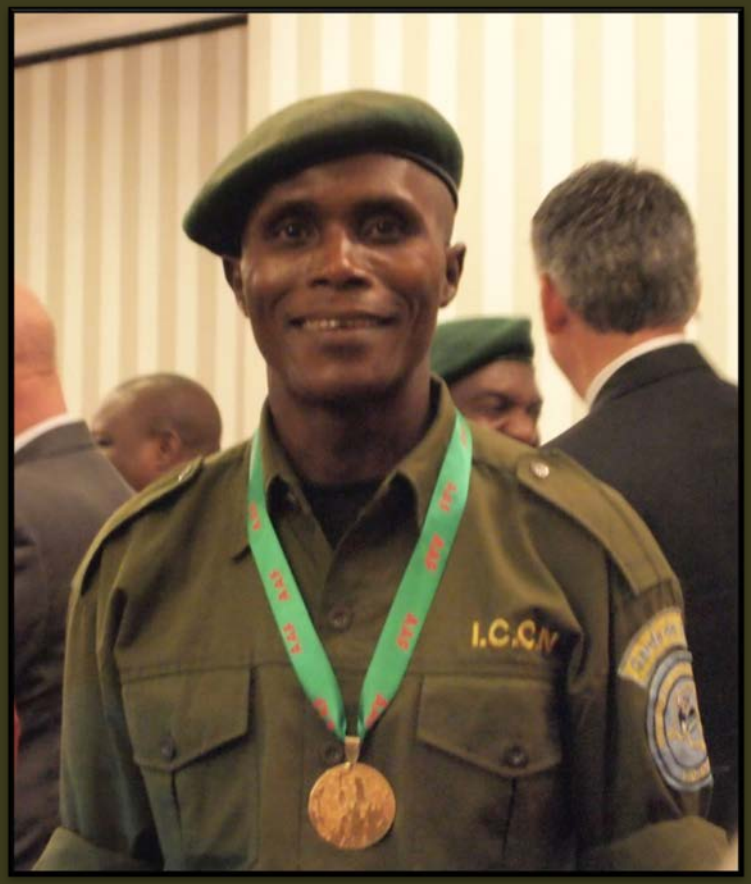
Salonga: Too Big to Fail
A 15 year Perspective

Etate Bonobo 2015, Dan Wundrock

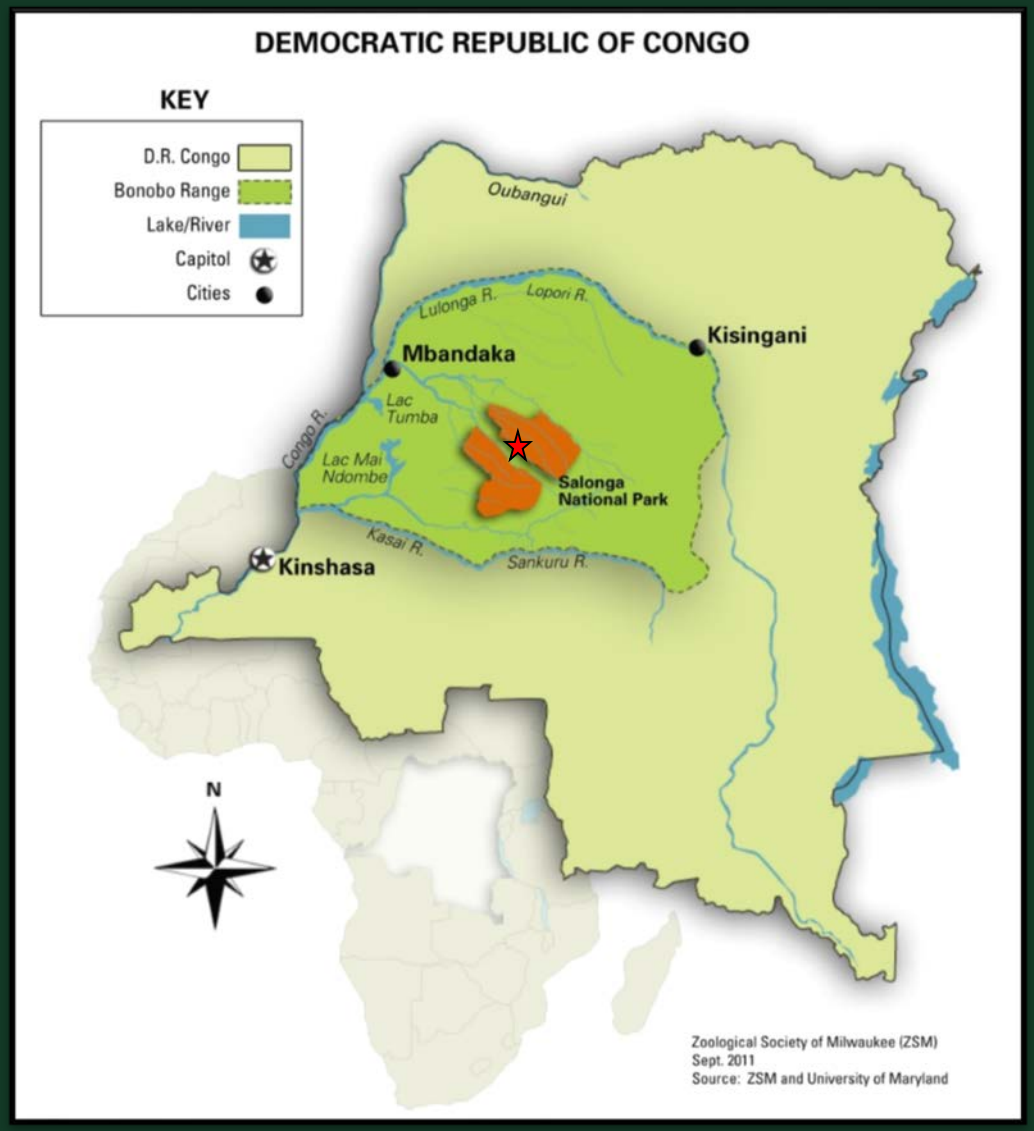
Zoological Society of Milwaukee County

▪ SUPPORT ▪ EDUCATE ▪ CONSERVE ▪

In memory of Bokitsi Bunda
Salonga National Park Guard 1st Class
1958-2015



Recipient of the Abraham Foundation Award, 2011

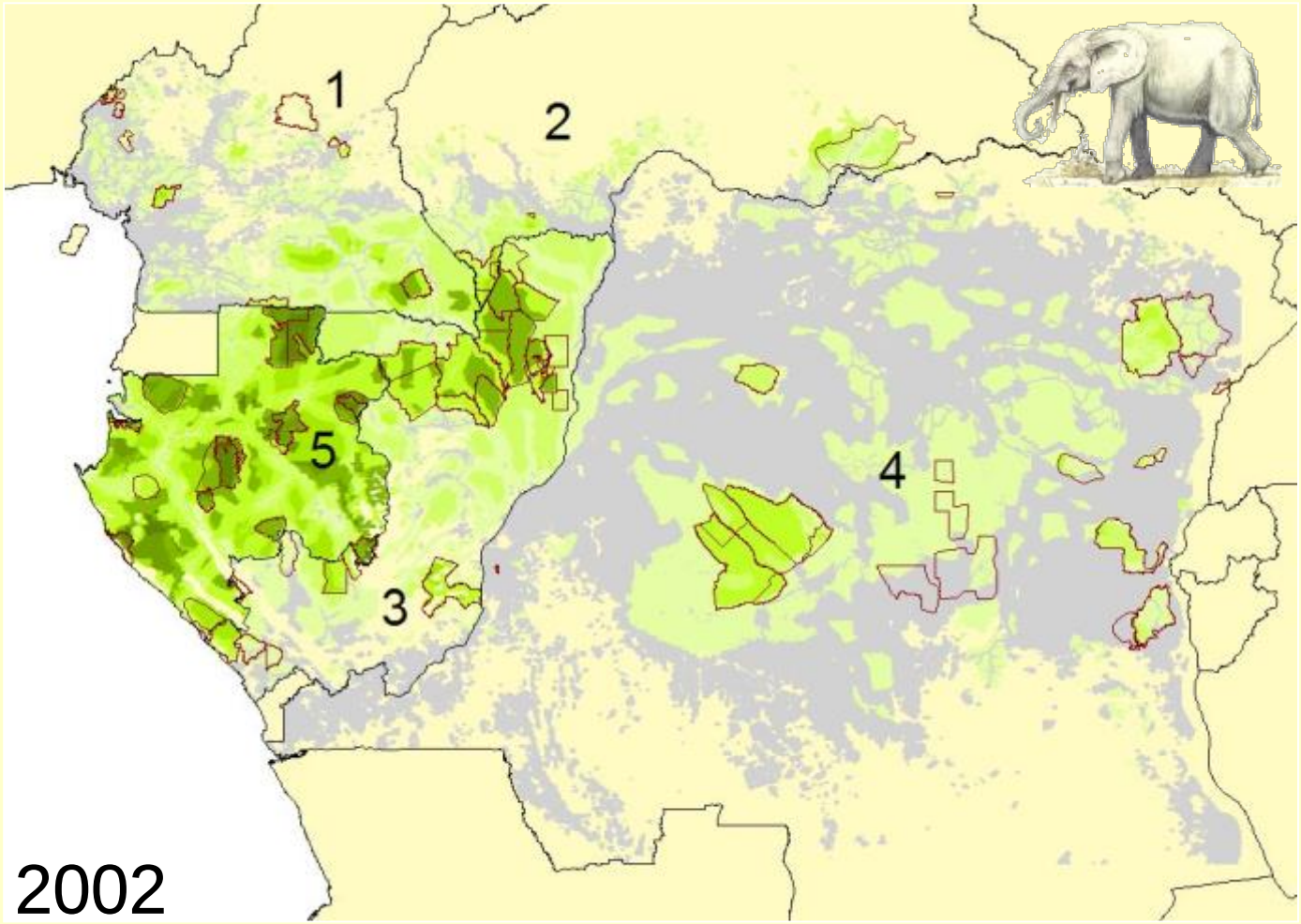


Salonga National Park, 33,317 Km^2

Created 1970 to protect the bonobo and forest elephant

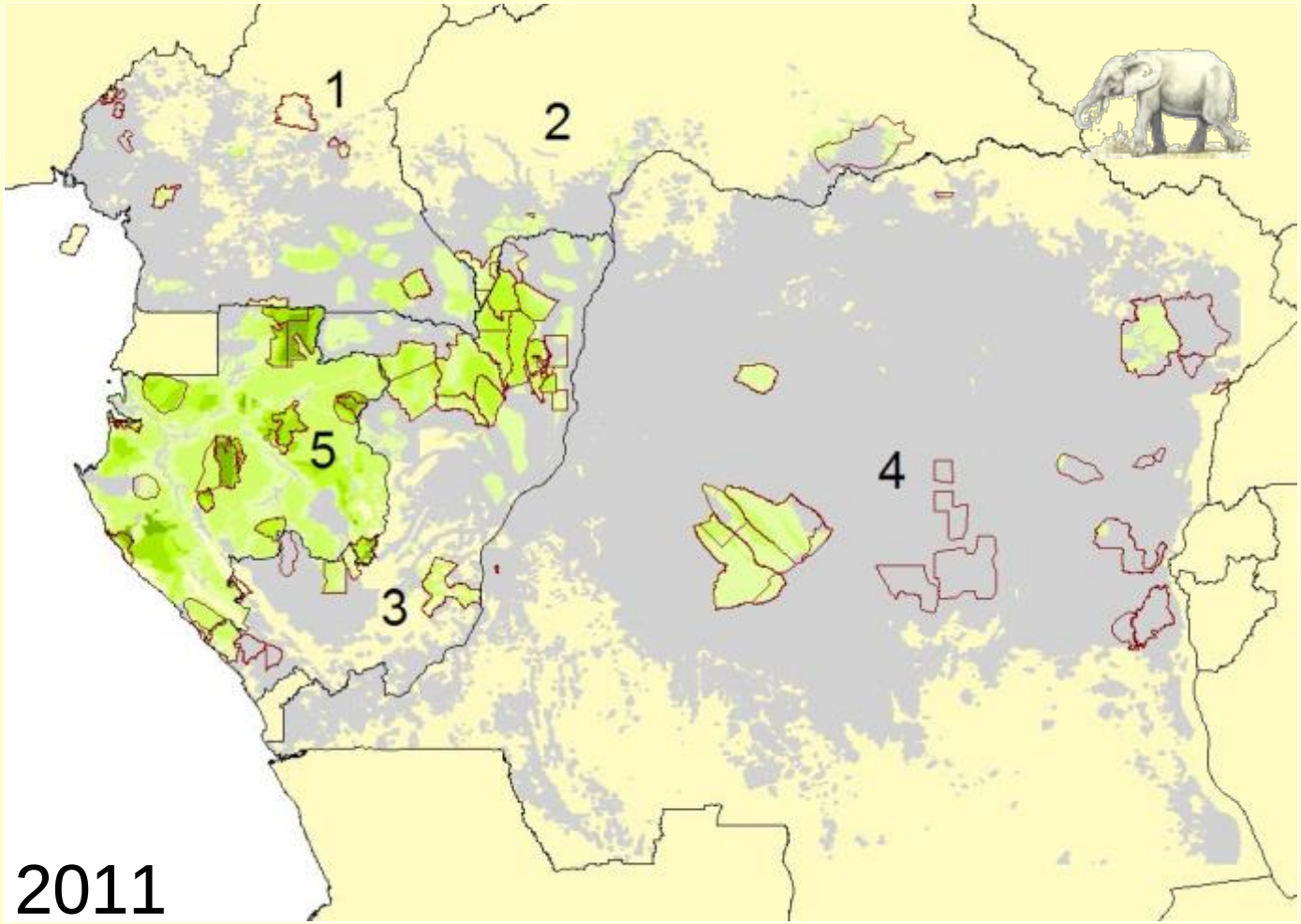
Salonga is the largest, continuous expanse of protected bonobo habitat in the world.

