
The Cost of Conserving Elephants

Nigel Leader-Williams

African elephants attract a variety of economic values, whether actual or potential. Furthermore, elephants, to varying degrees in different range states, live both within and outside protected areas. In both situations, elephants are usually in conflict with man. Consequently range states have to expend funds if elephants are to be protected throughout their range. As a general rule, it was necessary to spend around US\$200 per km² of protected area in 1981 to prevent the decline of elephants from severe commercial

poaching for their ivory. Following the ban on trade in ivory in 1989, it is imperative that costs of conserving elephants in and out of protected areas in different range states are quantified. Given that ensuring the success of law enforcement efforts is probably the most important management objective for the future conservation of elephants, and given the amount of less relevant research undertaken on elephants, greater emphasis needs to be placed upon collecting and analysing data on this topic.

Elephant Management in Nyaminyami District, Zimbabwe: Turning a Liability into an Asset

Russel D. Taylor

In Nyaminyami District, on the southern shores of Lake Kariba, in excess of 20,000 inhabitants share Omay Communal Land, an area of nearly 3,000km², with some 2,000 elephants and arrange of other large wild mammals. Elephants are a major source of conflict between wildlife and people in Omay, largely on account of damage inflicted upon crops and property and injury or death to human life. Under the CAMPFIRE programme the management of elephants in Omay is presently being directed towards:

(i) reducing conflict through combining problem elephant control with sustainable trophy hunting

of elephants; electrified fencing to protect arable fields and homes from the depredations of elephant; zonation of land use for tourism development and agricultural planning at ward and village level:

(ii) increasing tolerance towards elephants through revenues earned from safari hunting and other wildlife management activities, and wildlife—based tourism ventures with private-sector operators. The relative merits or otherwise of these various approaches are described and discussed.

The full paper will be published in the next issue of *Pachyderm*.