



# **African Elephant Threats & Challenges, Status and Planning**

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IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group  
6 April 2016



# IUCN: A Membership Union

Our **vision** is a just world that values and conserves nature.  
Our **members** guide the IUCN Programme every 4 years at the WCC.

## MEMBERS



- 1,329 members from 173 countries
- States, Gov't agencies, NGOs
- Vote and participate in IUCN direction

## COMMISSIONS



- 11,000+ voluntary experts serving in six thematic groups
- Species Survival Comm=largest group of the six

## SECRETARIAT



- 1,000 staff worldwide in over 60 offices
- Regional office in Nairobi for East & Southern Africa
- HQ in Gland, Switzerland





## Species Survival Commission

- Largest of the six Commissions
- 10,000+ members
- 100+ Specialist Groups
- Taxonomic and thematic groups

## The Red List

- provides snapshots of the risk of extinction for nearly 80,000 species

Not Evaluated   Data Deficient   Least Concern   Near Threatened   **< VULNERABLE >**   Endangered   Critically Endangered   Extinct in the Wild   Extinct

IUCN RED LIST VU



# AfESG Mission & Objectives

Our **mission** is to promote the long-term conservation of Africa's elephants throughout their range.



Objective 1: **Compile and synthesize data**

Objective 2: **Provide technical advice**

Objective 3: **Promote conservation activities**

Objective 4: **Build capacity through members' exchanges**

# AfESG Knowledge Products



## Pachyderm

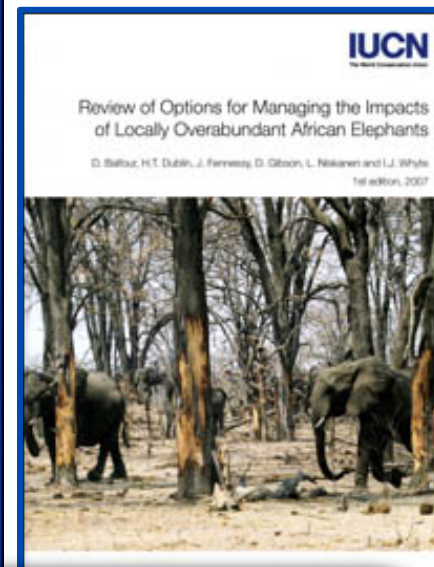
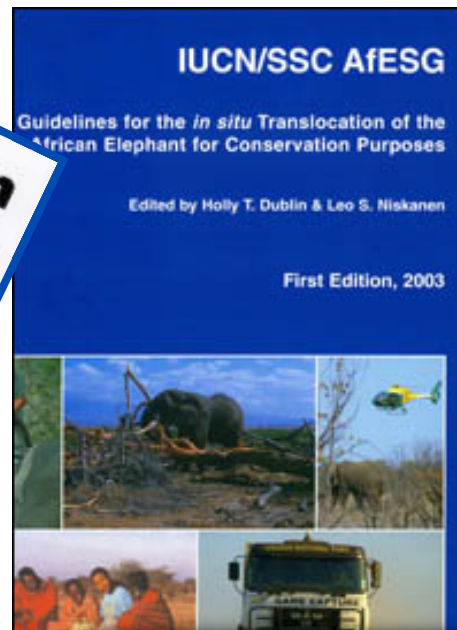
Journal of the African elephant,  
African rhino and Asian rhino SGs

## African Elephant Library on Zotero

over 7,000 references



**African Elephant Database**  
[www.elephantdatabase.org](http://www.elephantdatabase.org)



## AfESG Website

[www.iucn.org/african\\_elephant](http://www.iucn.org/african_elephant)

- HEC DSS & other resources
- Strategic planning guidance
- Statements on Captivity
- Reports to CITES



# AfESG Technical Advice

- EU – “Larger than elephants”: Extensive inputs for the design of an strategic approach to Wildlife Conservation in Africa
- Provided Stop Ivory a critical review of their Guidelines for Standards for National Elephant Action Plans, 2014
- Asked to consult on Chad, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, and Uganda planning processes
- Upcoming national planning endeavors: Liberia, Mozambique, Congo, Angola, Tanzania
- Additional bilateral requests (UNODC, UNEP, etc.)



