their core range. We are fascinated by the connectivity we are seeing between Omatjete, the Huab and Palmwag landscapes, and all the way into Etosha National Park. These elephants keep teaching us something new every day.

WHY COLLAR ELEPHANTS?

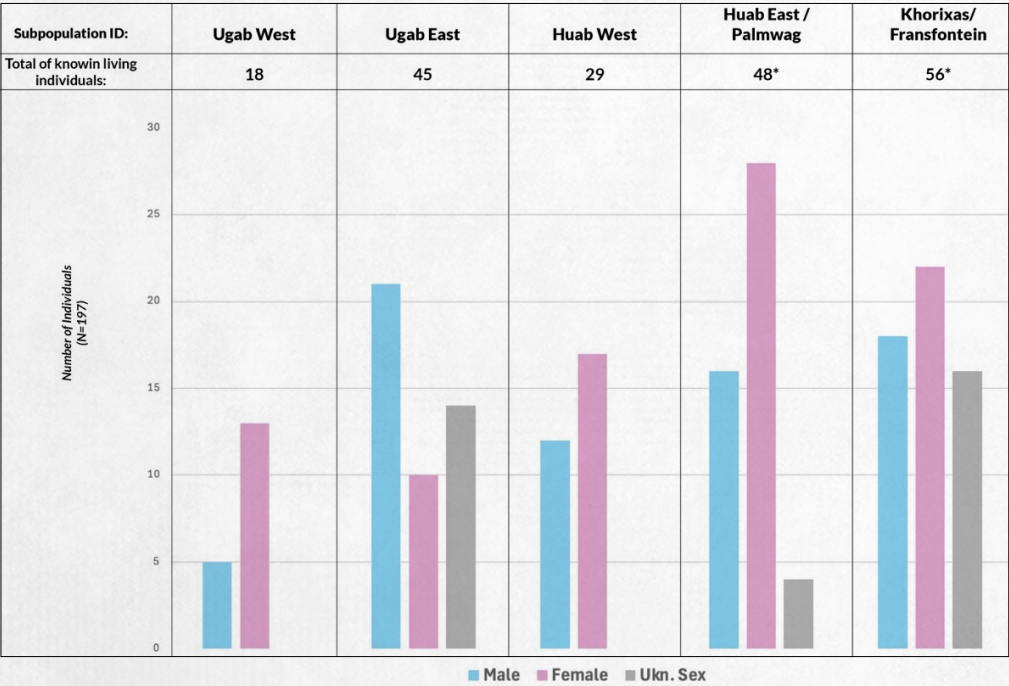
The collars serve several important conservation goals:

- Providing Alerts to communities
- Understanding elephant range
- Corridor analysis + protection
- Individual protection



POPULATION STATISTICS

The more we know about elephant populations, the better we can protect them. Elephant distribution is changing, and some groups are expanding their range. This can create the false impression that the population itself is growing. Our monitoring shows that, in many cases, the same individuals are moving into new areas in search of fresh vegetation, which can trigger human-elephant conflict in places that were previously less affected.



HOW MANY GIANTS?

For sustainable HEC and elephant management, it is essential to understand the size and structure of the population. The current data reflects the minimum number of known elephants. Some sub-populations clearly fair better than others.

© Data by EHRA

WHY CREATE ID PROFILES?

Once an elephant is identified and registered, we can recognize that individual as it moves across a large area. In 2025, we created 22 new elephant ID profiles for individuals entering our core area and recorded 176 elephant sightings overall.

Muhona (E-15) was first recorded on a camera trap on a commercial farm in 2024. He later joined the Ugab West elephants near the Brandberg and was subsequently seen interacting with the Huab West elephants in 2025.

CHALLENGES + LESSONS

Providing a future for free-roaming elephants beyond national park boundaries is not easy. The work comes with many challenges, some familiar and some new. Over the years, we have learned that the right team makes all the difference, and that no hurdle is too big when faced with commitment and resilience.

