

# **Challenges and perspectives for saving the last forest elephants of DRC**

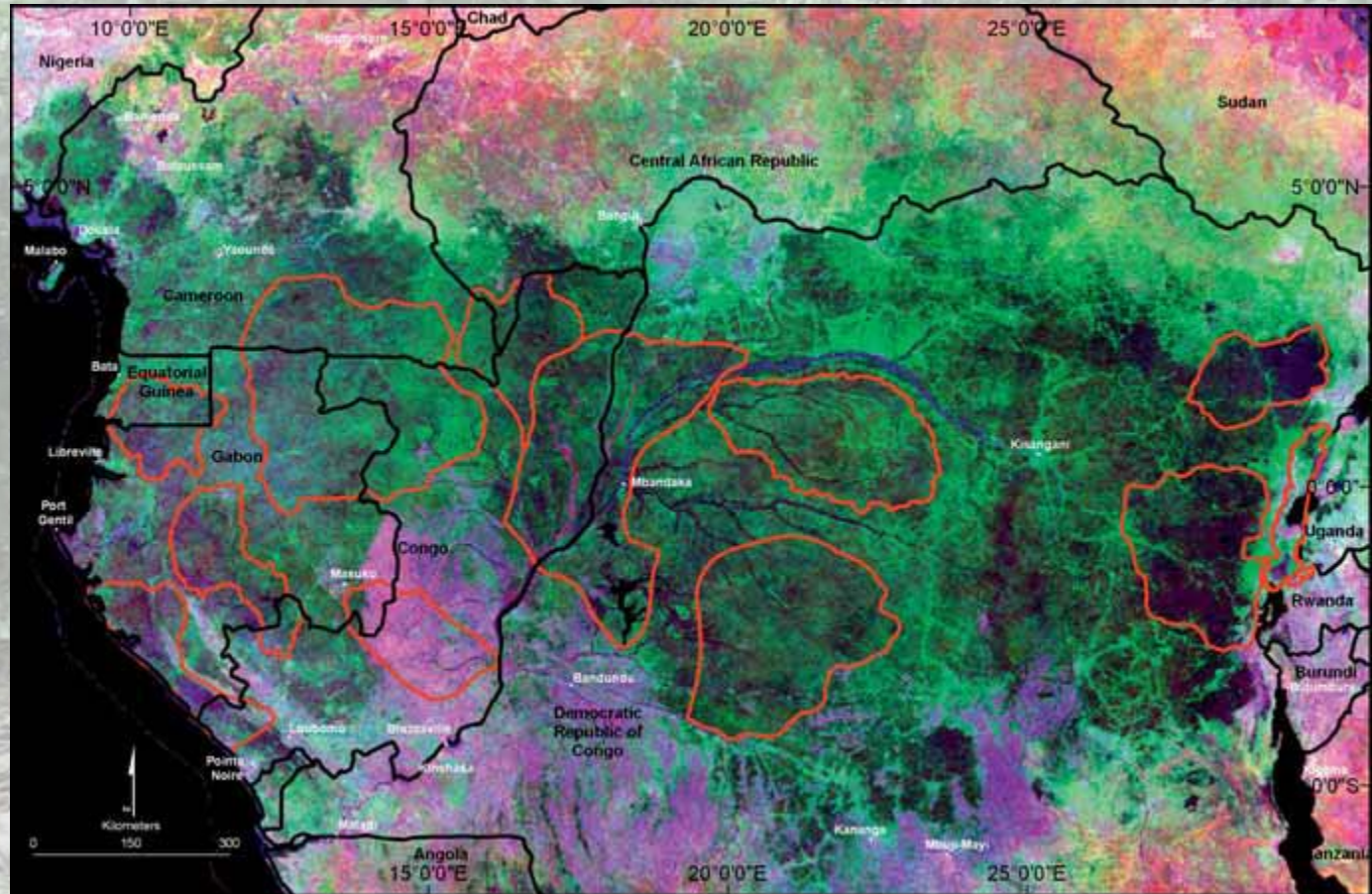
