

# Elephant Outreach Program

## Bana Le Ditlou

An environmental education Program  
offered by Living With Elephants &  
sponsored by Sanctuary Lodges Botswana



*Towards harmonious Human-Elephant relationships in the Okavango delta*



# Elephant Outreach Program

## Bana Le Ditlou

A conservation education Program

Ninght edition (November 2008)

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***Maekaelelo a Living With Elephants  
Foundation ke go bona batho ba  
tshela le ditlou go sena mathata***

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# Foreword by Douglas Groves

## Vision Letter

Accompanying Jabu, Thembi and Morula on their daily foraging expeditions has given me plenty of time to ruminate. Watching them play, feed, mud-bath and interact - I wished all elephants could be as secure and happy.

Reflecting on the unusually harmonious relationship we have with our elephants, it concerned me how differently from myself most rural dwellers living in elephant range experience elephants.

Knowing that the majority of Africa's elephants live outside of protected wildlife areas, the enormous importance of the relationship between people and elephants became obvious to me. Having seen how effective the trio are in creating an understanding of elephants with international visitors, I felt there must be a way we and our elephants could help relieve tension between villagers and elephants.

Thus my vision of an organization dedicated to promoting harmonious relationships between elephants and people gradually came to fruition. It is with great joy that we at Living With Elephants share this dream with you in the pages that follow.

Sincerely Yours,

Doug Groves  
Founder  
Living With Elephants Foudation

# Introduction

## What is the Living With Elephants Foundation

Living With Elephants Foundation (LWE) is a Maun based non-profit organization dedicated to creating harmonious relationships between people and elephants. We do this through education and applied research, which encourage a positive relationship between elephants and people and help resolve Human-Elephant conflict. We believe that extensive participation and commitment by the communities is a requirement for success. Living With Elephants was founded in October 1999.

Among its members, Living With Elephants (LWE) counts three elephant ambassadors, namely Jabu, Thembi and Morula. They live with their guardians, Douglas and Sandi Groves and their Batswana elephant keepers at the LWE field Camp. This camp is currently located on the border of the Moremi Game Reserve, at the southern tip of Chief Island, in the Community Based Natural Resource Management Area NG 32 (70 km from Maun) governed by the Okavango Kopano Mokoro Community Trust (OKMCT).

We have listened closely to concerns of residents who share range with Elephants. Residents find that human-elephant conflict is a big concern for them at a local level. At the same time, government authorities and international organizations encourage elephant conservation, threatened by human presence and activities. Somehow elephants and people need to learn to live together in more harmonious ways.

Our foundation believes that one of the best ways to improve relations between the two species is to start by exposing Botswana's youth to their natural heritage up close and to give youth an opportunity to get environmental and ecological awareness. By giving youth an opportunity to touch, feel and understand the African Elephant at a very intimate level, we hope to improve elephant-human relations one child at a time.

## What is the Elephant Outreach Program?

The Elephant Outreach Program is an Environmental and Conservation Education Project. Its main focus is the relationship between Wildlife, more particularly the Elephant, and people. For this reason, the Setswana name of the program is “Bana le Ditlou” (Children With Elephants).

It is a special extra-curricular elephant activity targeting children aged 8 to 12 from the Natural Resource Community Based Management Area of the Ng 32 Community, from the Environmental Clubs of Ngamiland Primary Schools (Standard 5-6) and from the Bana Ba Letsatsi Foundation. Groups of 10 children plus one or two adult chaperons at a time are invited to participate to this excursion, structured as a two-day program. The first afternoon is spent walking in the bush under the protection of Living With Elephants’ three elephants, as well as, participating in a nature drive and walk. The next morning activities involve playing educational games, discussing elephants and sustainable wildlife conservation, Botswana’s tourism industry and other environmental issues.

The main objectives of the Elephant Outreach Program are:

1. To expose the children of Botswana to their natural heritage and to offer them a positive interaction with our elephant ambassadors
2. To raise environmental and conservation awareness
3. To give the future generation an insight into the career opportunities in the eco-tourism industry and wildlife conservation sector.

