

# Overview of DRC Program

**Richard K. Tshombe**





The Democratic Republic of Congo is a vast country around two thirds the size of Western Europe.



# Background

- By far most biologically rich country in Africa with the highest diversity of mammals.
- Size and wide range of habitats make it one of the world's most important centers of biodiversity.
- Globally important mammals species include okapi, chimps, elephant, gorilla (mountain & lowland) and the bonobo (genetically man's closest relative).

## Background (cont)

- Primate diversity is second only to that of Brazil with 37 species.
- 1,094 species of birds (23 endemic).
- 415 species of mammals (28 endemic)
- Reptiles (268 species, 33 endemic) and amphibians (80 species, 53 endemic) are poorly known.
- More than 11,000 of higher plants (3,200 endemic).

**okapi**



**Grauer's gorilla**



**Bonobo**

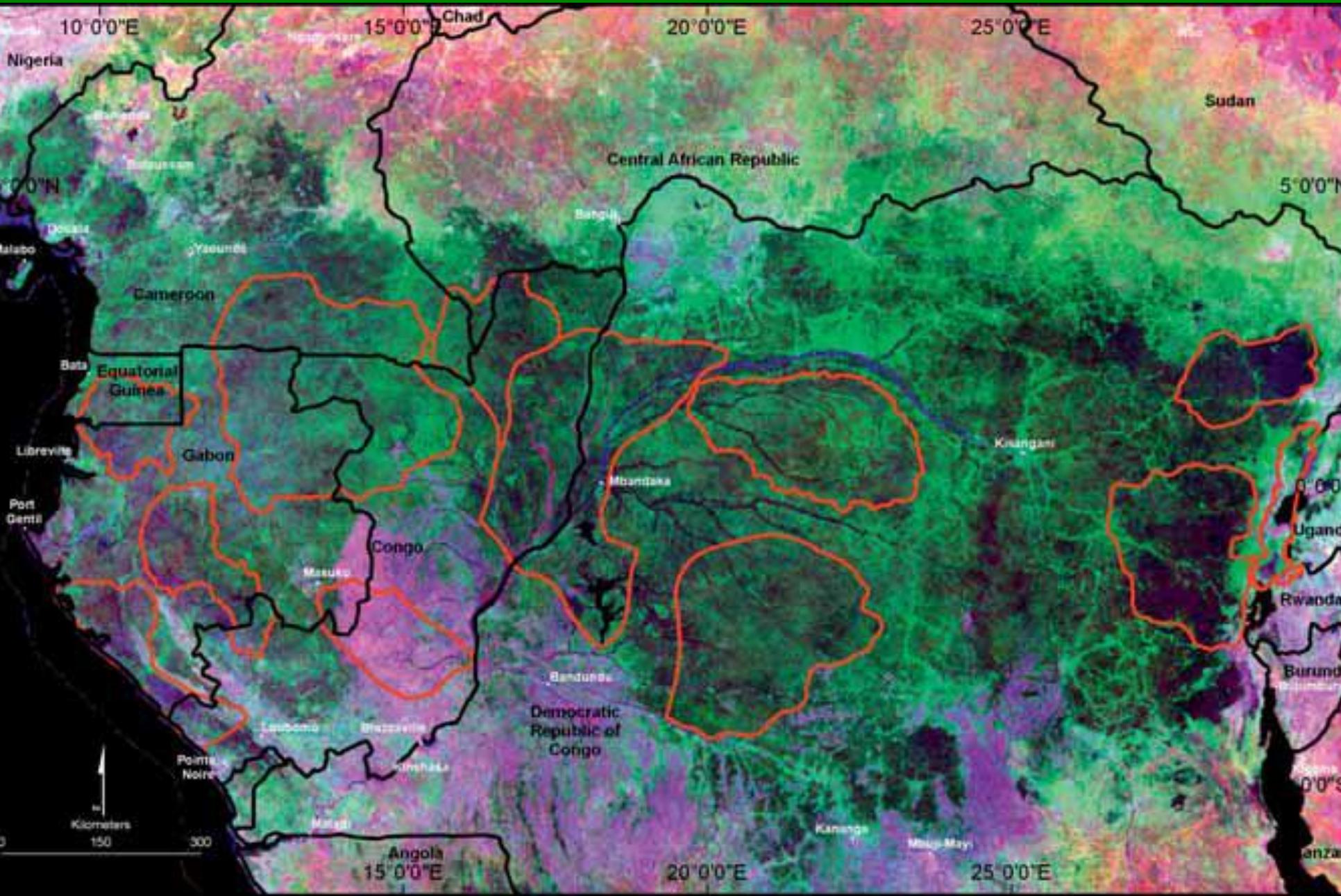


**Forest elephants**

# History of WCS presence in DRC

- Presence in DRC since 1985
- 1985-2003: Centered around Ituri with sporadic activities in other protected areas (Kahuzi-Biega NP, Itombwe NR, Maiko NP)
- 2003-to date: Country Program with activities in OFR, Virunga NP, Kahuzi-Biega NP, Salonga NP, Itombwe NR, Kabobo Forest and Mt Hoyo

# CARPE Landscapes





# USAID Active Grants

Project	Total award (\$)	FY15 (\$)
Ituri	13,600,000.00	3,200,000.00
Salonga	4,972,769.79	1,152,784.43
Virunga	2,377,310.68	551,398.01
MTKB	2,604,123.00	166,050.00
<b>Total (\$)</b>	<b>23,554,204.00</b>	<b>5,520,040.00</b>