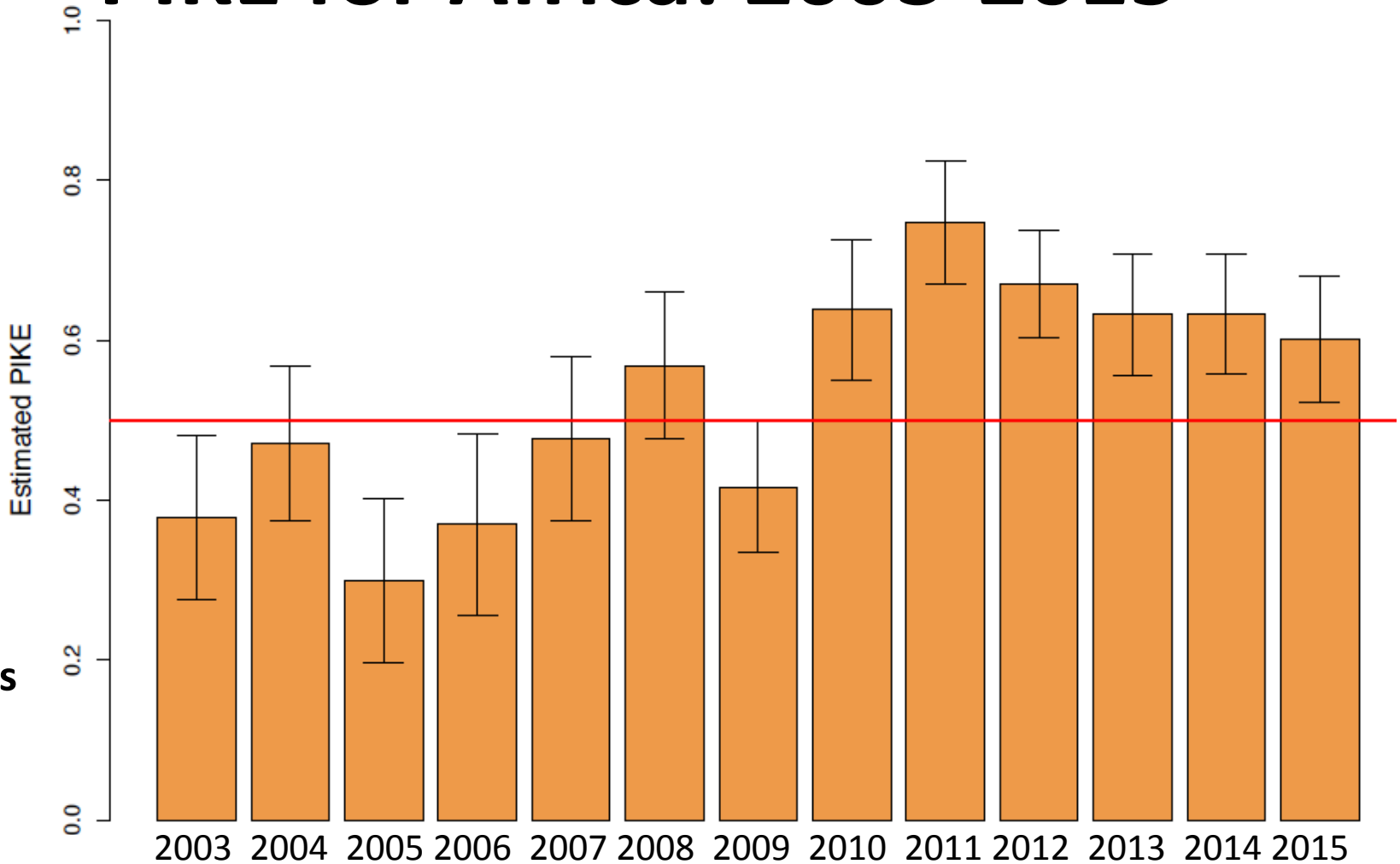
# What are the threats and challenges for Africa's elephants?



