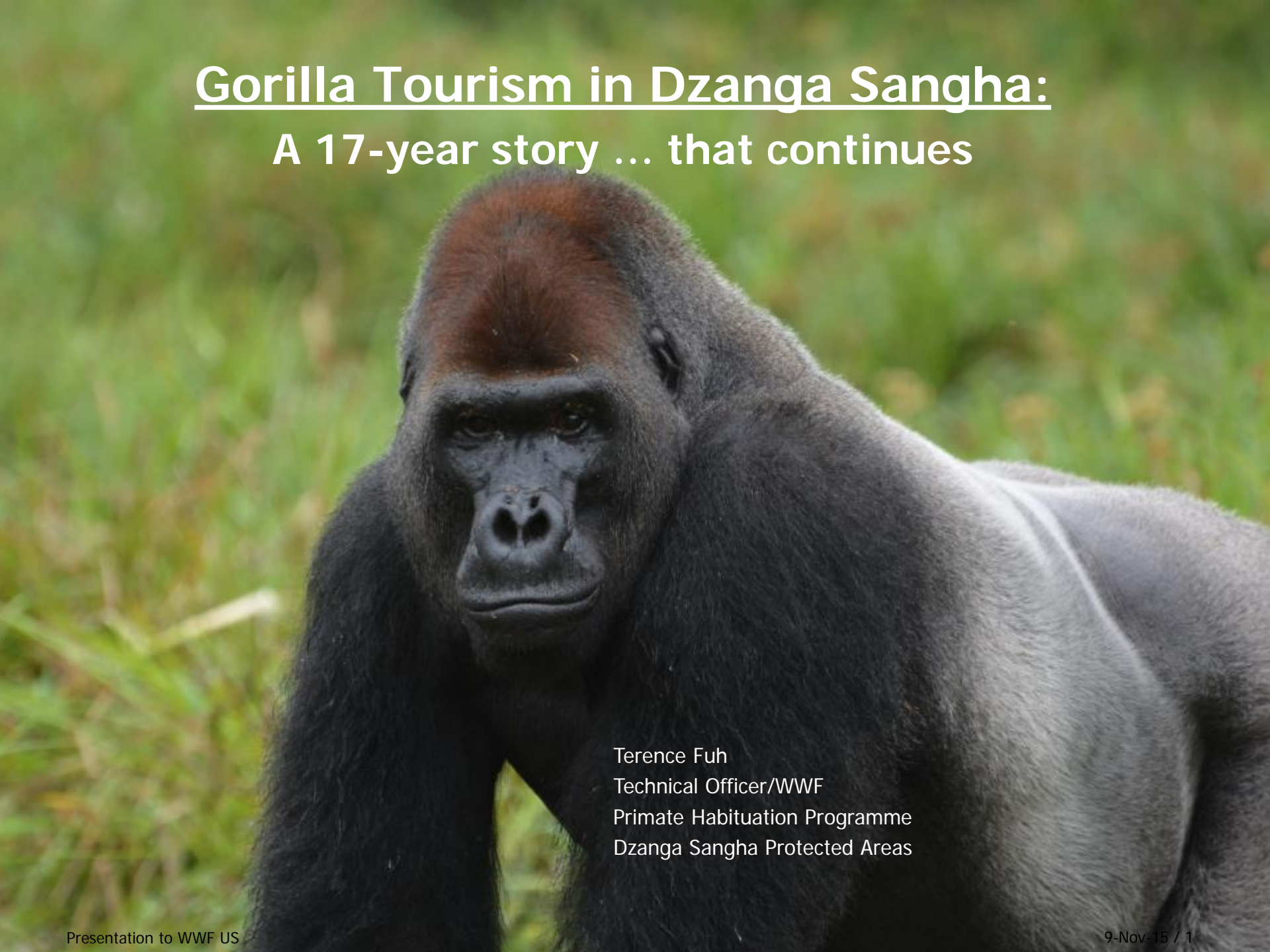


Gorilla Tourism in Dzanga Sangha: A 17-year story ... that continues



Terence Fuh
Technical Officer/WWF
Primate Habituation Programme
Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

