

## **Project Update: October 2015**

I arrived back in the UK in July 2015, having spent 6 months assessing elephant crop damage in communities bordering Makgadikgadi National Park. In my last weeks in Botswana I completed interviews with 47 farmers with the aim of establishing how many farmers sell surplus crops, the value of these crops and the cost of living for farmers here. The latter has been used to calculate a 'subsistence' value of farmer's fields, based on the cost of replacing damaged crops with staple food items. Since leaving Botswana, I have begun writing my thesis and analysing data from the 96 crop raiding events recorded over the study period. My initial analyses identify common characteristics of raided fields compared to non-raided fields, define elephant crop species preferences and establish seasonal trends in elephant damage. I aim to complete the cost-benefit analysis for several proposed elephant deterrents in the coming weeks.