# PIKE for Africa: 2003-2015

Unsustainable

14606  
carcasses

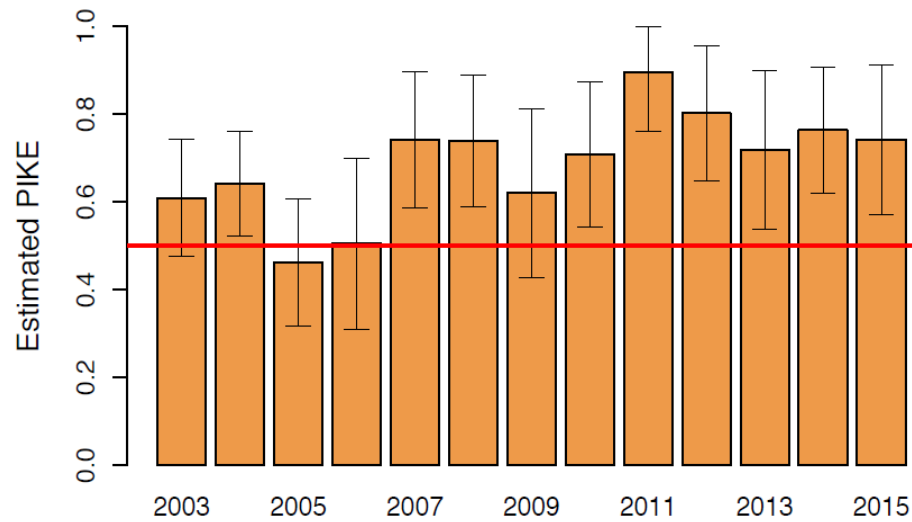




# Other Regions

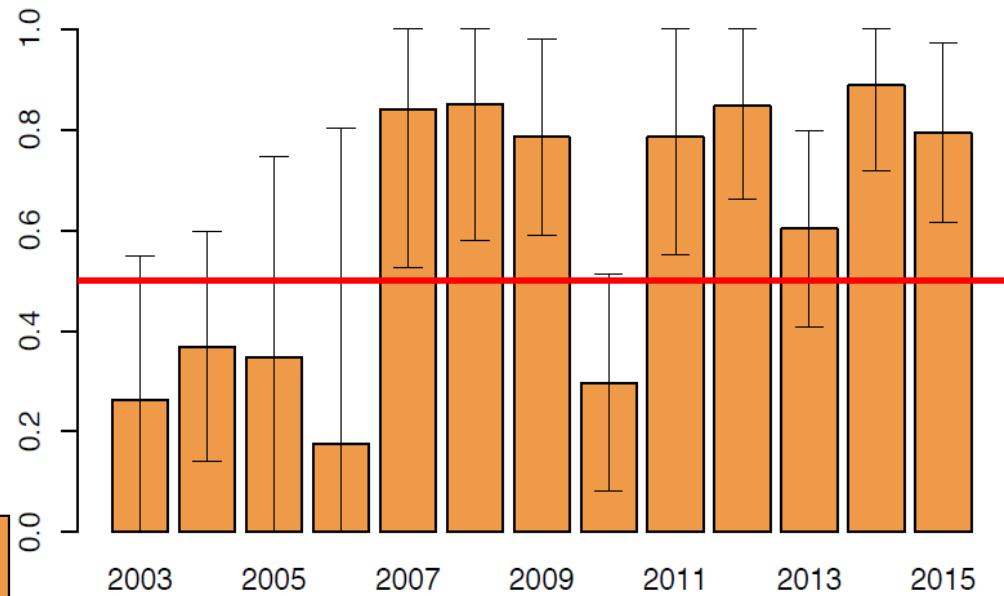
**Central Africa**

2812 carcasses



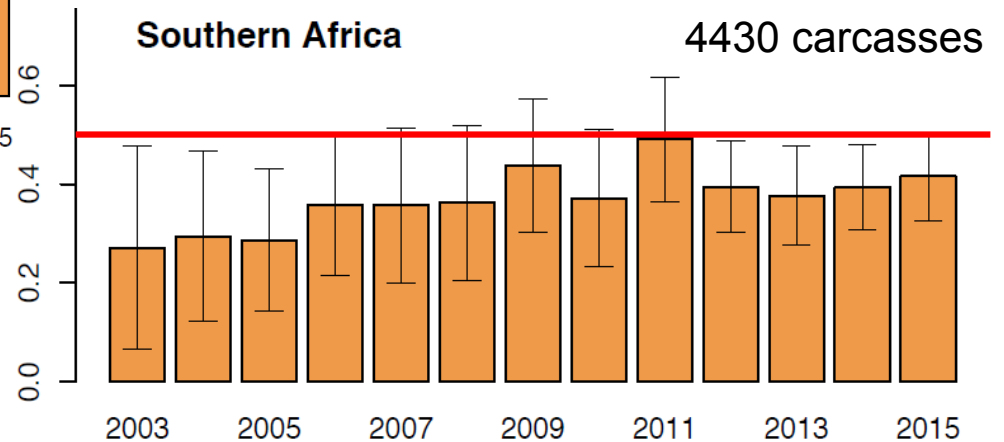
