
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: AFRICAN ELEPHANT SPECIALIST GROUP

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The last issue of *Pachyderm*, released in March 1995, generated much positive comment from the readership and helped to highlight the main issues surrounding the problem of human-elephant conflict on the continent. Recognising the priority of conflict, the AfESG is currently supporting two research projects, one in Cameroon and one in Zaire, which are examining aspects of elephant crop-raiding. Thanks to generous donor funding the AfESG is in a position to offer small grants to additional projects which, for example, seek solutions to conflict problems, or implement and evaluate innovative methods of management.

In February 1995, several AfESG members were invited to attend a workshop in northern Cameroon to discuss strategies for approaching the human elephant-conflict situation in Kaelé (see *Pachyderm* 19). One presentation which was received enthusiastically was Clem Coetsee's summary of family elephant translocation methodology, which he pioneered in Zimbabwe. The comparison of the Cameroon situation to that of Zimbabwe pointed out the numerous practical aspects which have to be considered for a successful translocation. There has been a dramatic increase in public interest for this option of elephant management, but careful thought needs to go

into the long-term effects of translocation, in relation to both the source and the translocated populations.

This is a subject which may be discussed at our next AfESG meeting, which is scheduled to take place in February 1996 in South Africa. AfESG members will shortly be receiving invitation letters, but meanwhile, I would encourage members to send in suggestions for working group topics. As usual, the meeting will form a venue for technical discussion and for updating information on range and population size estimates of the African elephant. In this context, we are hopeful that the update of the African Elephant Database, which is now in its final stages of completion, will be made available to the membership before the meeting.

In my last report, I noted that the AfESG was making a concerted effort to support elephant work in West and Central Africa. We have moved ahead with plans to open a small office, with a Programme Officer, to serve better the membership in these regions. The office is tentatively going to be located in the Cameroon and although we have experienced some delays with the recruitment process we hope that the office will be functional soon.

RAPPORT DE LA PRESIDENTE: GROUPE DE SPECIALISTES DE L'ELEPHANT AFRICAIN

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Le dernier numéro de *Pachyderm*, paru en mars 1995, a suscité chez ses lecteurs de nombreux commentaires positifs et a fait ressortir les principales questions que pose le problème des relations hommes-éléphants, à l'échelle du continent. Conscient de la priorité du conflit, le GSEAf soutient actuellement deux projets de recherche, un au Cameroun et un au Zaïre, qui étudient les différents aspects des récoltes dévastées par les éléphants. Grâce au généreux financement de donateurs, le GSEAf est en mesure d'attribuer

quelques subsides à des projets supplémentaires qui chercheraient par exemple des solutions aux problèmes de conflits, ou qui amélioreraient et feraient le bilan de nouvelles méthodes de gestion.

En février 1995, plusieurs membres du GSEAf furent invités à participer à un séminaire au nord du Cameroun pour discuter les différentes stratégies d'approche de la situation conflictuelle qui oppose les hommes aux éléphants à Kaelé (voir *Pachyderm*