In the spirit of transparency, we would like to share some of the lessons learned and current challenges that continue to keep us on our toes.

Challenges

CALF MORTALITY

Calf survival remains a serious concern, especially in Ugab West, where elephant numbers are at their lowest recorded level. In 2026, EHRA will begin working with a geneticist to start uncovering possible causes.

FUNDING

Long-term conservation needs long-term stability, yet funding is often short-term. While donor support makes our work possible, core costs remain difficult to secure, making planning and rapid response challenging.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Unpredictable, localised rainfall continues to shift where water and fresh vegetation are available. As elephants adjust their movements, conflict can arise in new areas, requiring flexible and timely responses.

Lessons learnt

COMMUNITY RESISTANCE

Fear and frustration around elephants can create resistance to coexistence efforts. We address this with outreach, practical mitigation support, and a holistic approach that recognises change takes time.

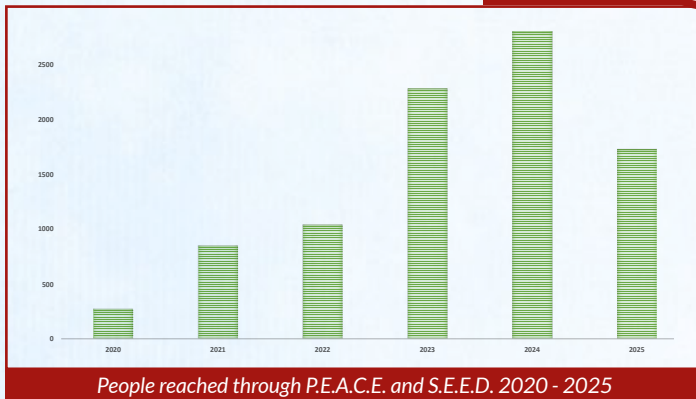
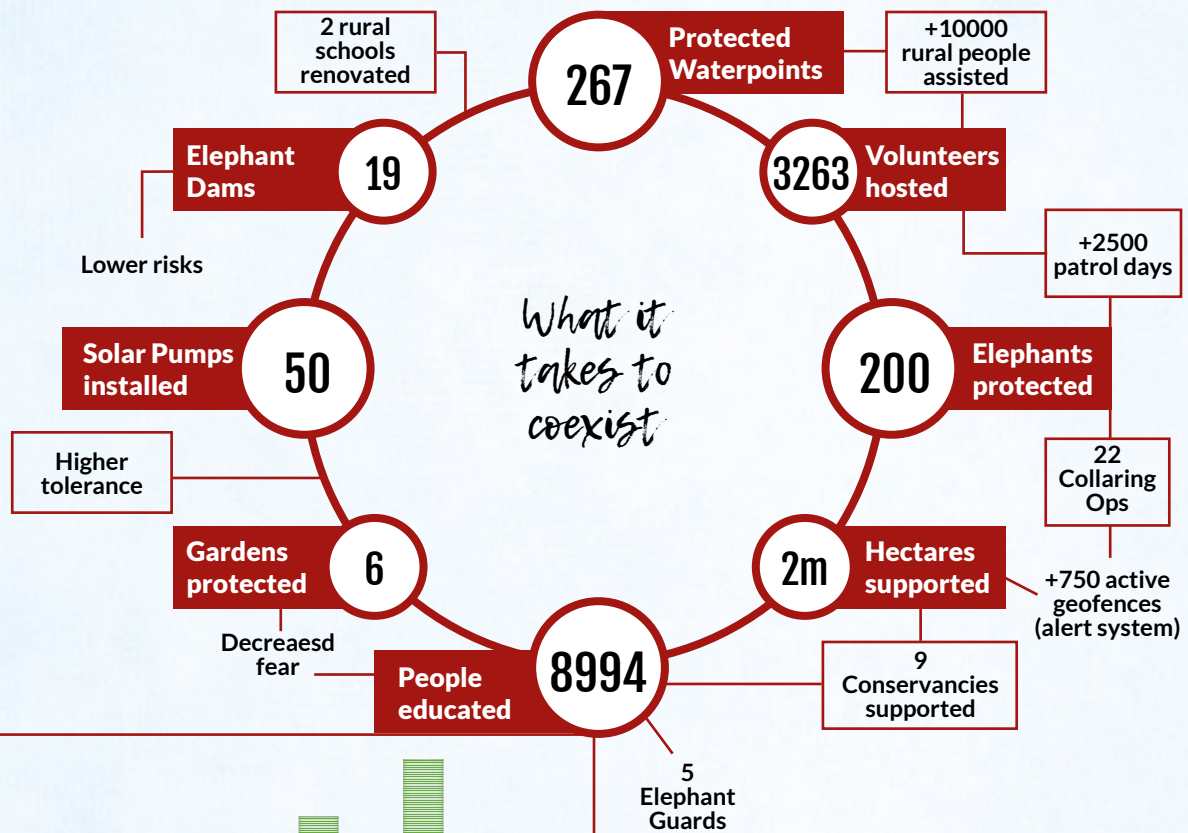
CAPACITY