**West Africa**

482 carcasses

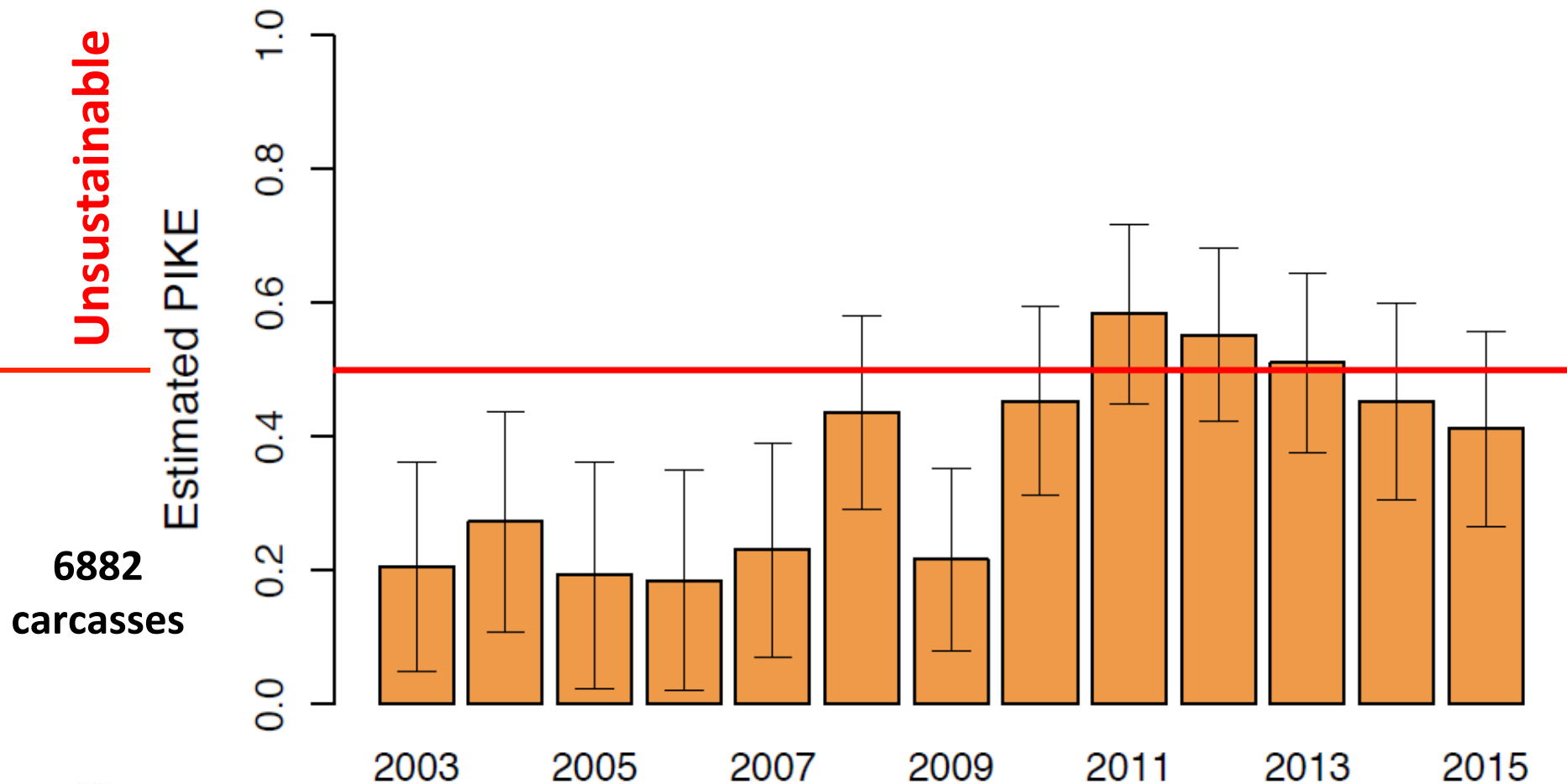


**Southern Africa**

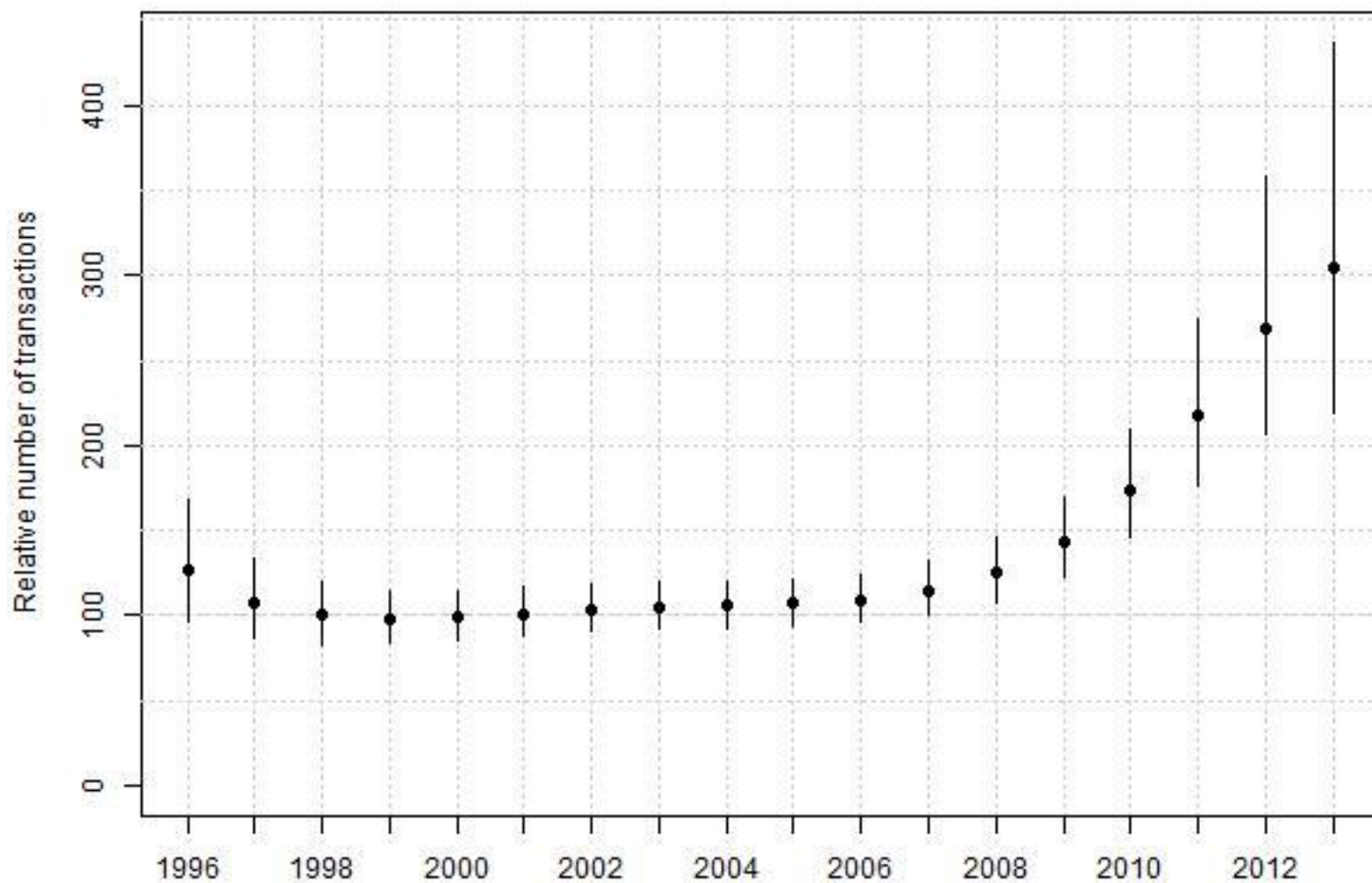
4430 carcasses



# Eastern Africa



# Transaction Index

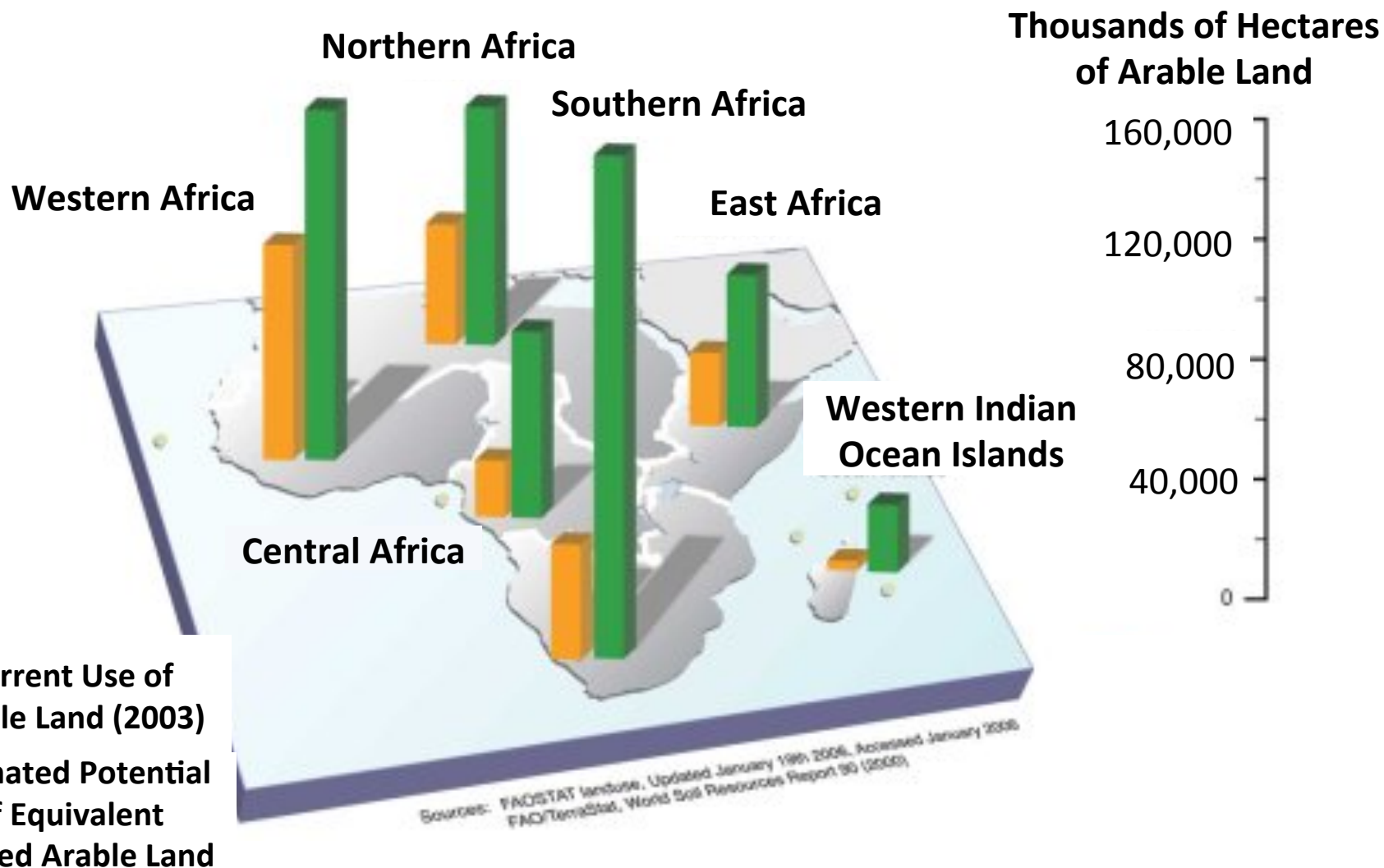