Elephants collapse



Maisels, Strindberg, Blake *et al.* 2013. Devastating Decline of Forest Elephants in Central Africa. PLoS One 8, e59469.

Elephants collapse

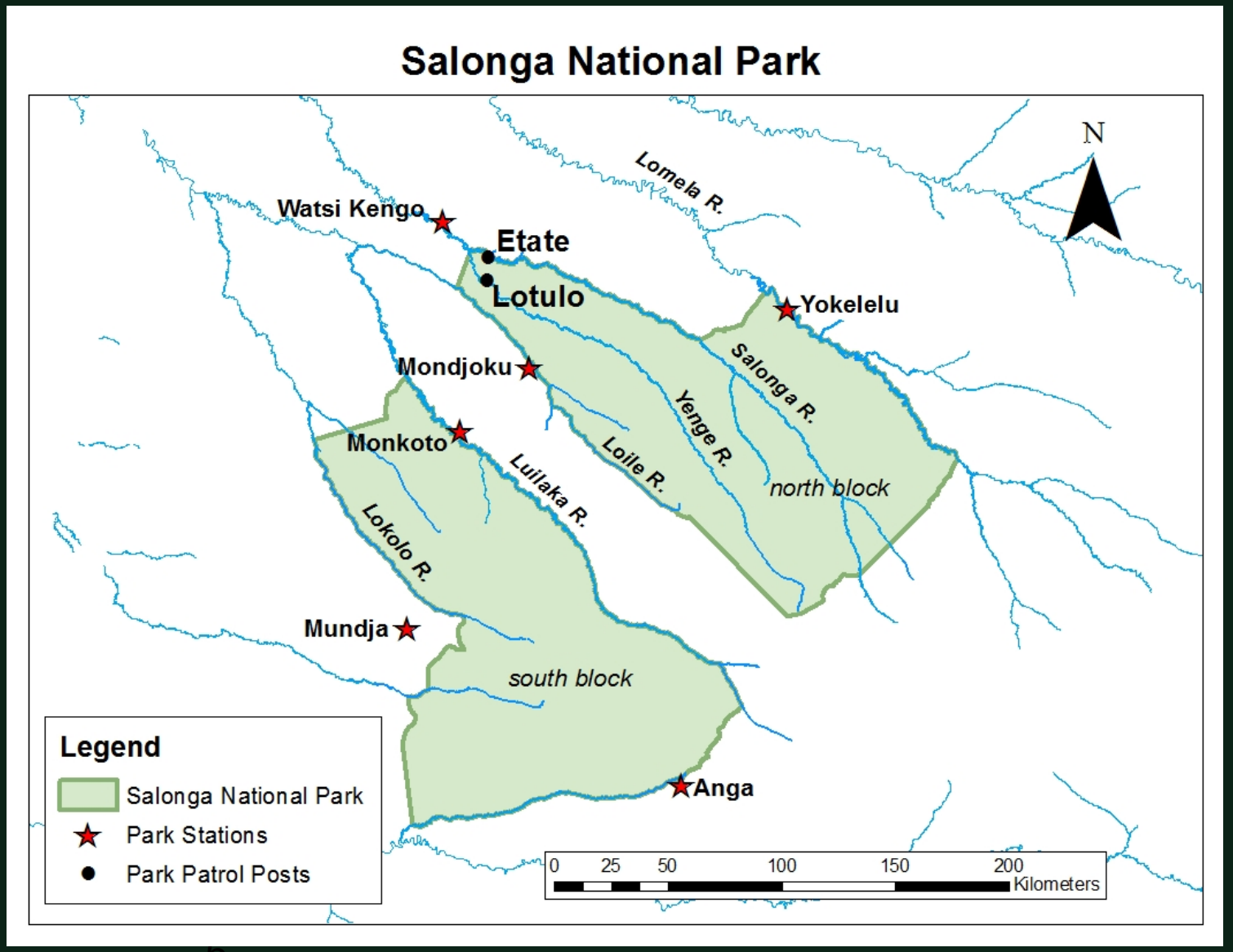


Maisels, Strindberg, Blake *et al.* 2013. Devastating Decline of Forest Elephants in Central Africa. PLoS One 8, e59469.

Habitat ideal for forest elephants

Greatest Threat:
Hunting or bushmeat trade

Bonobo and elephant morsels



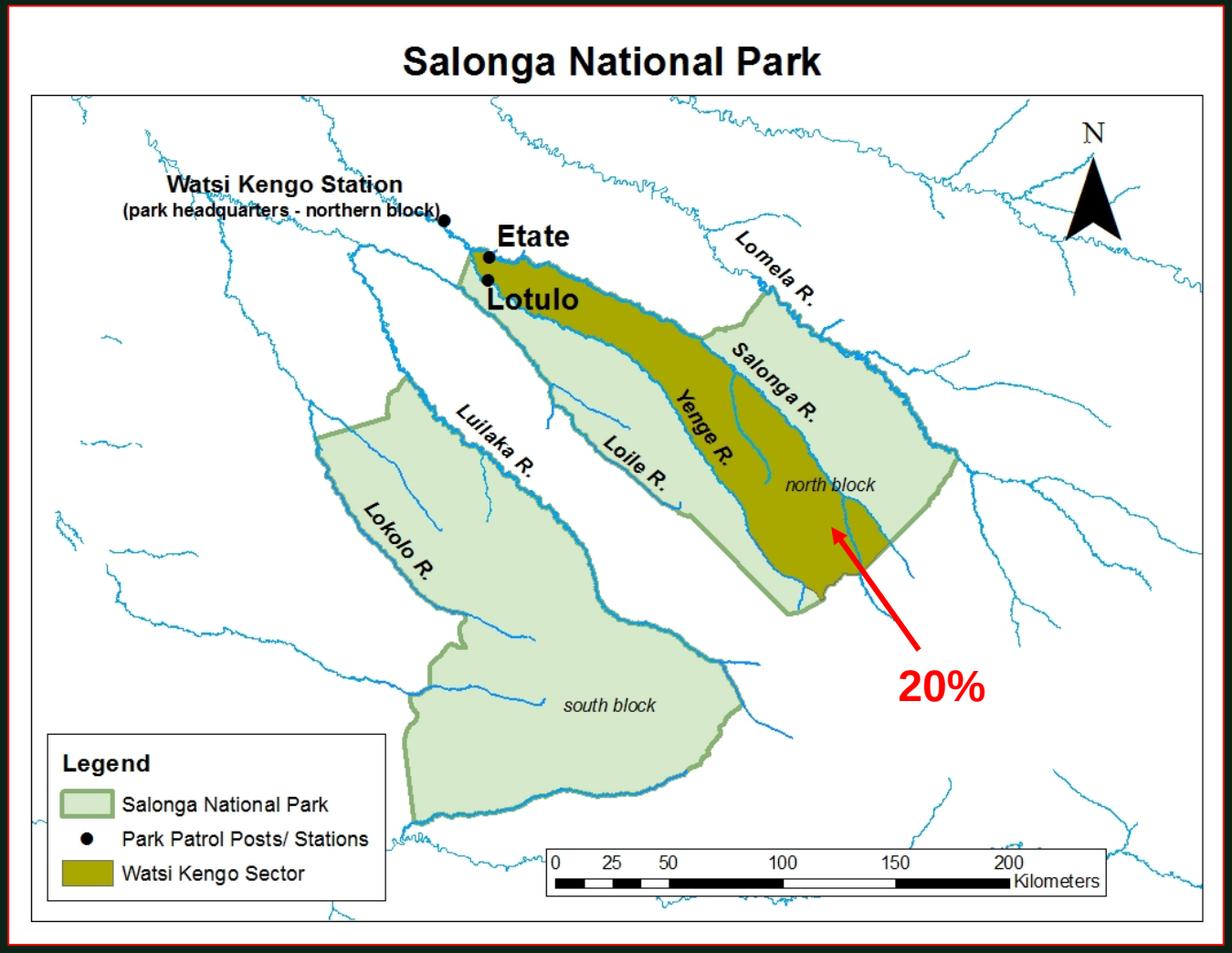
Institute Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN)

Salonga National Park Guards
2001

Well-armed Poachers, SNP

Etate Research Station & Patrol Post

Etate Patrol Post and Research Station



Fast Forward to 2016: Present Situation

ZSM 2015-2016

Support for Strategic Patrol Posts in the Salonga National Park

Long-Distance Anti-poaching Patrols

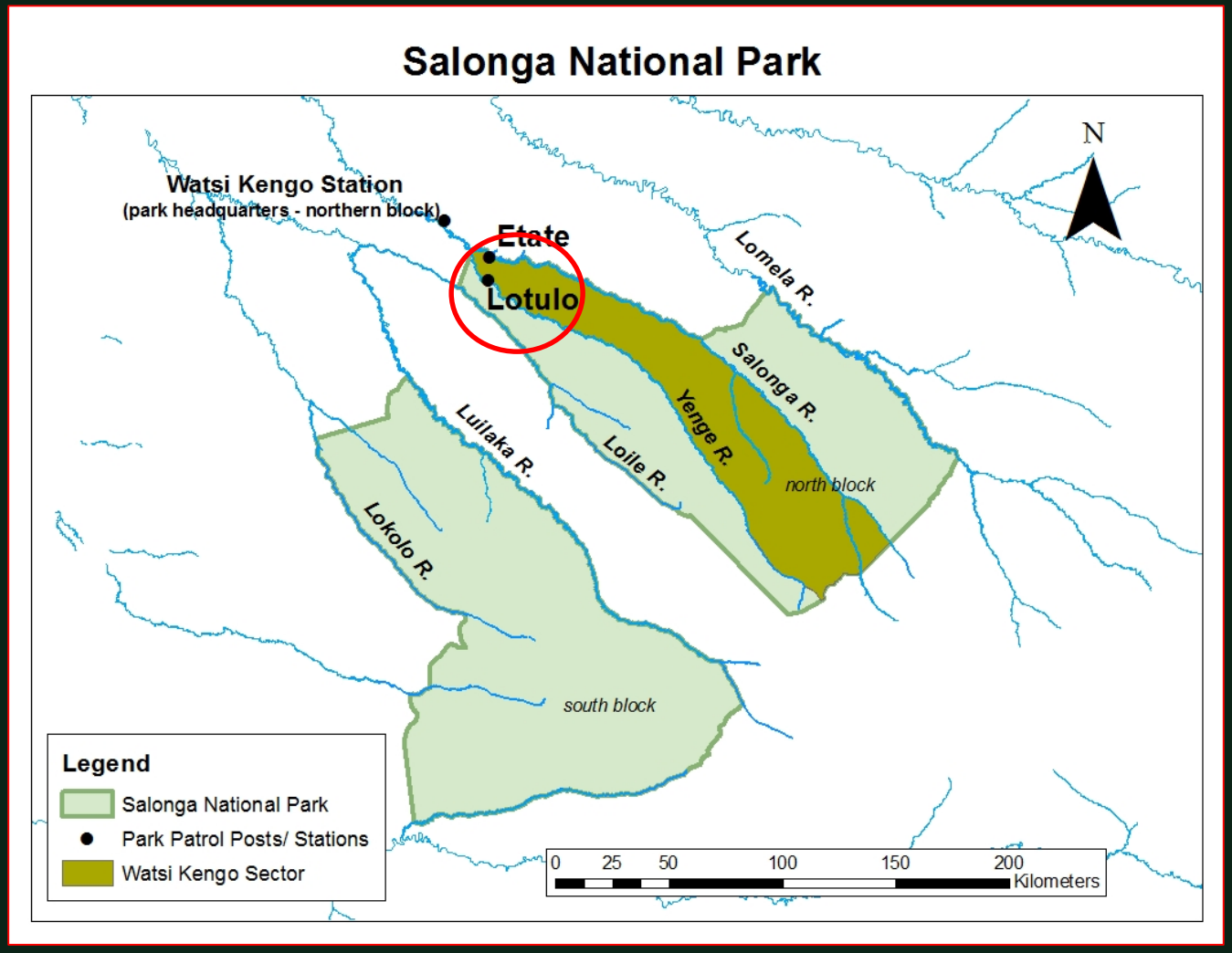
Bonobo and Elephant Surveys: Bio-monitoring & Research

