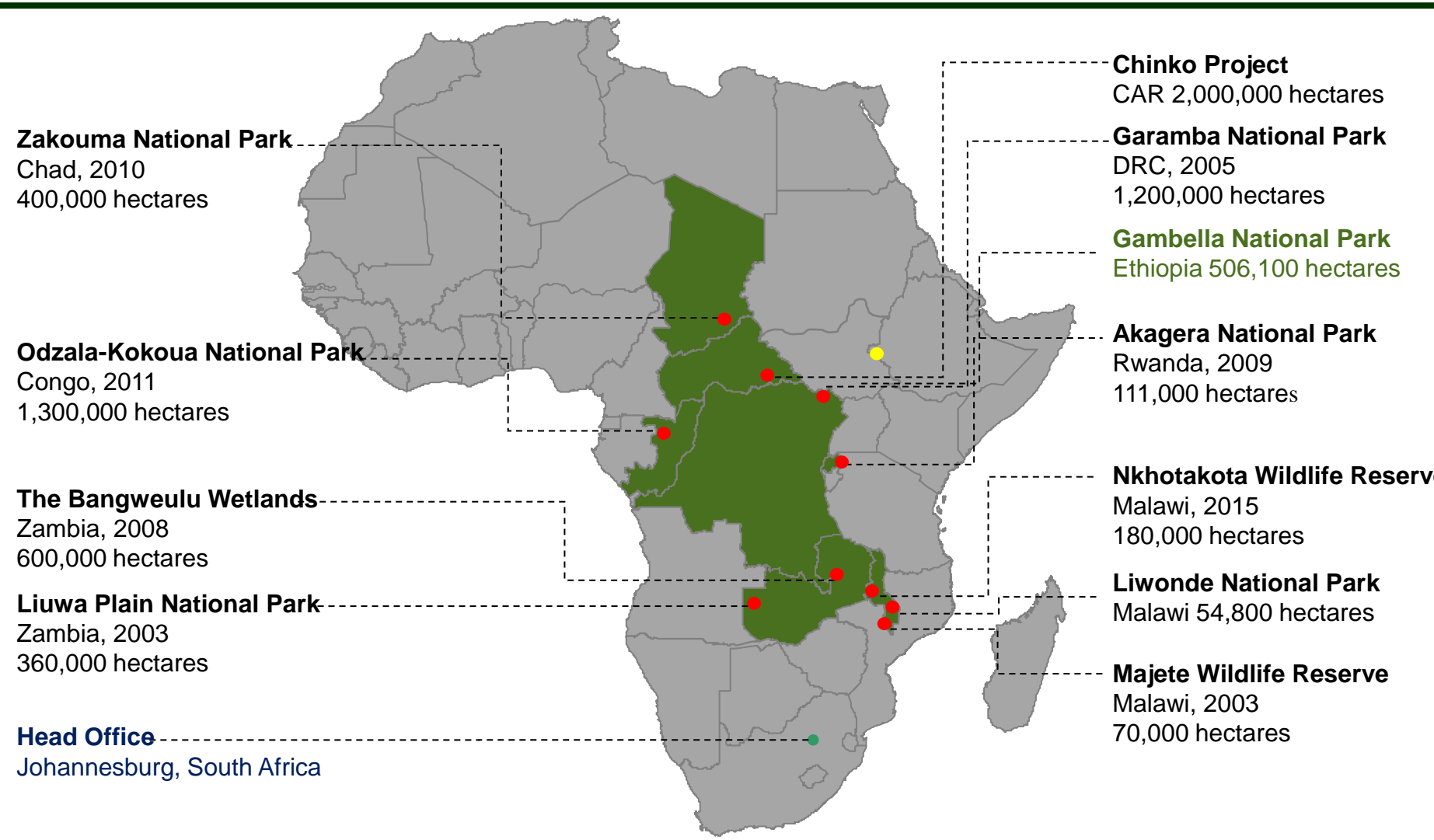


The Nexus of Conservation & Communities



We currently manage ten parks in seven countries with a combined area of 6 million hectares. We employ over 1300 full-time staff and our annual budget is over US\$ 34 million



Africa's protected areas in context



- Protected areas are invariably embedded within a matrix of rural poverty
- Neighbouring communities bear the real cost of living with wildlife (human-wildlife conflict)
- Neighbouring communities are often largely dependant on ecosystem provisioning & bear the opportunity cost of protection
- Growing populations = increased pressure
- Shift from subsistence extraction (need) to commercialised extraction (greed) with commodities often exported to distant markets
- Communities are often disenfranchised

However...