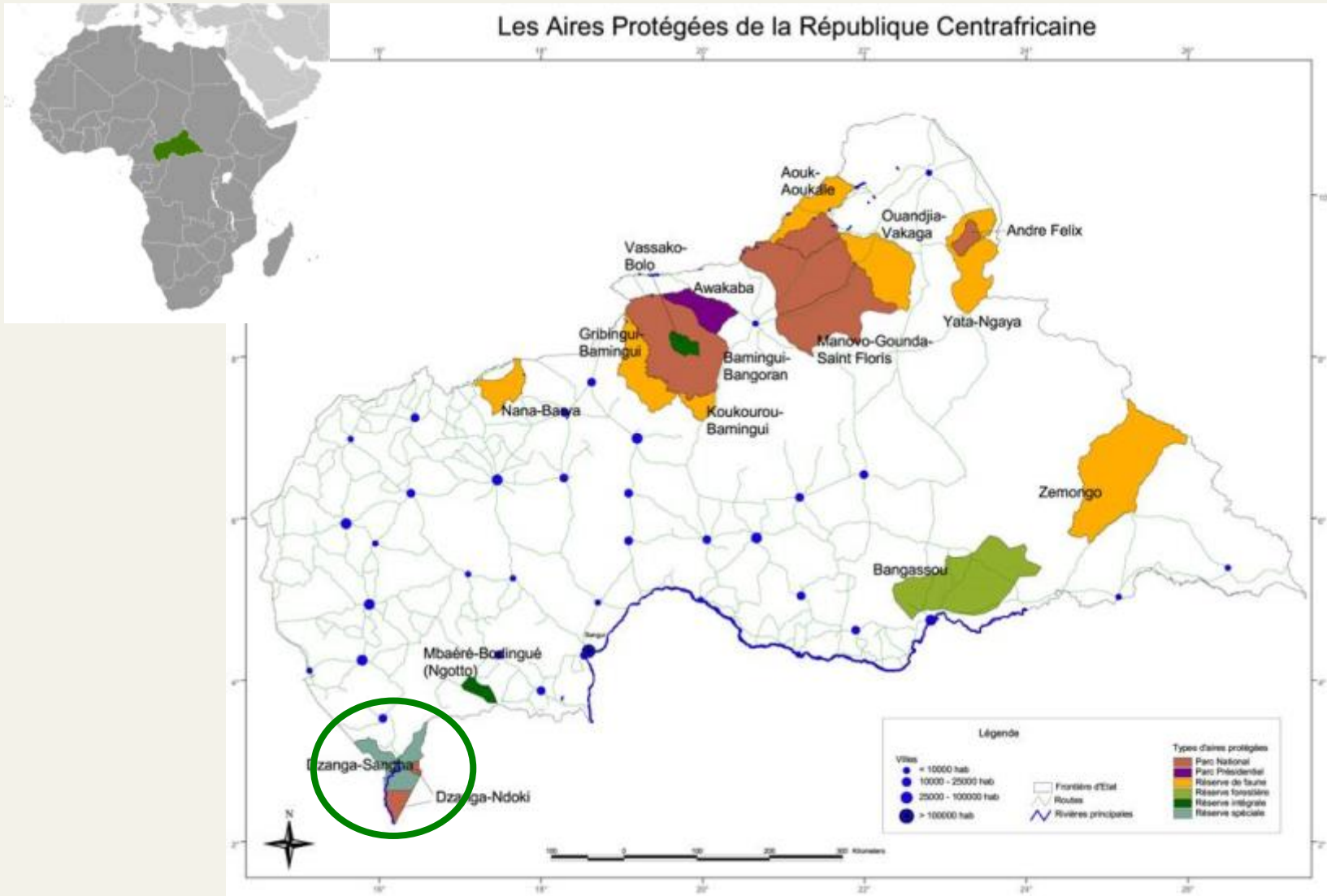


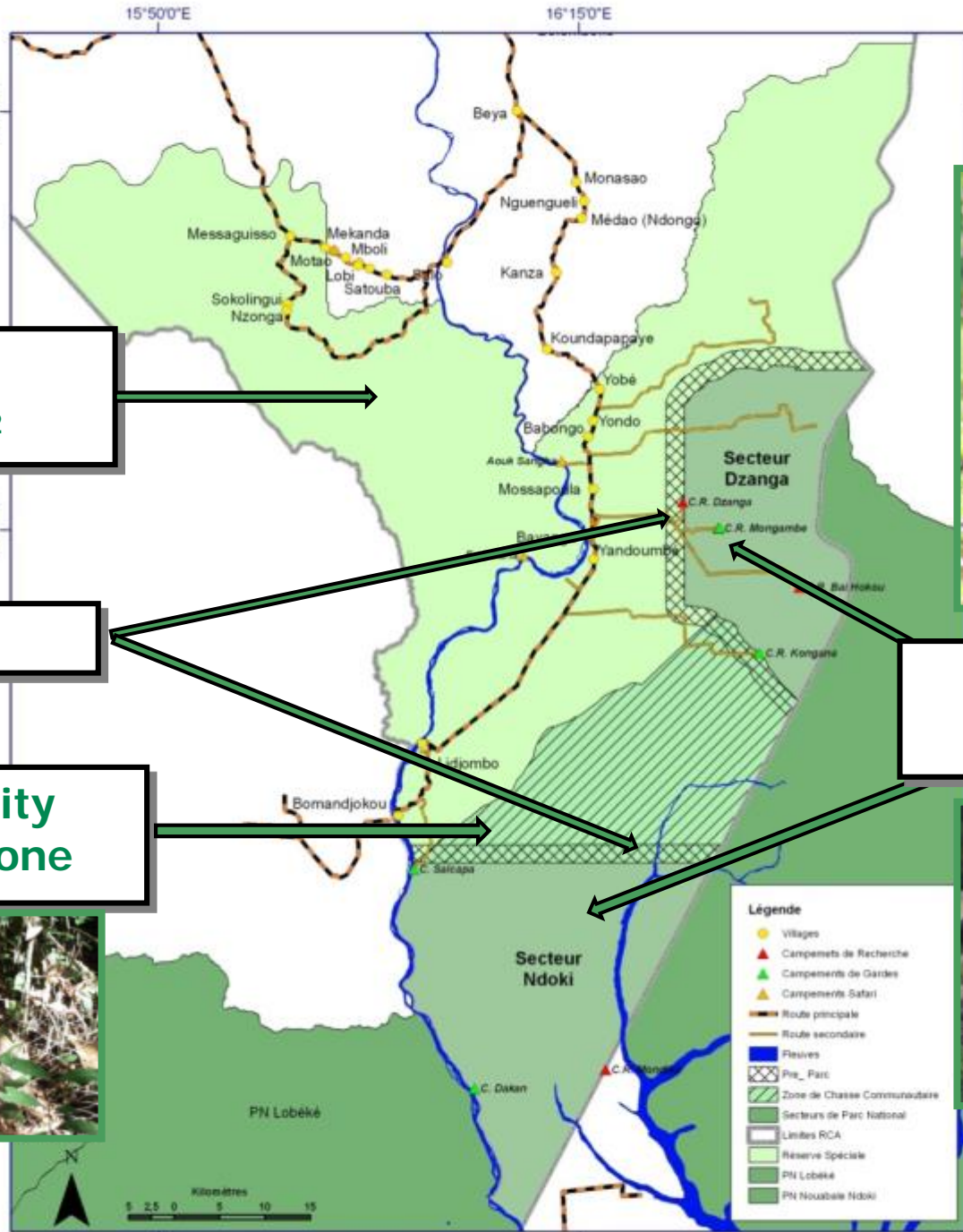
Presentation outline

- Introduction of Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas (DSPAs)
- Biodiversity of the DSPAs
- DSPA administration/activities
- Primate Habituation Programme (PHP)
- Habituation process
- Achievements
- Major challenges
- Perspectives



Location of DSPA in CAR





Reserve
3.408 km²

Pre park

Community hunting zone

National Park
1.253 km²







The indigenous people of DSPA





Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas administration

Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of
natural resources



MEFCP

MDTA

Aires Protégées



Dzanga - Sangha





Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas administration

Conservation

- Integral protection of NP
- Assure sustainable use of resources in reserve

Tourism

- Valorization of natural and cultural resources
- Generate revenue