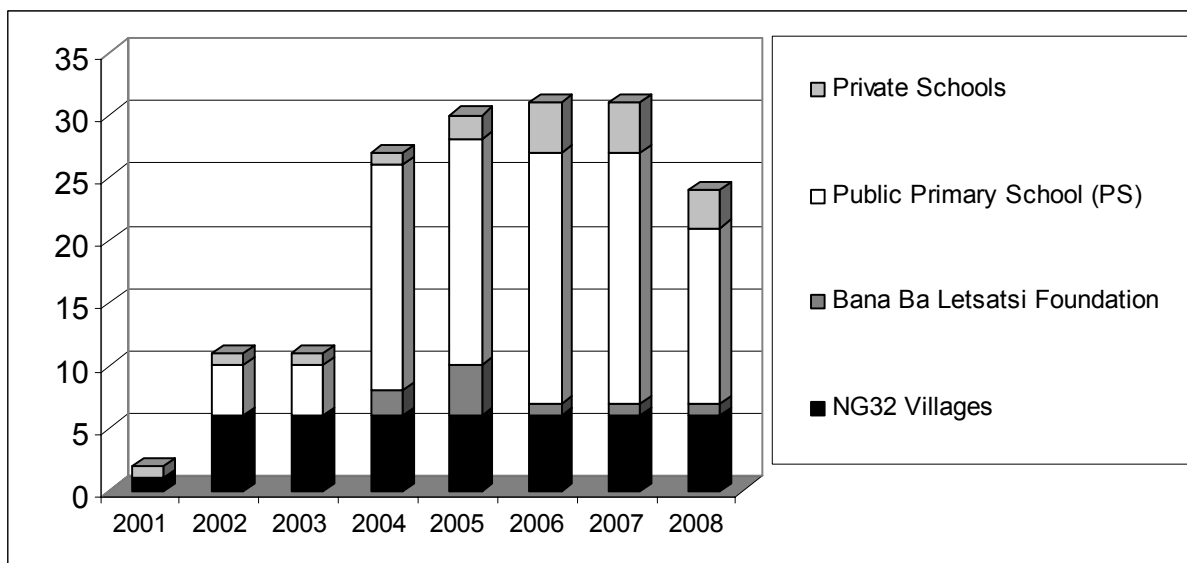
After participating in the program the children often tell us they learnt that “Elephants can be friends”, “humans and elephants can live together”, they would like to “work in the hospitality and eco-tourism industry in the future” or that “all species are connected to each other in the ecosystem and that we need to make sure that the entire ecosystem is preserved”.

A follow-up program designed to be implemented at the environmental clubs associated with Ngamiland primary schools is conducted at the participating schools during the scheduled club meeting the week following the visit. This follow-up increases the number of children we can reach with the program and allows all members of the environmental clubs to benefit from the experience.

In partnership with the Department of Education and the unit of Conservation Education of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, we look forward to offering an educational program deeply integrated with the Botswana Environmental Education curriculum. We work in conjunction with environmental education specialists to achieve these goals.

# Synthesis of EOP 2001-2008

The first groups of children participated to the EOP in 2001. From these two groups in 2001, the number of groups increased annually reaching 22 groups in 2006. The graph outlines groups or subgroups of all the 6 villages of the NG32 villages, 20 (out of 22) public primary schools and 4 (out of 4) private schools in Maun and its surrounding area and the "children at risk" of the Bana Ba Letsatsi Trust ("Sunshine Children").



In each of the years 2004-2006 and 2008 over 200 hundred children, 40 adult parents and teachers participated to the EOP at the Elephant Camp. In addition, the follow-up program conducted at the Environmental Club of each participating school exposed between 300 and 500\* additional pupils to the program. In 2007, a shortage of budget only enabled us to host teachers from public primary schools. Fortunately we were able to conduct the follow-up programme with kids at school.

It is hoped, although it would be hard to quantify, that the impact of the educational program also vicariously reached parents, classmates and kin of the participants of the program. Parents of children who participated to the excursion often tell us that they enjoyed seeing the pictures of their

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\* According to a survey on Environmental Clubs of each participating schools, all schools have an environmental club with an average of 25 members (range 10-70). The members are mainly from standard 4 to 7. Only 35% of the children had seen elephants before their participation to the programme.

children with our trio of elephant ambassadors and how surprised they were that a positive relationship with elephants was possible!