- Conservation management & community development are NOT necessarily antagonistic and very often strongly aligned
- We believe that what is good for wildlife is good for people
- Intact landscapes through effective conservation management deliver:
 - Ecosystem provisioning
 - Ecosystem services
 - Ecosystem based adaptation to climate change
 - Economic benefits & multiplier effect
 - Very often most competitive land use option
 - Peace dividend through regional stability & security

Example: contribution of Akagera to Rwanda's economy

Contribution	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	TOTAL
PAYE	50,532	91,915	91,354	162,398	206,006	221,281	823,486
VAT	-	-	-	56,445	123,795	130,030	310270
Gross Salaries	434,884	791,030	786,196	854,252	988,595	1,025,377	4,880,334
Direct community benefit	NA	NA	NA	NA	296,925	333,136	630,061
Revenue sharing	38,889	112,500	174,025	156,616	171,470	185,880	839,380
Special Guarantee Fund contribution	-	-	23,175	26,722	26,606	34,847	111,350
Freelance guide contribution	-	-	-	-	22,521	69,072	91,585
Number of Employees	18	92	161	176	191	213	
Other	15,209	27,665	27,496	40,348	56,052	77,006	243,776

But...



- Horizons are very different
- Population pressures are growing
- Benefit flows from conservation land use are often lacking
- Transfer of benefits requires governance structures that are often lacking and where they do exist, often result in wealth capture
- Regional instability/conflict prevents conservation-led enterprise development
- Mechanisms to offset the opportunity cost are often lacking
- Engagement mechanisms are often lacking
- No emotional ownership = disenfranchisement

Reality: Africa is facing a conservation crisis



- Entire landscapes are being depleted & degraded & Parks that are not well managed are being lost.
- Habitat loss for alternate land use or as a result of deforestation for charcoal and firewood is primary threat to Africa's landscapes
- Shift from subsistence to commercialised extraction of protein is depleting wildlife populations
- Poaching of high value species is the most immediate threat and our ability to overcome this threat is a reflection of our ability to hold the line



The poaching crisis

Cause

- Growing demand & buying power in SE Asia & elsewhere for high value wildlife commodities
- High values have attracted international criminal networks
- Low risk/high reward crime for offshore criminals
- Corruption
- Limited resources in range states to combat threat
- Exploitation of community disenfranchisement & poverty

Effect

- Central Africa: 66% of elephant lost in 10 yrs (Miesels *et al.* 2013)
- Selous & Ruaha: 66% of elephant lost in 4 years (Frankfurt Zoological Society, 2014)
- South Africa: loss of at least 5048 rhino since 2008 (Department of Environmental Affairs)