The scale of the landscape often exceeds our available capacity. We have learned to prioritise carefully, strengthen our team step by step, and focus where impact can be greatest.

HIDDEN IMPACT

Direct talks with people involved in our programmes help us understand our impact. We have been encouraged to see growing confidence, understanding, and resilience in many local communities.

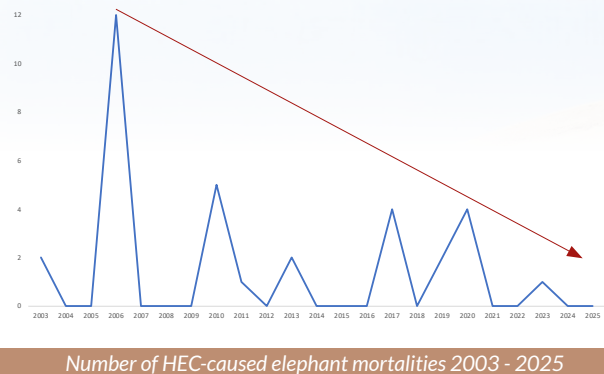
IMPACT SINCE 2003



REDUCED HEC-CAUSED MORTALITIES

In the end, this is what matters most:

Human-elephant conflict-related deaths have dropped significantly over the past two decades. While conflict is still shaped by rainfall and may not disappear, we are proud to see the real impact of our work.



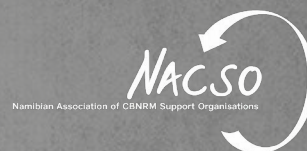
A HOLISTIC WAY

Is Coexistence with Elephants possible? Yes. But only if:

- ✓ Property and livelihoods are protected
- ✓ Elephant behaviour is understood
- ✓ People use simple deterrent methods
- ✓ There is a clear benefit

