

# Countering wildlife trafficking in Mozambique: what's working and what hasn't



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WCS-CWT, East & Southern Africa  
WCS New York, 13 February 2018



**WCS**Mozambique  
A Wildlife Conservation Society Program

# Terminology

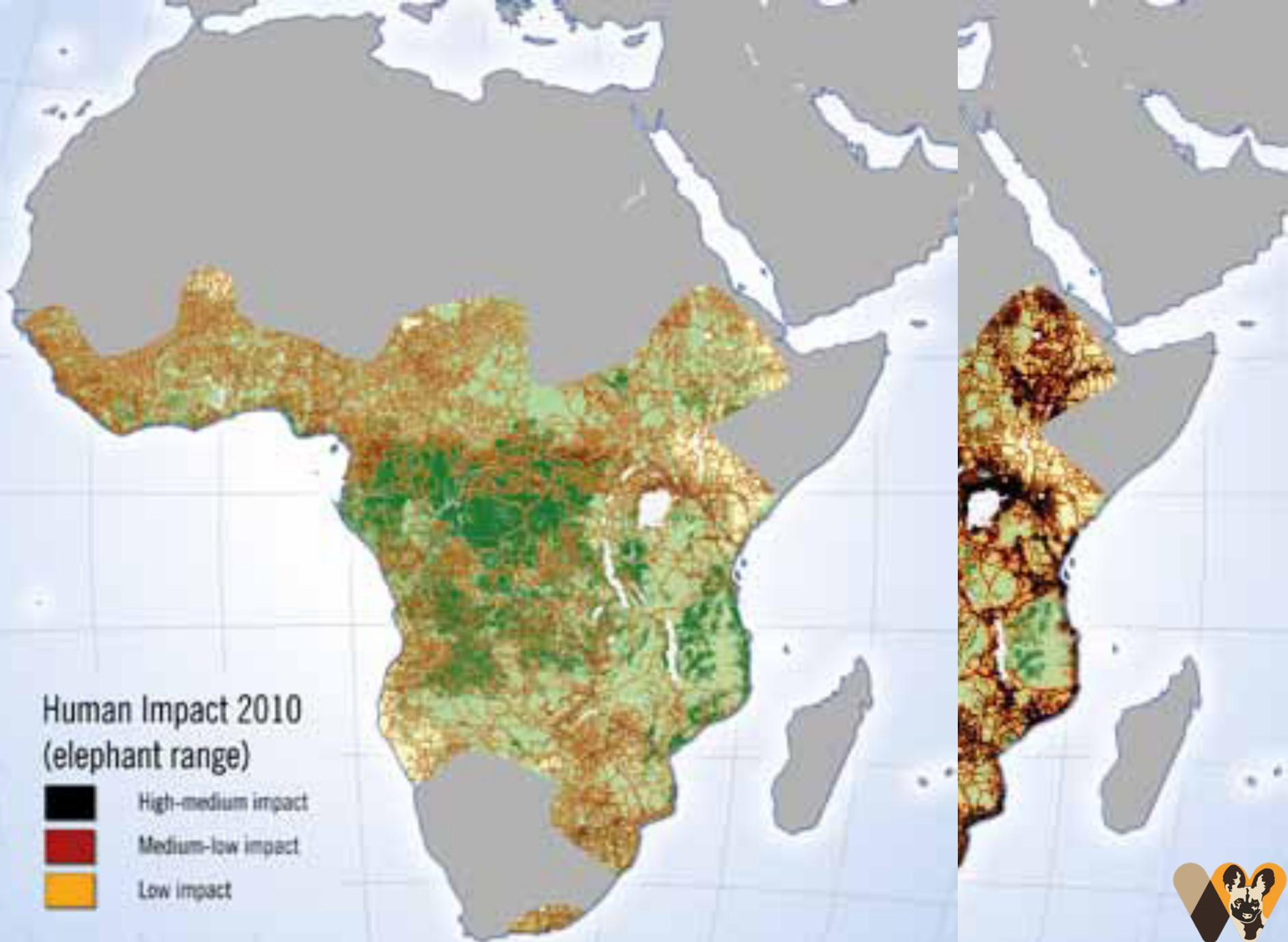
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- **CWC vs CWT vs IWT**
  - Counter wildlife crime
  - Counter wildlife trafficking
  - Illegal wildlife trade
- **Anti-poaching vs Counter Trafficking**
  - **Anti-poaching: stopping the killing – controlling the landscape, identifying the key people and resources poaching elephants, reactive & proactive**
  - **Counter trafficking: stopping the movement – penetrating the networks, understanding trafficking mechanisms, identifying weak points, dismantle and disrupt**