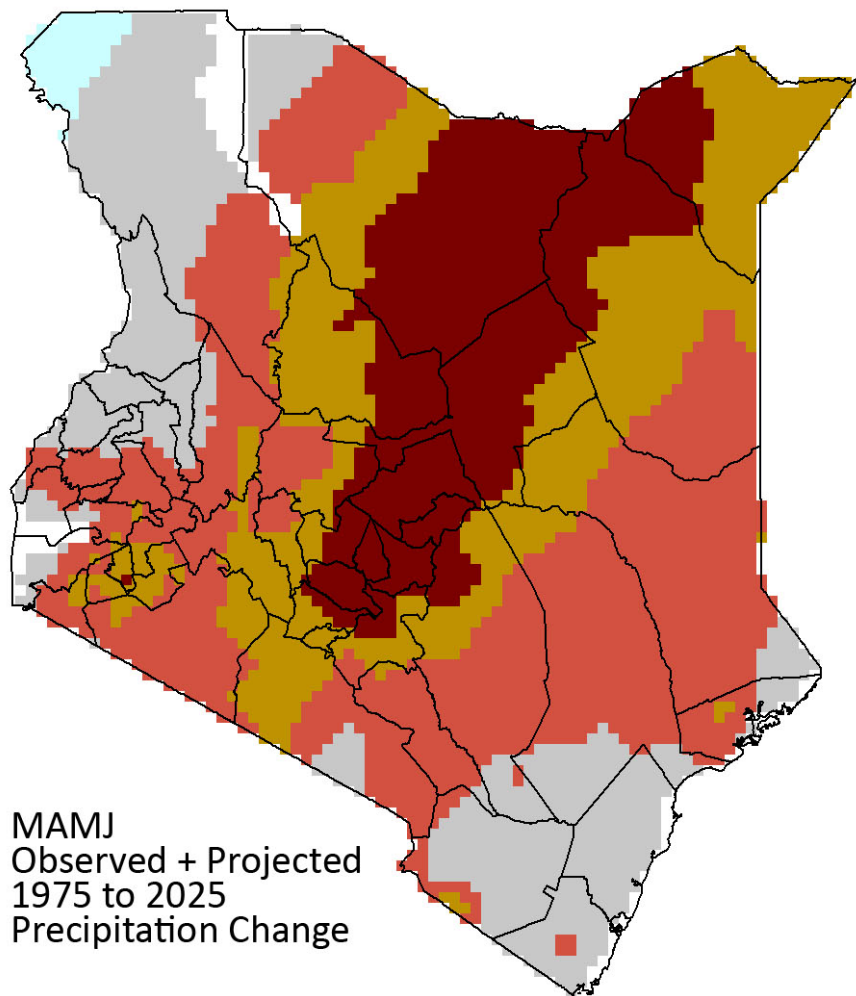
# Compounding Impacts of Development & Demography

- Rapid agricultural expansion and the growth of agribusiness
- Increasing impact of extractive industries
