



FOCUSING THE MISSION

It was famed biologist Charles Darwin who once said, ***“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change.”***

The desert-adapted elephants in the ERP elephant corridors in northern Namibia survive because of their ability to adapt to life in the desert. Even more so than their cousins in other parts of Africa, these elephants can go long periods of time without water and have an amazing ability to remember the locations of distant water supplies.

Without those adaptations, they would not survive.

Based on our original vision for the ERP Air Wing, we sought a highly capable observation and short-takeoff-and-landing airplane for flying anti-poaching and herd monitoring missions, and found one in the CubCrafters NX Cub. Thanks to generous donors, we acquired a used NX Cub that was delivered to us at EAA AirVenture in the summer of 2025. It has served us well since as an ambassador building awareness, engaging supporters, and introducing thousands of people to our mission of protecting endangered wildlife through innovative conservation solutions.

However, given increasing shipping costs, increasing values for used aircraft in the U.S., and a continual refinement of the needs in Namibia, we needed to adapt too and are making plans to sell the NX Cub in the U.S. and use the proceeds to acquire a used Cessna 182—and possibly two—in Namibia for the conservation missions as well as general transportation and logistics needs. The first 182 will be adorned with the signatures of our many dedicated donors who stepped up during our Signature Campaign, assuring their support remains permanently recognized as part of this exciting conservation through aviation initiative. The two logos proudly displayed on the NX Cub from two generous donors will also be transferred to the 182.

As we've said all along, there is an important role for all pilots in the Air Wing. Through purposeful herd-monitoring and conservation support flights, general aviation pilots will have the opportunity to contribute their aviation skills and resources in support of ERP's conservation mission. These missions will assist with monitoring wildlife movements, identifying emerging threats, enhancing anti-poaching awareness, and strengthening connections between wildlife conservation and local communities.

The ERP Air Wing will invite members of the aviation community to **"Fly for the Benefit of Conservation in Africa"** by participating in meaningful conservation operations alongside ERP personnel. The primary purpose of every mission is to advance ERP's conservation objectives, with each flight hour expanding the organization's ability to protect endangered wildlife and support the people who live alongside it.

Building a home

We are also delighted to report another significant milestone. ERP Air Wing has received municipal approval for the development of a dedicated hangar at Swakopmund Airport. The facility is currently being designed and will serve as the operational home of the ERP Air Wing in Namibia, providing a secure base for aircraft operations, maintenance, equipment storage, and future growth, including additional airplanes as required and funded.

These developments represent an exciting evolution of the Air Wing and position ERP to deliver greater conservation impact than ever before. And as we've already demonstrated, as needs change, we will adapt again and again to continue to protect these majestic creatures of the desert.



Unique opportunity

The ERP CubCrafters NX Cub is for sale. This stunningly capable certificated tandem-seater is a remarkable backcountry airplane. While it's a 2017 model, it's always been maintained by CubCrafters and includes all their latest mods plus a Garmin G3X Touch panel with an engine indicating system and the remarkable Garmin GFC 307 autopilot with electric trim. It was newly painted in 2025 and comes with a fresh annual inspection. Prefer a tailwheel version? No problem. That can be accomplished in about four hours and with a few parts.

Interested? Let's talk.
Contact Tom Haines at tom.haines@erp.ngo.



See you there

If you plan to be at EAA AirVenture this summer, come by **Forum Stage 3 on Monday, July 20, at 10 am** for the seminar "GA Protecting Animals in Africa" where Tom Haines, ERP Air Wing Program Lead, will share more details about our aviation efforts at the ERP rhino sanctuary and elephant corridors.



Small Wheels, Big Possibilities:

Delta-sponsored bike drop supports children near ERP preserve

In the language of the Butterfly Effect, a small action can ripple outward in ways no one can fully predict. In May, that action came on two wheels: 75 new bicycles delivered to children living in the Barokologadi communities around the Melorane ERP Game Preserve, through a bike drop sponsored by Delta Air Lines.

The bikes are expected to make daily life easier for young people in the northern South African region who often travel long distances to reach school, community activities, and family responsibilities. For a child, a bicycle can mean more than transportation. It can mean arriving on time, conserving energy for learning, widening access to opportunity, and gaining a stronger sense of independence and ultimately an education.

ERP works to protect Southern Africa's wild elephants and rhinos by strengthening the rural communities that live alongside them. The approach is rooted in the idea that conservation succeeds when local families have practical reasons, resources, and opportunities to help safeguard wildlife.

The day-long bike drop event included singing and dancing by the children as well as speeches by local dignitaries and ERP staff. ERP Air Wing staff, including Quintin Smith, Don Weinbach, and Tom Haines, helped assemble some of the specially designed bikes and participated in handing them over, along with helmets and bike locks, to the learners. ERP also trains a local mechanic to help maintain the bikes, promising a long service life and major impact for the community. Over the past decade, ERP has given more than 1,000 bikes to kids in South Africa.

The event makes the Delta-sponsored bike drop more than a delivery of equipment. It is a gesture of confidence in children whose futures are still unfolding. No one can say today which ride to school, which extra hour of study, or which new connection made possible by a bicycle will matter most years from now. But in communities where distance can shape opportunity, 75 bicycles may begin a ripple effect whose full impact will only be understood in time. Your support for ERP makes all this possible.



Double your impact and honor a loved one

A \$1,000 donation to our Signature Campaign guarantees a spot for you to put your signature or one for a loved one on the side of our Cessna 182s as they go about their work supporting the magnificent elephants and rhinos in Namibia. Donations now will be included in our \$250,000 matching grant challenge. If we raise \$250,000 by **September 30, 2026** benefactor Group Elephant will double it, creating a \$500,000 impact for the ERP Air Wing.

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