# WCS history in Mozambique

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- **Exploratory work in Niassa Reserve in 2011**
- **Established country program in late 2012**
- **Co-management of Niassa Reserve in October 2012**
- **National elephant census 2014**
- **National PA management systems 2014/2015**
- **National ivory and rhino horn inventory 2016**
- **COMBO established 2016**
- **National WCU 2017**



### Human Impact 2010 (elephant range)

- High-medium impact
- Medium-low impact
- Low impact



209 km

US Dept of State-Geographer  
Image Landsat  
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

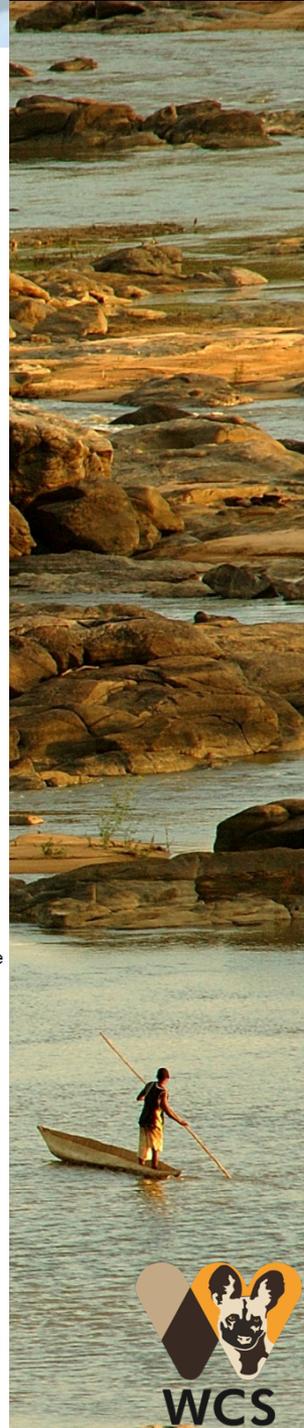
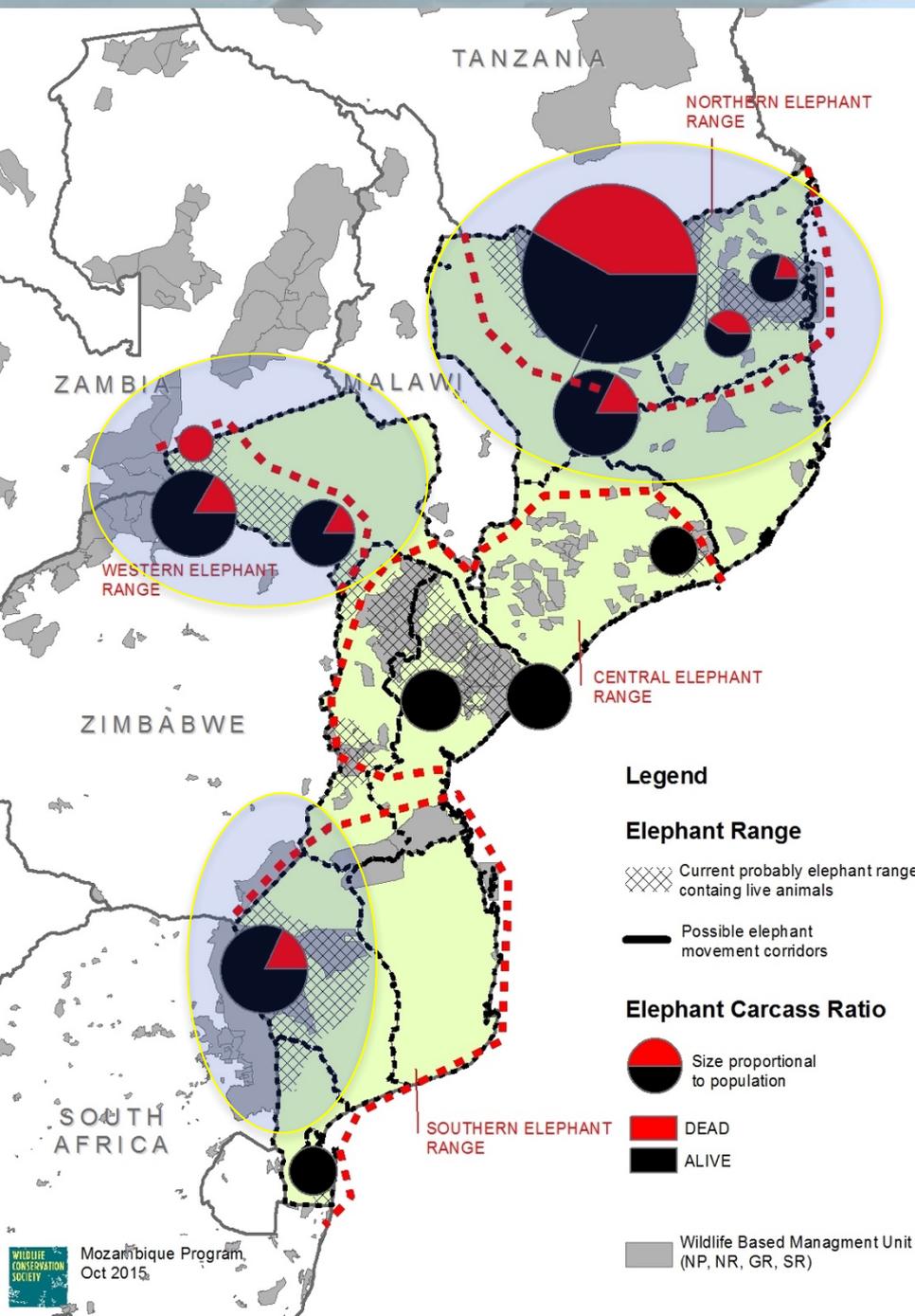
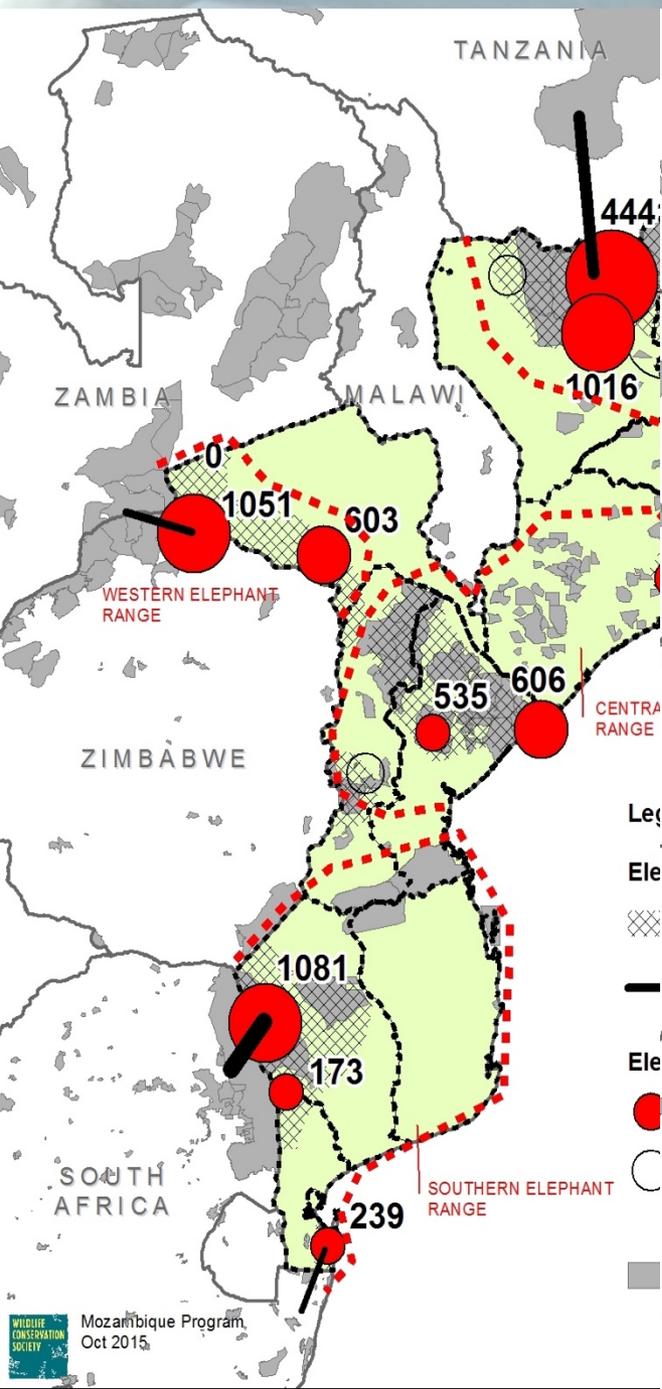