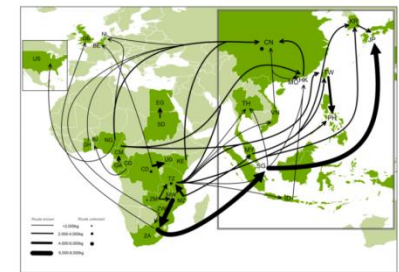
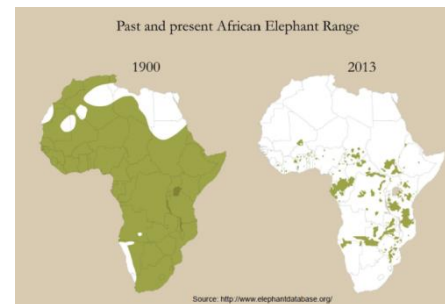
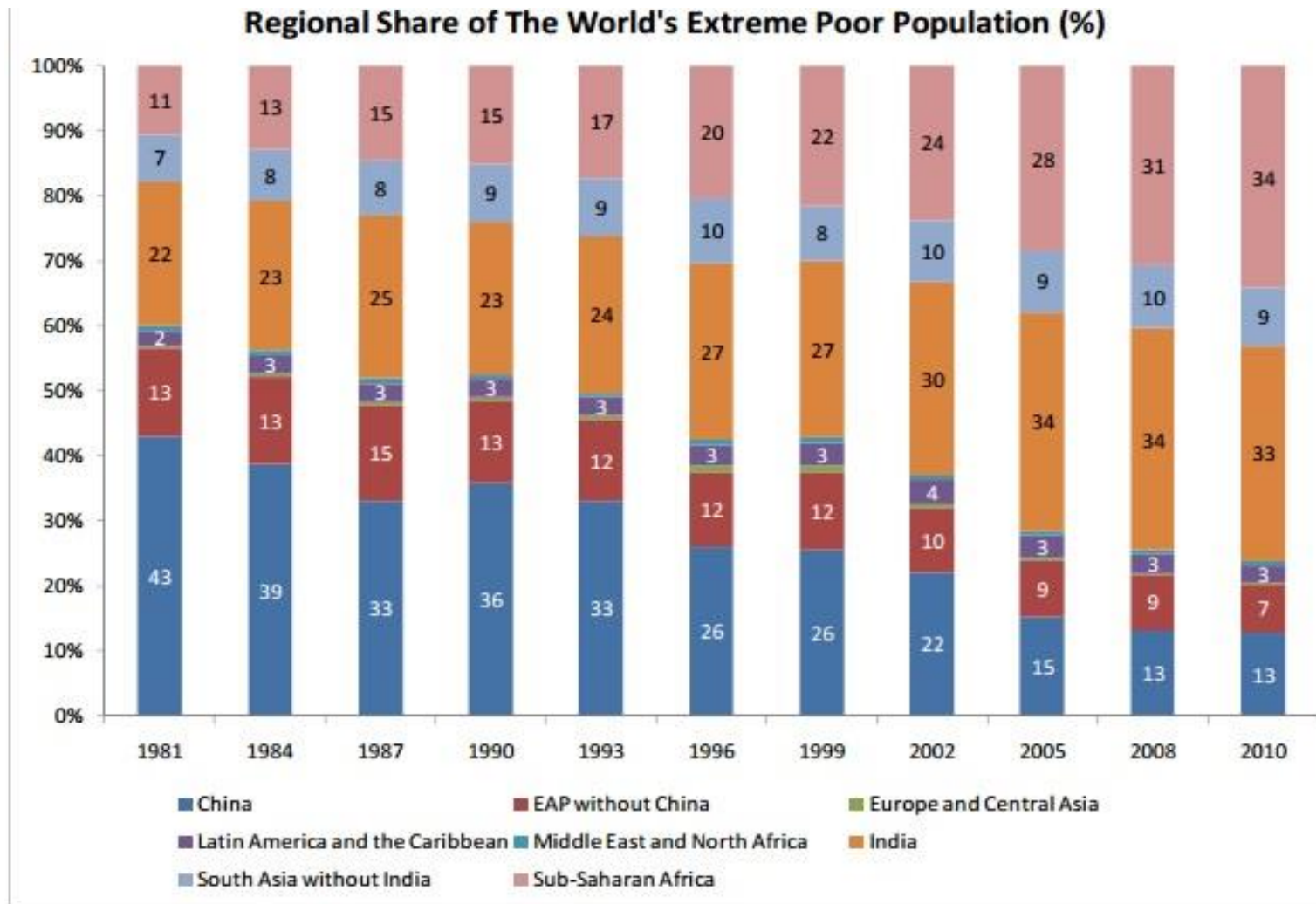


Figure 12. Trade routes for large-scale (>500kg) seizures of Ivory, 2000 - 2008 (ETIS, 03 November 2013)