- Create employment

Aires Protégées



Dzanga - Sangha

Sustainable development

- Develop strategies/
Integrated development
measures for conservation of
biodiversity and
management of natural
resources

Forest and data

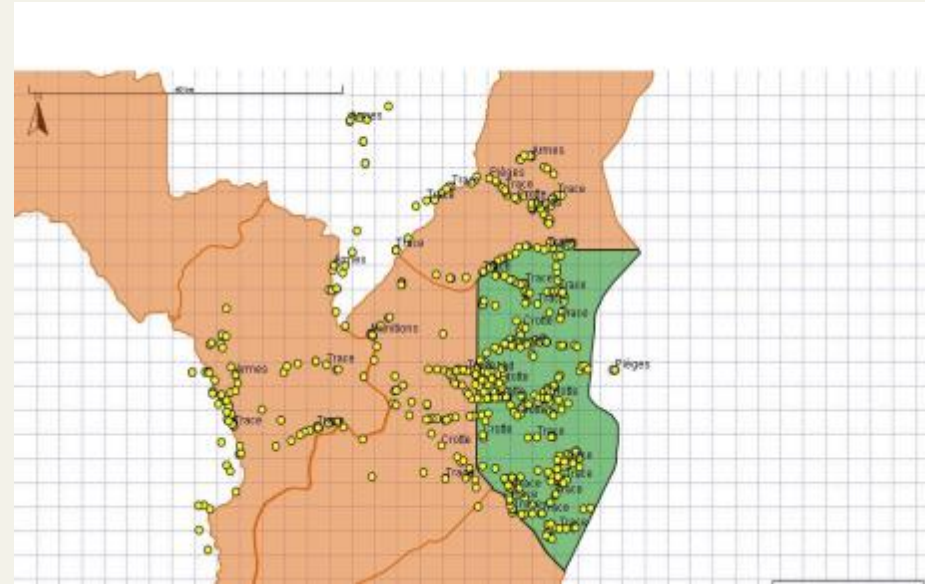
- Follow up forest concessions
- Assure concessions respect
conventions and laws



Anti-poaching

- Daily patrols by anti-poaching units
- Jan-Jun 2015 - 5502 man/day

First quarter 2015 seizures:



Type	January 2015	February 2015	March 2015	Total
High Caliber 10.75	02	00	00	02
Medium caliber Baikal	07	04	05	16
Medium caliber Simplex	01	00	02	03
War weapons - MAS 36	00	00	01	01
War weapons - SKS	00	01	00	01
Homemade weapons	14	14	19	47
Total	24	19	27	70
12 gauge shotgun shells	109	28	99	236
Snares (unit)	2177	725	1362	4264
Snare cable (Roll)	01	00	00	01
Tusks	00	02	00	02
Bush meat – all types (Kg)	15	30	35	80
Bush meat – protected species (Kg)	20	44	00	64