# Results: 2014 National elephant count

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- Mozambique lost 48% of its elephants in five years from 2009 to 2014
- Decline from ~20,050 to ~10,374
- Mostly in the north – 60% decline from ~15,000 to ~6,000 (Niassa and Quirimbas)
- Tete = 20% decline to 1,656
- Limpopo = 19% decline to 1,155



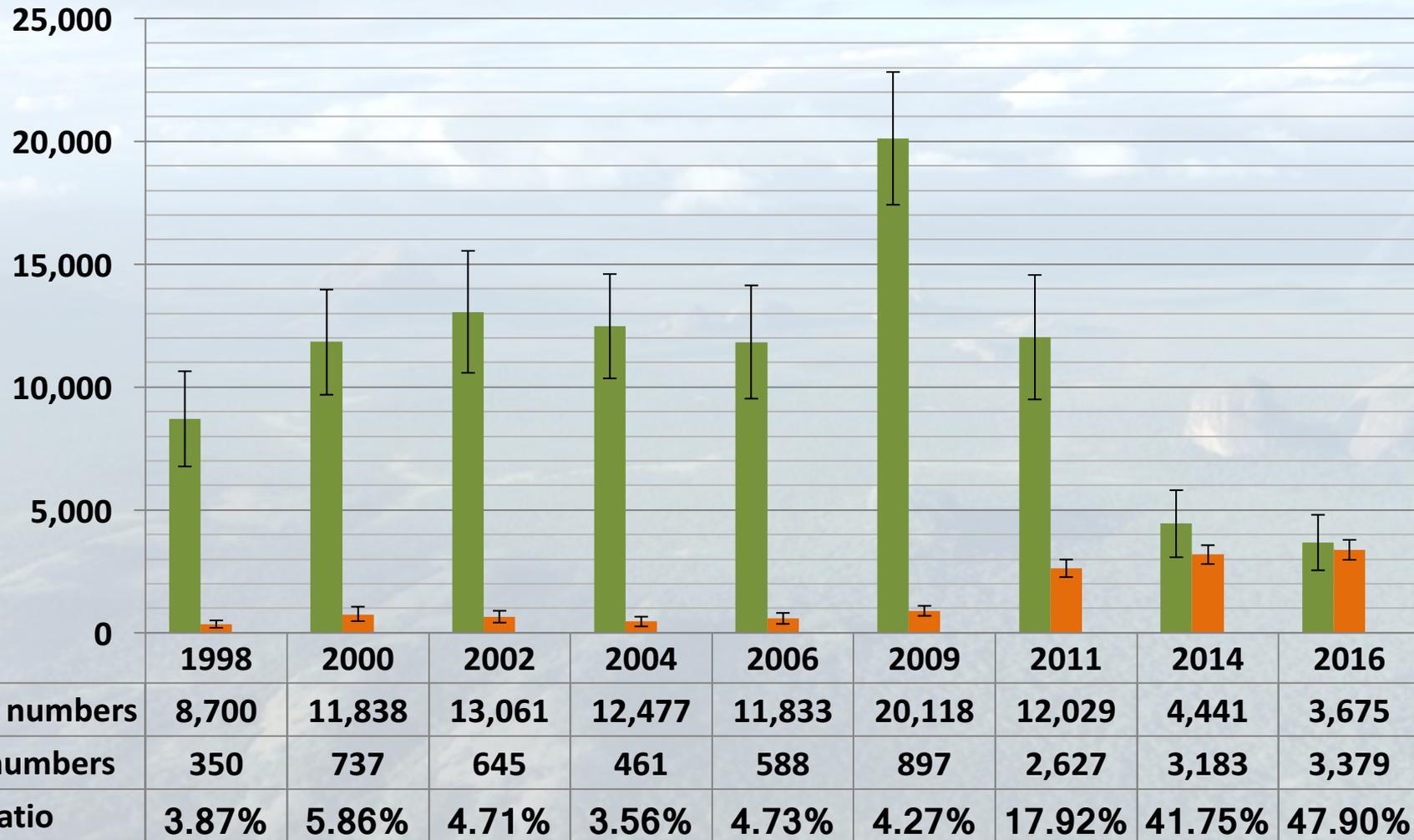


# Results: 2016 Niassa Reserve elephant count

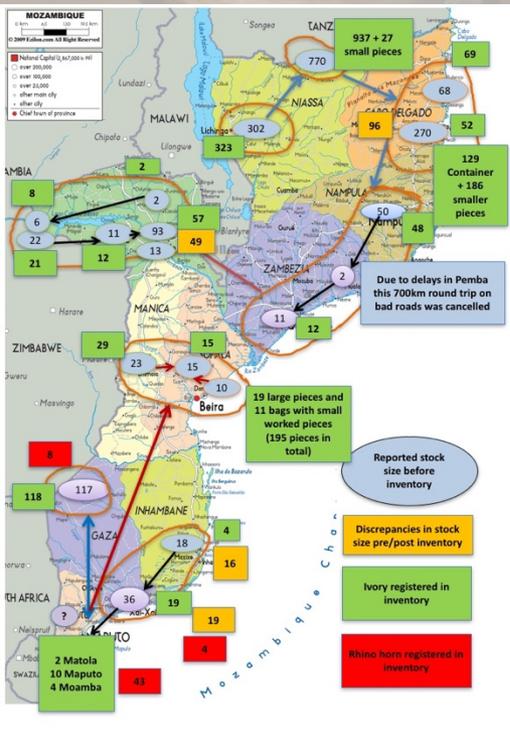
- Niassa lost 17% of its elephants in two years (2014-16) – estimated 766 animals
- Carcass ratio 48% (48% in 2014)
- 38% reduction in fresh carcasses
- Decline in bull groups of ~64% (450 to 160)
- Range contraction of ~20%



# Niassa Reserve elephant numbers



# 2016 National ivory inventory



# 2016 National ivory inventory

- Mozambique has 11,299kg of ivory (14 sites)
- 80% is of unknown origin – can never be sold
- Remaining 20% = ~\$330,000
- Costs to centralise = ~\$130,000



# 2016 Cambodia seizure



[WWW.NEWS.CN](http://WWW.NEWS.CN)



