For my presentation today, I want to tell you about how groups of elephants have been moved and settled in new reserves

This is known as translocation, as has been carried out in M in Africa in recent years.

The reason this is being down is because of overpopulation of elephants in some areas

Overpopulation is a good problem to have and no one we tend to hear about very often

In M National Park, the elephant population has been wiped out by poachers who kill the elephants for their ivory.

But in 2003, the park was restocked and effective law enforcement was introduced

Since then not a single elephant was poached.

In this safe environment, the elephant population boomed.

Breeding went so well that there were more elephants than the park could support.

This led to a number of problems

Firstly, there was small competition for food, which main some elephants were suffering for hunger

As there was a limit to the amount of food in the national park, some elephants began looking further afield.

Elephants were routinely knoking down fences around the park, which then had to be repaired at a significant cost.

To solve this problem, the decision was made to move the dozens of elephants from the X to X the there were no elephants.

But obviously, attempting to move a significant number of elephants to a new home 300 kilometers away is a quiet challenge.

So how did this translocation process work in practice?

Ele were moved in groups of between 8 and 12 all belonging to one family

Because relationships are very important to elephants, they all have been moved at the same time.

A team of vets and park rangers flew over the park in helicopters and targeted a group which was rounded up and directed to a designated open plain

The vets then used darts to immobilise the elephants – this was a tricky manoeuvre, as they not only had to select the right dose of tranquiliser for different-sized elephants but they had to dart the elephants as they were running around.

This also had to be done as quickly as possible so as to minimize the stress caused

As soon as the the ele began to flop onto the groud, the team moved in to take care of them.

To avoid the risk of suffocation, the team had to make sure none of the elephants were lying on their chests because their lungs could be crushed in this position. So all the ele had to placed on their sides.

One person stayed with each elephant while they waited for the vets to do checks

It to keep an eye on their breathing if there wes fewer than 6 breaths pre minute the need a ungrent medical attention

Collars were fitted to the matriarch in each group so the movements could be tracked in the new home.

Measurements were taken of each elephant’s tusks – elephants with large tusks would be at greater risk from poachers – and also of their feet.

The taken a recovery area before being loading onto trucks and transporting in the new home.

The ele to x settled in very well, and the project has been accepted to have been a huge success and not just for the elephants

Employment prospects have improved enormously, contributing to rising living standards for the whole community.

Poaching is no longer an issue, as former poachers are able to find more reliable sources of income.

Volunteer to give up weapons as they were no longer of any use of tem

More than two dozen x have been born at since relocation

With an area of more that 1800 s plenty of space for the population to continue to grow

The presence is also helping to rebalance damaged ecosystems and providing a model which could be replicated in other parks

All this has been a big draw for tourism, which contributes five times more than the illegal wildlife trade to GDP, and this is mainly because of the elephants.