- Infrastructure development
- Other development activities
- Climate change
- Growing human populations
- Rapid urbanisation

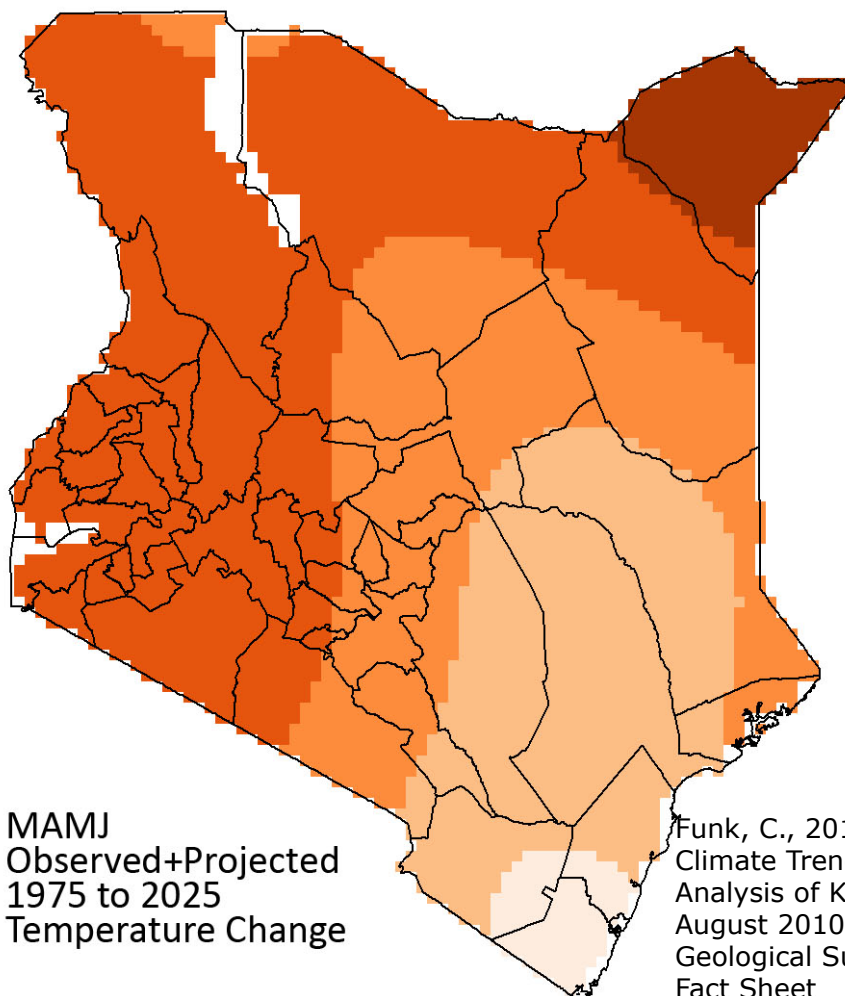
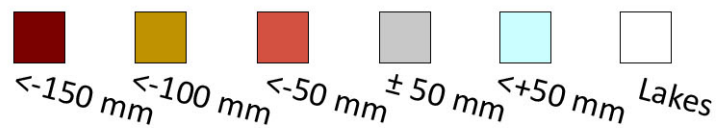
# Everyone has plans for Africa