09.03.2016 11:26



# 2016 Cambodia seizure



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**INVOICE**

Consignee: Camtransit Import Co., Ltd

Group 8, St. Keo Chenda, Sangkat  
 Chroy Chong Va, Khan Chhroy Chong Va,  
 Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
 Tel: (+855) 814007352  
 Email: chiengnguyen3663@gmail.com

Date: 05/10/2016  
 Invoice No. AIEIV08/2016  
 Country Origin: Mozambique



CIF: Sihanouk Ville Port

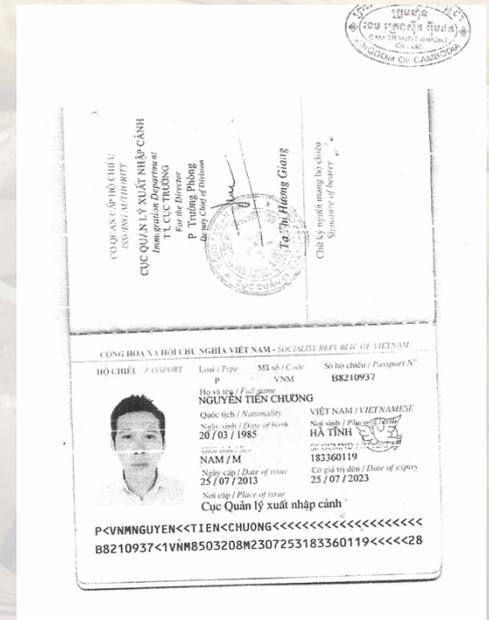
Vat: K008-901503386  
 Ship Mode: By Sea  
 Port of Loading: PEMBA

Port of Discharge: Sihanouk Ville Port, Cambodia

Marks & Nos.	Description of Goods	Quantity (M <sup>3</sup> )	Unit Price (USD)	Amount (USD)
	CHANFUTA WOOD 63.754M <sup>3</sup>	63.754	380.00	24,226.52
	<b>TOTAL</b>	63.754		24,226.52

Cont.No. CZZU1445950 / 20' / UAFL033818  
 CAIU3280890 / 20' / UAFL033819  
 DNAU2619753 / 20' / UAFL033820

**ASSUALA IMPORT EXPORT, EI**





**Sang Chanh**

November 23, 2015 · 🌐

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**Tú Thỏ** 100% công an sẽ tìm ra chủ chú

[See Translation](#)

January 12, 2016 at 9:22am



**Sang Chanh** cần chị cho luôn tên tuổi địa chỉ này, khỏi mắc công tìm chú e! nói chung giờ các chú tuổi trẻ tài cao, lắm anh hùng. Chị Sợ!!!

[See Translation](#)

January 12, 2016 at 9:23am



**Tú Thỏ** To mom cơ ngay ôm đơn vì to mom chị ak

[See Translation](#)

January 12, 2016 at 9:23am



**Tú Thỏ** Công a tìm chị rồi k cần cho đâu

[See Translation](#)





# Stockpile thefts - Mozambique

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- WCS survey 2006-17 – 12-15 thefts, ~6-8 tons of ivory



# Review of MZ co-management models

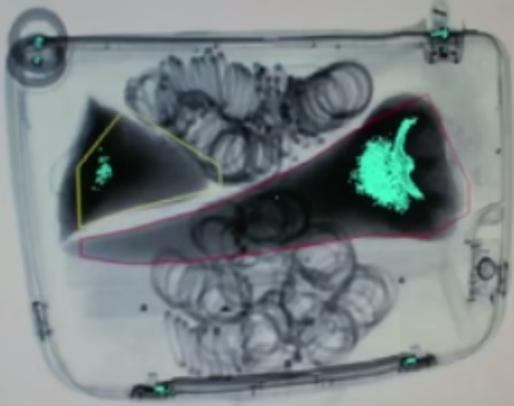
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- PA's in MZ are under-performing regionally
- PA's with devolved management models fared better
- Niassa Reserve – wildlife 62% of carrying capacity but declining
- Key reasons devolved models performing better:
  - Attract higher levels of investment
  - Longer term vision and commitment, better engagement with communities
  - Clear mandate and autonomy = accountability, avoiding conflict and confusion
  - Attract and hire competent staff