Africa's growing vulnerability to exploitation



Consequences of Africa's poaching crisis



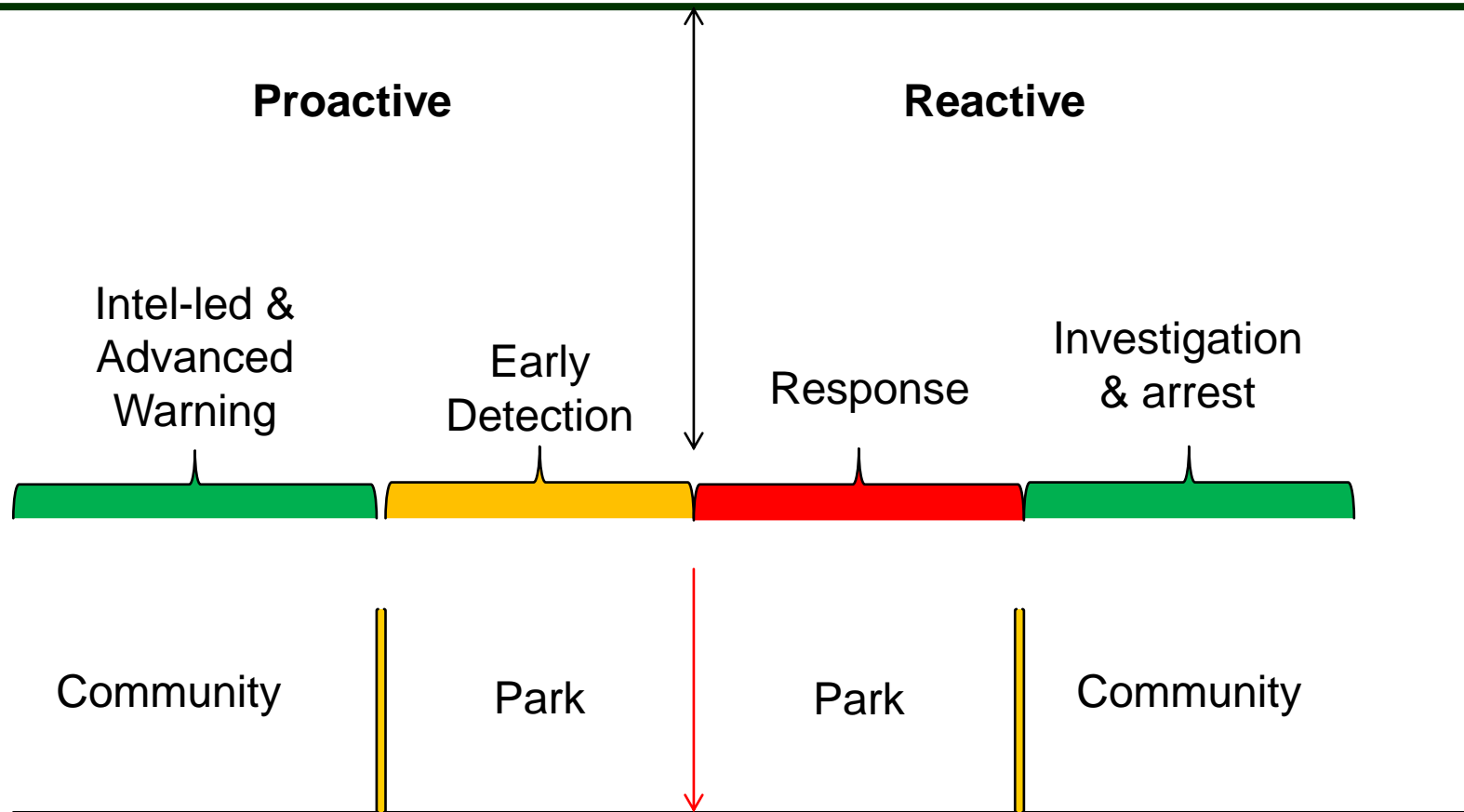
- “Militarisation” of conservation effort
- Channelling of resources into law enforcement detracting from broader conservation work
- Increased cost of extraction is driving “Giffon Good” status of high-value illegal commodities
- Flow of benefits from illegal wildlife trade criminalising entire rural value chains
- Polarisation of communities against conservation
- All risk presently resides in Africa & cost of protection (financial & social) being borne almost exclusively in Africa
- Rapid range contraction of affected species

The battle in the range states cannot be won without the support of local communities



- Communities determine social legitimacy of poaching activities
- Communities are the optimal source of information leading to actionable intelligence, both proactively and reactively
- Hostile communities are optimal source of information for poachers
- Community outlook influences political support
- Rangers often live in local communities and need support to be effective and avoid being lured or intimidated (self or family) into supporting poaching activities

The poaching continuum



Some confounding factors



- Very few legitimate alternatives can compete with high-value illegal wildlife economy
- Militarisation of conservation is pushing stakes up but rangers have a right to life too
- Africa is bearing the full cost:
 - African against African
 - Destabilising transboundary insurgencies
 - Proliferation of firearms
 - Pressures on judicial & correctional services systems
 - Loss of Africa's biodiversity
 - Skyrocketing cost of protection
 - Societal impacts

Communities need to be convinced...



