

**COMMUNITY BASED CONFLICT MITIGATION
AND CHILI PEPPER TRAINING WORKSHOPS**

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009



REPORT

For

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

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Summary

Conservation International funded two training workshops for farmers in the eastern Okavango Panhandle and Chobe Enclave. The purpose of these workshops was to discuss current methods and teach new methods of community based conflict management. The first workshop (26th-28th Sept '09) was held in Gunotsoga village and community members from Beetsha, Eretsha and Gunotsoga villages attended. The second workshop (2nd-3rd Oct '09) took place in Parakarungu village, with community members from Satau and Parakarungu attending. Elephant Pepper Development Trust carried out the training and Okavango Elephants and People Research Project facilitated the workshops. Overall, 57 people attended the workshops, including farmers, HEC enumerators, DWNP officers, IRDNC representatives from Namibia and other interested community members. Feedback from the workshops was positive and trainees were enthusiastic to start implementing methods learnt.

1. Farmer Selection

After consultations with DWNP officers in Seronga and Kasane, three villages in each area were identified for selection of participants. In the eastern Panhandle the villages of Gunotsoga, Eretsha and Beetsha were chosen. In the Chobe Enclave the villages of Mabele, Satau and Parakarungu were chosen.

Village Kgosis (Chiefs) were visited in August and asked to select 5 community members (4 farmers and 1 representative from the World Bank funded HEC steering committee) from their respective villages who would be willing to be trained and share their knowledge with others. In September, a follow up visit was made to collect participant names or to encourage chiefs who hadn't already selected community members to select people as soon as possible. Unfortunately, the Mabele Chief was unable to find willing participants to attend the workshop and therefore extra farmers attended from Parakarungu village. This was disappointing however we felt that the training would be more effective if we trained willing farmers from Parakarungu village rather than coerce participants from Mabele village.

2. Training Workshop Dates and Venues

The eastern Panhandle workshop took place (26th-28th Sept '09) in Gunotsoga village and the Chobe Enclave workshop took place (2nd-3rd Oct '09) in Parakarungu village. Community halls were hired out in the host villages and farmers accommodated in VDC houses where necessary. Workshop staff were locally sourced from within the host villages to assist with cooking, cleaning and other logistical operations.

3. Workshop Attendees

Okavango Panhandle

Five farmers attended the workshop from Gunotsoga, but unfortunately the World Bank HEC steering committee member was absent; 3 farmers from Eretsha were present and 1 World Bank steering committee member; 4 farmers attended from Beetsha, but unfortunately the World Bank steering committee member was absent. In addition to these participants, 10 enumerators from the HEC research project (*Okavango Elephants and People Research Project*) in the eastern panhandle attended the training and the World Bank project DWNP officer from Seronga was present (see Table 1 and Fig 1).

Table 1. Attendance list for Okavango Panhandle workshop, where NA indicates non attendance

Village	Name	Sex	Role
Gunotsoga	Disho Mongomba	M	Farmer
	G. Saoqho	M	Farmer
	Bafiwang Keitumetse	F	Farmer
	Lenkokame Tlale	F	Farmer
	Samuxhiki Zingoro	M	Farmer
Gunotsoga	NA	NA	World Bank committee
Eretsha	Tshiamo Kangera	M	Farmer

Village	Name	Sex	Role
	Monyenda Lebomang	F	Farmer
	Sekonja Senwametsi	M	Farmer
Eretsha	Kgaketso Setshego	F	World Bank committee
Beetsha	D. Mothoiwa	M	Farmer
	Keapoletse Moeya	M	Farmer
	Kereeditse Poloko	F	Farmer
	Makore Seepo	F	Farmer
Beetsha	NA	NA	World Bank committee
Gudigwa	Motoloki Morena	M	Enumerator
Beetsha	Gasefele Bukaetsile	F	Enumerator
Gunotsoga	Ohitiseng Mosupi	M	Enumerator
Mogotho	Oboletse Tiego	M	Enumerator
Ngarange	Keamogetse Moyakoi	M	Enumerator
Sekondomboro	Monjivi Daniel	M	Enumerator
Tobera	Hakoka Xhoro	M	Enumerator
Xakao	Mathata Kashongo	M	Enumerator
Kauxwi	Rukonga Lebogang	F	Enumerator
Mohembo	Namavunga	F	Enumerator
	Cecilia Dikoro		
Seronga	Anne Clifthill	F	Farmer
DWNP	Mosalagae Kenewendo	M	DWNP Officer
OEPRP	Anna Songhurst	F	OEPRP
	Tlholego Setshwantsho	M	Translator
	Graham McCulloch	M	OEPRP
	Camilla Lynham-Smith	F	OEPRP
EPDT	Loki Osborn	M	EPDT
	Malvern Karidozo	M	EPDT
Total Number	31		