## Feed-back from environmental teachers

From 2004 to 2008, a review form was submitted to the environmental teachers and adults who participated to the program.

100% of the teachers involved answered positively when asked, "Is the Elephant Outreach Program (EOP) beneficial to the environmental club of your school?" They acknowledged that the program was effective in helping the club achieve its objectives. When asked if they would like their school to participate in the following year's program, 100% answered positively.

On this form we also asked for ways to improve the program. Below is the list of suggestions:

- Pupils should be encouraged to participate in English
- The number of pupils per school participating to the program, should be increased to 10 (currently we take 5 kids per school)
- An extra day should be added in the program
- More educational games and lessons about animals and plants should be developed
- The children's camp needs upgrading
- The group of pupils and their teacher should write a report, once back at school and share their experience with the entire school

Finally the form left some space for personal comments; here are some examples:

- "The Elephant Outreach Programme (EOP) is educational and concrete as far as teaching is concerned because pupils have the opportunity to feel the intimacy of elephants" (Akaniang Able, Gxhabara PS)
- "I think the programme, ideas, aims are very good and worthwhile. Thank you, wonderful experience" (Andrew Hepburn-Brown, Matshwane PS)
- "The activities were very educative and were presented well. Most pupils listened and participated actively. Keep it up!" Tsitsi Mahachi & Mlambo Filinah, Delta Waters International School)
- "I would like this programme to continue throughout the life" (Letsofile Othuseng, Ditshipi village)

- “Nature Walk, visiting the elephants were great. Overnight experience was wonderful” (Nfo Jimako, Bana Ba Letsatsi)
- “I have enjoyed our trip. It was very nice” (Peter Thogotona, Xaxaba village”
- “This is very valuable experience to both the teacher and the learners, especially that we got to learn about most wildlife and not elephants only” (K.M. Kebualemang, Matlola PS)
- “This is an incredible programme and well organized” (E. Monga, Botswelole PS)
- “I will encourage more pupils to come next term” (A.S. Mupfudre, Leapotswe PS)
- “We had a nice trip, it was educational. I have learnt about animals and jobs in relation to tourism” (O.Kgosigaenyatswe, Thamalakane PS)
- “I think more teachers should be exposed to the project so as to get EE clubs active. More pupils should come to learn about elephants” (M. Matane, Shashe PS)
- “Again a wonderful experience and so educational for our students” (Wilma Matheson, Okavango International School)
- “The program is unique, real and practical” (B.W. Seitshiro, Matlola PS)
- “The program offered an opportunity to touch and have a closer look to an elephant “ (Mr. Moutsho, Sekgoma PS)
- “The presentation was excellent” (Kenneth, Botswelole PS, former Education officer for Conservation International, Maun)
- “It was a wonderful experience, we learned a lot about elephants” (O. Mogapele, Tawana PS)
- “The program is fantastic and very educational. There is a need for support from the government so that the program grows even bigger” (S. Keabetswe, Letsholathebe PS)
- "It was a pleasure to be part and parcel of the LWE programme. The programme was educative to both the teacher and the students who had not seen live elephants before." (Mr. Mbeha, Makalamabedi PS)
- "It was quite a good experience, indeed only excursions like this will enhance the spirit of conservation in children" (Mr Majwa, Mathiba PS)

## Partner organizations

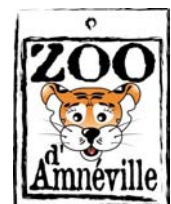
Living With Elephants Foundation continuously strives towards developing partnerships with Environmental Education Organizations. The goal is to integrate our outdoor program with the Environmental Education efforts of Botswana and thus achieve the best quality and efficiency possible.

The Department of Education in Maun, the Education Conservation Unit of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, the University of Botswana, the Environmental Club Regional Association and the Okavango Kopano Mokoro Community Trust (Trust officiating NG32 Wildlife Management Area), have been consulted to help develop the program.

We have also contacted other organizations like the National Conservation Strategy Agency, Mokolodi Game Reserve, Kalahari Conservation Society, Khama Rhino Sanctuary, IUCN, Conservation International and the Children of the Wilderness. Only a lack of time has prevented us from contacting the other organizations involved in Environmental Education.