- **Peace dividend (necessary but not sufficient)**
- **Mitigation of HW conflict**
- **Offsetting of opportunity cost**
- **Economic benefits through development of conservation-led economy**
 - **Tourism**
 - **Hunting**
 - **Micro-enterprise development**
 - **Procurement**
- **Emotional ownership through engagement**
- **Education on longer-term benefits**

Humanity can prevail



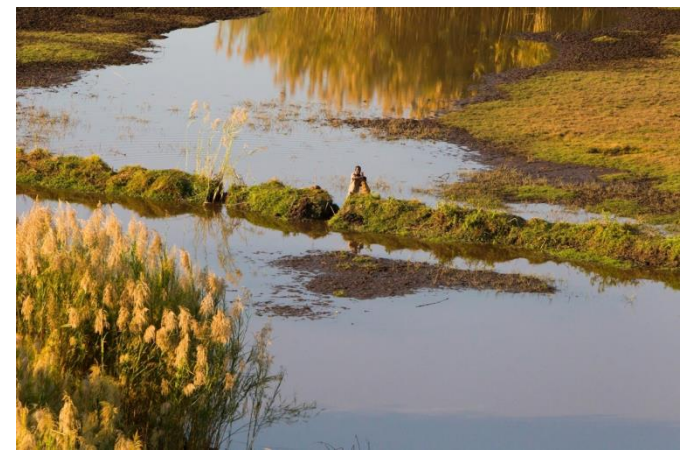
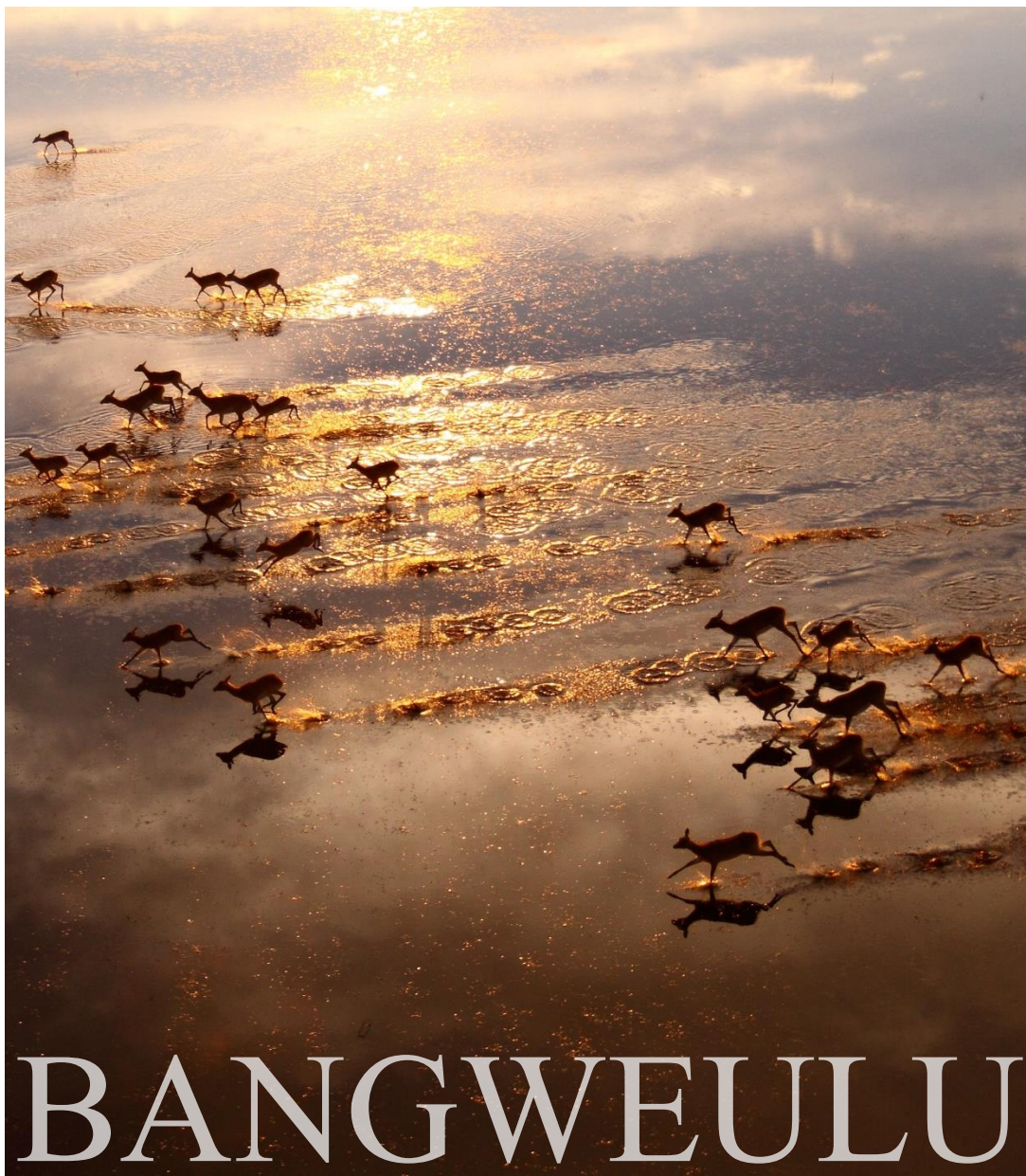
- Mothers do not want their sons becoming criminals & exposed to other crimes and drugs and risks associated with criminal activities
- Individuals very often prefer an “honest living” even if it delivers less value (but there must be some value)
- Political will, governance and leadership are game changers in terms of influencing social norms and respect for law