# Rhino horn crime in MZ



# Rhino horn trafficking in MZ



# Rhino horn trafficking in MZ



# Arrest of an ivory trafficker MZ

- Kasian 'Chupi' Mateso



# Arrest of an ivory trafficker MZ



ANTONIO BERNARDO



PAULO NYENJE



# Arrest of an ivory trafficker MZ

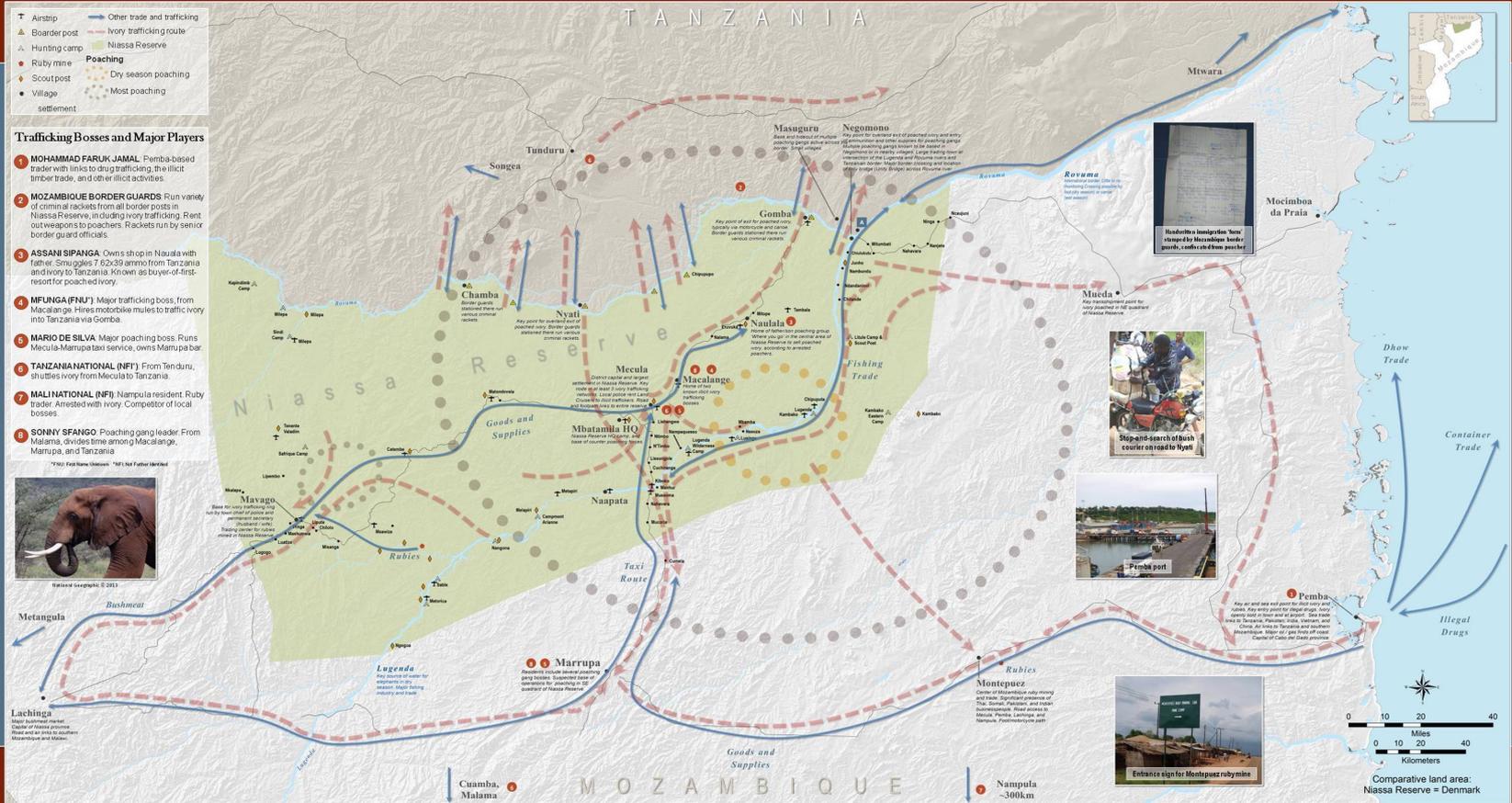
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<http://www.malunde.com/2018/01/chupi-matatani-lindi.html#.WmX6HSgLyOg>