This program would not be possible without the generous support of various national and international organizations:

- ☞ Sanctuary Lodges Botswana, especially Stanley's Camp and Abercrombie & Kent Global Foundation
- ☞ Peter Luck-Hille Foundation
- ☞ Pont-Scorff Zoo
- ☞ Fondation Nicolas Hulot
- ☞ Fondation Brigitte Bardot
- ☞ Fondation Nature & Découvertes
- ☞ Amneville Zoo
- ☞ Planète Sauvage
- ☞ Awely
- ☞ International Elephant Foundation
- ☞ Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
- ☞ Mack Air



# Summarized Itinerary of the Program 2009

## Day 1

Departure	Travel from Maun to camp by either: - Vehicle. this involves a Nature and game drive of approximately 3 hours duration through community rural and wildlife areas. Departure time will be around 9:30 am - Plane. this involves a 10 min scenic flight in a small plane. The meeting time will be 12:00 pm at the airport.
1:00 pm	Arrival at camp
1:30 pm	Lunch time: "Picnic in the Bush"
2:15 pm	Scheduled presentation & introduction activities: Breaking myths and sharing knowledge about elephants
3:00 pm	Art session "Draw an elephant"
3:30 pm	Tracking the elephant (Nature Walk)
4:30 pm	Meeting the elephants Jabu, Morula and Thembi
6:15 pm	Short game drive in a wilderness area
7:00 pm	Dinner and evening around the bush fire

## Day 2

7:00 am	Breakfast
8:15 am	Ecological Web Game
8:45 am	"Oh Tlou!" Game
9:30 am	Second drawing session
10:00 am	Visit to the Stanley's eco-tourism Camp (Sanctuary Lodges Botswana)
12:00 pm	Lunch time
12:45 pm	Review and Certificate Time
1:00 pm	Departure: Bush drive or flight back home

# Program Follow-up

Every group is invited to carry out a short follow-up program back home to reinforce what the participants have learnt and to share their knowledge with their kin and colleagues. This program follow-up has been developed for the environmental clubs of participating schools. It is a way to share the Elephant Outreach Experience with all club members.

Below is an example of the timeframe for a program follow-up at a school during the club afternoon:

1:00 pm	Watch the introduction to the video “A herd of their own” <sup>†</sup> to meet the three elephants Jabu, Thembi and Morula via TV.
1:30 pm	Ecological Web Game (only a rope is needed and you can play the game several times so that each member participates at least once) <sup>‡</sup>
2:00 pm	“Oh Tlou!” Game (you can play as many rounds as you like)
2:45 pm	Conclusion of the two games and take home message: → Elephants can be friends → Elephants are part of a delicate ecosystem in which all species are connected to each other. If even one species disappears, it will have very negative consequences for the ecosystem, humans included. → In order to conserve elephants and of all the species of the ecosystem, we need to ensure that all their basic needs (water, food and space) are met

This program follow-up can be conducted anywhere, at school or at home, and every group is encouraged to share what they have learnt with as many people as possible.

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<sup>†</sup> This video can be purchased at special price of 90 Pula from Living With Elephants Foundation or at normal price at African Art & Images (105 Pula)

<sup>‡</sup> see below how to play the educational games

# Educational Games

## Ecological Web Game

### Presentation

This game was designed for “students” over 8-years old. It helps explore and understand the relationships and interconnections between the various species of the ecosystem. Many participants can play the game, their number being limited by the length of the rope, which is the only equipment that is needed to play the game. We suggest a minimum number of 6 participants with a rope longer than 15 meters, but the more participants the better.

### How to play the game

1. All participants stand in a circle in the shade (as seen on the picture below taken at Shorobe Primary School during an Environmental Club afternoon).



2. One participant, the game leader, takes the rope and explains to the group that the Okavango Delta is a complex and beautiful

ecosystem. Many species live together in the Okavango Delta; they are animals (mammals, birds, insects, fishes...) and plants (trees, shrubs, grass, flower...). All the species interact with each other in many different ways (predation, competition, cooperation...). For instance, lions and impalas interact with each other because lions feed on impalas, or birds and trees interact with each other because birds live in the trees...