by

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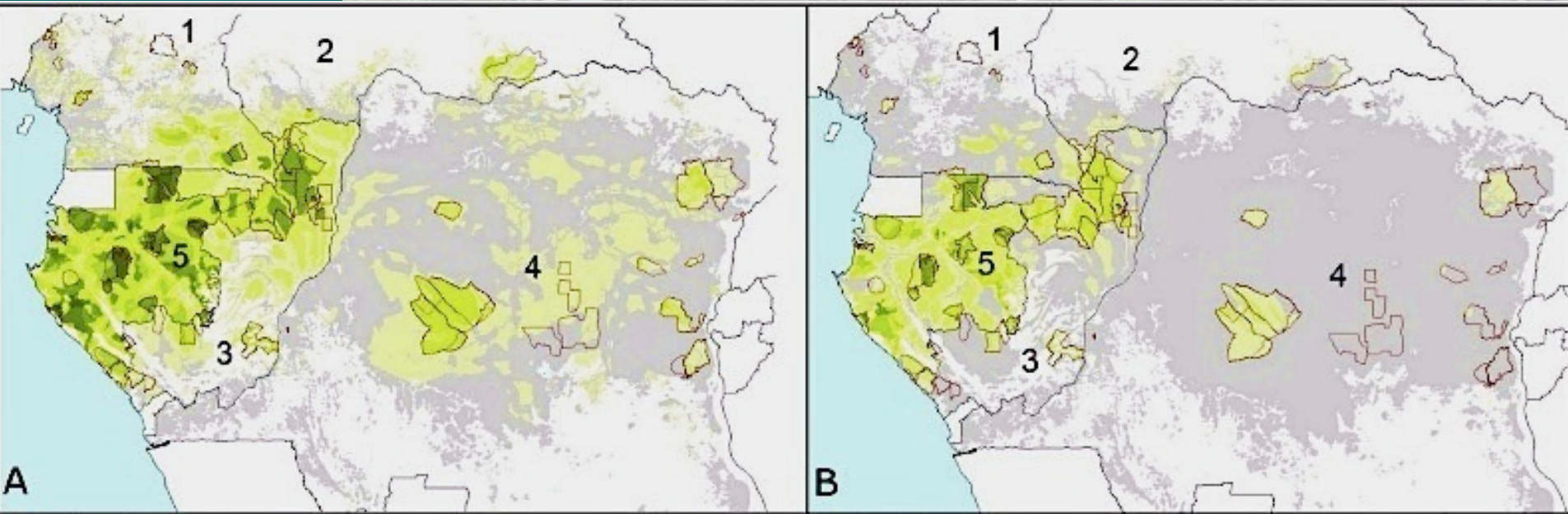