Community Outreach

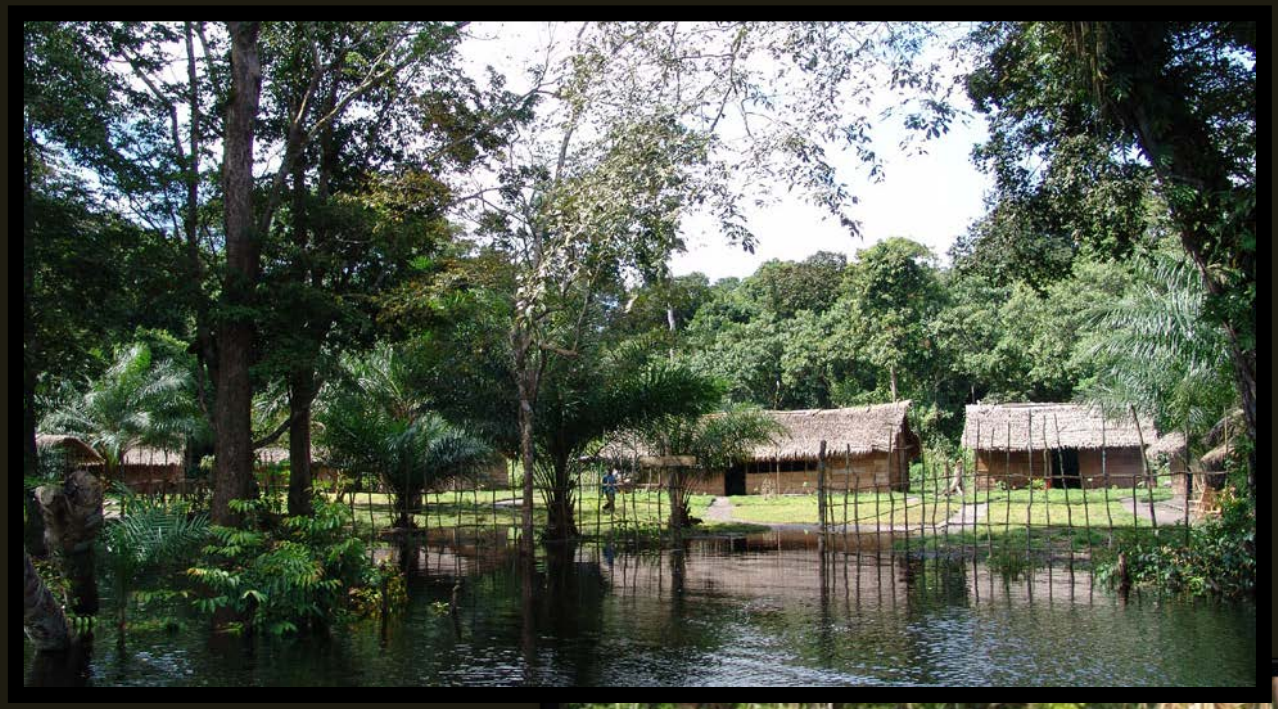
Supported by Central Africa Forest Ecosystem Conservation (CAFEC)

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

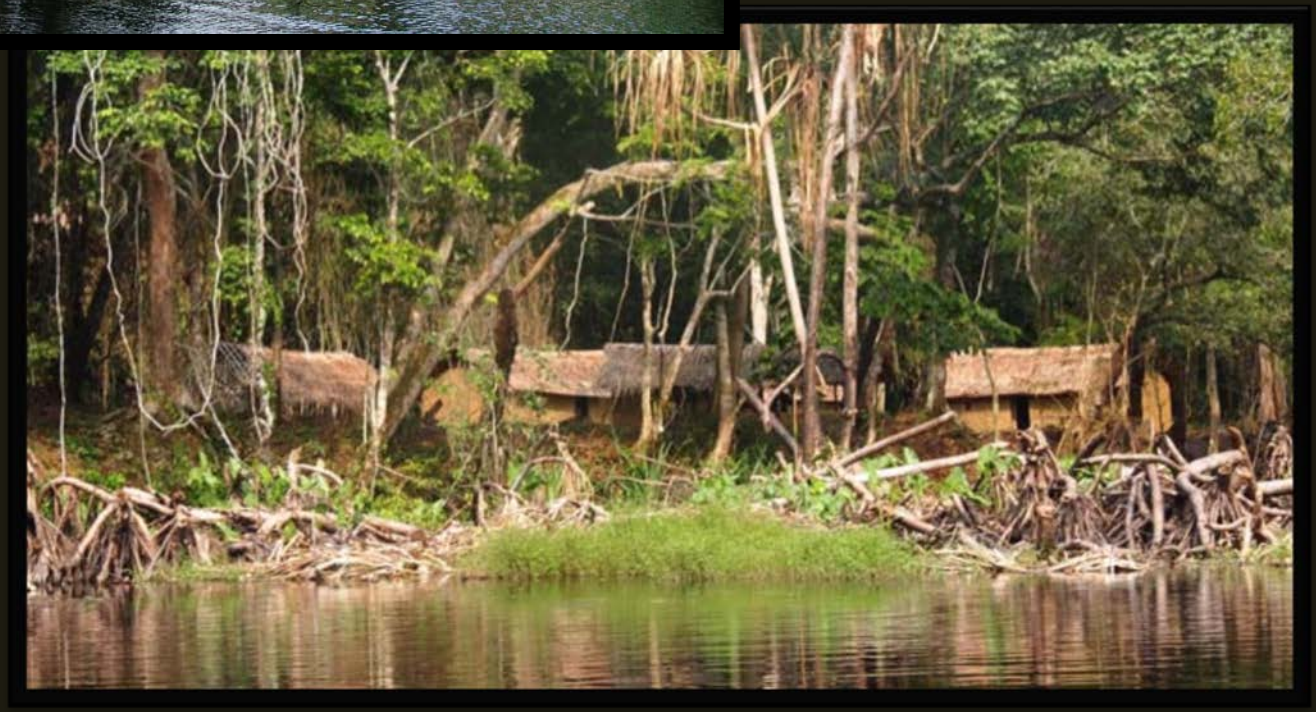
WWF



Full support to 2 strategic patrol posts in the park's interior: Etate, Lotulo



Etate



Lotulo

Etate Patrol Post
&
Research Station

Salary supplements, medical stipends, and research bonuses

Equipment and Food Rations

5 2-Way Radios
5 Solar Power Setup
3 Outboard Motors 8 HP

~ 42 Barrels fuel/yr.

GPS/Navigation
Wildlife Monitoring

Guard Adult Literacy at Etate

Full-time teacher
All guards participate

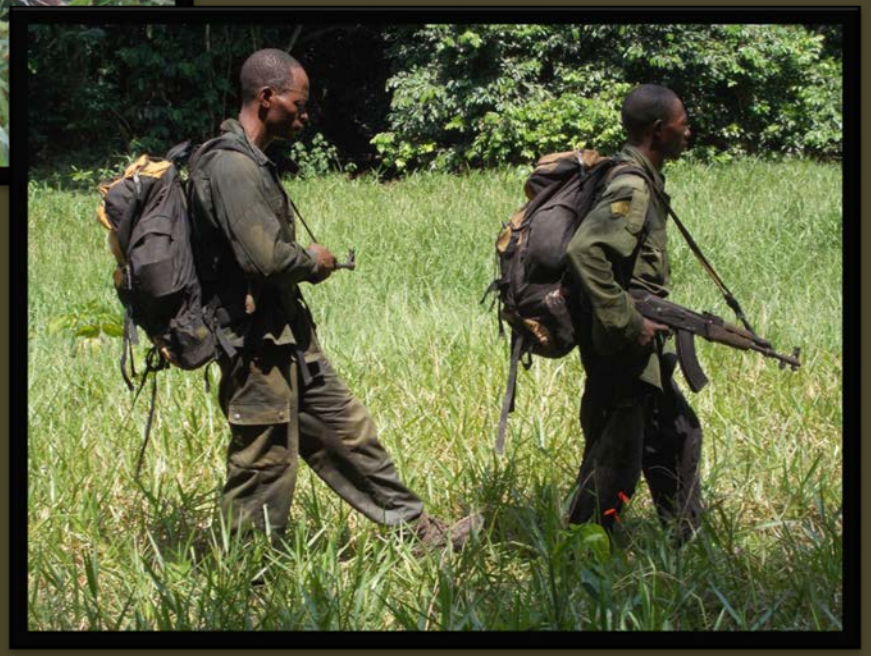
Etate le 11-10-20[illegible]

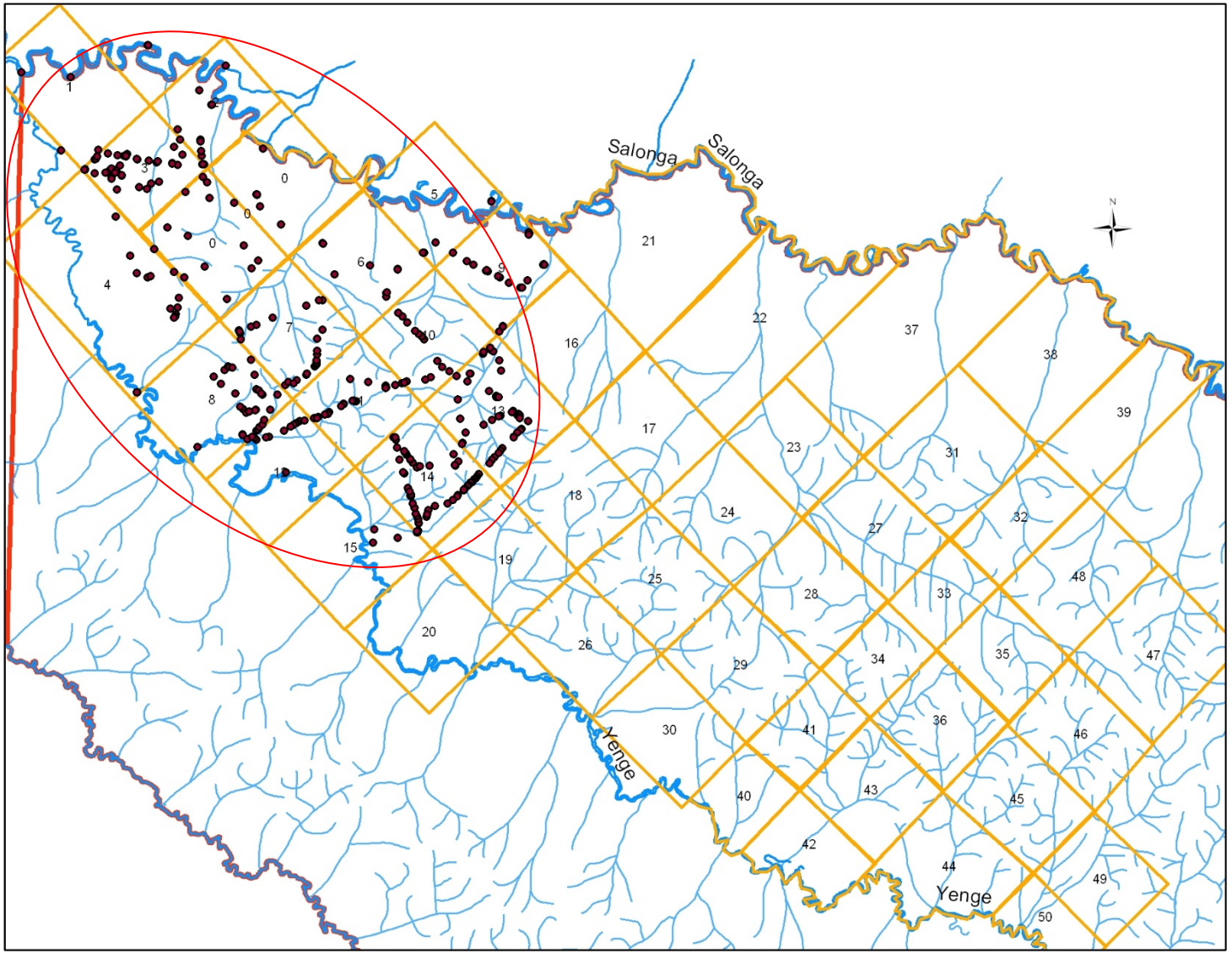
Madame Matina.

Mbote.

