



## Field Guide 1 Protecting Your Field

Elephants are intelligent animals and similar to people in many ways. We all need water, food and space to live. But sharing space with elephants can be difficult! These field guides aim to give some ideas and tips about how we can coexist together more harmoniously and reduce conflicts that arise between people and elephants.

It is important to learn a variety of techniques, which will help keep elephants out of your field and make it safer for you when you encounter elephants.

When thinking about stopping an elephant getting in to your field it is important to **Remember elephants are smart, they can adapt to different techniques so keep mixing them up!**

### TIPS and TOOLS for Individual field and personal protection



Try using Chilli Pepper deterrents



Use solar lights, tin cans or cow bells on your fence



Guard your field



Use solar torches to scare elephants in the field



Combine these new methods with old ones  
(e.g. drumming, fire, shouting, guard dogs)



Choose a field location away from an elephant corridor



Try Conservation Agriculture to grow more crops in a smaller area that is easier to protect from elephants and livestock;



Try growing different crops that are less attractive to elephants and more resistant to the impacts of crop raiding by elephants;



Be aware of elephant behaviour during encounters to help protect yourself;



Elephant breeding herds are very skittish and will avoid confrontations, but can be very dangerous if you get too close.



Elephant bulls can be very relaxed and difficult to chase off, but using passive techniques like chilli fences, tin cans and electric fencing will reduce danger.



If an elephant runs at you with ears out, it is trying to chase you. Stick together and stay still. If they run with ears back and trunk up, climb a tree or throw a bag or jacket in their path in order to distract it.

**Elephants can grow up to 3.2m** – so keep this in mind when putting up deterrents!

**An elephants hearing and smell are excellent** but their eyesight is moderate.

**Elephants don't like sudden movements and can get angry if surprised at close quarters.**

Let them know you are there and back off if they show signs of anger.

## ELEPHANT FACTS!

**Elephants have sensitive noses -** that's why they don't like chilli! They can also smell you from far away, if they are down wind.



### WHY USE CHILLI?

The oleoresin inside chilli peppers (that makes chilli hot) irritates an elephants nose and skin.



### CHILLI DETERRENT METHODS

Chilli deterrents should be used in combination with other barrier methods and traditional mitigation techniques.



### BUFFER ZONE;

is a cleared area or buffer like a fire break made 5-10m from the field.



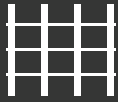
### CHILLI PLANTS;

chilli plants can be grown as a buffer crop both around the periphery of the field and amongst other crops.



### CHILLI BRICK;

is made by mixing elephant or cow dung with crushed chilli. The mix **ratio is 1:2**, one bucket of chilli to two buckets of elephant dung. The brick can be moulded with a bowl or pot and left to dry in the sun. The dry chilli bricks are deployed on the edge of the field where the elephants are coming from. A hot coal can be placed in the chilli brick and the chilli smoke irritates their nose and throat and deters the elephants. Bricks should be moved so that the chilli smoke blows in the direction of where the elephants are coming from.



## THE CHILLI FENCE;

chilli is mixed with used engine oil. The mix **ratio is 1:2**, one bucket of chilli to two buckets of oil. Poles need to be 10m apart and 1.5m to 2m high. There should be 2 to 3 rows of string. The poles and string should be covered with chilli oil. Pieces of cloth need to be dipped in the chilli oil and hung on the fence (1 to 2 pieces per 10m).



### CHILLI BRICK PRODUCTION



### CHILLI FENCE ERECTION



## Equipment needed



1 x 25kg bag of dried chilli pods/seeds



Old cloth



Bucket or mixing bowl



String



Container of used cooking oil



Rubber gloves

## Where can I get materials and how much does it cost?

Item	Local Source	Cost (BWP)
Dried chilli pods	Community Chilli Plot	
Seeds	Choppies	25
Old cloth, or Mutton cloth	Old clothes, or Hardware store	Free 45
Bucket or mixing bowl	Hardware store	55
String, or wire	Hardware store, or offcuts from fence	75 Government or free
Container for used cooking oil	Coop	15
Used cooking oil	Old oil	Free
1 x rubber gloves	Hardware store	50
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>265</b>



# HOW TO GROW YOUR OWN CHILLI



Chilli grows in aerated soils and moderate temperatures. A raised bed is needed to avoid water logging.



The size of the bed should be 10m by 1.2m wide.



Manure has to be applied before planting the seeds.



When sowing the seed, they need to be 5mm deep and 4cm between seeds in the seedbed row.



It is important to cover the seedbed with dry grass (MULCHING) after planting seeds to retain moisture and avoid direct sunlight.



Germination takes 7 to 28 days.



Water should come from clean sources and it should be done by a watering can with nozzles or tin with holes underneath.



Chilli takes 5 to 6 months to mature.



## CLIPPING;

cut top off chilli plant to make it grow more branches. This is done after transplanting.



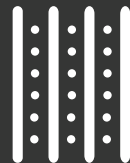
## HARDENING;

this is done two weeks before transplanting. Don't water seedlings for about 1 week and water again for 7 days. It is done to make the plants ready for new situations.



## TRANSPLANTING;

when transplanting don't water a day before transplanting. Water after. Remember the main root of the seedling has to be straight.



## SPACING;

30cm-45cm between plants and 60cm between rows.

## FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

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VDC Community chilli plots in Sekondomboro,  
Gunotsoga and Mogocho Villages