# Overlaps in northern MZ

## Mapping Illicit Trafficking and Elephant Poaching Networks in Northern Mozambique



### Additional Trafficking Bosses and Major Players

 <b>ISSUPO NAMANYILA:</b> Infamous poacher who receives protection from army and weapons from Commandant of Police in Montepuez. Father is police chief in Mbamba.	 <b>WADJAR &amp; CARLITOS MARIO MALACA:</b> Blacksmiths in Ligoniole. Each own a 458 rifle. Reportedly hire Tanzanians to poach elephant.
 <b>ASSANI SPANGA:</b> Leader of poaching gang with estimated strength of 14 per season. Operates in Naulala, Mbamba, Nouti, Nwembo. From Malama with one wife in Guebuza and two in Naulala. Linked to June 2012 poaching incidents in L55 and Nouti. Owns several rifles, including those firing AK47 and 375 ammunition. Photo of Assani Spanga's father.	 <b>ASSANI SAIDE:</b> aka "Alex." Teenager member of 6-man poaching gang operating area around Mbamba. Lives with and works for Malabula.
 <b>MARCUS MUEMEDE:</b> aka Achama. Well known timber trader to poachers, was arrested on 8 October in Naulala. From Naulala, with wife in Macalange. Father is named Muemede Mambo.	 <b>MALAMAH:</b> Islamic school teacher from Mbamba. Runs 6-man poaching gang who also reportedly live with him. Implicated in poaching related small arms transactions.
 <b>NIKATA:</b> Niata. Experienced poacher from Negomano. Owns AK47 and 458 rifles.	 <b>ADUNGANI:</b> Experienced poacher from Negomano. Owns AR15 rifle.
 <b>ARTURO KAVINGA:</b> Leader of 6-man poaching gang SW of Mbhatama. Based in Manori.	 <b>JOAQUE ASSI:</b> Linked to poaching operations run by Assani Spanga. Owns SAMLSG motorcycle, registered T 297 BNP.

*Illicit Ivory trafficking networks in northern Mozambique overlap with illicit drug and terrorist financing networks, and exacerbate corruption, poor governance, and border insecurity. Intelligence on these networks offer the United States an alternative means to gain an understanding of these overlapping issues.*

 <b>Road to Naulala, the best quality road in Niassa Reserve</b>	 <b>Footpath motorcycle bush path to Tanzania, aerial view</b>	 <b>Airstrip for Niassa Reserve HQ at Mutalala</b>	 <b>A: Mtambala, "Unity Bridge"</b> Source: © 2013 Google, DigitalGlobe
 <b>Man openly selling ivory outside Pemba airport</b>	 <b>Counter poaching squad force in Niassa Reserve</b>		

# Overlaps in northern MZ

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- **The Shuidong Connection - EIA's work**
- **Mocimboa de Praia**
- **Ansar al Sunna**



# Vetted units to tackle organised crime

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- **Small vetted multi-agency law enforcement units**
- **Clear mandate and boundaries for investigations**
- **Respected leadership**
- **Seconded officers retain authorities**
- **Lines of authority and reporting are internal to the unit**

# Way forward

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- **Stopping poaching = devolved management authority**
- **Stopping wildlife trafficking = vetted units**





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