Fig .1 Workshop attendees in eastern Okavango Panhandle training workshop

Chobe Enclave

Ten farmers attended the workshop from Parakarungu and 5 from Satau. Unfortunately, the World Bank steering committees have currently not been established in these villages so no representatives were available. No farmers attended from Mabele Village, due to no willing participants being selected. Two DWNP officers from Kasane were present and two representatives from the IRDNC in Namibia (see Table 2 and Fig 2).

Table 2. Attendance list for Parakarungu workshop, where NA represents non attendance

Village	Name	Sex	Role
Parakarungu	Minsozi Mazina	F	Farmer
	Emelly Johane	F	Farmer
	Kebalibile Moleofi	M	Farmer
	Abel Mwampole	M	Farmer
	Conard Serome	M	Farmer
	Ginger Boipuso Johane	F	Farmer
	Gertrude Tembwe	F	Farmer
	Njara Shandweza	F	Farmer
	Jameson Tembwe	M	Farmer
	Josiah Senyemba	M	Farmer
Satau	Kahundu Simasiku	F	Farmer
	Kalyungu Lisehu	F	Farmer
	Priscilla Ntesa	F	Farmer
	Nanzala Sarah Kabozu	F	Farmer
	Rumbe Sarufu	F	Farmer
Mabele	NA	NA	NA
Kasane	Mr. Chili	M	DWNP officer
	Mr. Zimba	M	DWNP officer
OEPRP Okavango Panhandle	Anna Songhurst	F	OEPRP
	Graham McCulloch	M	OEPRP
	Camilla Lynham-Smith	F	OEPRP
	Tlholego Setshwantsho	M	Translator
	Ohitiseng Mosupi	M	Enumerator
EPDT Zambia	Malvern Karidozo	M	EPDT
	Muunga Mapenu. H.	M	EPDT
IRDNC Namibia	Markfaren Mushabati	M	IRDNC
	Dominic Muema	M	IRDNC
Total Number	26		



Fig 2. Practical training in Chobe Enclave training workshop

4. Workshop Proceedings

Day 1:

1. Introductions
2. Expectations
3. Human Elephant Conflict
 - What?
 - Where?
 - How?
 - When?
 - Who?
 - Why?

Break

4. Discussion on current mitigation strategies used

Lunch

5. Elephant Ecology

Break

6. Advantages/Disadvantages of mitigation techniques
7. Advantages/Disadvantages of living with elephants

Dinner

Day 2:

1. Management strategies
2. Compensation
3. Community Based Conflict Mitigation

Break

4. Current chili use – experiences and problems
5. CBCM methods
 - buffer zone, watch tower, chilli bricks, chilli fence, crop reorganization, chilli plants

Lunch

6. Chili growing methods

Break

7. Practical Demonstration of mitigation methods and chilli growing
8. Conclusions

5. Participant Feedback

All workshop attendees participated well and discussed the problems they were encountering with elephants, possible causes of the conflict in their area and feasible options for mitigation in their respective areas.

Participants expressed that the main problems people are having with elephants are:

- Crop raiding
- Fear of walking to collect grass/cattle
- No. elephants increasing
- People being killed
- Disturbed sleep
- Danger to children walking to school
- Injuring/killing livestock
- Elephants not scared of traditional mitigation i.e. drumming
- Property damage

The Okavango Panhandle farmers felt that causes of conflict were due to elephants needing to get to water, people putting fields in elephant paths and elephants coming from neighbouring countries and hunting concessions. Farmers in the Chobe Enclave felt that elephants were coming from the National Park and other countries i.e. Namibia and Angola.