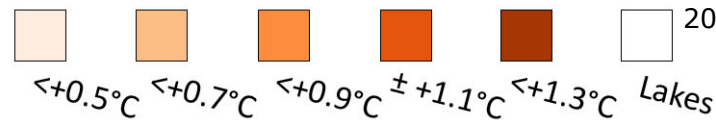
# Climate Change



MAMJ  
Observed + Projected  
1975 to 2025  
Precipitation Change

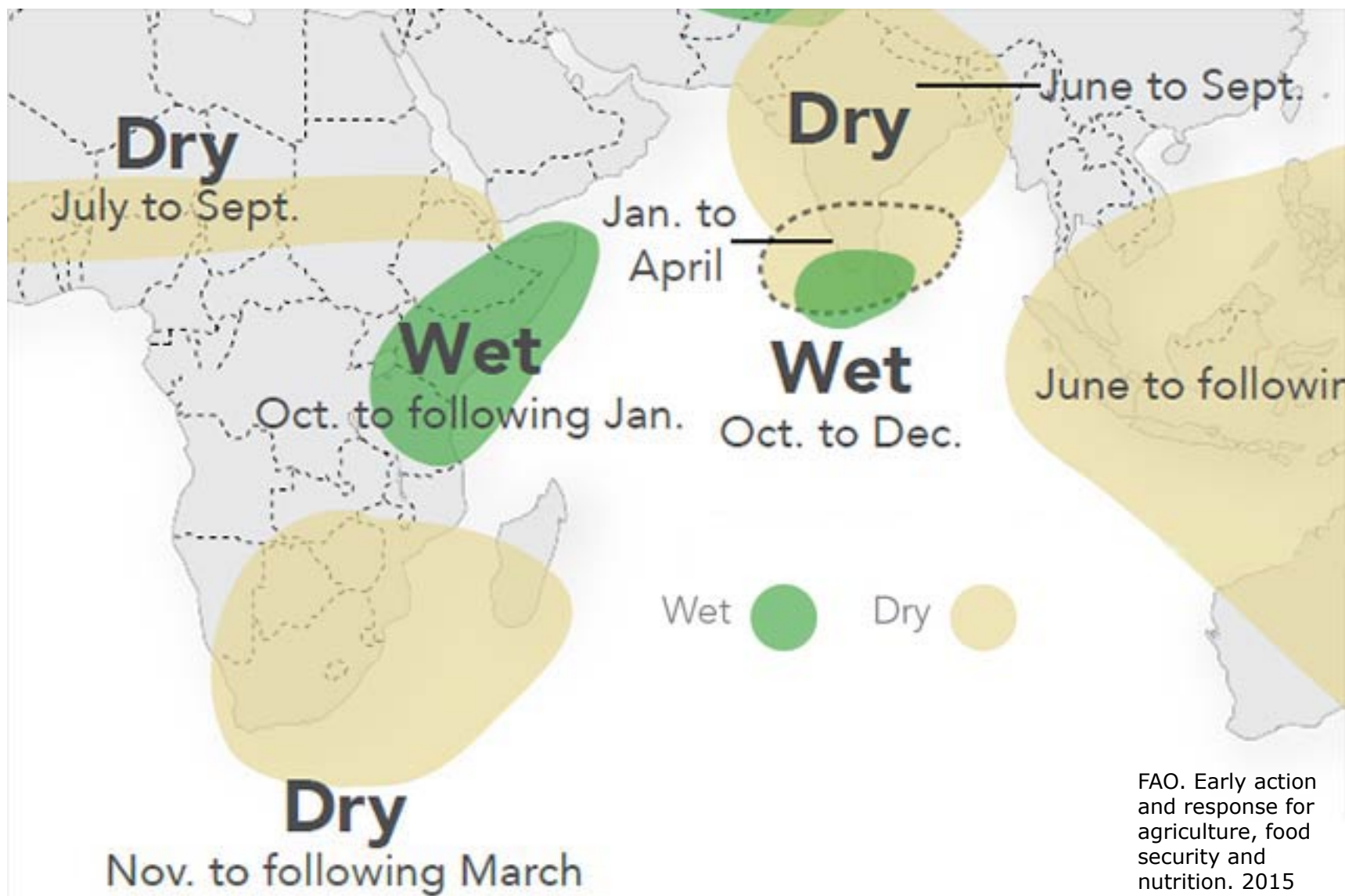


MAMJ  
Observed+Projected  
1975 to 2025  
Temperature Change



Funk, C., 2010, A  
Climate Trend  
Analysis of Kenya—  
August 2010: U.S.  
Geological Survey  
Fact Sheet  
2010-3074, 4 p.