# Central Africa Overview

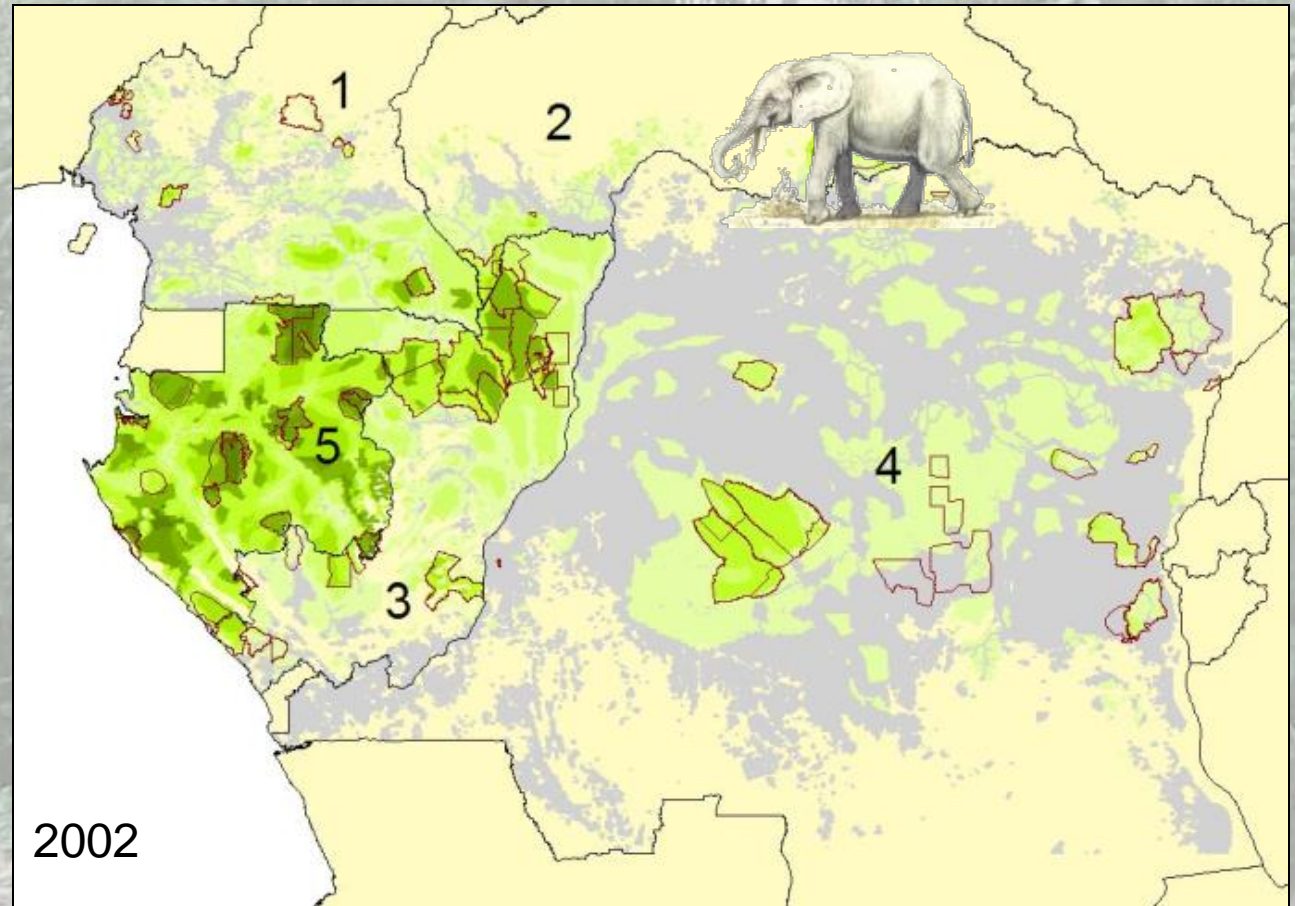




# Elephant crisis in Central Africa

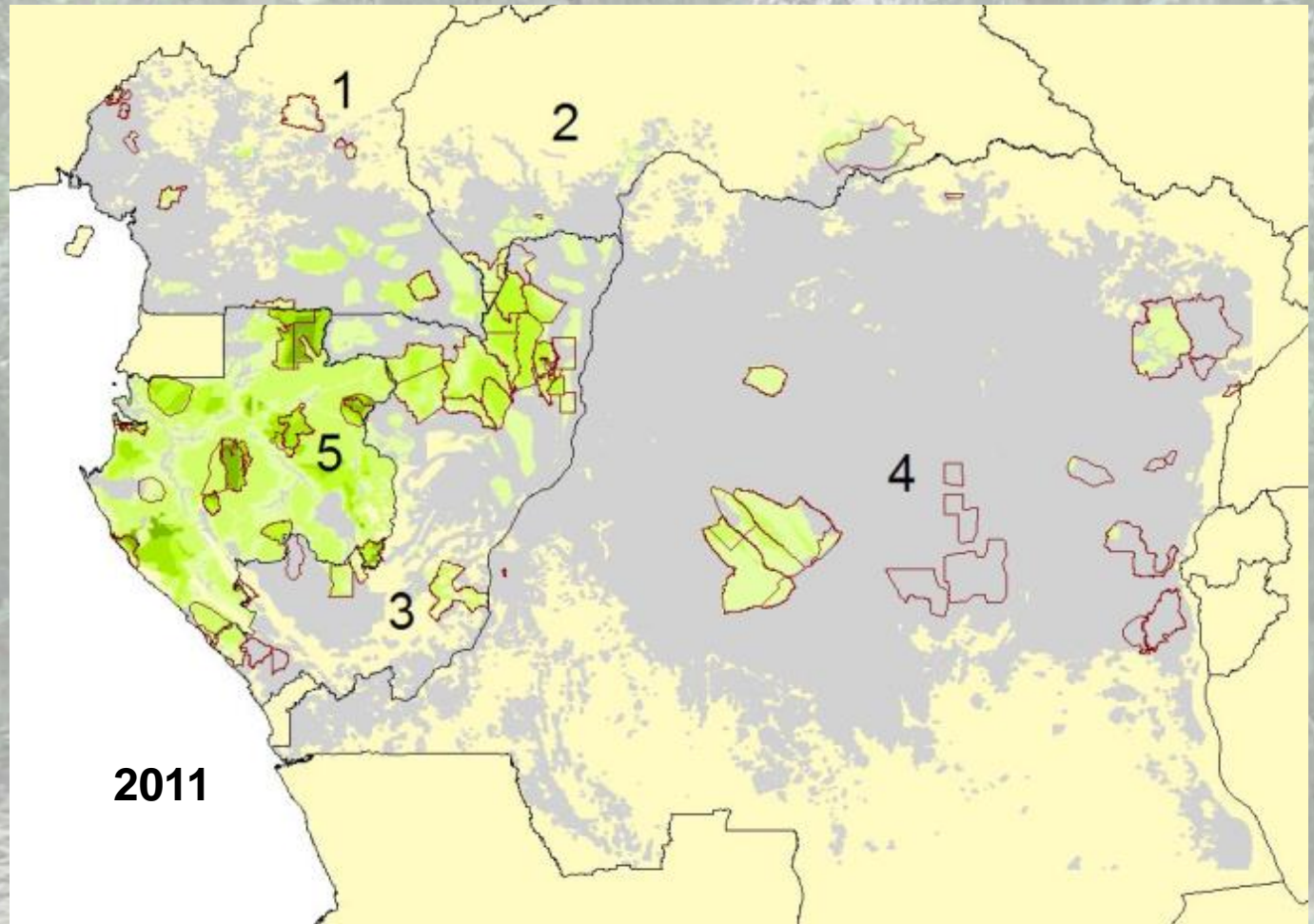


# Elephants collapse



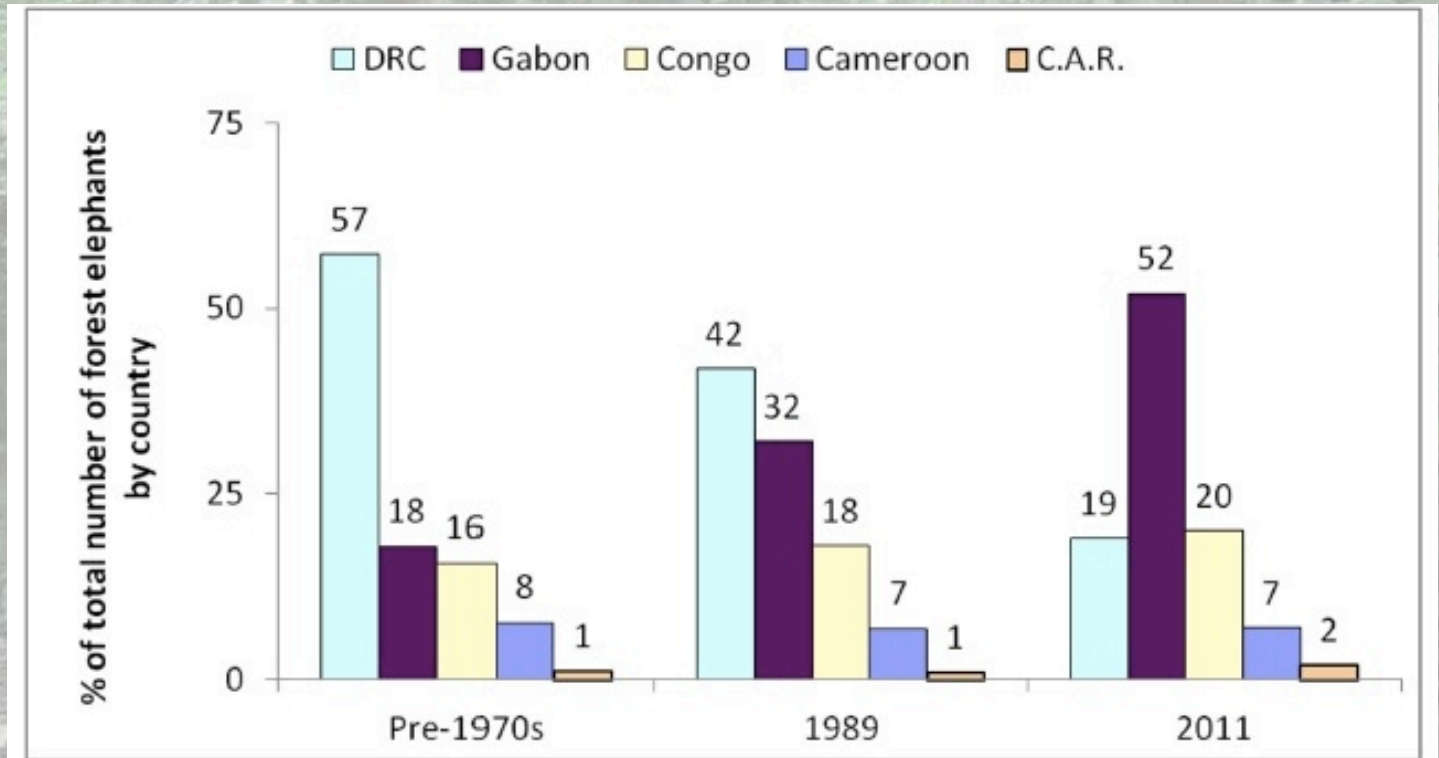


# Elephants collapse



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

# Elephants across Central Africa

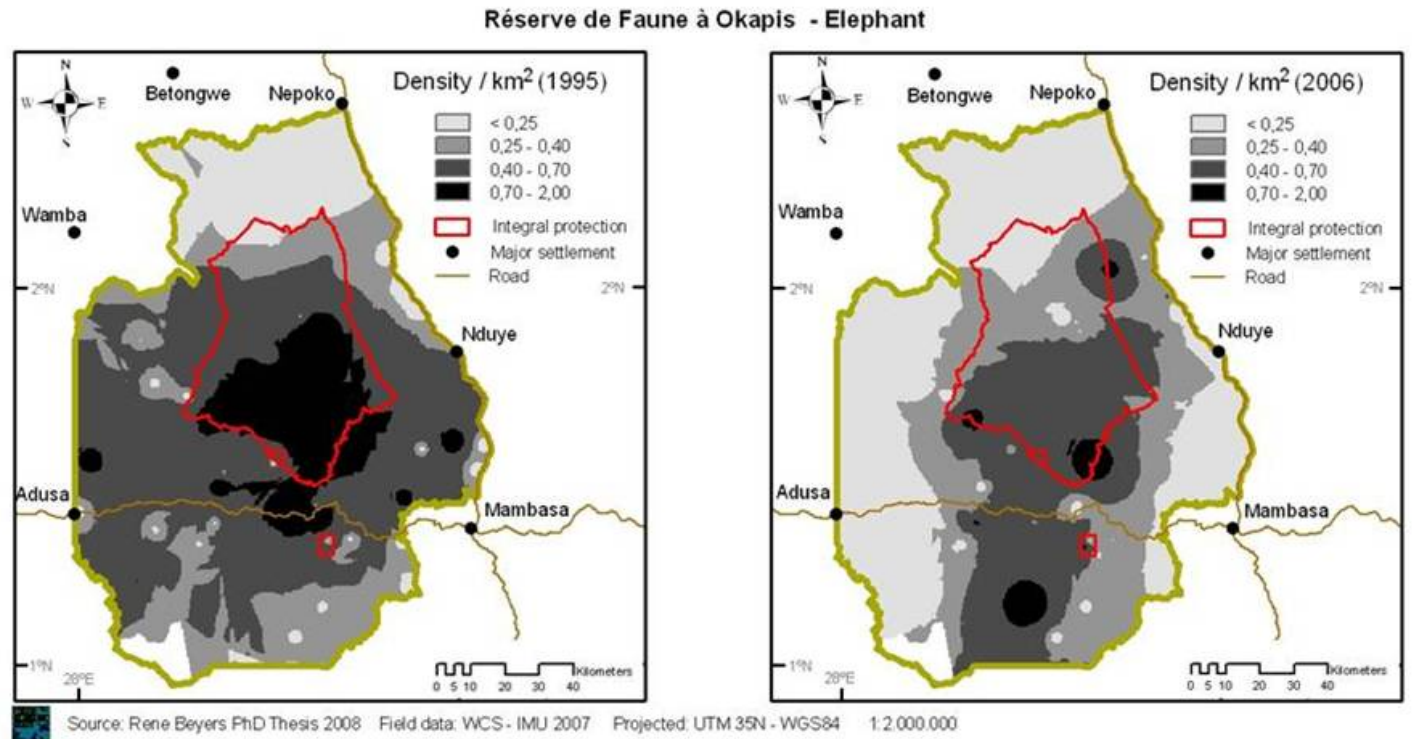


**Big loss is in Democratic Republic of the Congo**

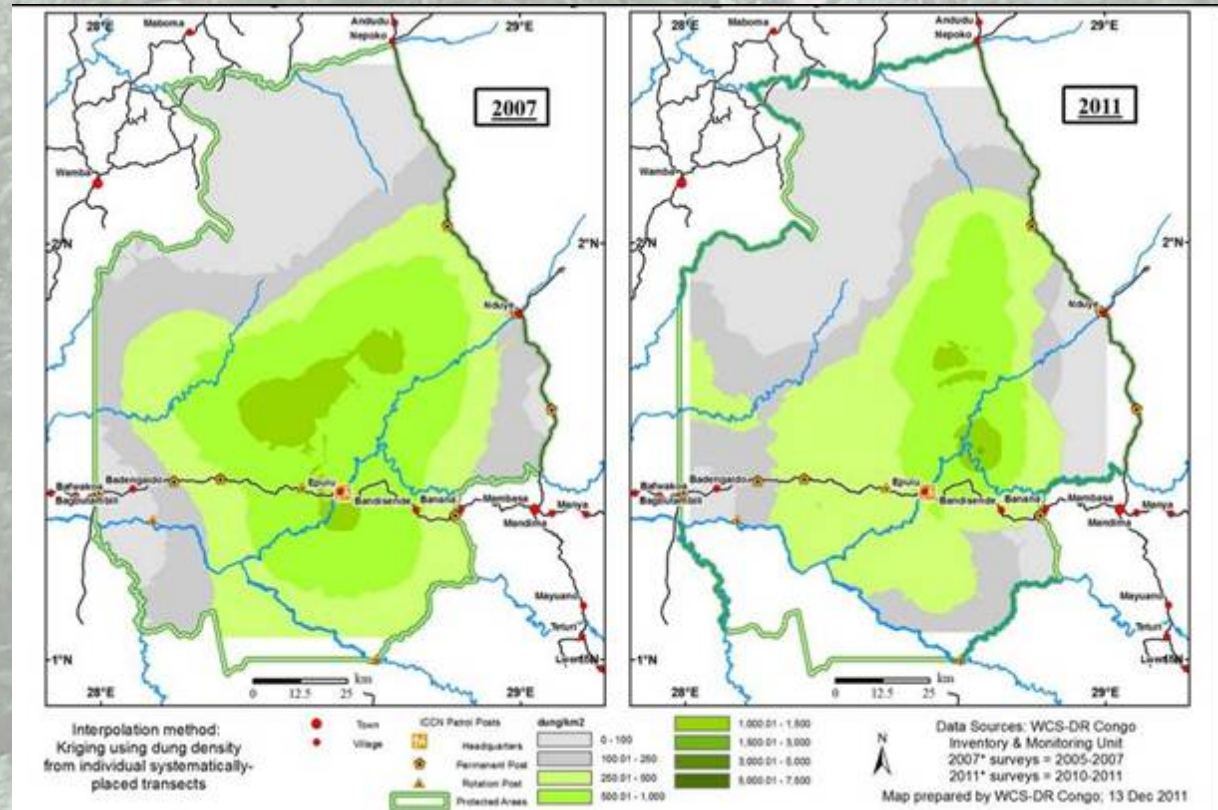


# Elephant Density- OFR in Ituri

## 1996-2006



# Elephants in Ituri- 2007-2011



Are we seeing the unfolding of a Faunal crisis in DR Congo?





## **Current situation: 2011-2015**

**?**

**crisis in OFR: insecurity,  
armed poaching and  
illegal activities.**

**Suspension/Reduction of  
the law enforcement  
activities.**

**Need to assess the status of  
fauna**