Tourism in Dzanga-Sangha





Distribution of gorillas in Africa

Western Lowland Gorillas

- Critically endangered
- 1300 - 4600 in DSPA

Principal Threats:

- Poaching
- Loss of habitat
- Disease





The Primate Habituation Programme (PHP)

Objectives:



TOURISM

RESEARCH

CONSERVATION





The Primate Habituation Programme (PHP)

What is habituation:





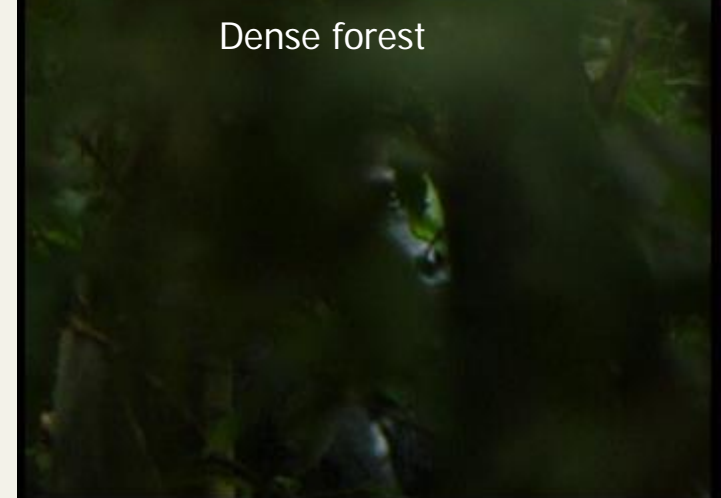
The Primate Habituation Programme (PHP)

Gorilla habituation: what it takes

- 4 – 7 years required
- Skilled trackers
- Good trail system
- Daily follows of groups
- Repeated contacts
- Gradual change in reactions
 - Fear
 - Aggression
 - Curiosity
 - Ignore



Difficult trail



Dense forest

Aggression



Curiosity



Close approaches



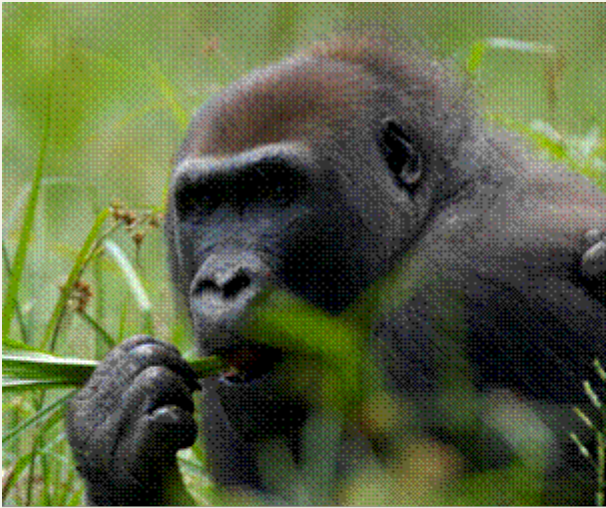
Ignore



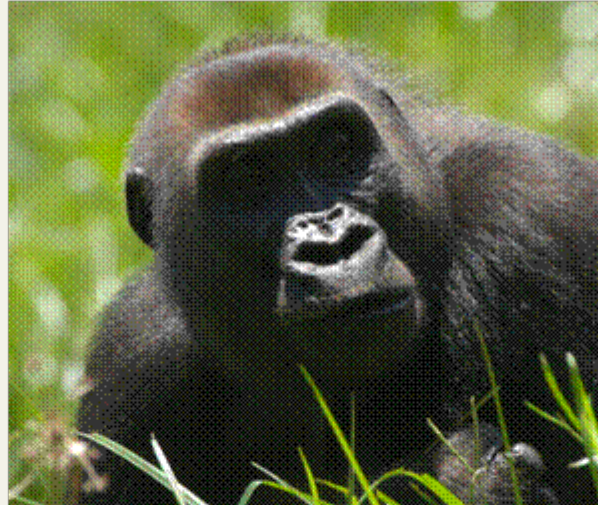


The Primate Habituation Programme (PHP)

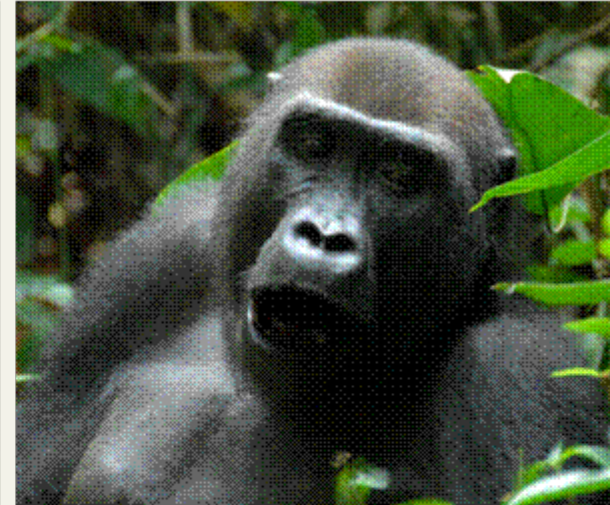
Identification of individuals



Bombe



Malui



Mopambi





The Primate Habituation Programme (PHP)

