



Evaluating Community-Based Conservation Efforts Against Poaching and Wildlife Trade in Congo Basin Elephants, South Africa 2005

Abel Motsoka¹

¹ University of Fort Hare

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Correspondence: amotsoka@aol.com

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Author notes

Abel Motsoka is affiliated with University of Fort Hare and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

This study evaluates community-based conservation programmes targeting poaching and wildlife trade in two distinct regions: African forest elephants in the Congo Basin and South Africa's elephant population. Data was collected through surveys, interviews with local communities, and analysis of government records. A mixed-methods approach combining qualitative and quantitative data was employed. Community-led patrols in the Congo Basin significantly reduced elephant poaching by 45% over two years, while in South Africa, a reduction of wildlife trade value by 30% was observed across partner organizations. The study concludes that community-based conservation efforts are effective in both regions but require tailored strategies to address local challenges and enhance their impact. Further research should explore the sustainability of these programmes, with a focus on long-term funding and capacity building for communities. Policy recommendations include strengthening legal frameworks and increasing public awareness campaigns. Community-based conservation, poaching reduction, wildlife trade, Congolese elephants, South African elephants

Keywords: *Congo Basin, Community-based Conservation, Anti-poaching, Wildlife Trade, Sustainable Development, Ecosystem Management, Participatory Approaches*

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