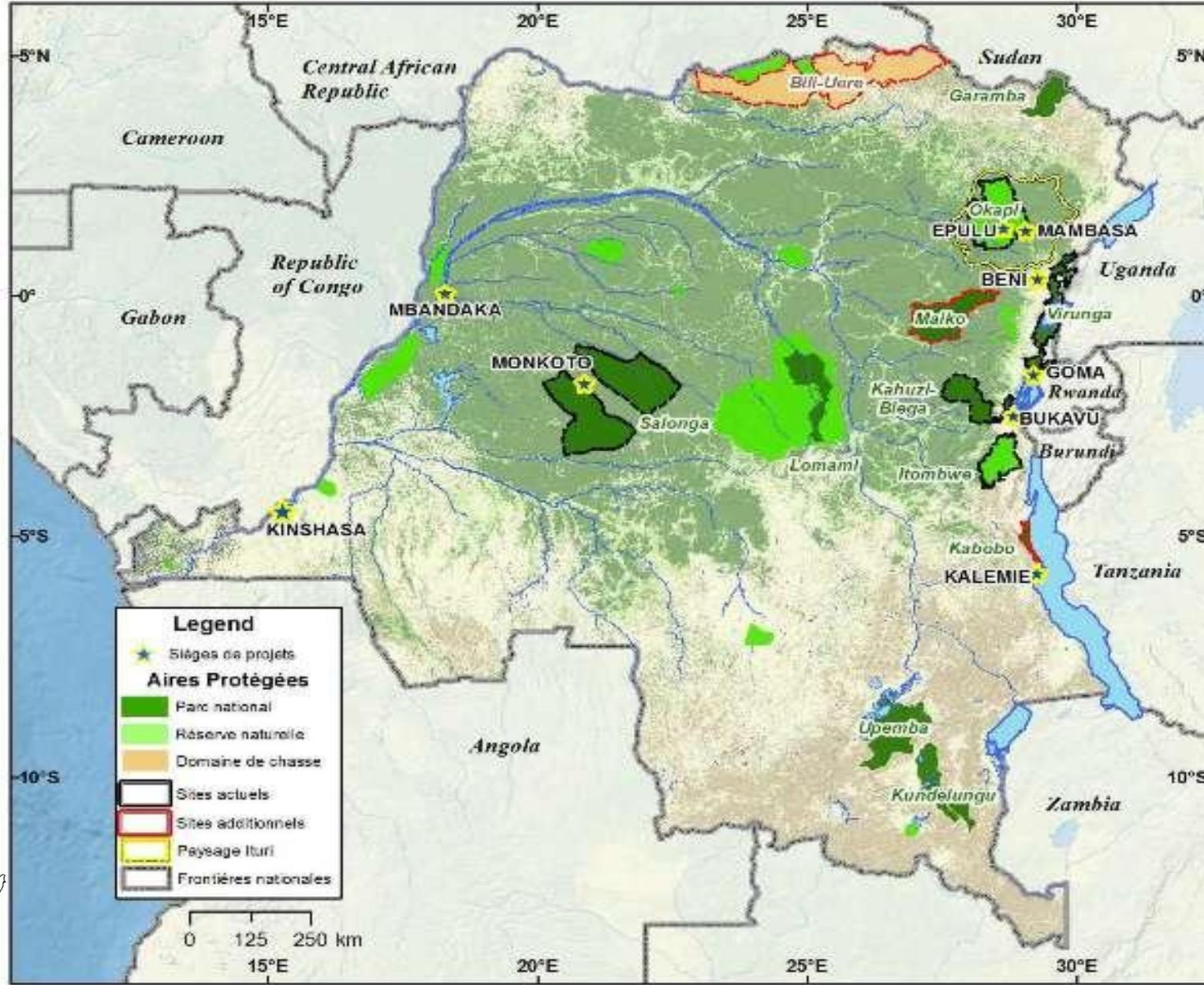
WCS Sites	Target species & habitats	Activities	Staff	
Ituri	Okapi, elephant, chimps Forest habitat integrity	Bio monitoring, Land use planning, livelihood, CBNRM, SMART	Ituri-62	
Virunga (AR)	Great apes, hippo, large predators, elephant Forest habitat integrity	Bio monitoring, land use planning, CBRM (fisheries) and RBM, SMART	Goma-5	
Kahuzi-Biega (AR)	Gorilla, elephant Forest habitat integrity	Bio monitoring, law enforcement, livelihoods, SMART	Bukavu-3	
Itombwe (AR)	Gorilla, chimps Forest habitat integrity	Bio monitoring, land use planning, SMART	Staff from Goma and Bukavu	
Salonga	Bonobo, elephant Forest habitat integrity	Bio monitoring, land use planning (limits demarcation), SMART	Mbandaka-3 Monkoto-12	
Kabobo (AR)	Chimps Forest habitat	Participatory mapping.	Kalemie-1	

WCS Sites	Target species & habitats	Activities	Staff
Mont Hoyo	Chimps, Okapis, Forest habitat integrity (esp corridor between Mont Hoyo and Virunga)	Inventories, got new funding from CBFF for a REDD project (april 2015), SMART	1-Staffing in progress



# Ranking of top 10 WCS conservation sites in DRC

- Priority sites for investment over the next ten years.
- Each site received a score from 1 to 5 for each of the following criteria: threat level, presence/absence of tourism, investment to date, ICCN position on WCS-DRC taking a leading role, size, wilderness, presence of flagship species and biodiversity