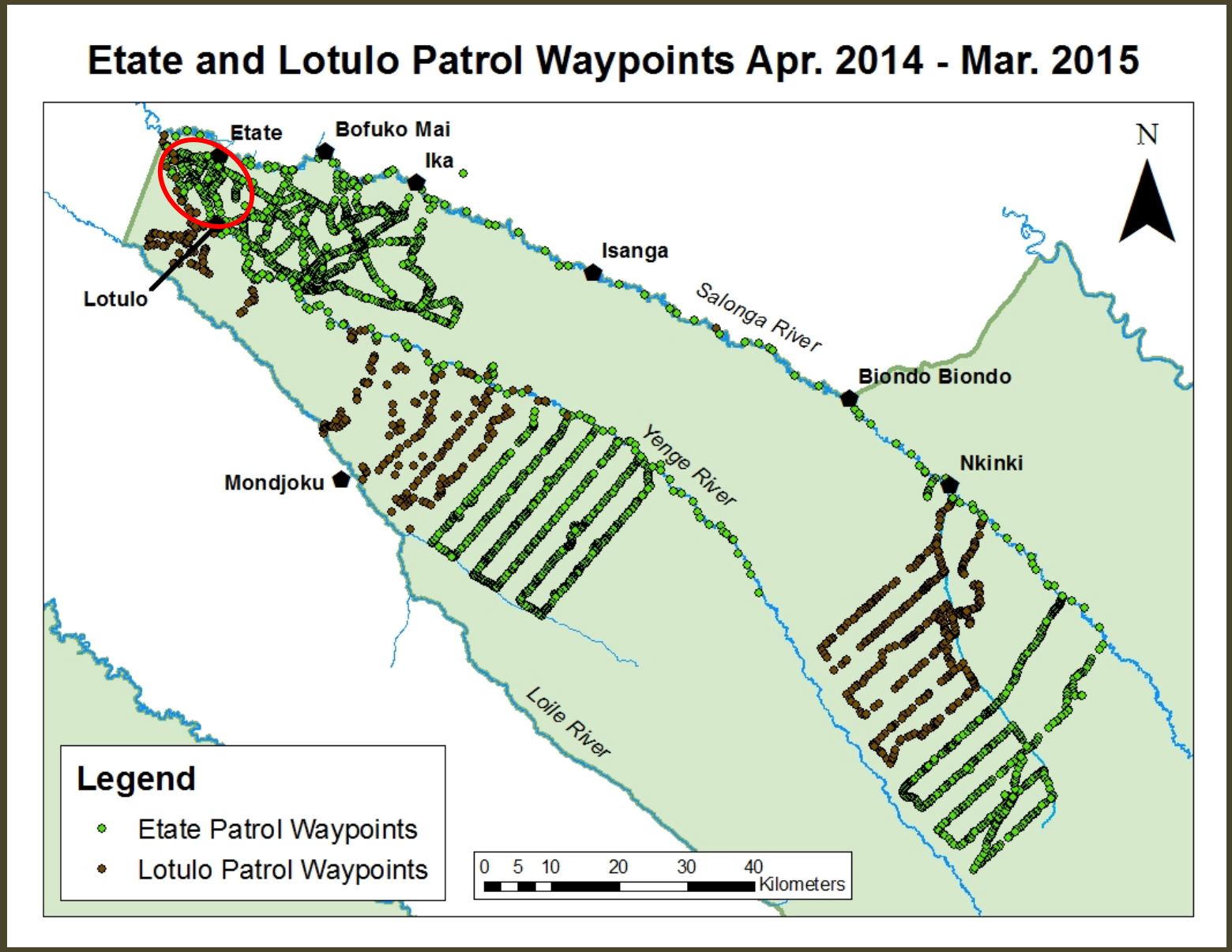
balobelaki ngai maloba ya
bato oyo bazimbi ngai na
mbongo bazela nakoya naka-
ngeli bango libate nazali ko
ya samedi lobela bango
bakitisa mitema na bango
nakoya kuna lzika libo-
ta na ngai lzali maman
kele kanga motema kaka
mokolo oyo nakomelaki yo
na mokanda N.B: natindeli
yo mbizi mitano tanga boli-
ngo tolingonaki kanisa
bolingo ya ngai nazalik
kokanisa elzili ngai ya

Eddy



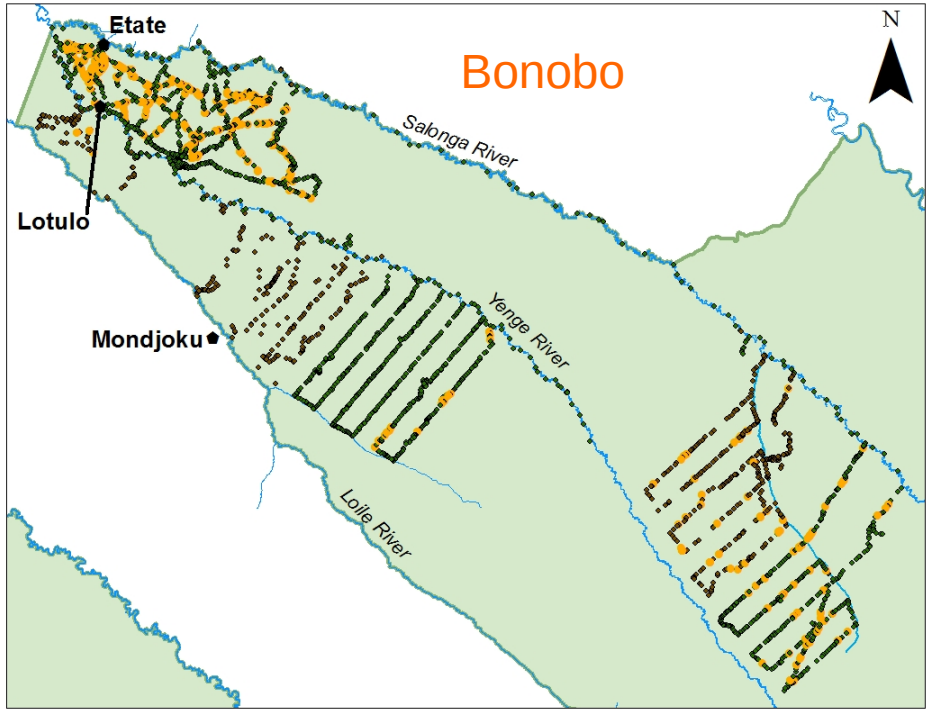


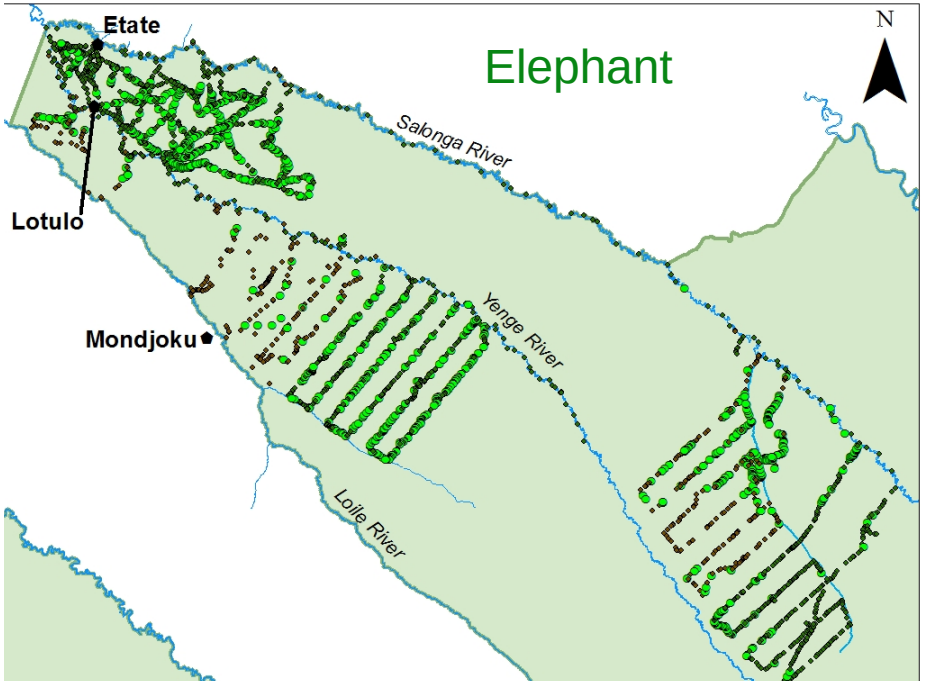
2007

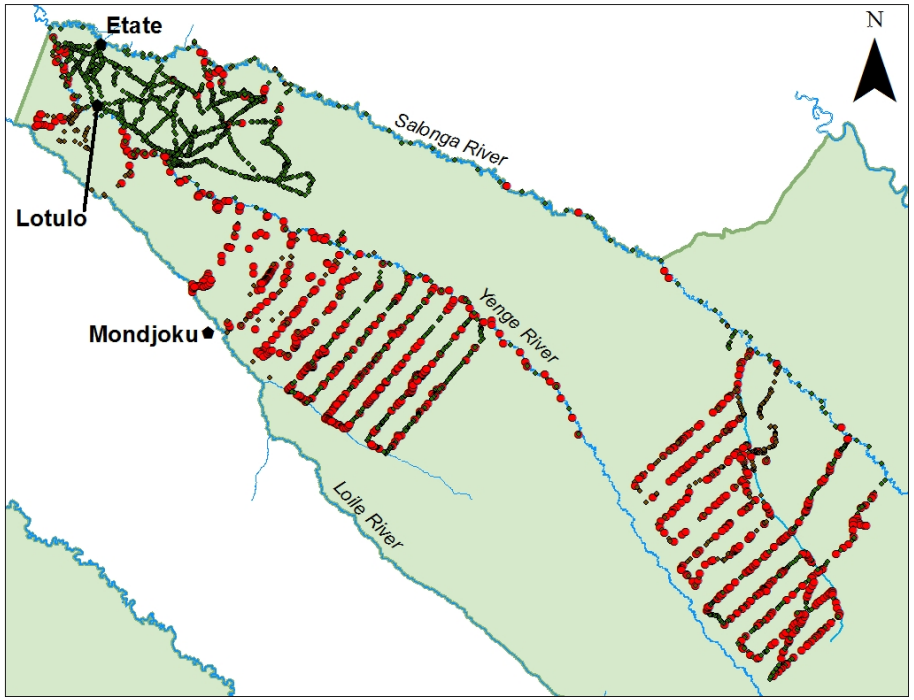


2015 Patrol Evaluation: coverage, frequency, results

18 guards





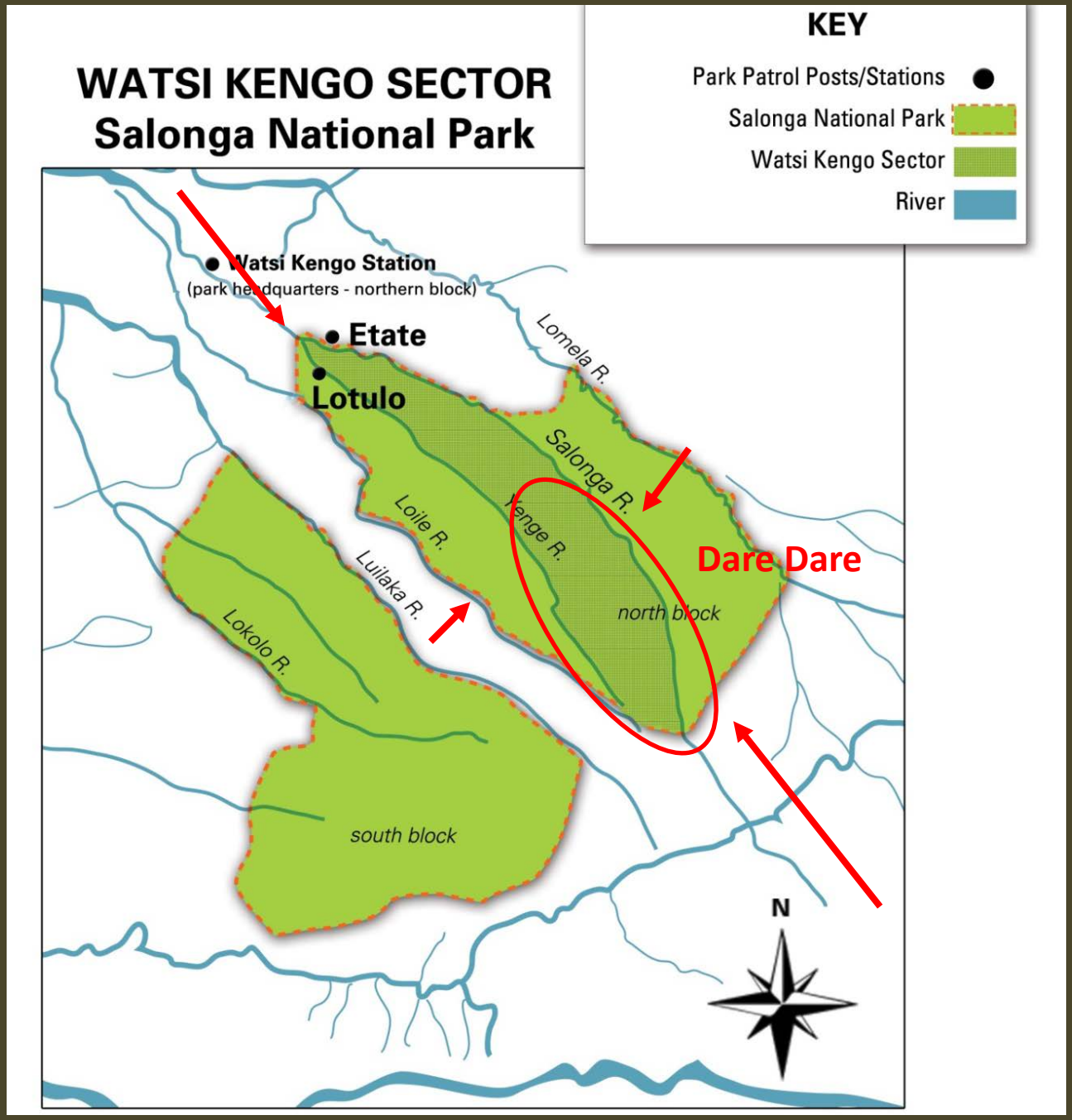


Etate & Lotulo Patrol Surveillance Area (1600 km^2)