PARTNERSHIPS

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



**GREATER OMATJETE
ELEPHANT MANAGEMENT
GROUP**

CONSERVANCIES:
Sorris Sorris, Otjimboyo, !Khoros
!Goreb, Ohungu, Tsiseb

FUNDING PARTNERS



SPECIAL THANKS

EHRA Volunteers

**Stiftung Farald von Wedekind
und Fiorimonde Wedekind**

Namibia Tracks and Trails

Tsaurab Wildlife Development CC

King Alfred School

CathAdventure

Africa Experience

Game Products Trust Fund

Damarana Safaris

Explore Africa Travel

Ambacht voor Mens en Natuur

Okutala Etosha Lodge

Ondjamba Hills

Armgard Eichhof

Maria Galleti

Mark Clixby

Nicole and Brett Goldberg

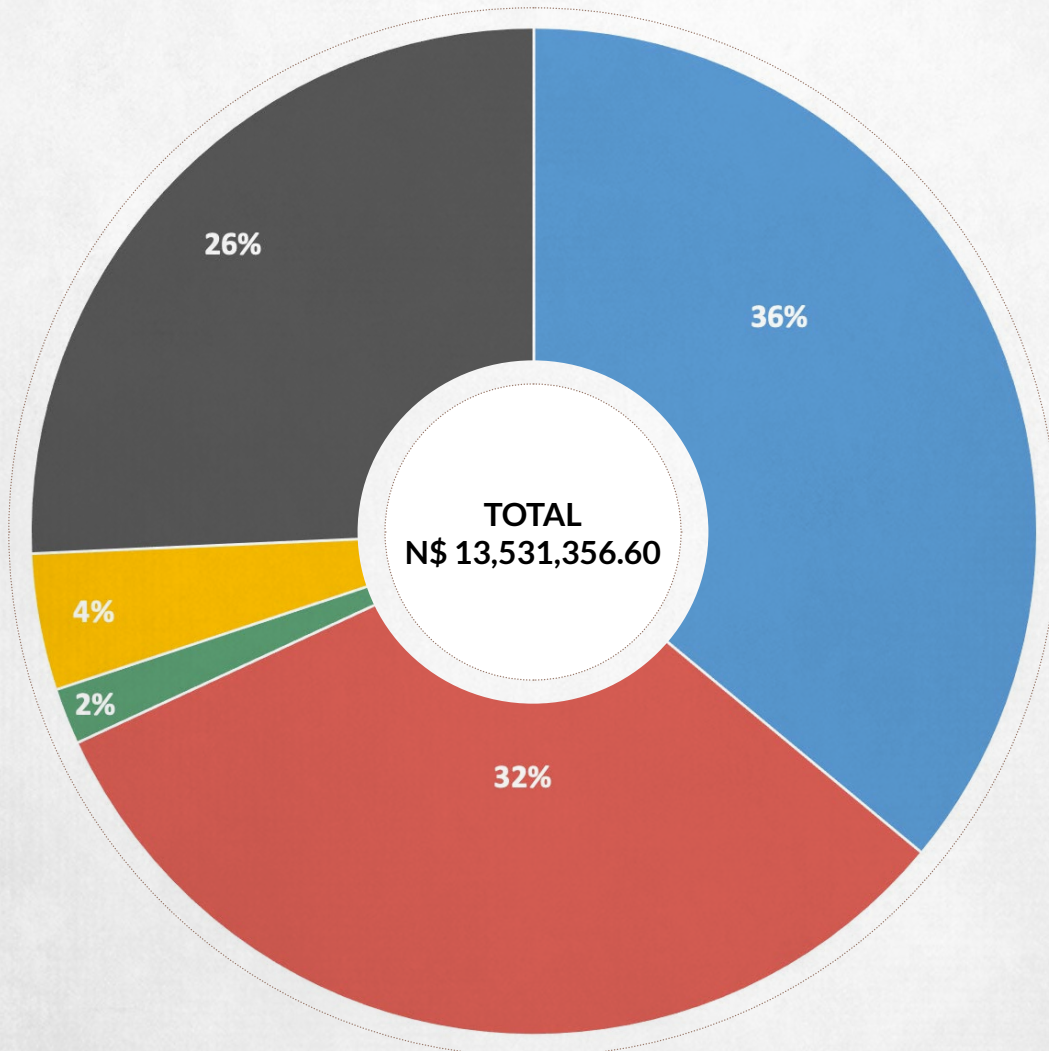
Veterinarian, Dr Janine Sharpe

Veterinarian, Dr Simone Herzog

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME

● Grants	N\$ 3,478,708.00
● Volunteer Project	N\$ 4,342,183.80
● Expeditions	N\$ 4,872,473.80
● Shop + Merch	N\$ 593,189.00
● Camping + Elephant Tracking	N\$ 244,799.00



EHRA's income in 2025 was generated through a diverse mix of grants, donations, fundraising initiatives, volunteer programmes, and earned income. This diversity of funding sources strengthens the organisation's financial resilience while enabling continued investment in long-term conservation, community engagement, environmental education, and human-elephant coexistence. The broad support received from partners, donors, and volunteers reflects a shared commitment to protecting Namibia's desert elephants and the communities that live alongside them.

