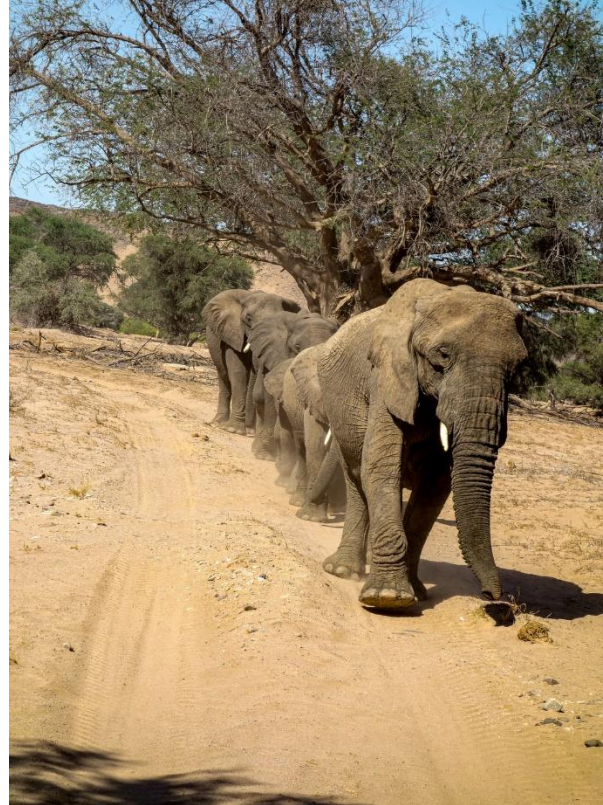


B1 Elephants For Sale

In many countries the effects of global warming can be seen. Namibia is no exception. In this southern African country climate change has led to drought being more frequent. A new problem has been caused by these droughts: a human – elephant conflict. Namibia is selling elephants at auction in an attempt to solve this problem.



Climate crisis

Due to the landscape in Namibia, it is vulnerable to climate change, which makes it dry with little foliage. Two deserts cover a big part of the country. When you include the climate change the result will be drought. The country has been struggling with little to no rain since 2013. In 2019 Namibia had the worst drought in 90 years.

Wildlife management

A global environmental standpoint, the conservation and protection of wild animals, in particular those threatened with the risk of extinction, is agreed upon by many. We realise that it is important to save and protect wild animals. The population of rhinos and elephants was near to being extinct in 1990. Only 5,000 elephants were left. A big conservation programme was started in Namibia to save the rhinos and elephants, which was a big success. Now there are almost 28,000 elephants in Namibia. However, now there is a new conflict a human – elephant conflict.

New conflict

The new conflict between villagers, farmers and elephants is a result of the drought and increase in elephants. Can you imagine what an elephant can eat daily?. Daily it consumes up to 300 kg of foliage per day. Elephants live in big areas. They need to look for more food but farmers need more land to grow their harvest due to the continuous droughts in Namibia.

Therefore there isn't enough room for both farmers and elephants. Now the problem is that the elephants come nearer to the villages and eat the farmer's harvests.



Searching for balance

It is quite normal to reduce an animal population that has grown too much. For instance, In the Netherlands wild boar or deer are killed to bring the population into balance, Nevertheless, slaughtering elephants is strongly condemned. The government of

of Environment, Forestry and Tourism in Namibia came forth with a plan to sell 170 elephants at auction.

The idea is that other countries with large national parks can then buy the elephants so they can roam.

Because of the drought, Namibia sold about 1,000 animals to national parks in 2019. They are now looking for a new home for the problem causing elephants, an interesting way of doing this.