
We tried to initiate talks between the military commander, an NGO and the forestry department about the poaching problem. We asked the army to ensure that vehicles were searched when they passed through the gates. We asked them not to give arms to the population or to give them ammunition for their guns. We also asked them to destroy a village set up for hunting as it contained people from other countries who had come to hunt in the area. However, poaching is a political problem and hard to solve.

Question: The number of ivory seizures went down after the ban but is increasing now. Is this increase due to decreased enforcement or because there is more ivory? Is ivory used locally, within Congo or internationally?

Answer: Since CITES 1989 we found there was a reduction in poaching but normally things change just before the CITES meeting. The people involved try to build up stocks of ivory in case elephants are down-listed to Appendix II.

Poaching has increased. There are public administrators, e.g. the military and the politicians, who cannot be controlled by wildlife authorities. Ivory is sold on the local market. Sculptures are made locally. Before CITES, traders had large stocks which they were unable to export. Now people think stocks are legal and they continue poaching.

DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL POLICY FOR ELEPHANT CONSERVATION IN TANZANIA

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ABSTRACT

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The main decision-making framework for conservation action rests at the range-state level. Therefore, the development and implementation of coherent and strong national policy are necessary for effective conservation of the African elephant. The approval of the Policy for Management of the African Elephant in Tanzania in November 1994 provides the basis for Tanzania to move ahead with a programme for managing its population of African elephants. The policy contains statements on the following: Legislation, Management in Protected Areas, Population Recovery, Community Involvement in Elephant Management, Utilisation, Law Enforcement and the Ivory Stock, International Obligations and, Monitoring and Research. The thinking behind the plan and its structure could serve as a model for other countries.

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION COMPILED FROM RAPPORTEUR NOTES

The responsibility for elephant conservation lies with the range states. The development of coherent, strong

and politically-approved national policy is necessary to identify targets for effective action. Implementation of policy can then be assessed against these targets. All range states have action plans (developed through the African Elephant Conservation Coordinating Group) but few range states have approved elephant conservation policies.

The National Policy for Elephant Conservation in Tanzania was developed by the Department of Wildlife through the Protected Areas Wildlife Management (PAWM) programme in 1993-1994 and received approval from the Minister in November 1994.

A broad policy statement recognises that major requirements for elephant conservation are:

In protected areas

- To increase elephant numbers and to restore their sex and age structures
- To promote their economic value for tourist game-viewing or to produce a sustainable harvest for tourist hunting

Outside protected areas

- To control numbers where necessary and appropriate
- To manage elephants where appropriate for the benefit of local communities

International obligations

- To abide by the terms of CITES and to maintain an Appendix I listing for the foreseeable future
 - To remain open to initiatives of other range states, providing they are undertaken within the premises of CITES and unlikely to cause increased illegal use in Tanzania
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ELEPHANT NUMBERS IN BOUMBA-BEK, CAMEROON

Atanga Ekobo

WWF Cameroon, BP, Yaoundé Cameroon

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION COMPILED FROM RAPPORTEUR NOTES

Cameroon is currently developing a long-term strategy for the management and conservation of its biological diversity and renewable natural resources. The forests in south-east Cameroon, which are under increasing pressure from commercial logging and safari-hunting, have been targeted as biologically important areas and the status of “essential protection zone” has been conferred on three forest areas, leading to the creation of three new reserves: 1. Boumba-Bek, in which there is an abundance of forest elephants. It is minimally disturbed and there is no logging; 2. Lobeke and 3. Nki, which both have some logging.

In 1993 a grant of US\$80,000 was received to survey the Boumba-Bek Reserve and to make a zoological inventory. The project has the following overall objectives:

- To conduct pilot studies to investigate options for utilisation, including game management, timber harvesting, collection of non-timber forest products and tourism
- To carry out basic biological and sociological studies of the Reserve and surrounding areas
- To formulate a management plan to divide the area for different uses

The Reserve has an area of 2,400km² and is bounded to the east, north and south by rivers. The climate is equatorial with two rainy and two dry seasons. Rainfall averages 1,005mm per annum and the minimum temperature is 25°C. Vegetation is mapped as being a transition between evergreen and semi-deciduous forest. A number of different tribes live in the area.

The elephant population has been estimated from two dung count surveys. The study area was divided into 5x5km cells and a 2.5km transect was randomly situated within each cell. The first survey gave an estimate of 7,000 ± 3,000 elephants, while a second survey gave an estimate of only 250 ± 100 elephants. Where do the elephants go? They probably go south to the Nki area, but further investigations are needed. There are plans to fit radio-collars on some elephants and to conduct more transect surveys in an effort to identify their seasonal range and movements and any “corridors” they might use.

DISCUSSION

Question: How do you find the starting point of each transect?

Answer: A GPS is used.

Question: It appears that the elephants do not stay in the Reserve throughout the year and probably have seasonal movements. Is there going to be any survey work outside the reserves?

Answer: Research may show that some areas outside the reserves are more important (for elephants) than was previously thought and therefore the government may consider increasing the size of the protected areas.

Question: How large are the human populations and are there human-elephant interactions?

Answer: In this area, there are less than two people per km² so there are no problems caused by man. Elephants cause less than 1% of crop destruction in the area. An increase in the area of the Reserve may change this percentage. In other parts of Cameroon there is greater human-elephant conflict.