3. The game leader explains to the group that humans and elephants are also part of the ecosystem of the Okavango Delta. The group leader will represent the Elephant and select someone to represent the Human.
4. To start the game the game leader holds one end of the rope (untangled is essential) offering the rope to the others to start the ecological web. The game will start when the game leader will say to the group "I am the Elephant". All participants are now invited to name a species that is linked to the Elephant. For example it could be the Dung Beetle, who relies on and feeds on their dung; the Horse Fly that feeds on the elephant blood; the Lion that preys on their young; the Sausage Tree that gives them shade from the sun; The Mopane tree that provides food for them...
5. The first participant to name a species has to explain the link with the Elephant. For instance he or she will say "I am a Mopane tree and I provide food for the Elephants". If the relationship is correct, the game leader will pass the rope to the participant, keeping one end in his/her hands.
6. Now, the other participants have to name a new species that is connected to the species chosen by the previous participant. For instance, if the first previous is a Mopane Tree, someone can name a worm and say "I am the Mopane Worm and I feed on the Mopane trees". When a new species is named by someone and that the relationship is correct the rope is then handed to this participant, while the last participant keeps some in their hands.
7. Participant after participant, the rope gets passed around the group, each time with a student naming another species that has a relationship with the last one mentioned, keeping some of the rope in their own hand (see picture below). Of course, a participant who already mentioned a species, cannot name another one (they are already in the ecological web).



8. The participant selected by the game leader to represent the Human, our own species, can enter the chain at any time. He or she needs only to be quick enough to find a relationship with the last named species. For instance, if the last species named is the Reed, he or she can say “I am the Human and I build my house with reeds”. If he or she is not quick enough, he/she will have to find a relationship with the very last species named, which is not always easy. He/she should rather grasp any good opportunities that arise during the game.
9. Eventually the rope should look like a big web connecting all the students and connecting all the different species that were mentioned in the ecosystem (see picture above).
10. Once the last participant has entered the ecological web game then the game ends. At this point the game leader will ask the group to keep the rope tight and ask the group to pull back gently (gently!) so that the rope becomes taut. Everyone can now feel the connection between the various species. Then the game leader mentions a disturbance in the ecosystem that causes the elephants to suddenly disappear from the ecosystem (for instance all elephants have been poached or a severe drought pushes the

elephant to leave the area...) and the game leader let go the end of the rope he is holding. The species that was directly connected to the Elephant will feel the “broken” link and should then let go the rope and let it fall to the ground. Then, one by one all the participants let go the rope until all the rope is on the ground. All participants will have seen the ecosystem collapsing.

### Conclusion

The game leader now asks the participants what, according to them, is the conclusion of the game. Let the group discuss amongst themselves until they reach the following conclusion: **“Elephants and all species, including the people, are part of a delicate ecosystem in which all species are connected to each other. If only one species disappear, it will have very negative consequences for the ecosystem, including human beings”**

### Suggested extensions

The game leader could choose an animal besides the elephant to start the game with. Instead of having the game leader drop the rope first, he/she can select another participant to be the species to disappear first and give an explanation for their disappearance.

To help illustrate the conclusion of the game, the leader could have the group draw on the black board or on a piece of paper the ecological web they created.

## “Oh Tlou!” Game

### Presentation

This game was designed for “students” over 8-years old. It helps us explore and understand the basic needs (water, food and space) of all species as well as natural population dynamics. This game was adapted from the educational game ‘Oh Deer’ in the Canadian Wildlife Federation’s Project Wild Activity Guide. A minimum of 10 participants is required to play this game and the number of participants must be even. No equipment is required to play this game but requires a lot of space and is very physical in nature.

### How to play the game

1. First a game leader is selected among the participants. The game leader will not actually play the game. The leader explains to the group that Elephant, like any other species, have basic needs without which they cannot survive. These needs are water, food and space.
2. Then the game leader divides the group into two. Half of the group will be elephants and half the group less 1 will be basic needs (the game leader is not actually playing that is why we have uneven groups). The two groups now face each other by standing in two parallel lines 20 meters apart, as shown on the picture below taken at Moremi Primary School during an Environmental Club



afternoon. The game leader explains the symbol for each basic need. As can be seen on the previous picture, the symbol for food (Dijo in Setswana) is to hold two hands over the stomach, the symbol for water (Metsi in Setswana) is hold two hands over the mouth, and the symbol for Safe Space (Phatla in Setswana) is to stand with two hands over the head like a pointy roof. The game leader calls out the needs, by name, so that both groups can practice the symbols.