Law enforcement will always be necessary



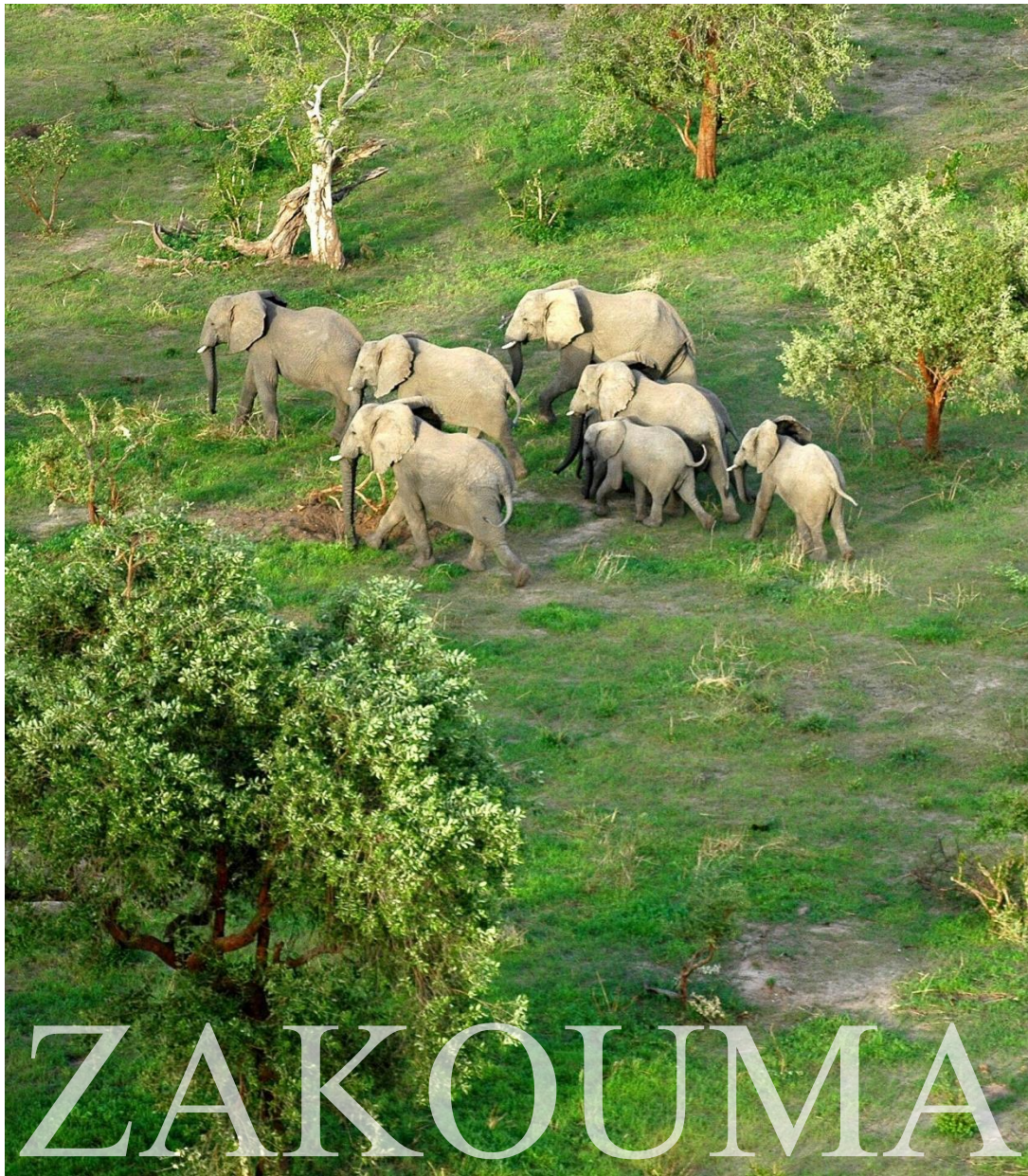
- Uphold laws protecting wildlife
- Hold the line
- Secure area integrity & deliver peace dividend
- Human greed at an individual level will always be present even in contradiction to social norms
- Detect and deter criminal activity driven by individual greed
- Respond to criminal activity
- Monitoring and surveillance of target species





