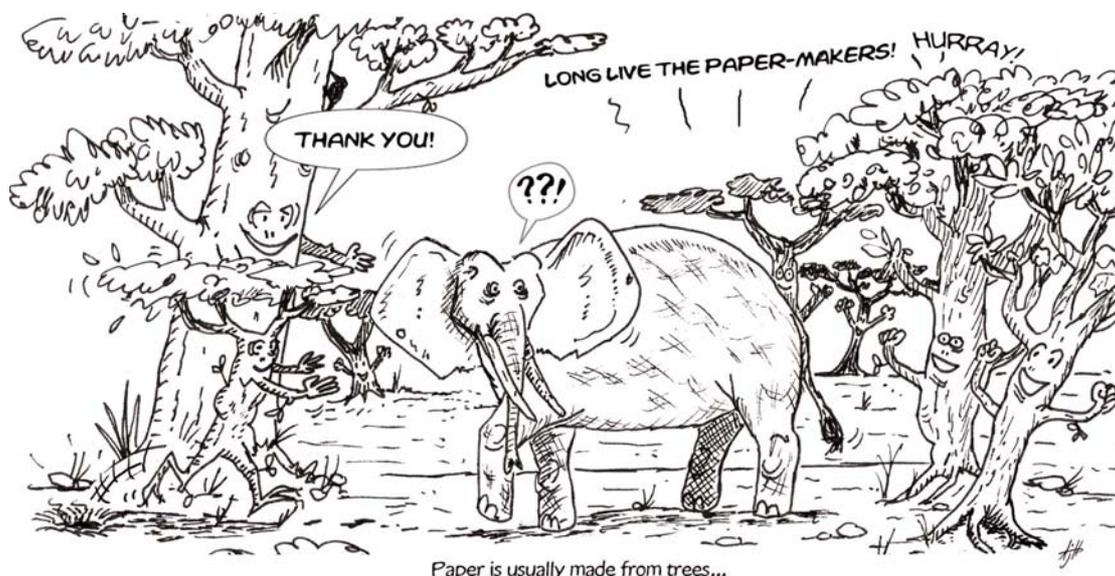


# ELEPHANT DUNG PAPER

## What is this Action Sheet about?

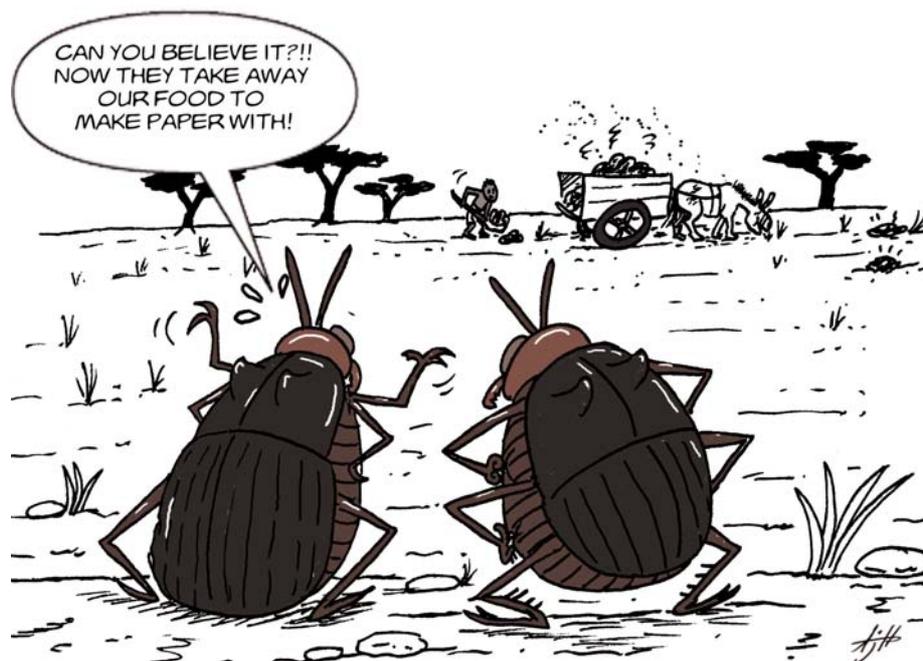
Paper is made from chewed up vegetable fibres, and so is elephant dung! Making paper from elephant dung isn't such a strange idea after all. This Action Sheet tells you how to make elephant dung paper. It's a fun idea for a school art-class, or an activity at a visitor's centre. Tourists are always interested in something a bit different to remind them of their travels. Elephant dung paper could even be a great small business opportunity.



## How do you make paper from elephant dung?

- Collect dry elephant dung
- Break up the dung with a mortar and pestle
- Mix with shredded newspaper soaked in water in a large bath
- Place in a square sieve
- Sponge the excess moisture off
- Set the paper out to dry in the sun
- An average dung ball weighs 250g and can produce about 20 A4 sheets of paper!

Elephant dung is part of the environment, so only remove dung from vehicle tracks, where it won't be missed by the insects who turn it back into nutrients for the soil.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: This Action Sheet was prepared by Nancy Gladstone and based on a Travel Africa article about elephant-dung paper-making at Taita Discovery Centre, Ruvunga Ranch, Kenya Travel Africa Edition Ten: Winter 1999/2000 ([www.travelafricamag.com/content/view/400/56/](http://www.travelafricamag.com/content/view/400/56/)). Original cartoons by Alan Hesse.