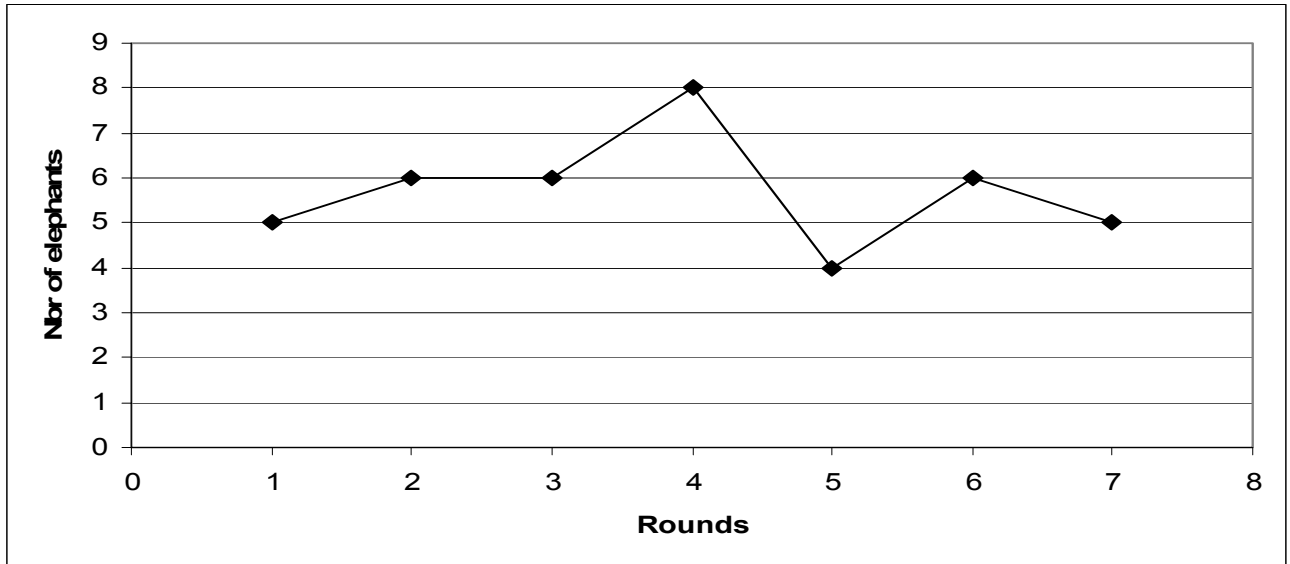
3. Once the practice is over, both groups are asked to face away from each other. The game leader asks the elephants to make one of the three symbols (Phatla, Dijo, Metsi) representing a basic need that they think they need. Then the game leader asks the group of basic needs what they want to be (each individual makes the symbol of the basic need they want to represent). The game leader should watch so as to prevent peeping!
4. Then the game leader has the two groups face each other by saying “turn!” Each player keeps his/her symbol. The elephants must quickly spot among the group of basic needs a player showing the same symbol.
5. When the game leader says “go!”, the group of elephants run as fast as they can and gasp their matching need (the group of basic needs should not move!!). If an elephant does not find the basic need he/she wanted, he/she “dies” and become a basic need and joins the group of basic needs. If a basic need is not grasped by an elephant then he/she remains a basic need. On the contrary if an elephant gets the basic need he/she wanted, he/she remains an elephant (he/she survives to the next round) and a basic need picked up by an elephant becomes an elephant and joins the groups of elephants for the next round of the game (a basic need picked up by an elephant becomes an elephant because elephants will make babies with the basic needs they acquired). If two elephants are running for the same basic needs player, only the first one to grasp the basic needs remains an elephant, the other one becomes a basic need for the next round.
6. The next round starts again at step 3 and runs till step 5. For each round, the game leader writes down the number of elephants at the beginning of the round and asks the two groups to form parallel lines. The game leader has the groups face away from each other and has each player pick a symbol (see picture below, step 3),

then he has the groups to face each other (step 4) and let the elephants compete for the basic needs (step 5).