A few farmers were skeptical about the use of chilli pepper at the beginning of the workshops. Some people had tried to implement chilli techniques in 2007 and thought that it did not work. EPDT answered

queries and it appeared that most farmers had been implementing methods incorrectly or only utilizing one method in 2007, which could account for failure in initial trials.

Participants' knowledge of basic elephant biology and ecology was quite poor and often over exaggerated. For example, some believed the gestation period for an elephant was only 2 months (rather than 22 months) because they see so many babies in herds. This showed that education is an essential component needing to be addressed in HEC mitigation strategies in these areas.

DWNP officers who attended the workshops were very participatory and encouraged farmers to implement the skills they had learnt. We feel that their attendance and contribution was invaluable to enable these workshops to compliment efforts being undertaken for the World Bank initiative and to facilitate future collaboration.

Feedback was positive at the end of the workshops and participants were eager to start implementing methods discussed during the training.

6. Photo Gallery

6.1 Theory Training



Fig 3. Training in Gunotsoga Community Hall



Fig 4. Training in Parakarungu Community Hall



Fig 5. Malvern & Nature explaining HEC film



Fig 6. Moses from DWNP explaining compensation



Fig 7. Malvern introducing CBCM theory



Fig 8. Participants listening intently

6.2 Practical Training in Chili Mitigation Techniques



Fig 9. Clearing the buffer zone



Fig 10. Breaking up elephant dung



Fig 11. Crushing the chilli



Fig 12. Mixing crushed chilli and elephant dung



Fig 13. Making chilli bricks



Fig 14. Chilli brick production



Fig 15. Mixing crushed chilli with used engine oil



Fig 16. Dipping string in chilli oil



Fig 17. Dipping cloth in chilli oil



Fig 18. Putting up chilli covered string



Fig 19. Mr. Mongomba attaching string to poles



Fig 20. Mr. Daniel covering poles in chilli oil



Fig 21. The chilli fence

6.3 Practical Training in Chilli Propagation Methods



Fig 22. Preparing the seed bed



Fig 23. Planting chilli seeds



Fig 24. Mulching



Fig 25. Transplanting chilli seedlings

7. Equipment Distribution

Each community member attending the workshop was supplied with a starter pack for chilli growing and chilli mitigation implementation.

Starter Pack:

- 1 x 25kg bag of dried chilli pods/seeds
- 3 x chilli seedlings
- 2 x 12kg bag of material
- 1 x 25L metal bucket
- 1 x 2kg sisal string
- 1 x trowel
- 1 x 5L used engine oil
- 2 x packs of rubber gloves



Fig 26 Anna & Camilla distributing equipment starter packs

8. Monitoring

A monitor/enumerator will be employed in each village to encourage, support and monitor implementation of CBCM strategies and chilli production. Anna Songhurst and Tlholego Setshwantsho will supervise these monitors and facilitate communication between farmers and EPDT. DWNP officers also indicated that they will visit trained farmers and provide additional support and advice.

A selection of training manuals were provided by EPDT, however all these are in English. It was suggested that a simple farmer manual should be developed and translated into Setswana to distribute to all participants. Such a manual could also be left in strategic places in each village i.e. Kgotla/clinic/bars/schools to encourage further education of these mitigation strategies.

All trained participants will be issued with a certificate from EPDT.

9. Conclusion

Overall the training workshops went well and logistics ran smoothly. In summary:

- All farmers were transported to and from workshops safely
- People were accommodated and catered for accordingly
- Workshop attendance was good
- EPDT delivered training effectively
- Farmers participated well
- Participants were supplied with a starter pack of equipment

Outcomes to date include:

- 57 people are trained in community based conflict mitigation methods and the use of chilli pepper to deter elephants
- Farmers are equipped to start implementing methods
- Plans for manual distribution and further education have been devised
- Enumerators/monitors have been selected to support, encourage and monitor implementation

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