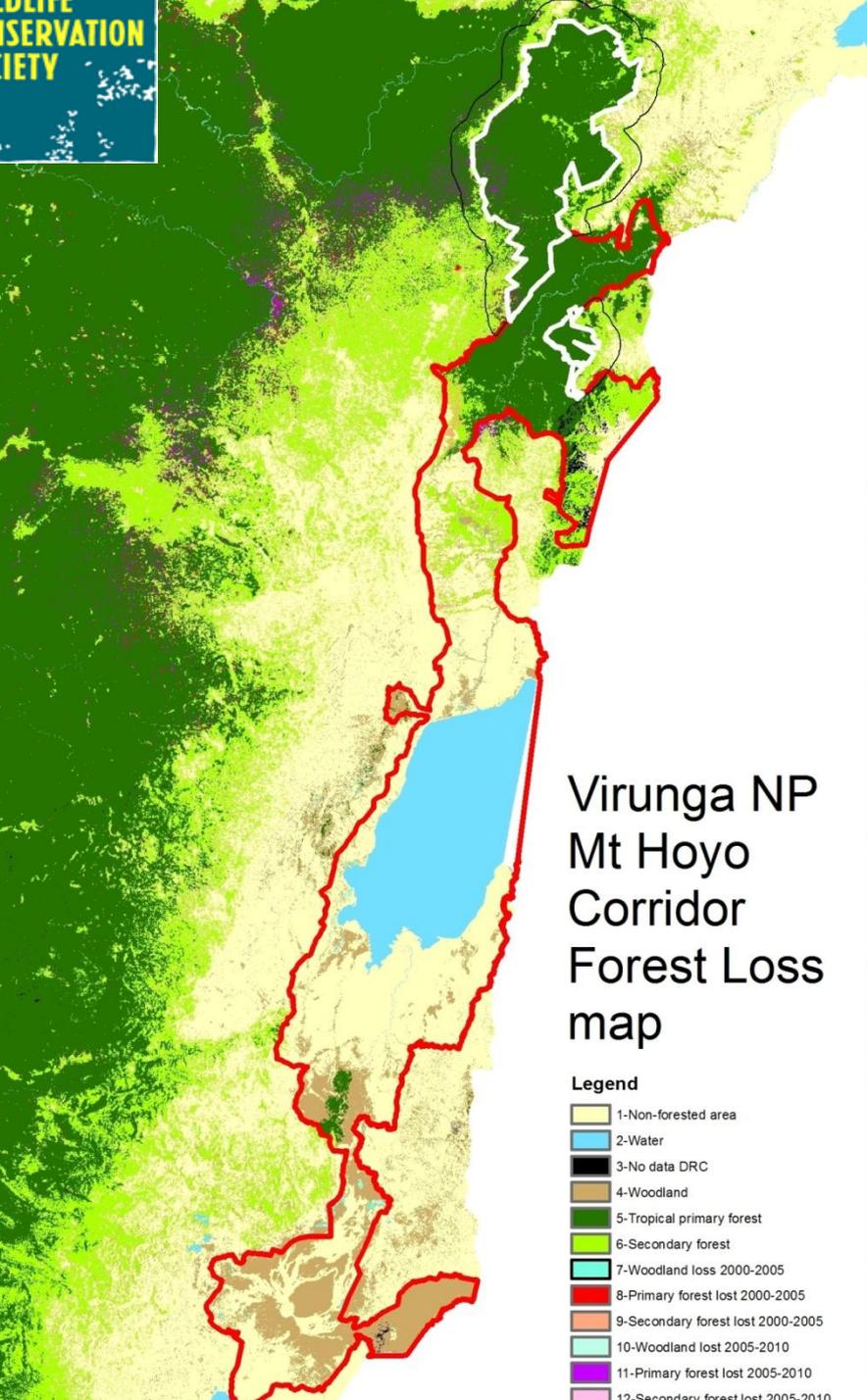


**Wildlife Conservation Society**  
 Programme République Démocratique du Congo  
 Sites d'intervention



# Ranking of top 10 WCS conservation sites in DRC

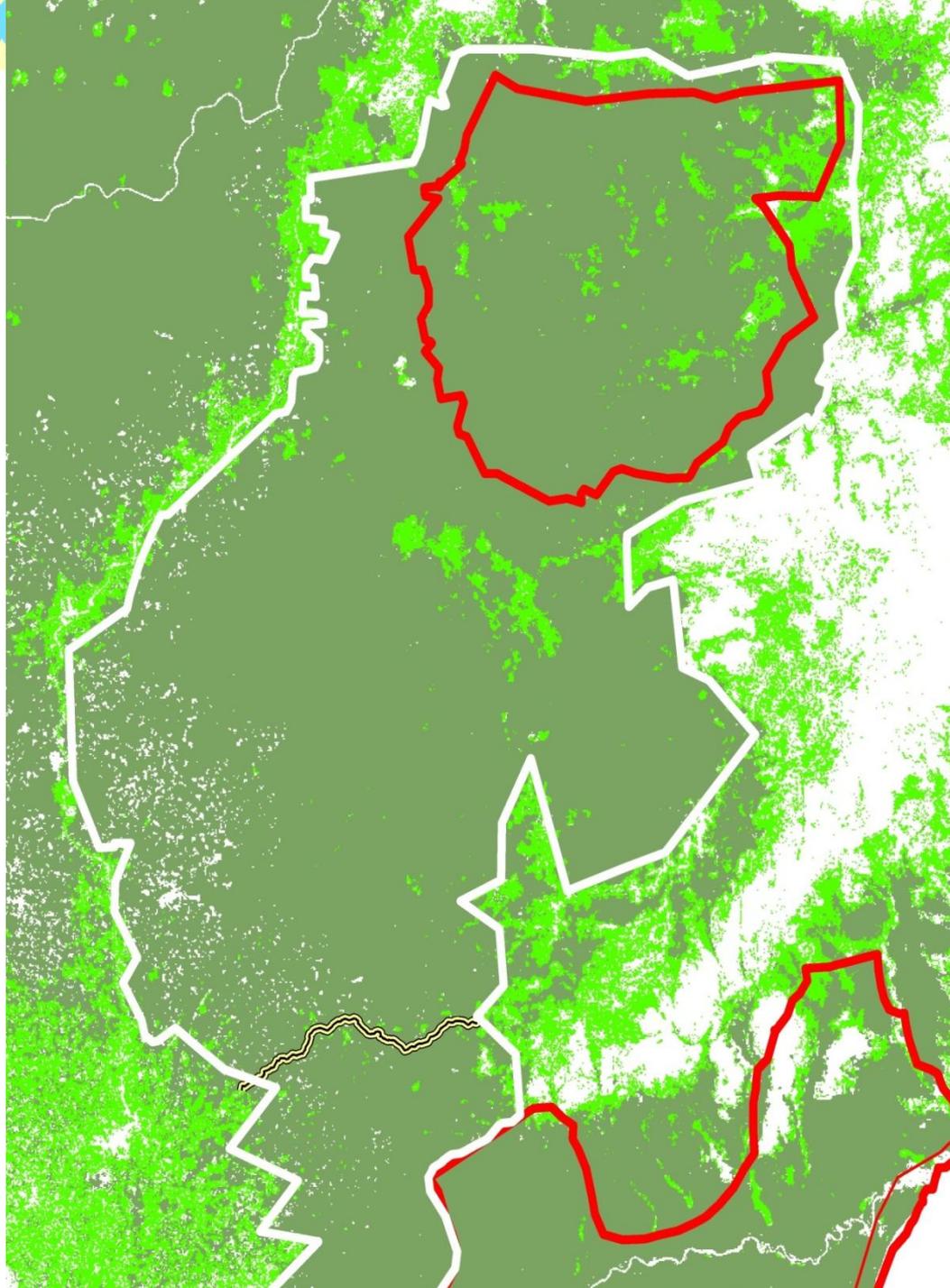
Sites	Score	Rank
Okapi Faunal Reserve	38	1
Kabobo Forest	34	2
Kahuzi-Biega Nat. Park	33.5	2
Salonga National P.	29	3
Itombwe Natural R.	29	3
Virunga National P.	28	4
Kundelungu National P.	27	5
Upemba National P.	26	6
Maiko National P.	26	6
Bili-Uere/Mont Hoyo	TBD	TBD



