

Project Update: May 2015

For the last 4 months, I have been quantifying crop damage caused by elephants in Xhumaga and Moreomaoto. The harvesting season here is now drawing to a close and elephant crop raids have become infrequent events. However, as a result of elephant damage and very late, poor rains, many farmers will struggle to harvest anything this year. Most people in this region farm for subsistence alone, rarely selling any crops. Therefore, in the coming weeks, I will visit the participating farmers to complete a questionnaire, quantifying the impact of elephant damage on their cost of living. Although a market value for each field has already been calculated, for these subsistence farmers, a more meaningful 'value' for their field would be the cost of purchasing food to replace their damaged crops. The cost of living and market values will help determine the most viable elephant defence measure for every participating farmer.