# Challenges to conserve elephant

- **Weak ( corrupt) Government institutions**
  - Local government
  - Provincial Government
  - Traditional authorities.
  - Police
  - Army
  - Justice
  - ICCN





# Political and socioeconomic environment

- International demand for ivory.
- Insecurity in the region due to the presence of militia activities.
- Wildlife protection is not a priority for a post conflict country





# Limitations of the traditional approaches followed by conservation NGO (by WCS):

- Biomonitoring: animal census over the last 25 years providing information on the status of fauna and flora.
- Livelihoods activities for building constituencies with local communities to the protection of the wildlife.
- Capacity building with Government, Civil Society and local communities.
- Education and sensitization of communities on the value of biodiversity.





# Lost opportunities: Species extinctions in motion

- White rhinoceros in Garamba
- Parrots
- Pangolins
- What lessons have we learnt/ are we learning with elephants?



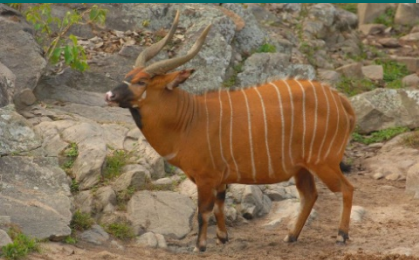
# WCS New Vision for OFR

- **Amendment of the MOU to include Law Enforcement:**
  - *Implementation of the surveillance and security strategy ,*
  - *Advise the Reserve managers on LE,*
  - *SMART.*
- **Link law enforcement to biomonitoring.**
- **Include the justice in the law enforcement strategy .**
- **Is this enough for WCS in Ituri to save elephants?**





# Current situation in Ituri



1. Presence of multiple partners providing law enforcement support to ICCN:
  - **GFA with KfW funds,**
  - **WCG with private donors money,**
  - **WCS**