# Virunga NP Mt Hoyo Corridor Forest Loss map

## Legend

- 1-Non-forested area
- 2-Water
- 3-No data DRC
- 4-Woodland
- 5-Tropical primary forest
- 6-Secondary forest
- 7-Woodland lost 2000-2005
- 8-Primary forest lost 2000-2005
- 9-Secondary forest lost 2000-2005
- 10-Woodland lost 2005-2010
- 11-Primary forest lost 2005-2010
- 12-Secondary forest lost 2005-2010





# Status of recent WCS biological surveys

Protected areas/sites	Start period of completion	Report/estimated duration
Mont Hoyo	Done-Dec 2014	Report completed
Virunga NP	Done-Oct 2014	Report completed
Salonga NP	Started May 2015	
Ituri-OFR	Nov-Dec 2015	3 months
Ituri-Mai tatu block	Started Mid-April 2015	4 months
Kahuzi-Biega NP	Done in two sectors out of 7	Report completed for Nzovu sector

# Two examples of recent surveys

- Kahuzi-Biega NP
- Virunga NP



# Kahuzi-Biega National Park



# Kahuzi-Biega National Park

71,780ha

Itebero

Kasese

Lulingu

Lulingu Est

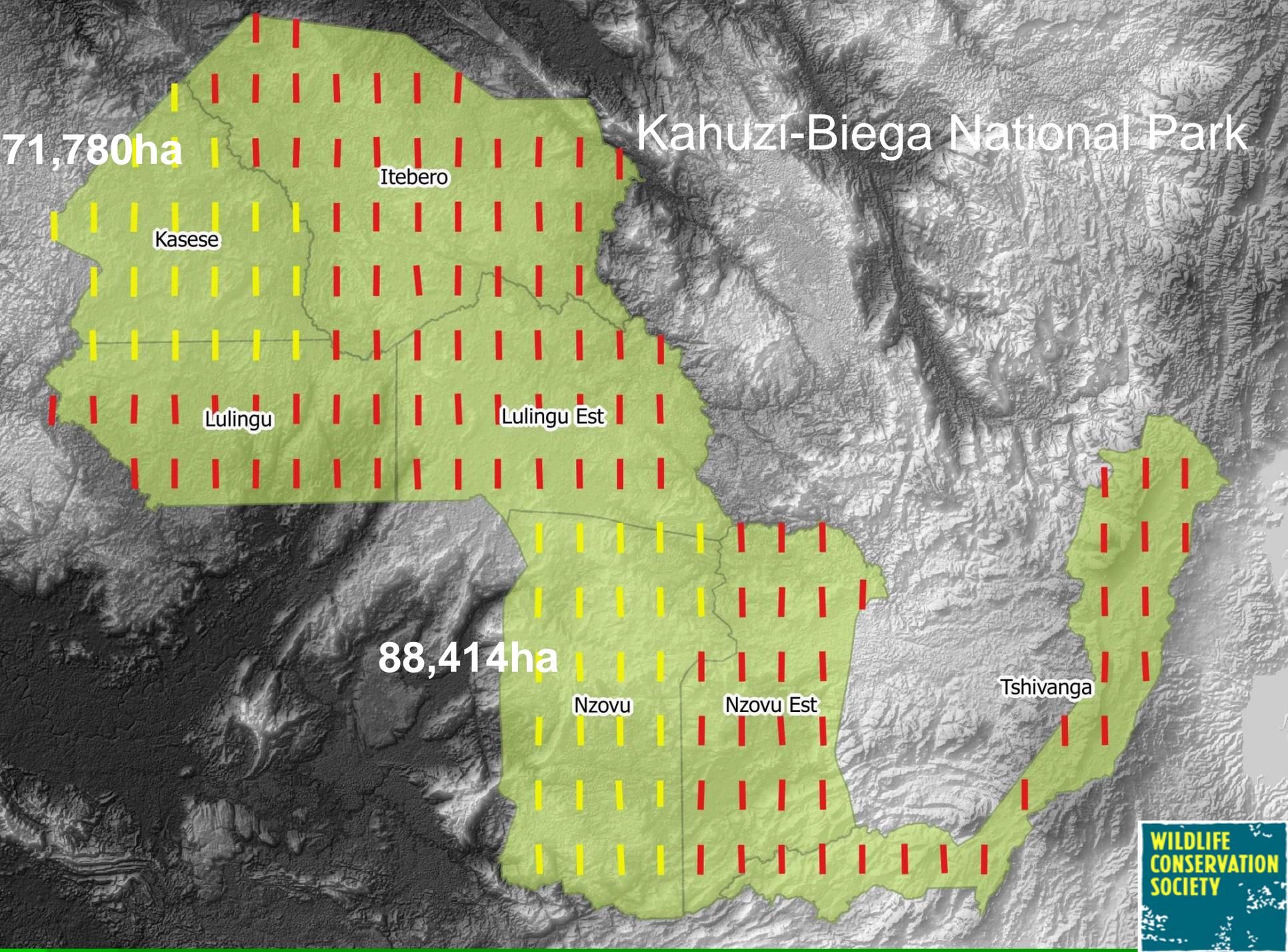
88,414ha

Nzovu

Nzovu Est

Tshivanga

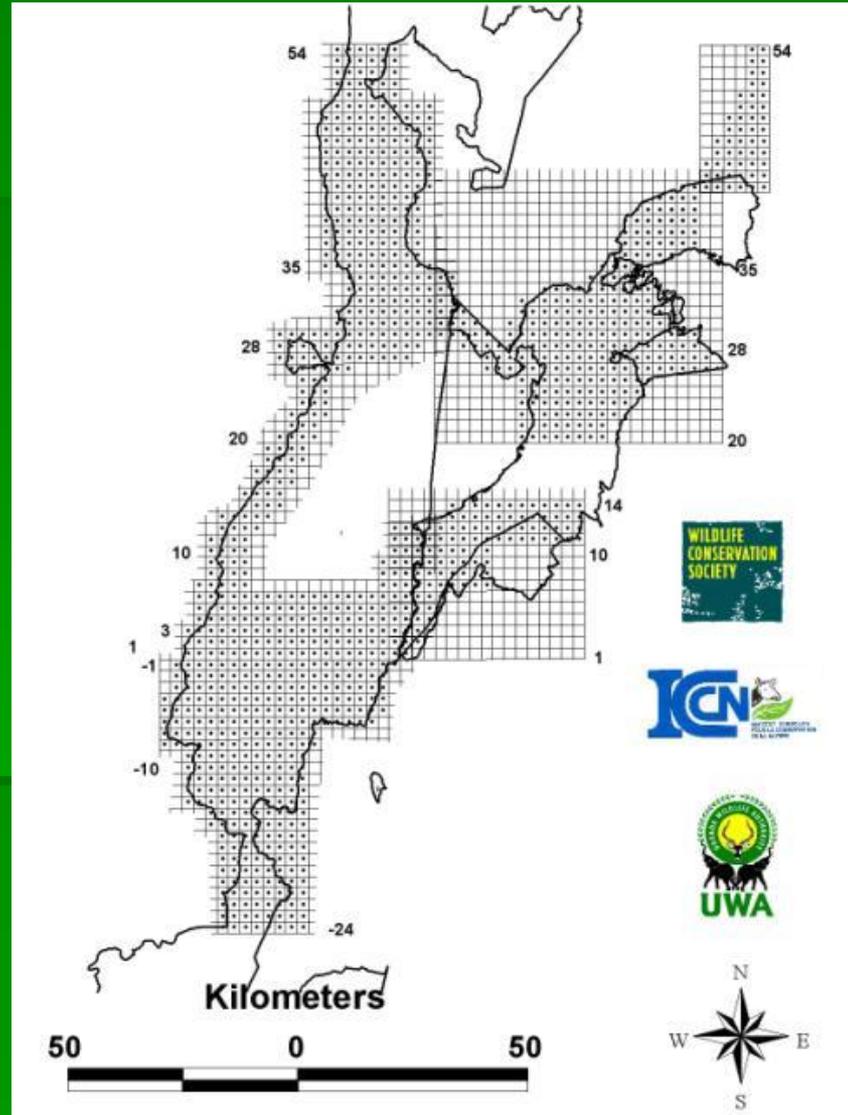
WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION  
SOCIETY



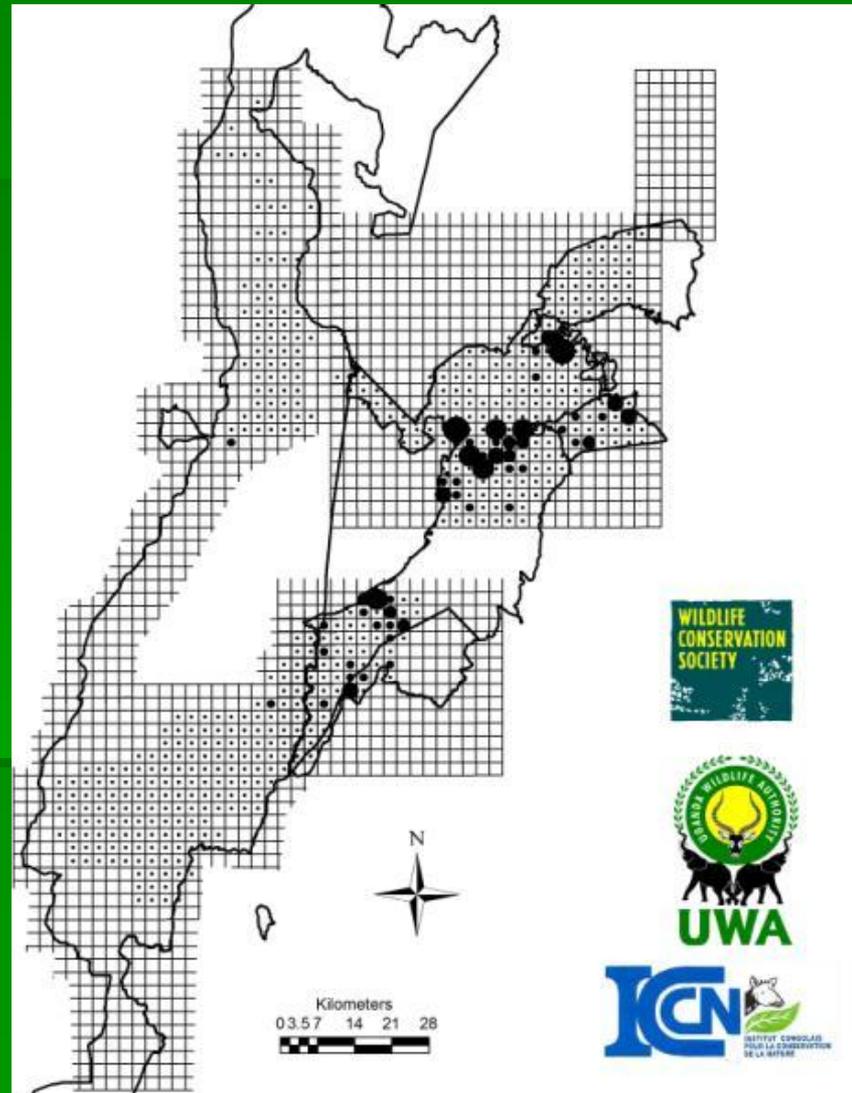
# Survey in Nzovu-KBNP: results

- Gorilla: 16 nets (2 old)
- Chimps: 67 nests (60 recent)
- 82 species of birds
- 290 snares
- 10 mining sites (tin, gold)
- 22 poaching camps