The road so far:

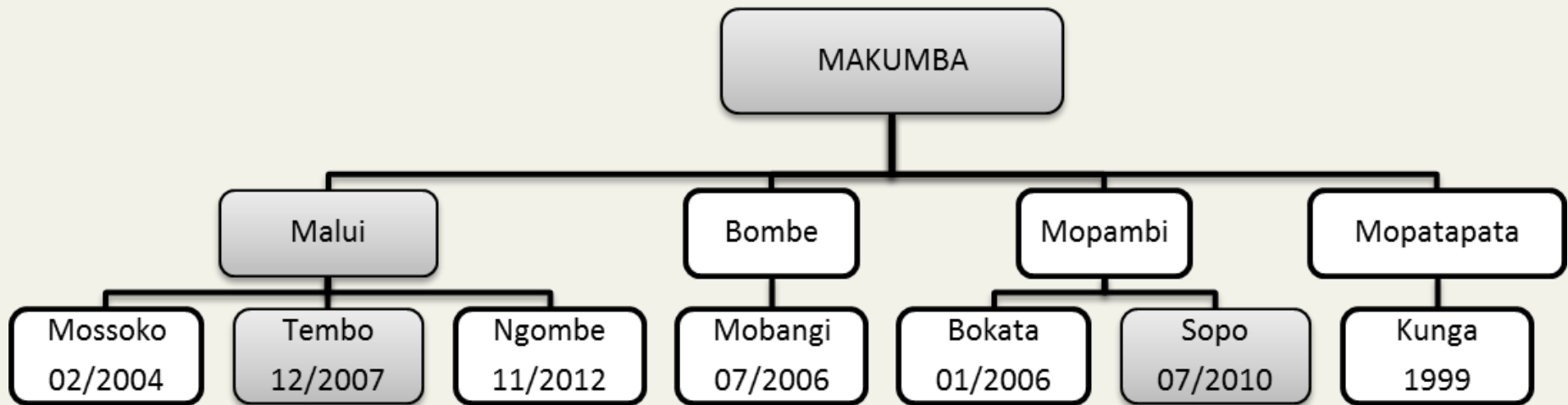
- 2 camps (Bai Hokou and Mongambe)
- Solar panel energy system
- Over 60 employees
- 2 habituated gorilla groups open to tourism (Makumba and Mayele)
- 2 groups under habituation (Mata and Wonga)





The Primate Habituation Programme (PHP)

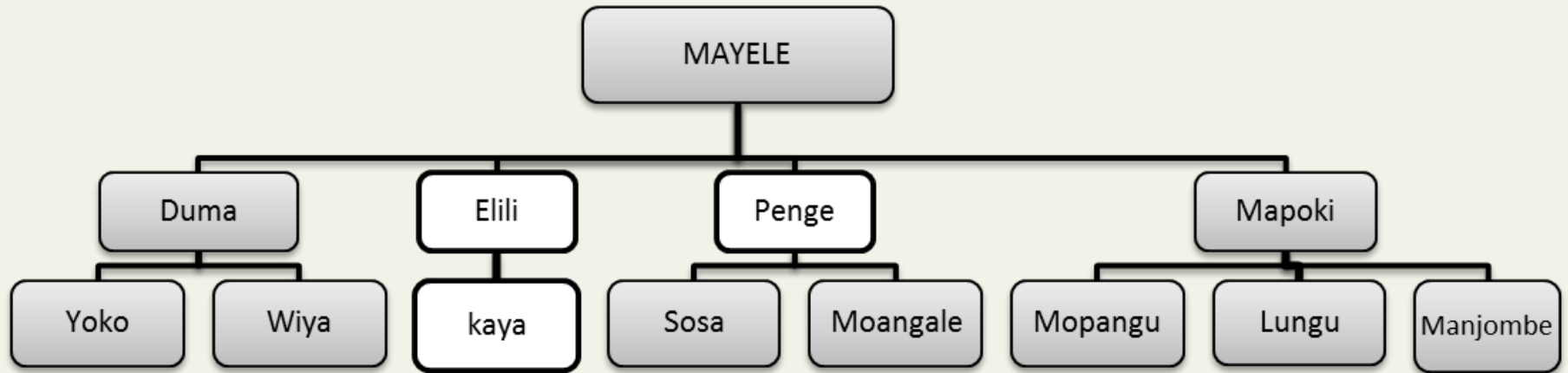
MAKUMBA group: today N = 4





The Primate Habituation Programme (PHP)