85 hunting camps destroyed

41 arrests

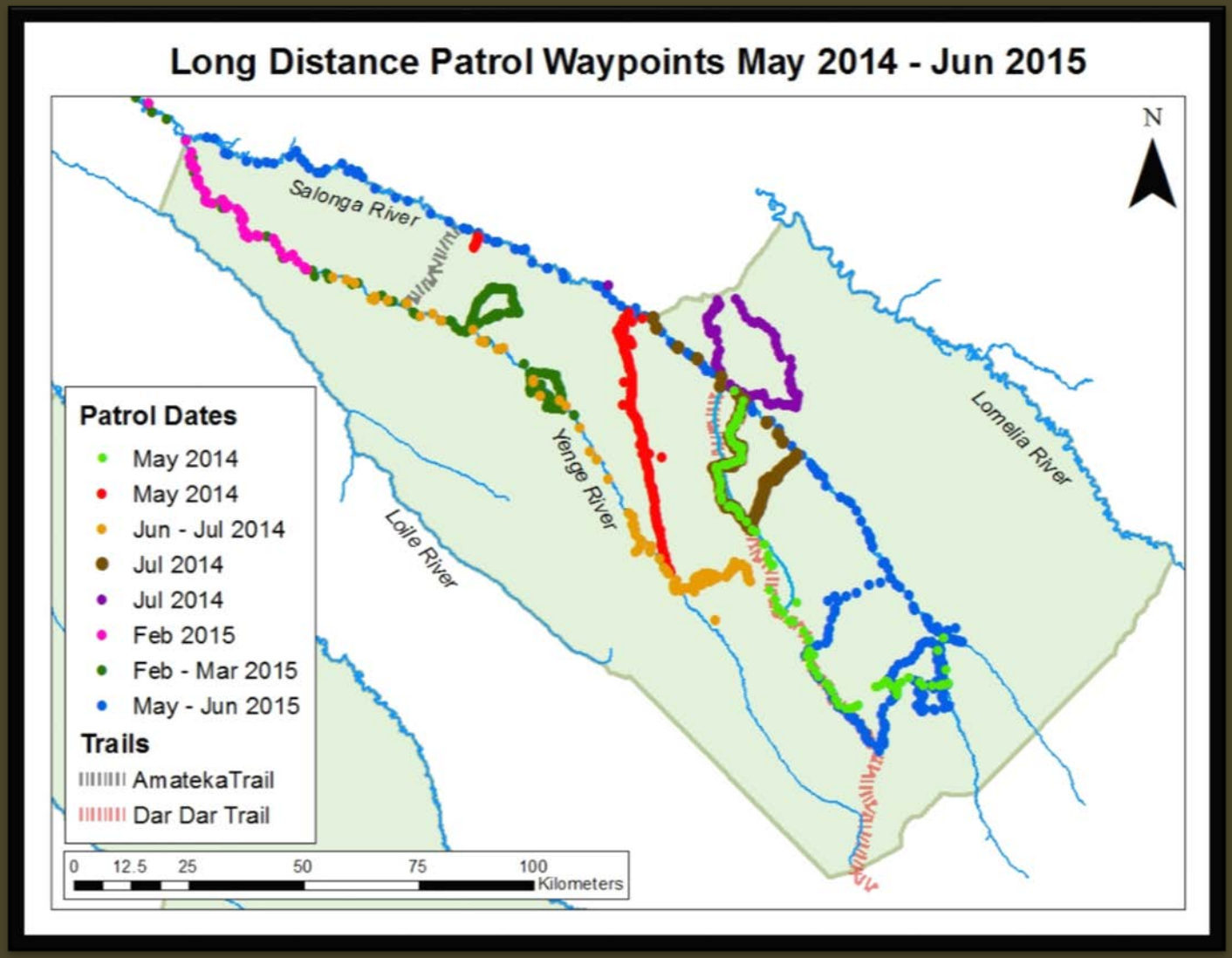
(24 arrests during Ebola crisis)


WATSI KENGO SECTOR
Salonga National Park
KEY
Park Patrol Posts/Stations
Salonga National Park
Watsi Kengo Sector
River
Watsi Kengo Station
(park headquarters - northern block)
Etate
Lotulo
Lomela R.
Salonga R.
Loile R.
Yenge R.
Luilaka R.
Lokolo R.
Dare Dare
north block
south block
N

Long Distance Patrols – Watsi Kengo:
Pirogues, Fuel, Rations, Bonuses

FELBURN FOUNDATION

Voyages up to 300+ Km upriver
~15 guards x 15-20 days



8 Long-Distance Patrols on the Salonga and Yenge River (Fuel, Rations, Field Equipment)

Hunting camps occupied by 10-25 persons

>5000 Metallic Snares Confiscated by Long Distance Patrols

~ 1 ton bushmeat in one campsite

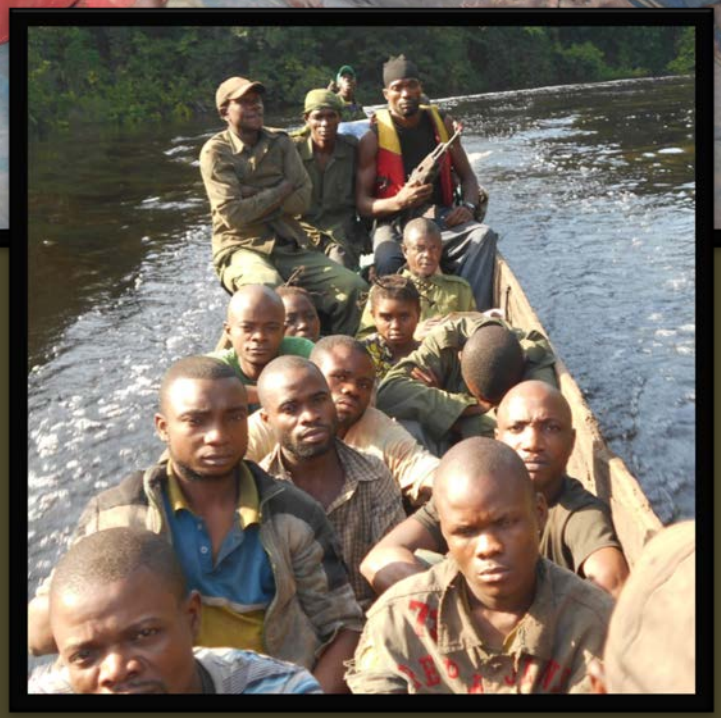
Dare Dare 2015

17 09 2015

08 05 2015

Results:

140 Hunting Camps Destroyed

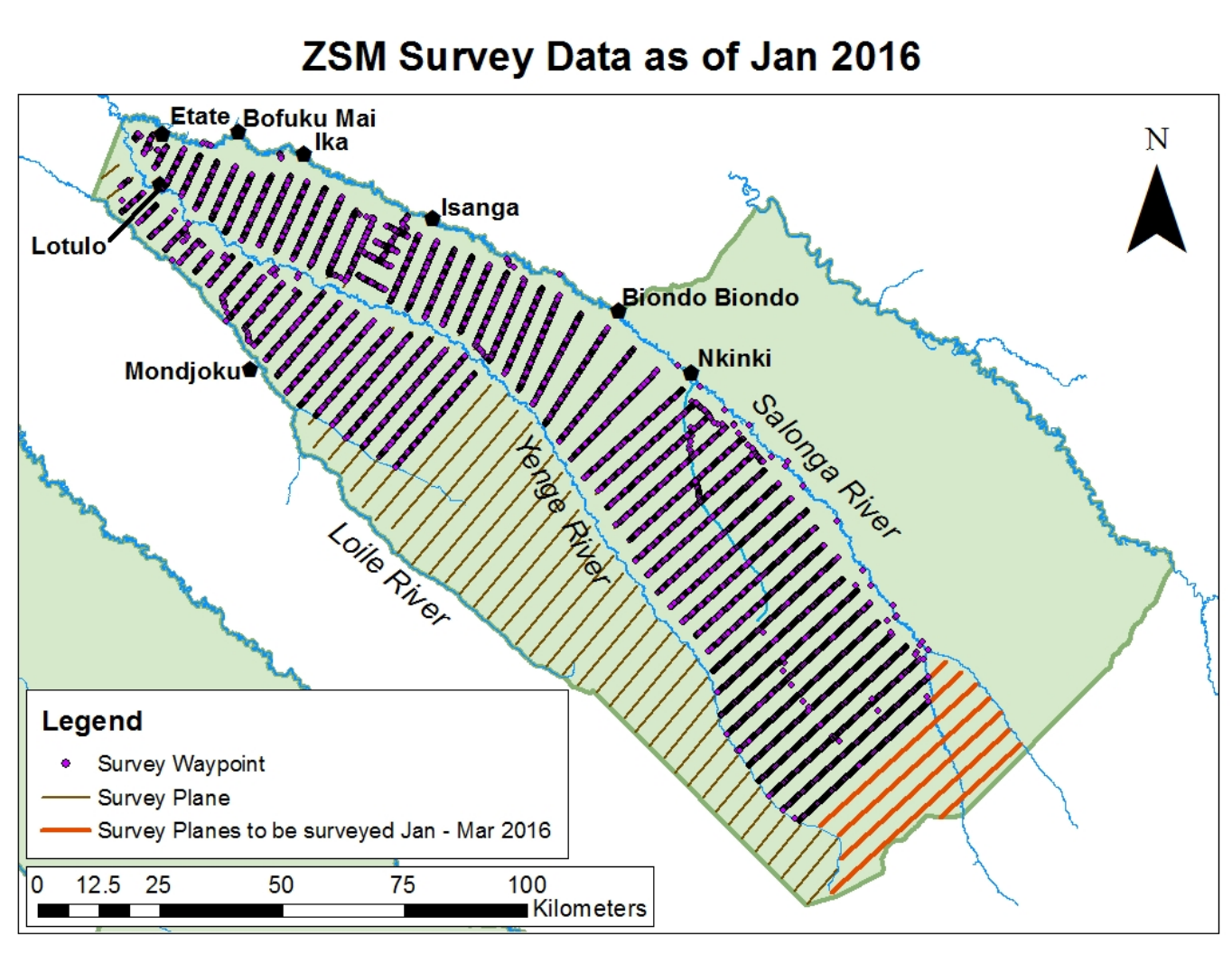


~40 Arrests in one year

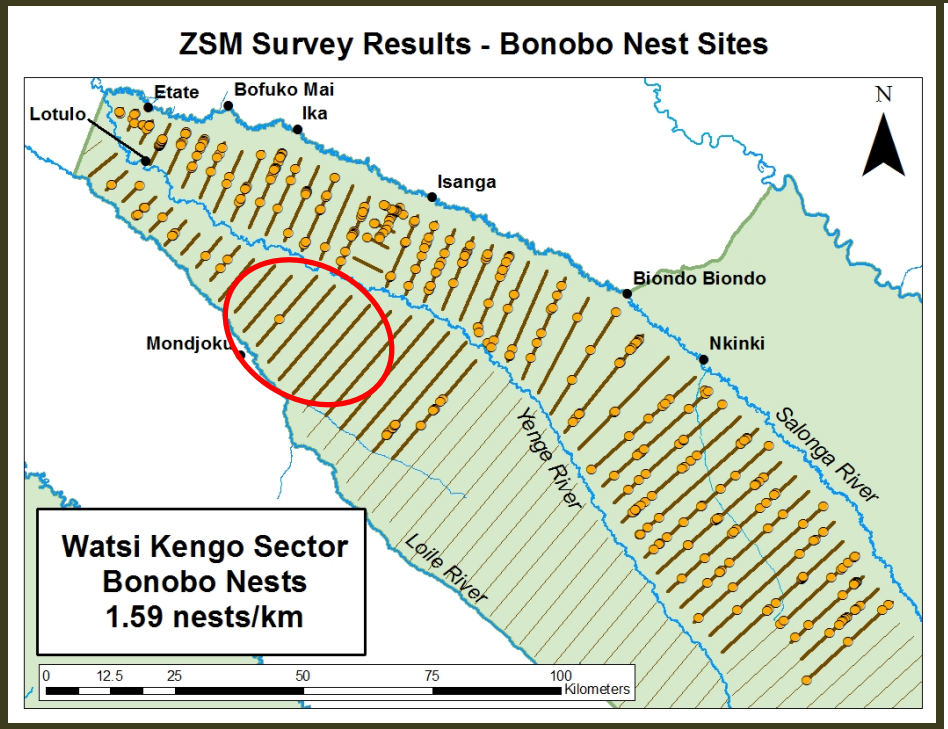
Elephant Poachers

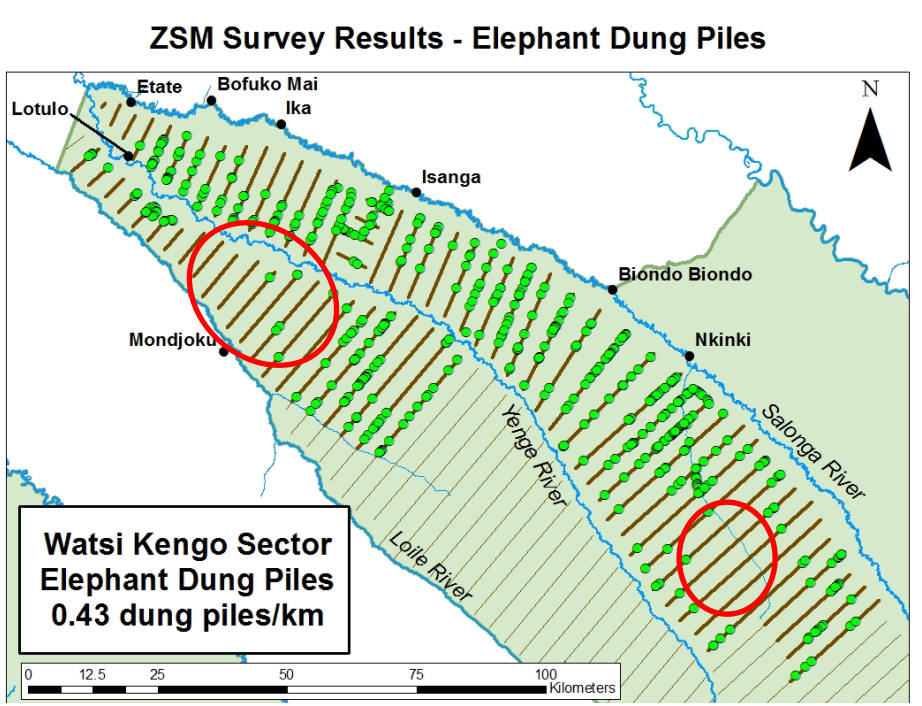
Bonobo and Elephant Surveys

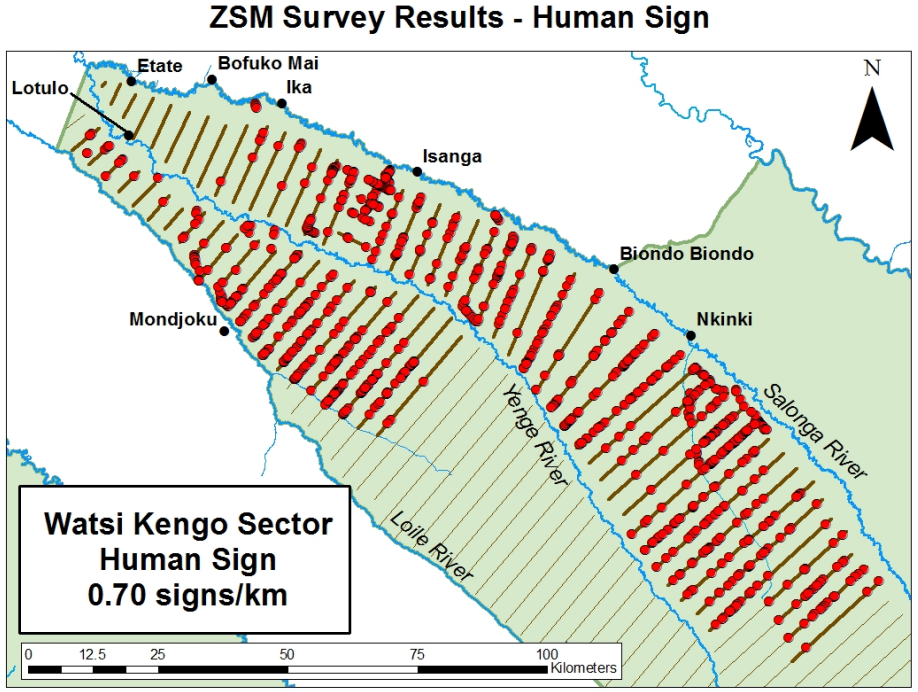
Wasti Kengo
and
Mondjoku Sectors



Surveyed ~7,500 km^2 to date

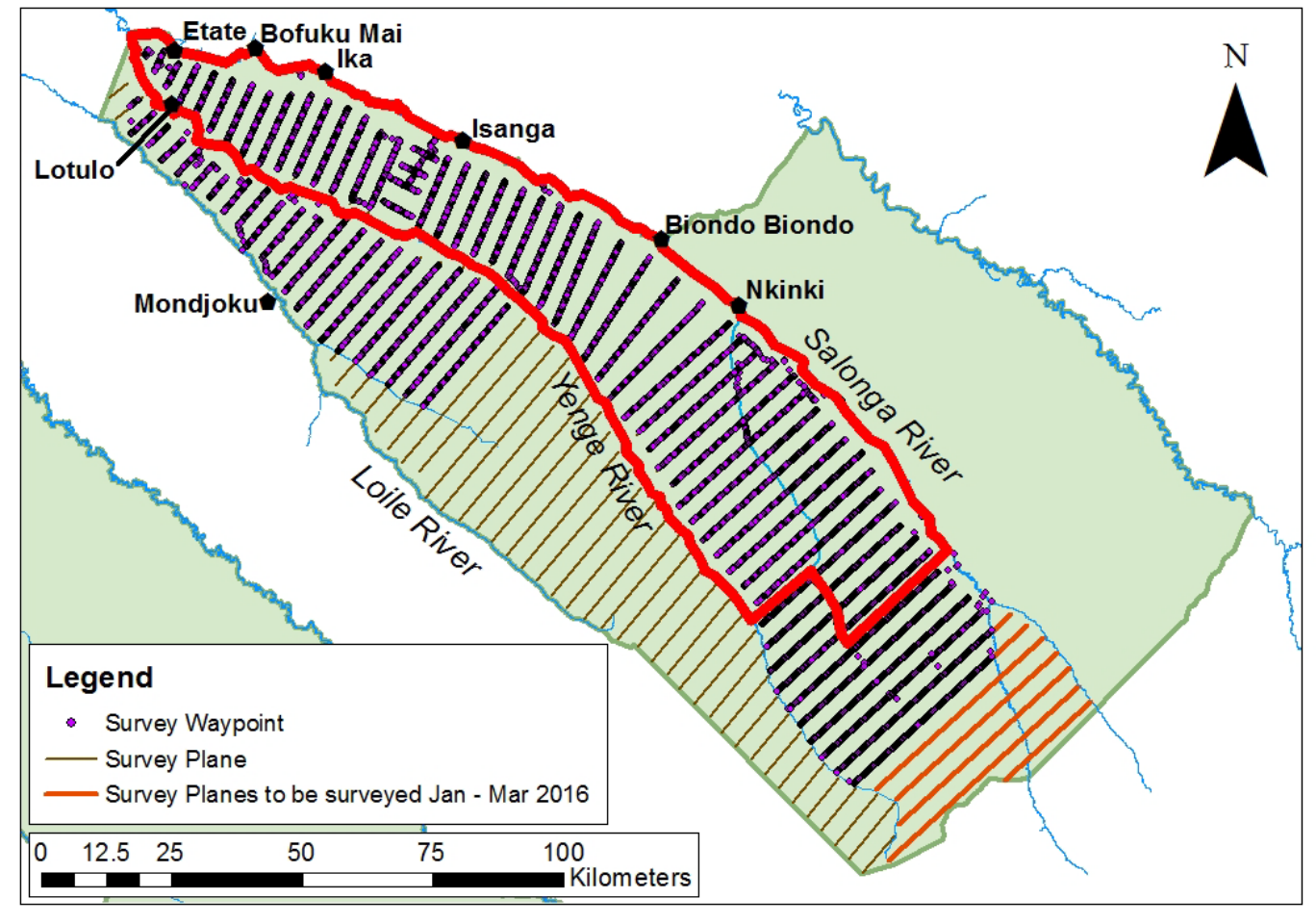






Watsi Kengo Sector:
very rich but heavily poached region

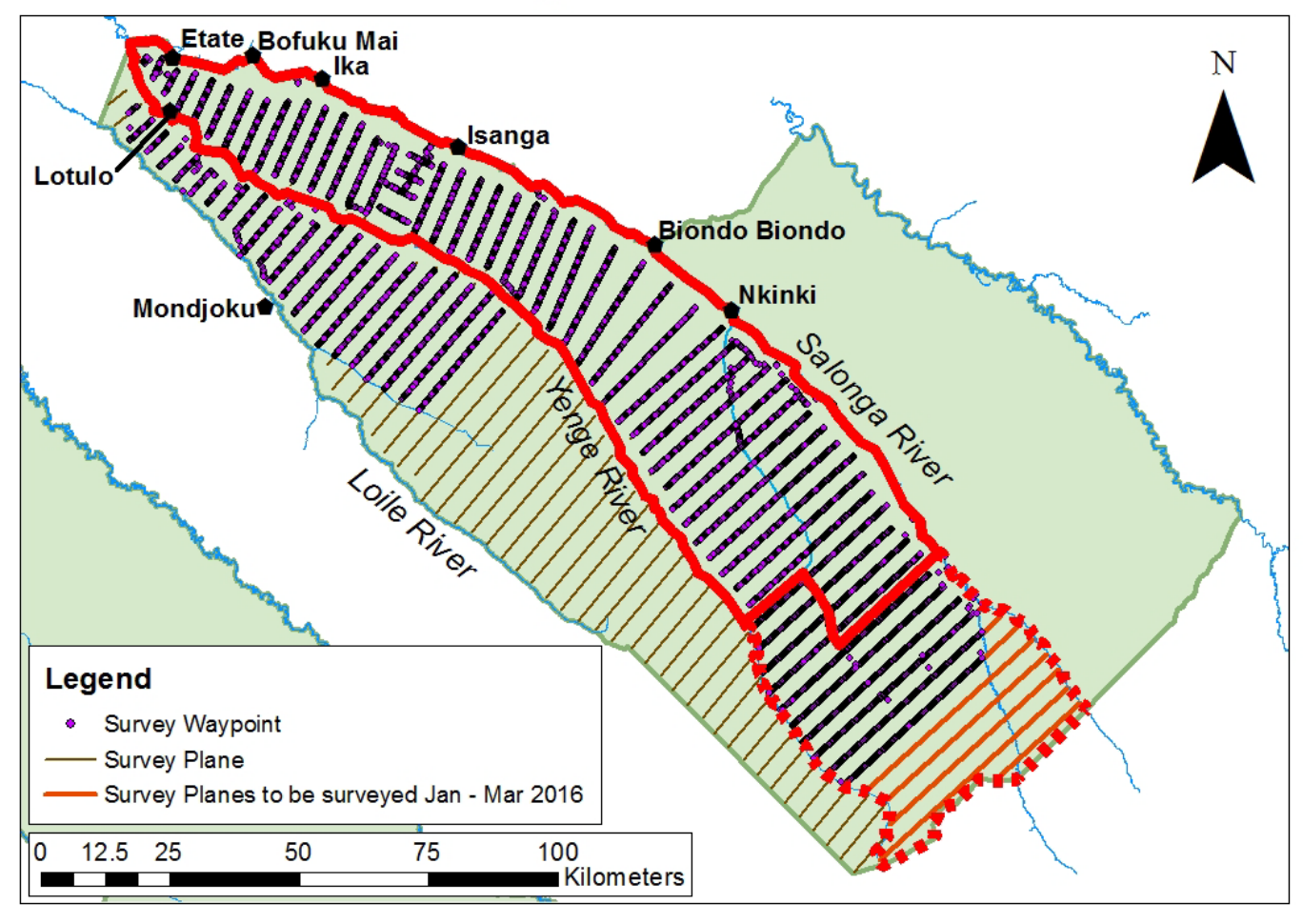
Bonobo Population



Area analyzed = 4,715 km^2