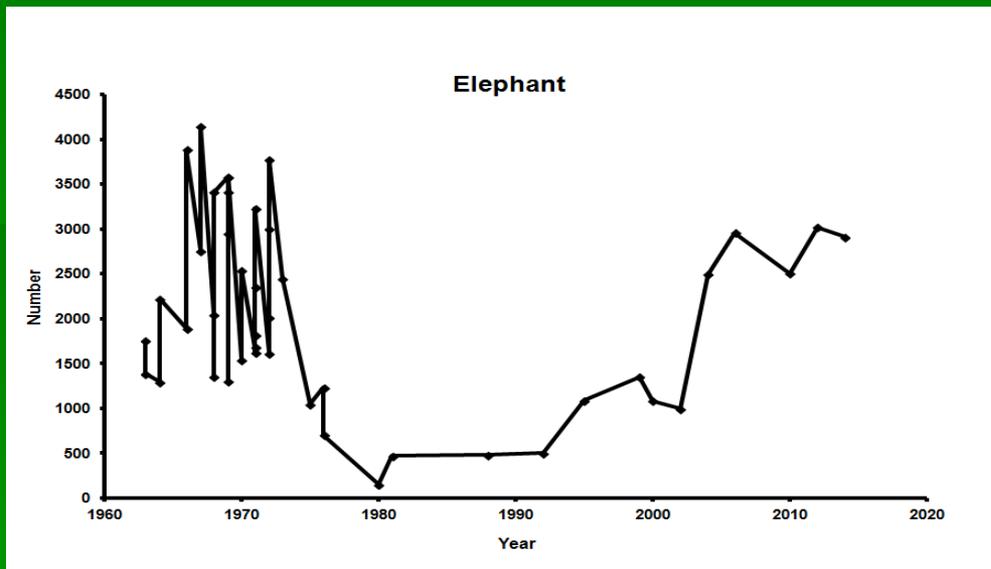
# Survey design of the Greater Virunga Landscape



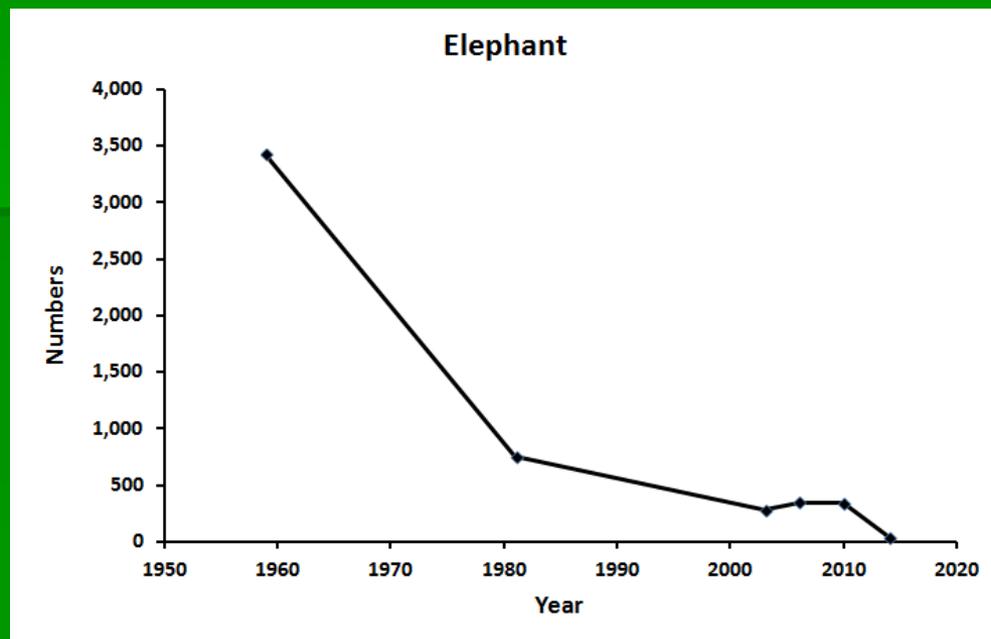
# Distribution and relative density of elephant in GVL