2. No a leader among these partners



# Other challenge

- WCS is providing information to save elephant



- In Ituri we want to shift from providing information to save - to effectively SAVE the elephants and to be in accordance with our mission i.e “To save wildlife and wild places.”



# Reasons for the shift

- Limitations of the traditional approaches followed by conservation NGO.
  - Biomonitoring
  - Livelihoods activities.
  - Capacity building
  - Education and sensitization

**We ( WCS) should therefore take our responsibilities and not assume that anyone else will care about the survival of elephants**



# How ?

- Be content with the amendment obtained from the ICCN to be involved in law enforcement.
- Move to the direct management of the protected area by signing with the Government a PPP.





# OFR & Public-private partnership (PPP)

- The management of the OFR is currently the best option:
  - **New Law on conservation**
  - **Support from the Government to PPP ( cfr Virunga, Garamba, potential PPP between ICCN and WWF for Salonga National Park.**



# WCS is in position to succeed

- Existence of a baseline information on the status of the Reserve and the landscape
- Long anchorage in the site ( over 30 years).
- Potential support from donors
- Internal consensus among partners
- WCS long-term site.
- Commitment of the Country Program





# Ways forwards

- Negotiations underway with ICCN
- Take the lessons learned from Ndoki in setting up a PPP with an inclusive governance systems, so that ICCN is not cut out.
- Develop a new model of management arrangement meeting both ICCN's and WCS's needs
- What else?