MAYELE group: today N = 10

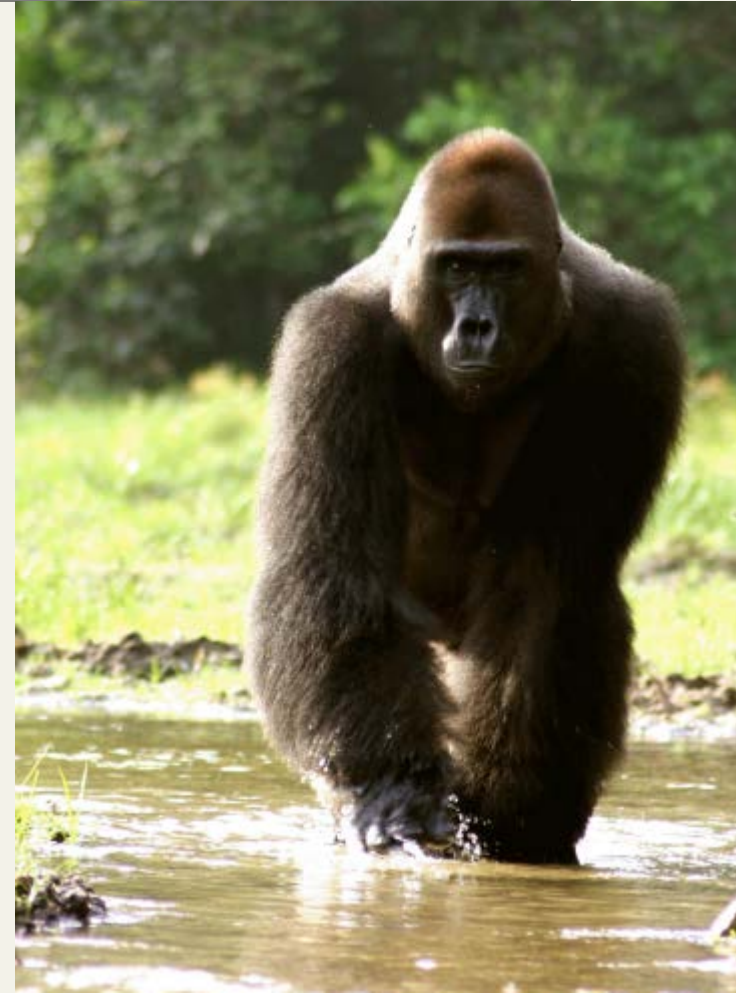




The Primate Habituation Programme (PHP)

The road so far:

- Over 3000 tourists/media
- Sensitization through the media
- Increase information through research
- Over 45 published articles
- PhD and Master theses
- Almost attained self-sustainability





The Primate Habituation Programme (PHP)

Preventing disease transmission:

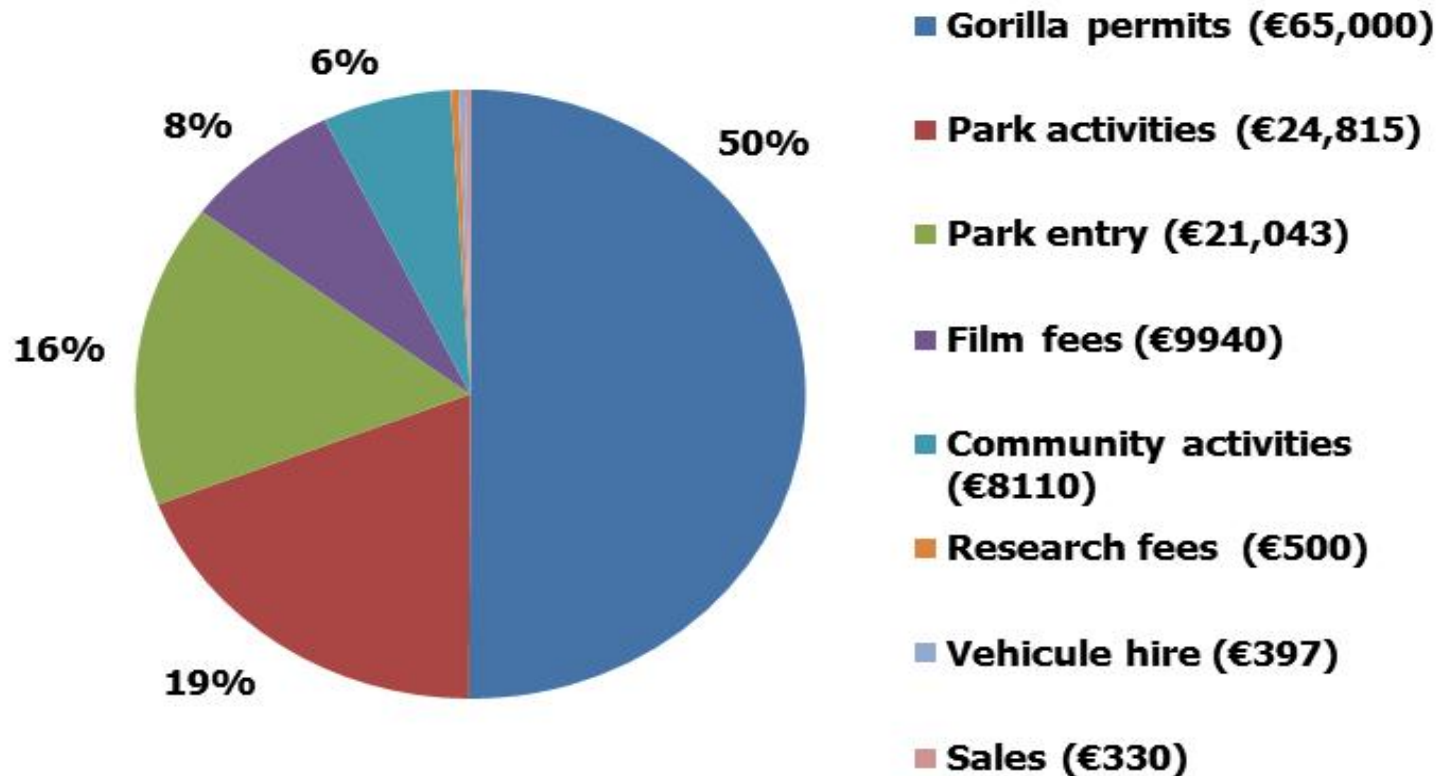
- Great ape and human health monitoring
- Improved Hygiene Rules & Measures
- Routine Health Monitoring
- Regular collection & preservation of biological samples
- Regular observations & recording of observational health data
- Standard Employee Health Programme (EHP)