D_{bonobo} = (68.7 nest/km^2)/(1.37 prod/d x 78d) = 0.643/km^2

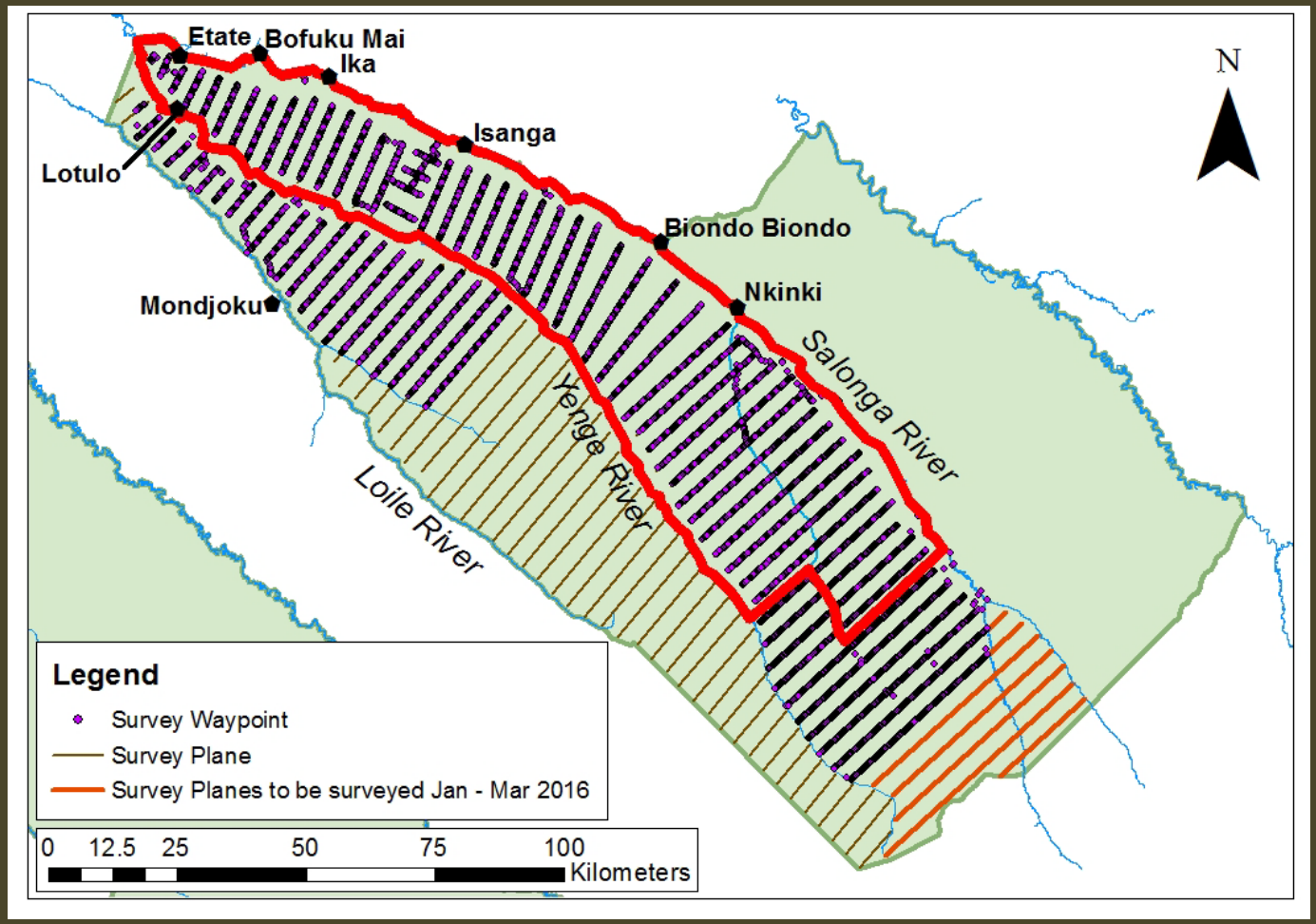
3031 nest-building bonobos (cv 12.8%)



Extrapolate: 4285 adult bonobos for sector (6664 km^2)

~1000 bonobos in the Etate surveillance area
~4,285 bonobos Watsi Kengo Sector

Elephant Population

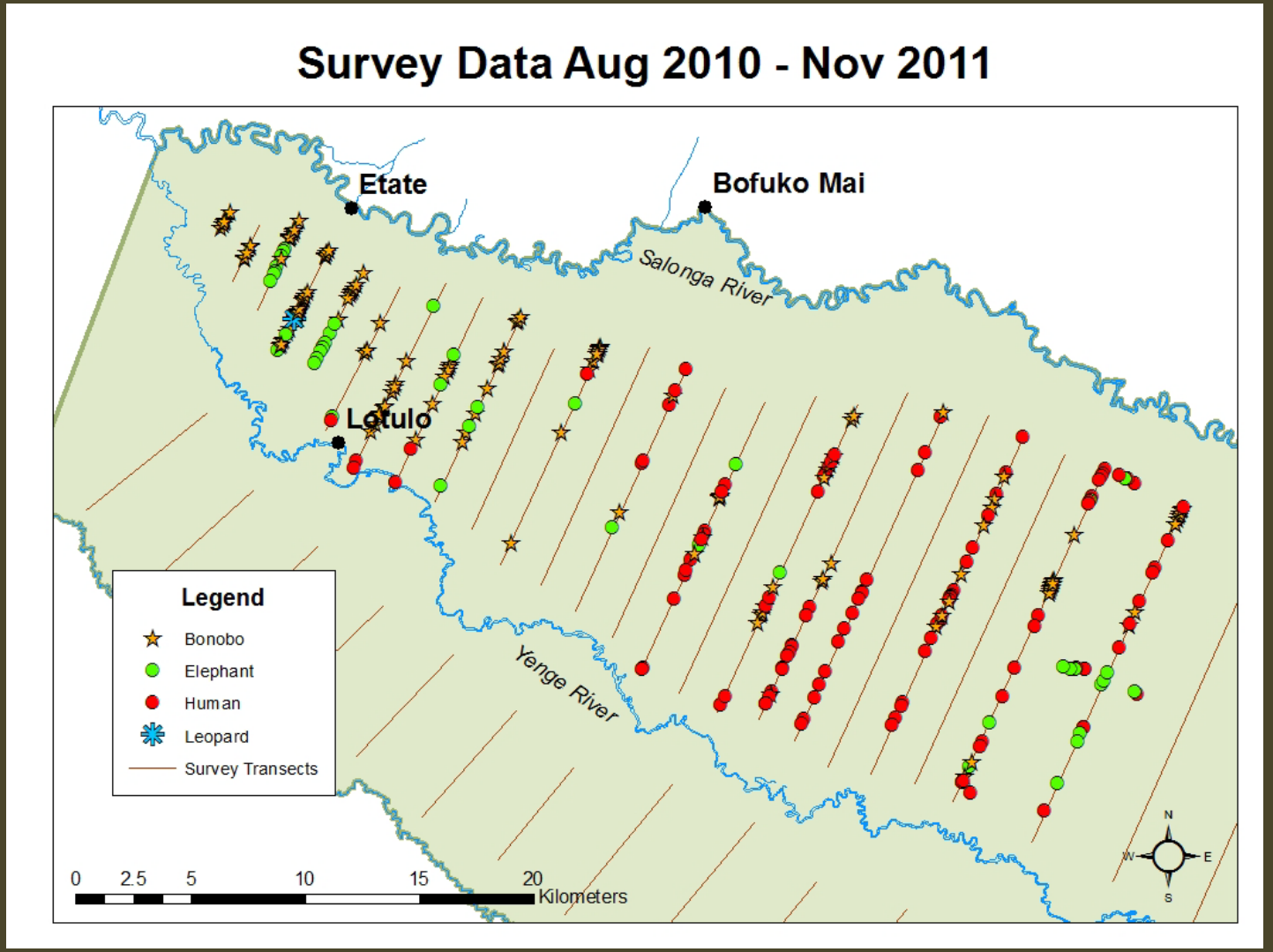


Area analyzed = 4,715 km^2

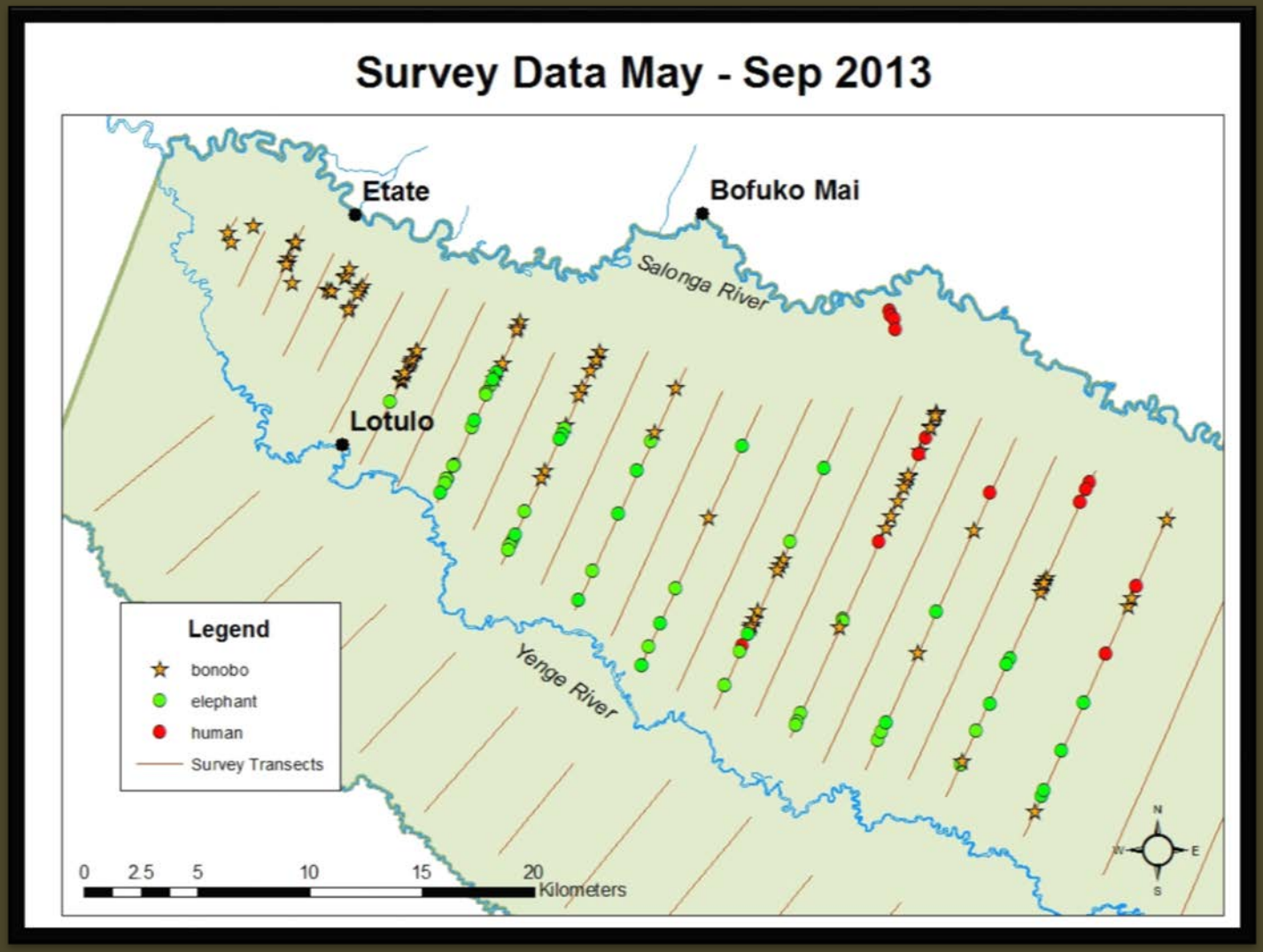
$D_{elephants}$ = (110.4 piles/km^2)/(19 piles/d x 90 d longevity) = 0.065/km^2

304 elephants (cv = 15%)