7. Each round elephants either increase or decrease, depending on whether or not the elephants are able to get their 'needs' or not. It is possible to play as many rounds of the game as you like (if the rounds are played in rapid succession, the students won't lose interest!)
8. At the end of the game (a minimum of 6 rounds should have been played) the game leader has the group gather around him and on a black board or on a simple piece of paper, the group leader will draw the graph below. This graph represents the population of elephants increasing and decreasing round after round. In this example, the initial group of elephants was 5 (4 for the group of basic needs). As can be seen of the graph, population of elephants naturally fluctuates. The population decreases when there are not enough basic needs and the population increases when there are plenty of them.
9. **The conclusion of the game is that in order to preserve a population of elephants, we should make sure that they have enough basic needs.** However the population can fluctuate in

size as long the fluctuations remain within reasonable boundaries. To end the game, let the group discuss how we (humans) can help elephants get what they need (land uses/encroachment, hunting/poaching, etc...)



### Suggested extensions

This game is suitable for any species (lions, trees, zebras...). One can play the game with another species population.

Of course, the three basic needs mentioned above are not the only ones. Some other possible 'needs' may include: mud for washing/bathing, other elephants to play and interact with (family, love, mates...) etc... One can then add a new basic need in the game (but be careful, if there are too many different kinds of basic needs for a small number of players, the population may crash!)

# Program Organization

## Organization for OKMCT & Bana Ba Letsatsi Trust

Each of the 6 villages of the Okavango Kopano Mokoro Community Trust and the Bana Ba Letsatsi Trust will be offered as a Christmas Gift the chance to participate in the Elephant Outreach Program. The two day excursion to our Elephant Camp will take place at the beginning of the year-end school Holidays, in November and December 2008. Each group will be advised its date in time, at least a week before the date of the visit.

The group will be composed by 10 children, around 10-12 years old and 1 adult chaperon. For OKMCT & Bana Ba Letsatsi groups, everything is provided by Living With Elephants Foundation (meals, transportation and accommodation). Participants need only to take their own toiletries & a light blanket or sheet for the night. We require the participants to have only one bag and to keep it as small as possible.

Please note that although the camp is fully equipped for proper and safe camping in the bush, the comfort remains basic. It consists of dome tents with mattresses. A couple of mattresses are thicker and devoted to the adults. The camp also includes all the equipment necessary to self-catering. The group is expected to cook for themselves and keep the camp as clean as possible. However our education coordinators will be assisting the group during its stay.

On the day of the visit, a vehicle will fetch the group at the village with the exception of Xhaxaba village, for which the group will be picked up in Maun. For this reason Xhaxaba will be the first group to come, on the week-end just after the schools close and while the children are still in town. The next day the group will be dropped back at the village or Maun for Xhaxaba. For the groups from Bana Ba Letsatsi Trust, the meeting point will be Bana Ba Letsatsi office.

**It is very important that every participant has his/her indemnity form signed either by one of the legal guardians for the children or by themselves for the adults. Without this form properly filled in and signed, it will not be possible to take the participant. Those forms will be provided at least a week before the visit.**

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Elephant Camp! Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 71 69 84 14.

## Organization for Public Primary School Group

Each of the 22 public primary schools of Maun district are invited to participate to the Elephant Outreach Program as a wilderness excursion for their Environmental Club. The two day excursions to our Elephant Camp will take place at the beginning of the year during the months of February, March and April 2009. Each school will be advised its date in time, during a preparatory meeting at the beginning of February.

The group will be composed of either 2 or 3 schools, that is to say either 5 children + 1 environmental teacher from two schools or 3 children + 1 environmental teacher from 3 schools. It is required that the 3-5 children are active members of their Environmental Club.

For Public Schools groups, everything is provided by Living With Elephants Foundation (meals, transportation and accommodation) except a small participation fee of 20 Pula per child and 20 Pula per teacher. Participants need only to take their own toiletries & a light blanket or sheet for the night. We require the participants to have only one bag and to keep it as small as possible.