Importance of gorilla tourism to DSPA

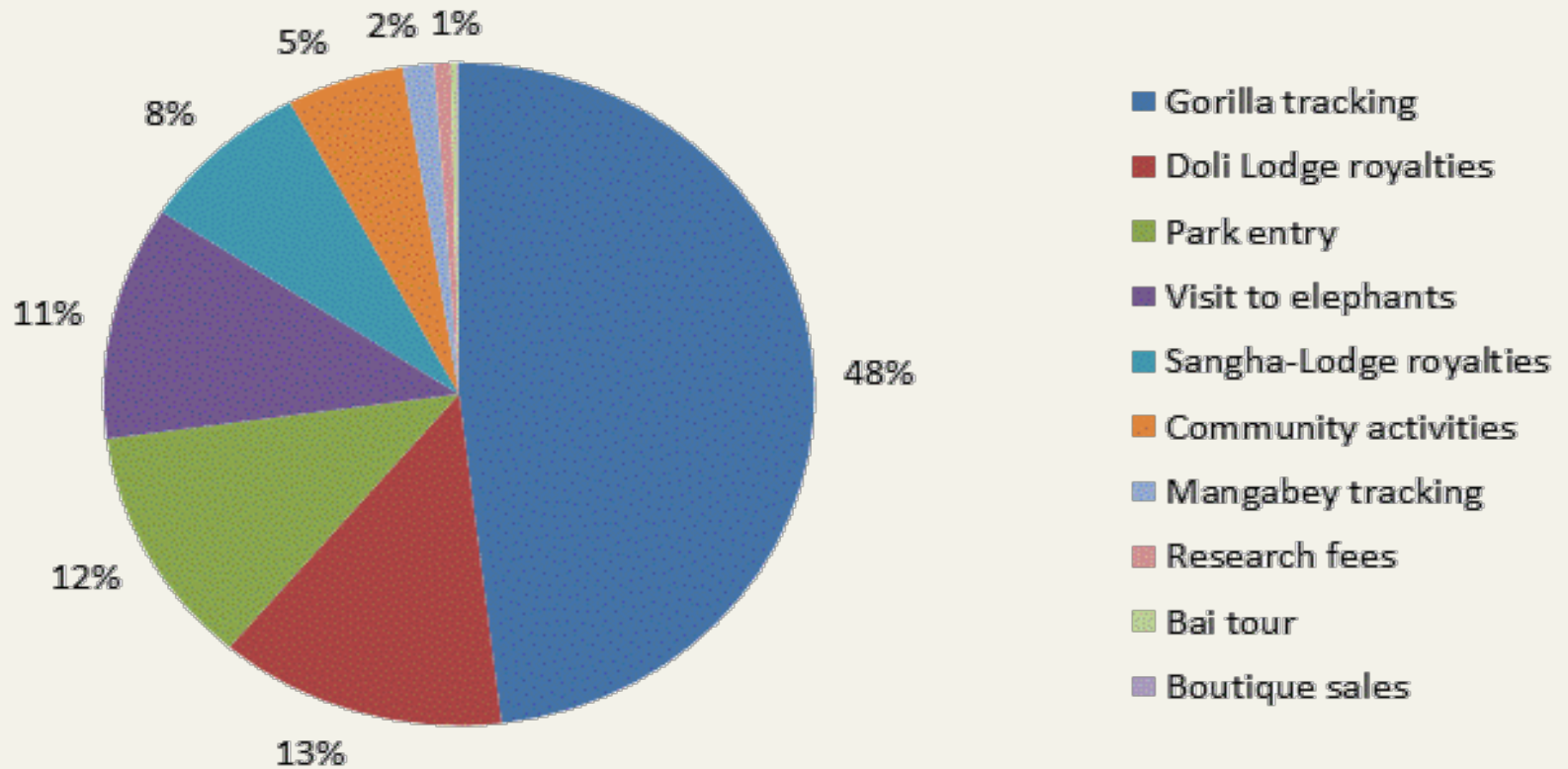
2010 DSPA tourism revenue:





Importance of gorilla tourism to DSPA

2011 DSPA tourism revenue:

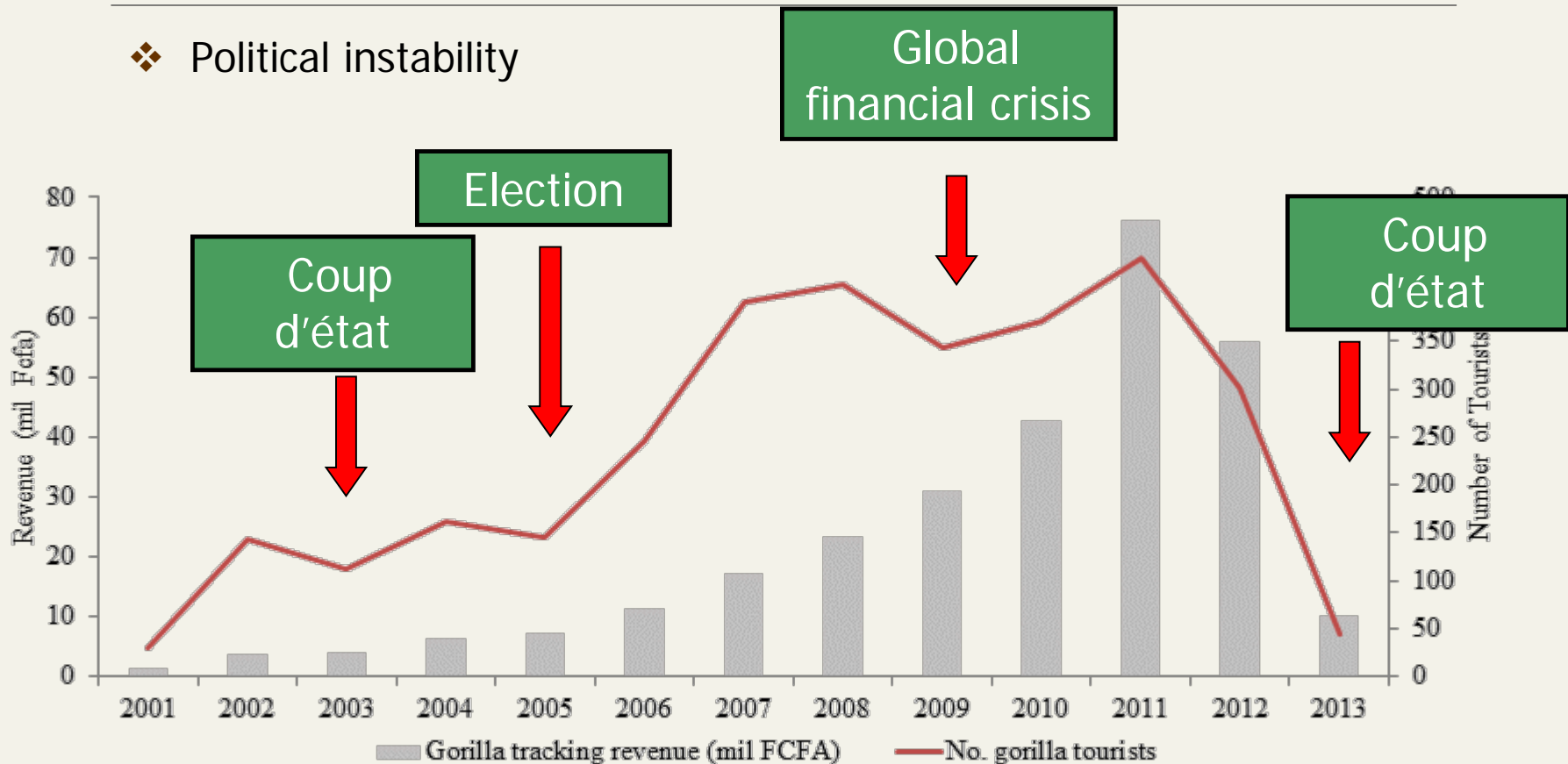




The Primate Habituation Programme (PHP)

Major challenges:

- ❖ Political instability





The Primate Habituation Programme (PHP)

Major challenges:

- ❖ The March 2013 coup d'état






The Primate Habituation Programme (PHP)

Major challenges:

❖ Effects of the March 2013 coup d'état

- Looting of project headquarter
 - Insecurity in the region
 - Evacuation of expat staff
 - Influx of villagers into NP
- 
- Suspension of tourism
 - Zero tourism revenue
 - Need for emergency funding
 - Self-sustainability delayed



The Primate Habituation Programme (PHP)

Perspectives

- Continue to habituate gorillas with minimum impact
- Continue ecological and behavioral research
- Implementation of Health Monitoring Program
- Capacity building of local guides, guards, tour operators
- Develop landscape-level gorilla-tourism





Acknowledgment

Great commitment of WWF US to DSPA

- Grants: ex. USFWS and Sacharuna
- Active leadership of ex-APDS staff: Allard Blom, Lisa Steel, Richard Carroll
- Support to AfGAP by WWF US species team



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Thank you!!

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