Extrapolate: ~300 elephants for whole sector after corrections

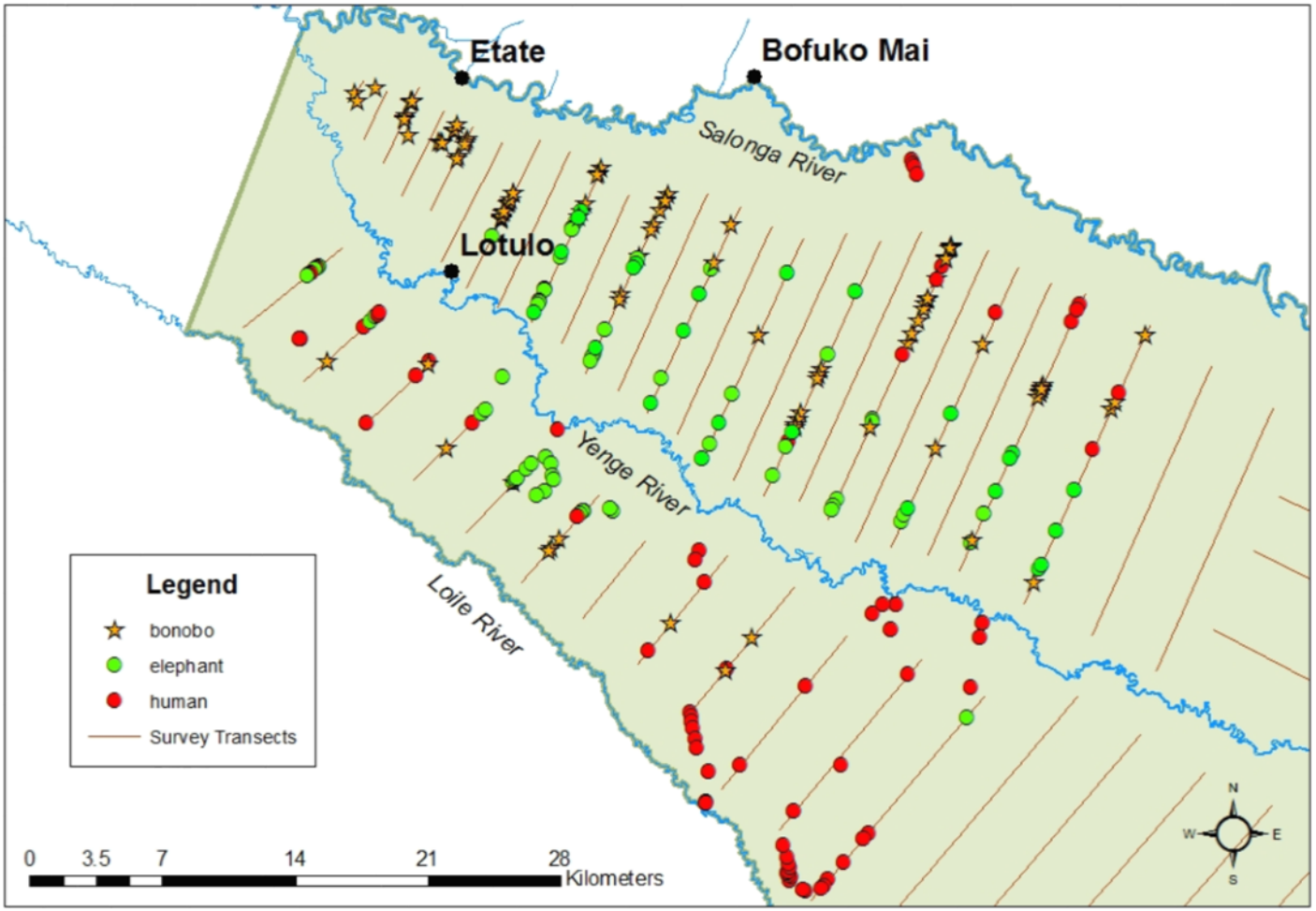


Survey Data BEFORE 2011 Anti-poaching Operation



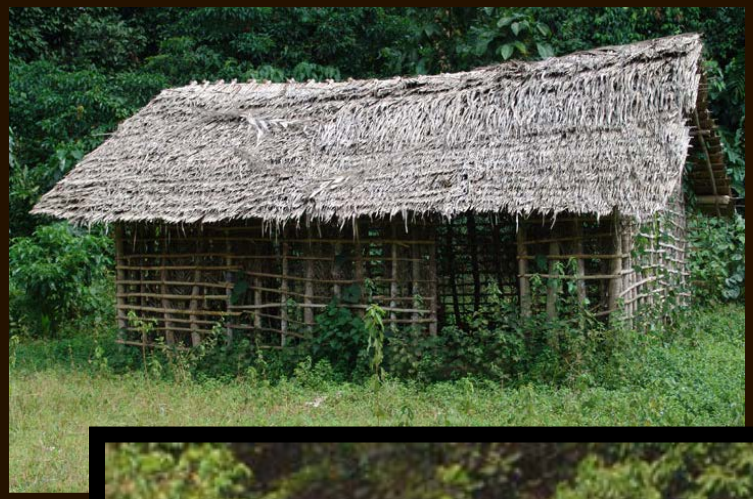
Survey Data 18 Months AFTER Anti-poaching Operation

Survey Data FY 2013 - 2014

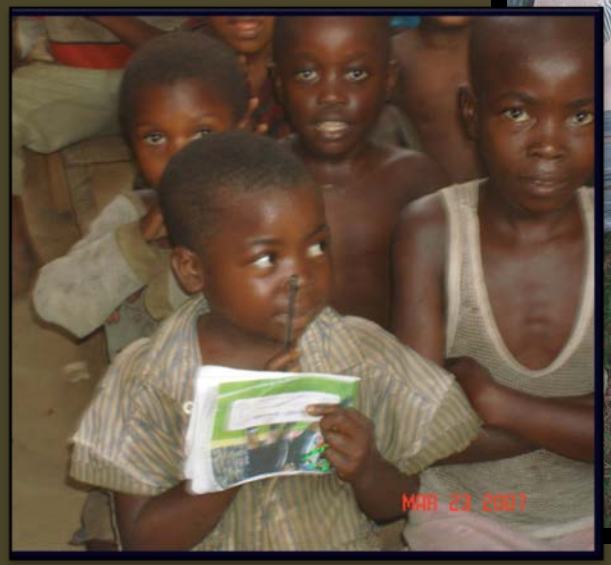


Etate	Enc. Rates	**Mondjoku**
Bonobo nests= 2.2		Bonobo nests=0.6
Elephant dung= 0.5		Elephant dung=0.2
Humans= 0.1 signs/km		Human=0.4 signs/km

APR 20 2005

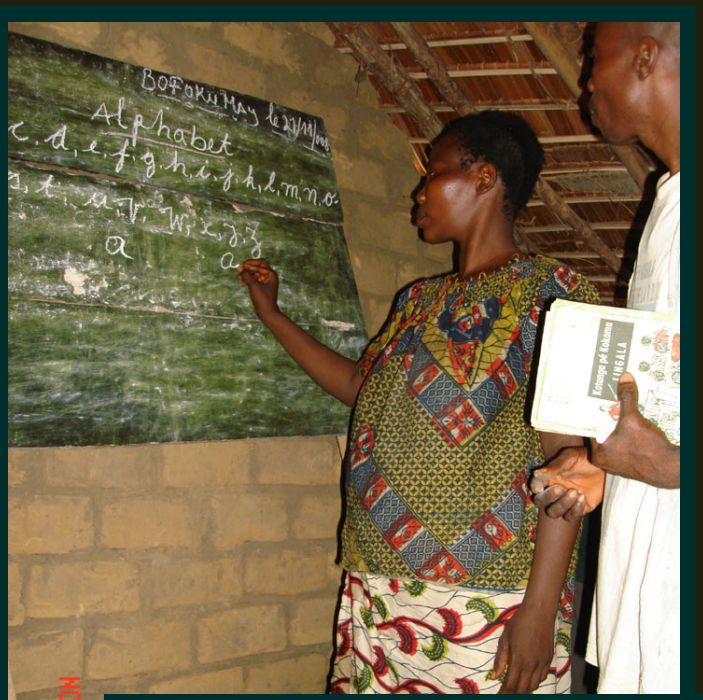


Support for schools



4 Primary Schools
(10 Teachers salaries, materials)

2 Adult Literacy Schools



~100 continuing students
90% women

Agricultural Development

Horticultural Training

2010- 2012

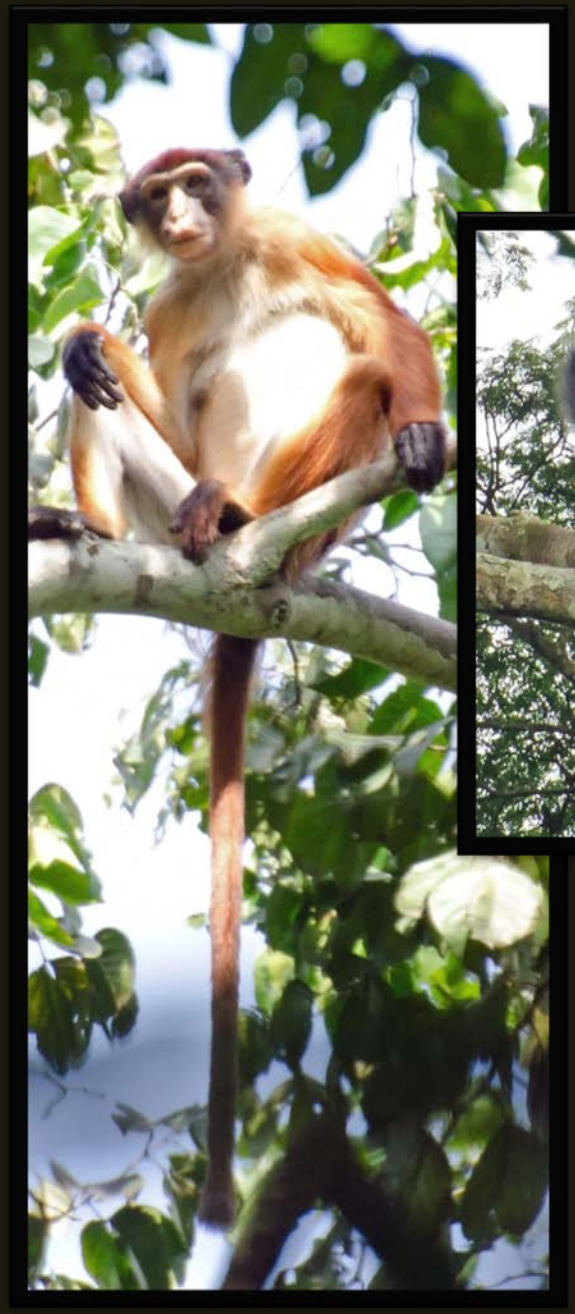
Tompoco/Watsi Market - Guard Rations
$21,000 annual trade

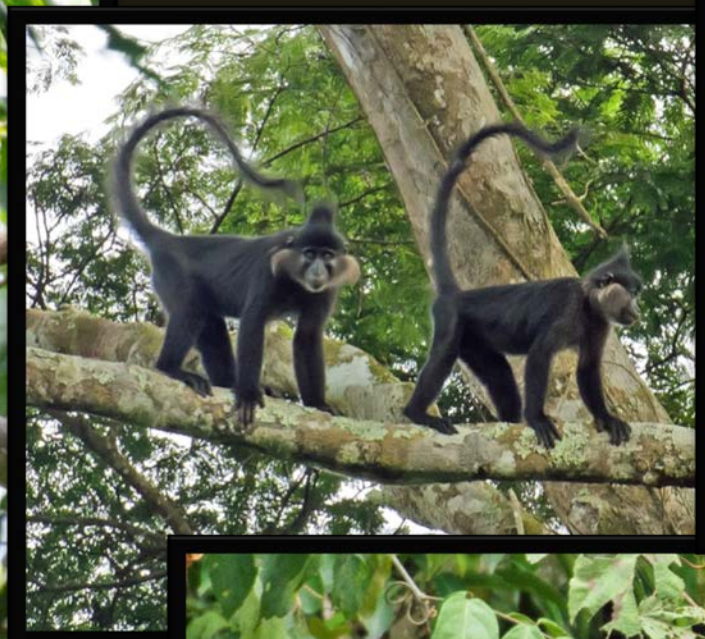
Etate Guard Camp and Field Day

- Near zero poaching levels in the Etate surveillance area
- Discovered a large, continuous bonobo population, ~ 4,300 bonobos
- Expanded patrols over this area by ~60 times

Elephant Bai on the Yenge

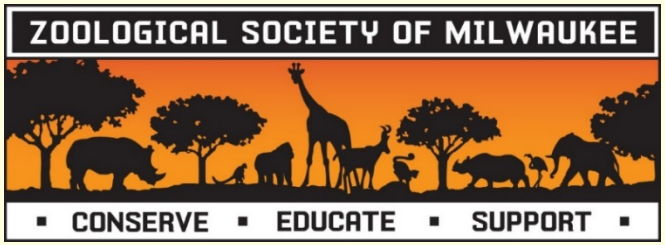
- Gaining control over the Yenge River and Dare Dare





- Salonga National Park, 33,317 km^2 lowland tropical forest
- Holds >40% world's bonobo population
- Highest potential for forest elephant recovery in DRC
- Headwaters of Congo River system – its feeding the country
- Salonga merits our continued investment to become a fully functioning park.

Thank you for years of support to the Salonga National Park!



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