

Title: Human-Wildlife Conflict In Northeastern Namibia: CITES, Elephant Conservation and Local Livelihoods

Name: Adelina Matinca, MA
University of Cologne, Albertus-Magnus-Platz 50923, Köln, Germany

International, national and local legal frameworks have impacts on elephant conservation and the livelihoods of locals that share their existence with wildlife. Legal frameworks of all levels commodify the African elephant. This gives rise to an ethical dilemma, as what is best for conservation of the species may have detrimental effects on livelihoods, in particular where locals are unable to effectively address human-wildlife conflicts with the tools at their disposal, or where they lack motivation to participate in conservation efforts because the relevant commodity – the elephant – does not economically benefit them. Drawing from two case studies from National Parks in northeastern Namibia, it examines the impact of international actors and CITES decisions on elephant conservation and local livelihoods, suggesting that sustainable profitability for local livelihoods is paramount to ensure elephant conservation is successful.

Human-Wildlife Conflict is any interaction between wildlife and humans which causes harm, whether it is to the human, the wild animal, or property,[1] but it can be understood in a more figurative sense as well, as a reference to the ethical dilemma of conflicting goals and interests in conservation on the ground. Whose interests, then, prevail if conservation laws and policies have detrimental effects on the local human population?

Biography

Adelina Matinca completed her BA studies at the University of Toronto and earned an MA from the University of Cologne. She is currently pursuing her PhD co-supervised by both University of Cologne and Harvard University. Her master thesis was published in the Culture and Enviroment in Africa series at the University of Cologne.

Presenting author details
Full name: Adelina Matinca
Contact number: +49 160 92846090
Linked In account: https://www.linkedin.com/in/adelina-matinca-26465125
Session name/number: Wildlife / Track 11
Category: (Oral presentation)

[1] Information obtained from http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/environment-you/human_wildlife_conflict.php#definition (accessed December 2, 2017).