- ✓ 50,000 dependants on provisioning of system
- ✓ Common purpose - Lechwe dung drives production of fisheries
- ✓ Compliance with annual fishing ban



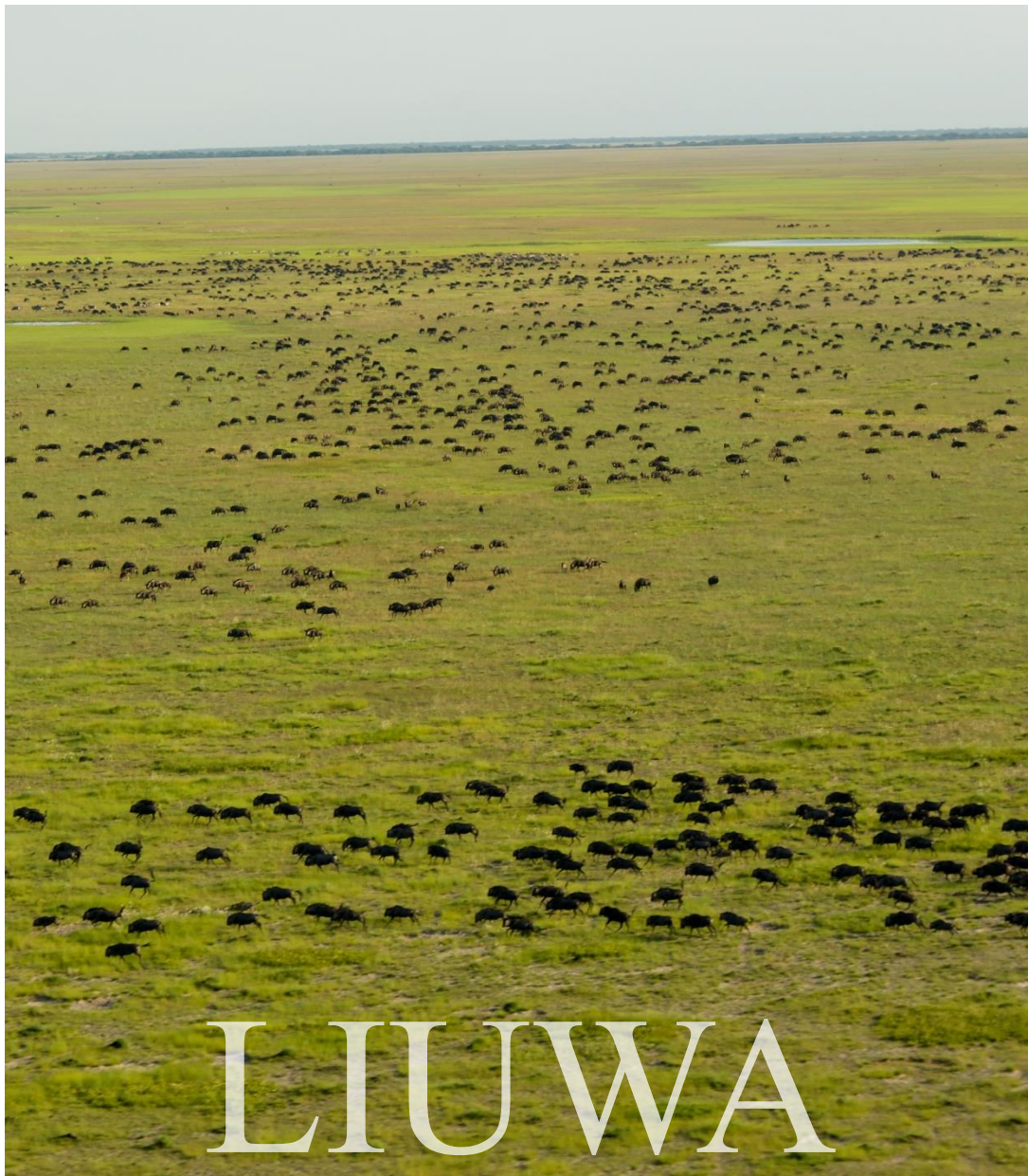


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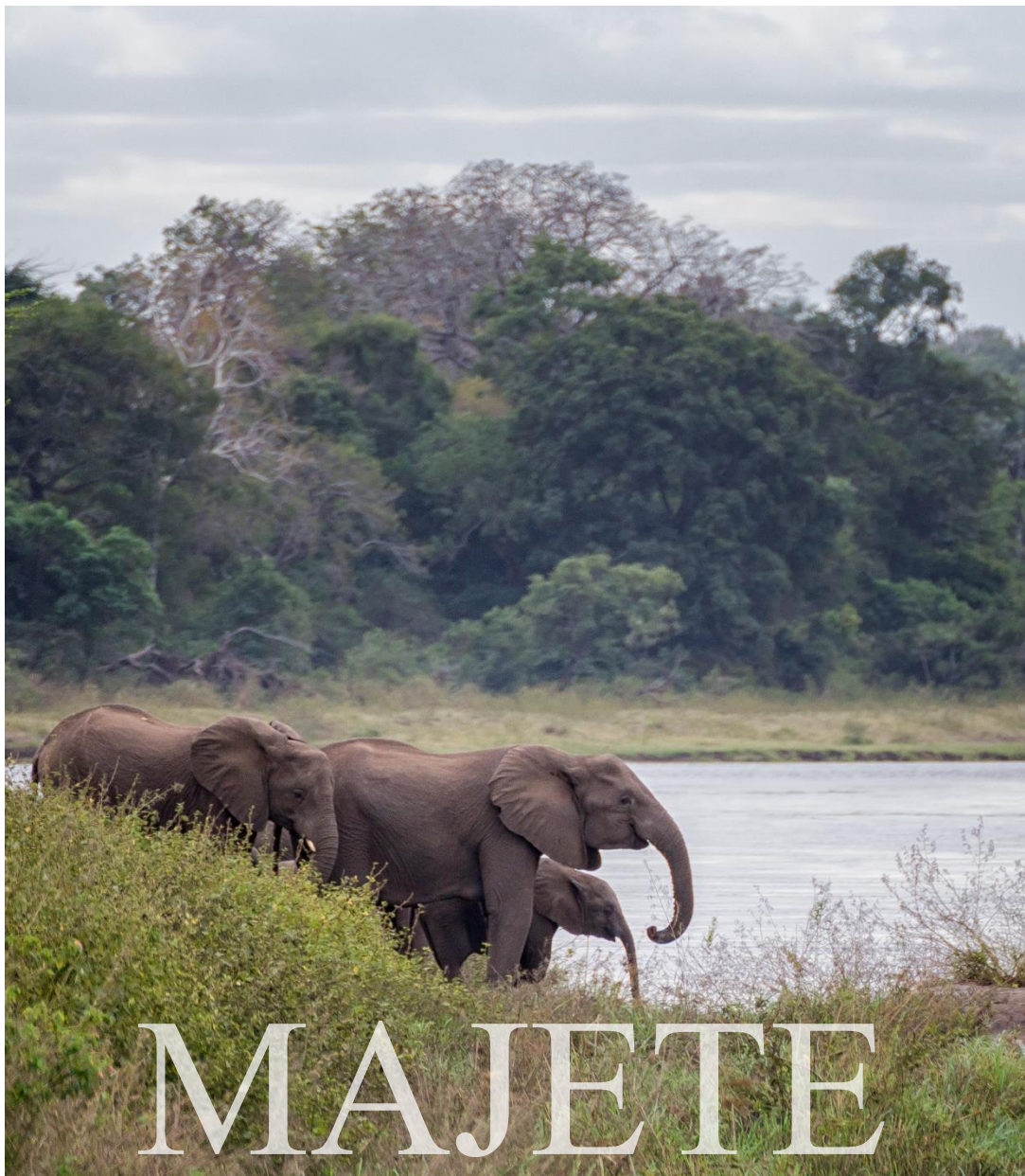
- ✓ Elephant herd reduced from 4351 in 2002 to just 454 animals by 2010
- ✓ Common enemy – North Sudanese
- ✓ Only 6 elephant poached since AP took over in 2010





- ✓ 10,000 Lozi living inside the Park
- ✓ Common purpose - all dependant on natural resources provided by the Park
- ✓ Diversification of local economy through enterprise development





- ✓ In 2003, Majete was a depleted Park
- ✓ Over 2000 animals introduced & over 8000 head of game today
- ✓ Zero incidence of elephant or rhino poaching – effective LE & community goodwill





THANK YOU