# Plot of numbers of elephants for each year since 1963 in QEPA and Virunga

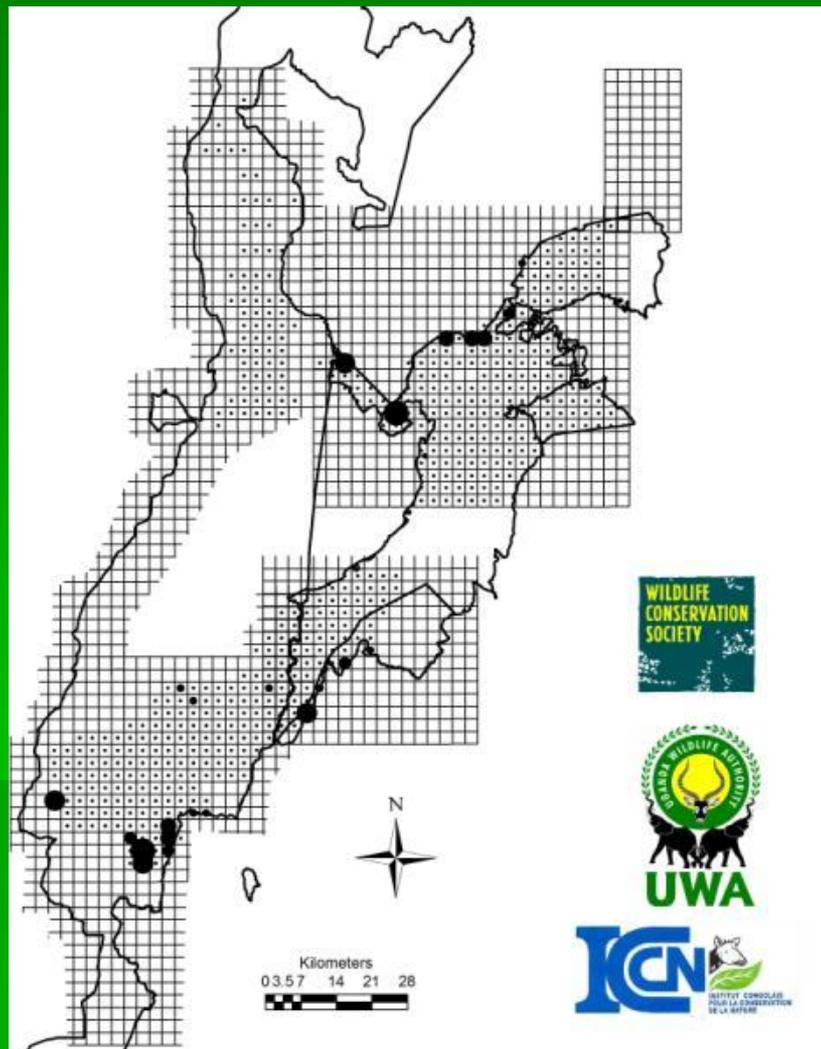


**QENP**

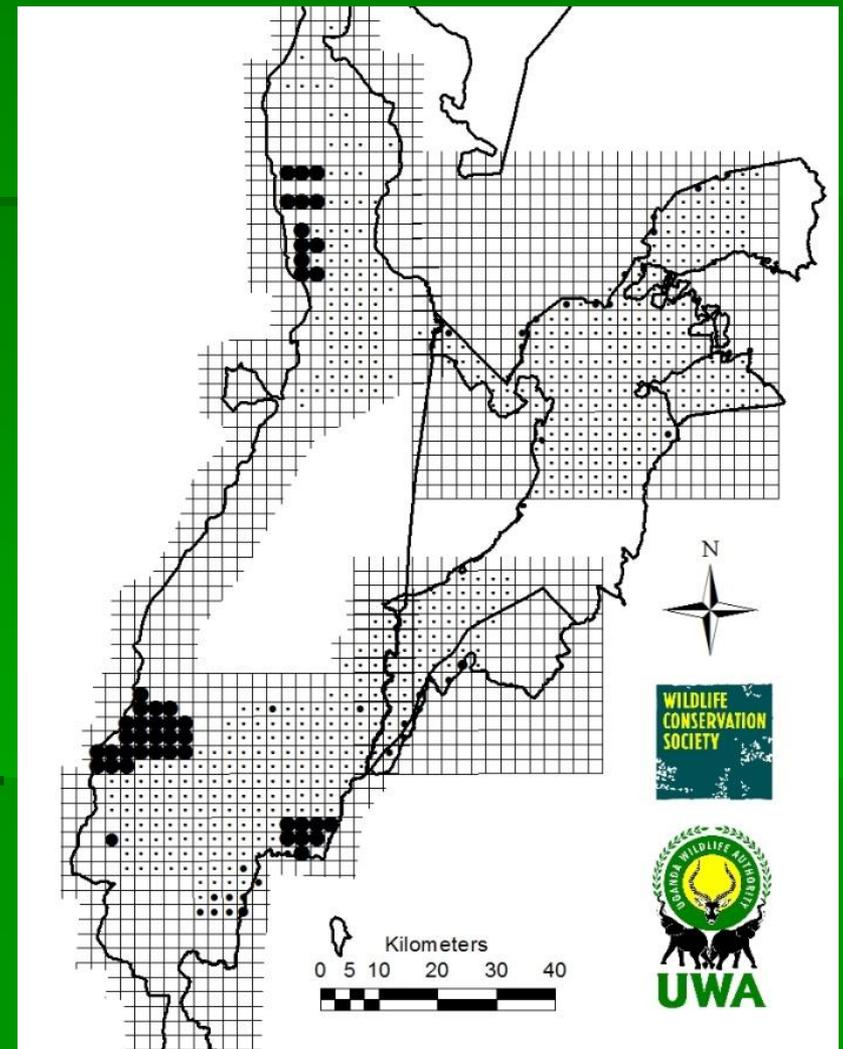


**ViNP**

# Distribution and relative density of human habitation and cultivation



Human habitation



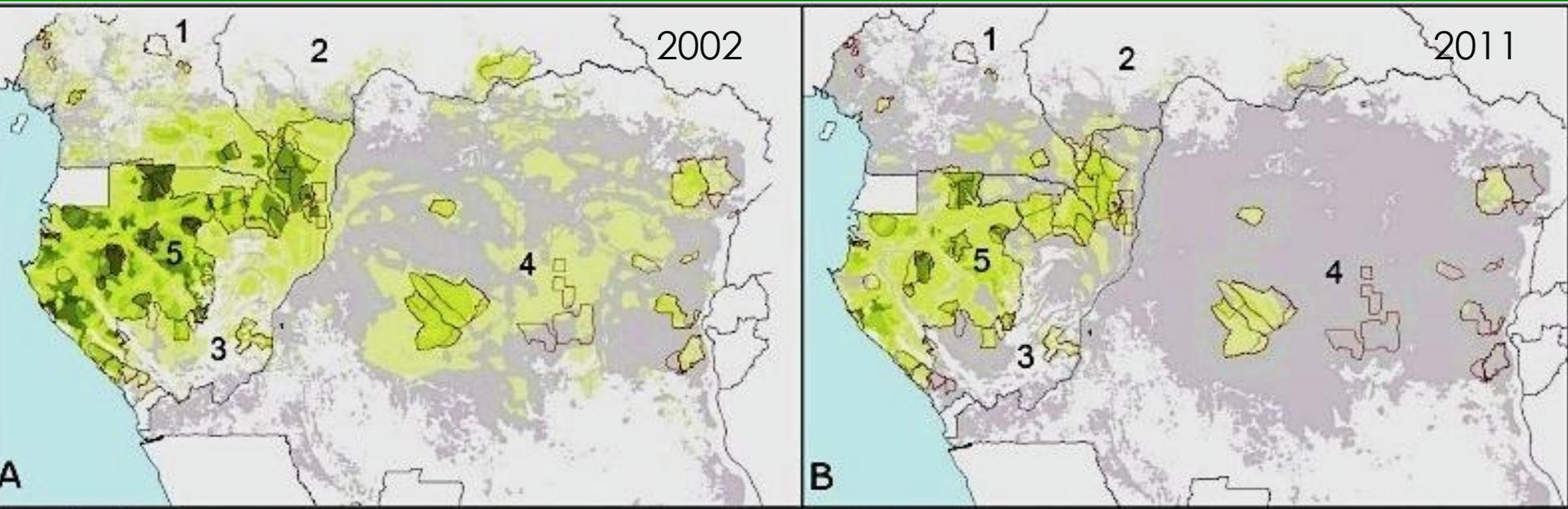
Cultivation

# Counts from aerial surveys in Virunga since the late 1950s

Year	Elephant	Buffalo	Topi	Uganda Kob	Waterbuck	Warthog
1959	3,425	28,307	5,939	11,218	2,223	
1981	751	9,715	3,460	10,300	780	
2003	286	2,292	855	12,121	211	
2006	348	3,822	1,353	12,982	374	
2010	347	2,154	1,040	6,954	169	296
2014	35	586	630	4,584	236	227



