Immuocontraception and Human Elephant Conflict
Another Tool in the Conflict Mitigation Toolkit

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ITHALA’S OVERALL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- **Immuocontraception** is slowing population growth but will not reduce the population back to the accepted density alone.
- **Translocation of animals** must be pursued – 24 animals moved to Mozambique in 2018, but effort to continue.
- **Potentially expand habitat** – erect an electric fence across the Phongolo River to protect communal property inhabitants, which will result in default additional habitat and if agreeable could result in a formerly proclaimed increase in reserve size.
Differential Population Management
Local South African Context

Broader applicability

Diagram:
- Alternative Grazers
- Vegetation change
- Elephants as drivers of ecosystem change
- Commodification of the environment
- Immunorangeception
- Perpetual growth economics
- Debt
- Protected Area Planning
- Funding conservation
- Small scale farmers
- Use of the "Commons" - tragic or not
- Protected Area Management
- CBD – Article 8
- External investment in industrial agriculture and mining
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems
- Sacred Natural Sites and Protected areas
- Broader human demographics
- Broader elephant demographics
- Protected Area Expansion & Corridors
complicated

- Alternative Grazers
- Vegetation change
- Elephants as drivers of ecosystem change
- Commodification of the environment

- Immunocontraception
- Perpetual growth economics
- Use of the "Commons" – tragic or not

- Protected Area Planning
- Funding conservation
- Poverty
- Debt

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- Protected Area Expansion & Corridors
- Broader elephant demographics
- Broader human demographics

complex
non-lethal vs lethal
Homesteads

Community Owned

Legend
- Towns
- Homesteads (4375)
- Rivers
- Roads
- Ithala roads
- Ownership
- Park boundary
Homesteads and Elephants
Homesteads and Elephants – collar locations
Community Engagement

Four years and still growing
Community Engagement

What people want??

Sustainability = self-determination:
- Food security
- Social security
- Environmental care
Community Engagement

What people want?

Conservation based land use

Social relationships – leadership, cultures, economics

Food, water, heating

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Re-opens the protected area concept from the communities’ perspectives
Community Engagement

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Re-opens the protected area concept from the communities’ perspectives
Household food security

Did you have enough food to meet your family’s needs (% No)

Proportion of households (%)
Loss of arable land (% Yes)

- Dlamini: 76%
- Mavuso: 100%
- Msibi: 97.7%
- Ntshangase: 100%
- Sibiya: 88.9%
- Simelane: 100%
Life not satisfactory, need expanded IGR (% Yes)

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dlamini</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mavuso</td>
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<tr>
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Re-opens the [protected area concept from the communities’ perspectives](#)
Community Engagement

Perpetual growth economics & elite capture remain part of these systems

Resulting in further exploitation of people and the environment
Community Engagement

THINKING

ACTING

Examining parallels between social and environmental justice
The long term plan 20 YEARS! involves the inclusion of partners that work towards environmental, social and economic sustainability of the Greater Ithala Complex.
The interim plan is about 5 years!

- Addressing Human Elephant Conflict
- Acknowledging and entrenching land tenure of communities
- Creating opportunities for communities to create, retain and utilise conservation based land-use

The long term plan is 20 years!

- Involves the inclusion of partners that work towards environmental, social and economic sustainability of the Greater Ithala Complex
The long term plan

Reliant on the conservation based land-use allocation

The interim plan
Conservation practices now take place with community support...

Constraining elephant numbers
Constraining elephants to designated areas

conflict mitigating tools
Two-strand fence concept
(supplemented with bees, chilli and traditional medicine)

- Interim measure not expansion (2 strand fence)
- Allow communities to explore benefits of conservation based land use
- Increase elephant habitat without disrupting current land practices Fence to contain elephants not livestock and people
- Contain elephants cost-effectively in areas determined by communities
- Baseline information to guide decision-making
Constraining elephant numbers:
- Within a community owned, expanded area
- In line with the Elephant Norms & Standards
- To support socio economic opportunities for communities
- In a non-controversial/non-lethal manner

[Image: Immunocontraception is a conflict mitigating tool]
As a conflict mitigating tool - not a blanket tool for overall control but a selective one
Thank you