EXPENSES

● Coexistence Projects	N\$ 1,870,164.00
● Elephant Monitoring	N\$ 1,248,888.00
● Education Programs	N\$ 610,500.00
● Elephant Guard Program	N\$ 538,000.00
● Fundraising + Marketing	N\$ 1,945,552.00
● Camp + Education Center	N\$ 2,112,104.00
● General OP + Overheads	N\$ 3,934,687.00



PRIORITIES FOR 2026

Our priorities for 2026 are to address the challenges we have faced, strengthen EHRA's impact, and support greater resilience within the communities we work with.

REVAMPING THE P.E.A.C.E. PROGRAM

The first version of our P.E.A.C.E. Project was developed in 2009, followed by a second version in 2018. With over 15 years of lessons learned, we are now excited to develop an advanced and modernised P.E.A.C.E. Programme that responds to current needs and is grounded in evidence-based principles of behaviour change. We will combine modern technology with traditional wisdom.



CREATING A MOBILE COEXISTENCE UNIT

Elephants move across large areas, often beyond communities where coexistence support is already in place. Where support is missing, elephants may still be at risk in areas where fear and conflict remain high. The Mobile Coexistence Unit will help close this gap through rapid response, safety education, monitoring support, and practical coexistence tools on the ground.



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

For any organisation working with communities, support should strengthen people's ability to help themselves. Long-term reliance on an NGO is not sustainable; the goal is lasting, pro-elephant behaviour change. EHRA is therefore developing a Community Resilience Plan to guide both our work and the communities we support.



GET INVOLVED!



JOIN OUR AWARD-WINNING VOLUNTEER PROJECT!



Work alongside elephant conservation teams in Namibia.



Real impact. Real communities.
Real wilderness.



Join, support or learn more!



A holiday with a meaning. A true conservation experience in one of the world's wildest places. Hands-on work. And for some, the first step into a career in wildlife conservation. EHRA's Volunteer Project won two Awards (2012 and 2026) for its unique and high-impact design. Get in touch to find out more. We are looking forward to hosting you!

E-MAIL US!



Join The Matriarch Adventure™

The Matriarch Adventure, led by expedition leader Catherine Edsell, is a women's expedition in Namibia that combines adventure, mindfulness, and hands-on support for desert-adapted elephant conservation. Participants track elephants with EHRA's team while contributing directly to conservation efforts.

NEXT DATES: 1-10 October 2027

LEARN MORE



Elephant Research Expedition

NEW: Join our 7-day wilderness experience guided by EHRA's elephant specialists supporting urgent research into why so few Ugab West elephant calves survive. Participants will track and observe and study desert-adapted elephants, and collect genetic samples alongside EHRA's field team.

DATES: 13-20 September 2026

E-MAIL US!



E H R A

ELEPHANT - HUMAN RELATIONS AID



HELP US PROTECT ELEPHANTS

Every donation helps us in our mission to promote long-term coexistence between elephants and local communities.



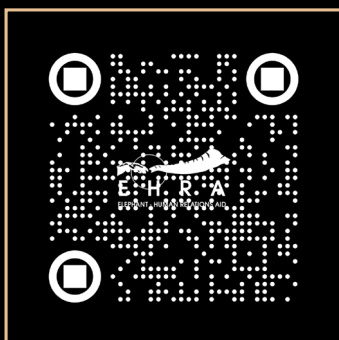
NAMIBIAN ACCOUNT

Account name: EHRA
Bank: Nedbank Namibia, Swakopmund
Account number: 11000105416
Branch code: 461052
SWIFT code: nedsnanx

giftaid it

EHRA UK CHARITY ACCOUNT

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



ELEPHANT-HUMAN RELATIONS AID

Namibian NGO reg. no. 21/2003/630

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Report designed and compiled by Christin Winter.
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