Please note that although the camp is fully equipped for proper and safe camping in the bush, the comfort remains basic. It consists of dome tents with mattresses. A couple of mattresses are thicker and devoted to the adults. The camp also includes all the equipment necessary to self-catering. The group is expected to cook for themselves and keep the camp as clean as possible. However our education coordinators will be assisting the group during its stay.

For all Primary School groups, the meeting place will be Maun Airport and the meeting time will be either 10:00 am if driving or 11:00 am if flying. If the group is flying to camp, this time has to be strictly kept. The time will be confirmed by phone several days before.

**It is very important that every participant has his/her indemnity form signed either by one of the legal guardians for the children or by the teachers themselves. Without this form properly fill in and signed, it will not be possible to take on board the participant.**

We are looking forward to seeing you in the bush! Should you have any question, please feel free to contact us at 71 69 84 14.

## Organization for Private Primary School Group

The Elephant Outreach Program is proposed to private schools, proposed as a wilderness excursion for their Environmental Club. For practical reasons, we need the private schools group interested in being part of the program to book their excursion between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2009. The two-day excursion to our Elephant Camp will be scheduled to occur during the first term (before the schools holidays of April). The excursion will start on a Thursday.

The group will be composed of 10 children, equivalent to standard 5-6 and 2 adults (one of them should be an environmental teacher). For private school groups, The Living With Elephants Foundation requires the running costs to be born by the group, which represents a group fee of 2 400 Pula if driving or 3 600 Pula if flying. Participants need to take their own toiletries & a light blanket or sheet for the night. We require the participants to have only one bag and to keep it as small as possible.

Please note that although the camp is fully equipped for proper and safe camping in the bush, the comfort remains basic. It consists of dome tents with mattresses. A couple of mattresses are thicker and devoted to the adults. The camp also includes all the equipment necessary to self-catering. The group is expected to cook for themselves and keep the camp as clean as possible. However our education coordinators will be assisting the group during its stay.

For all Primary School groups, the meeting place will be Maun Airport and the meeting time will be either 10:00 am if driving or 11:00 am if flying. If the group are flying to camp, this time has to be strictly kept. The time will be confirmed by phone several days before.

**It is very important that every participant has his/her indemnity form signed either by one of the legal guardians for the children or the teachers themselves. Without this form properly fill in and signed, it will not be possible to take on board the participant.**

We are looking forward to seeing you in the bush! Should you have any question, please feel free to contact us at 71 69 84 14.

## Take Home Message

- Elephants can be friends
- They are part of the delicate ecosystem of the Okavango Delta in which all species are connected to each other. If even one species disappears, it will have very negative consequences for the ecosystem, including for human beings.
- In order to conserve elephants and all the species of the ecosystem, we need to make sure that they all find their basic needs (water, food and space)

## Bibliography

Canadian Wildlife Federation (2001). Project Wild Activity Guide. [www.wildeducation.org](http://www.wildeducation.org).

Wolfsen McColaugh, Doreen (1993). Educational Guide to Gaborone Game Reserve.

# Abstract

The Elephant Outreach Program of Living With Elephants Foundation is a conservation and environmental education program.

It takes place in a wilderness area of the Okavango Delta, Botswana, at the southern tip of the famous Chief Island, in a Community Based natural Resource Management Area.

It is offered to children, aged 8-12, from the villages of this area and to the environmental clubs of the primary schools of Maun district as well as to the children of the Bana Ba Letsatsi Trust (unprivileged children).

Conducted under the supervision of the Department of Education, the Department of Wildlife (Conservation Education Unit) and of the Regional Association of Environmental Clubs, it annually becomes more integrated into the Botswana Environmental Education syllabus.

The objective of this document is to aid environmental teachers and group leaders in making the best of their participation in the Elephant Outreach Program 2008/2009.

In today's world, it is becoming more and more important to continue to protect and improve the environment in which we live and learn how to live in harmony with nature and big animals such as elephants. As an outdoor education program, the Elephant Outreach Program provides children and teachers with an opportunity to learn more about elephants, wildlife conservation and eco-tourism. When caring and concerned attitudes about the environment are developed, students will be better prepared to make wise decisions in the future about how best to use and maintain it.

The Elephant Outreach Program is a Living With Elephants Foundation project sponsored in 2008-2009 by :