# Elephant crisis in Central Africa



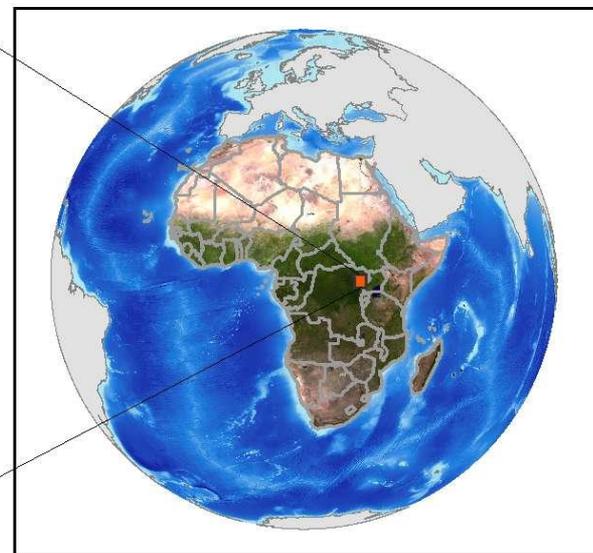
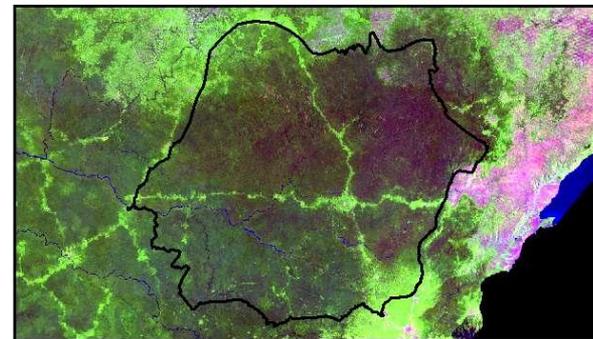
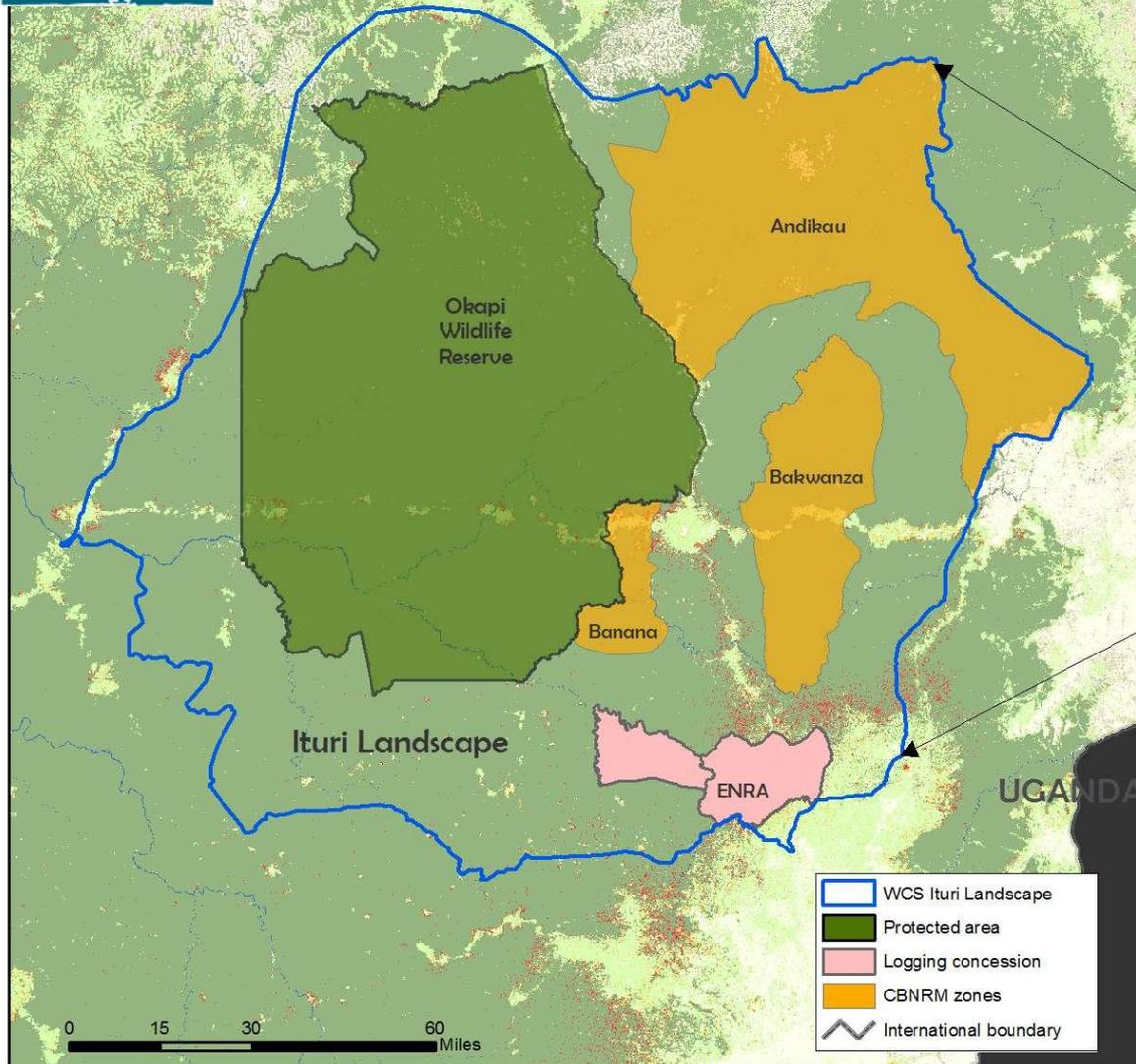
Followed by Robert's presentation

Robert? Over to you!

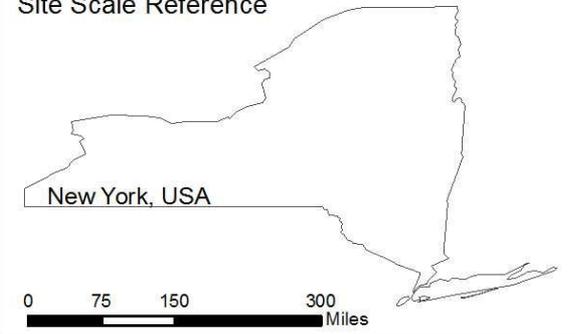
# Ituri Landscape, Northeastern DRC

WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION  
SOCIETY

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Site Scale Reference





Thank you