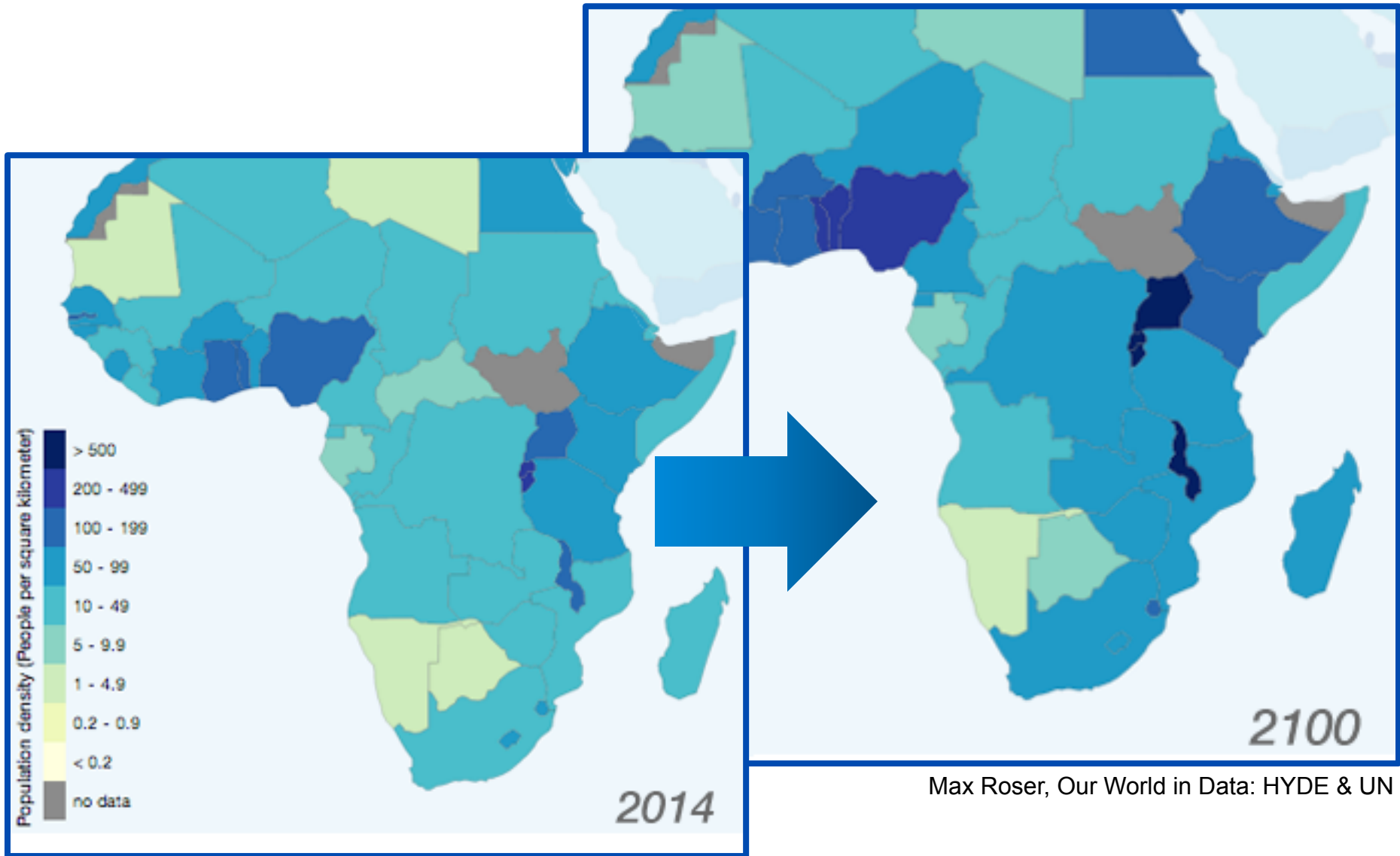
# El Niño in 2015-2016



FAO. Early action and response for agriculture, food security and nutrition. 2015

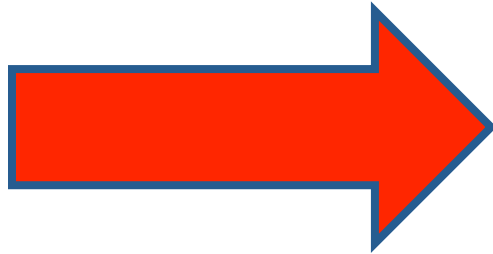


# Increasing Human Population



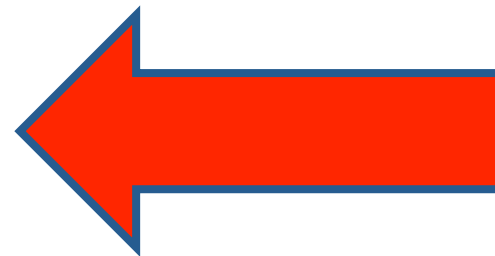


# Compounding Impacts of Development & Demographics



Contributing to  
habitat loss and  
fragmentation

Contributing to  
increased human-  
elephant conflict





# Growing Need to Engage Local Communities

<b>African Elephant Summit (2013)</b>	<b>Engage communities</b> living with elephants as active partners in their conservation
<b>London Declaration (2014)</b>	<b>Increase capacity of local communities</b> to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities and eradicate poverty Work with, and <b>include local communities</b> in, establishing monitoring and law enforcement networks in areas surrounding wildlife
<b>Kasane Declaration (2015)</b>	<b>Promote the retention of benefits</b> from wildlife resources by local people where they have traditional and/or legal rights over these resources. We will strengthen policy and legislative frameworks needed to achieve this, <b>reinforce the voice of local people</b> as key stakeholders and implement measures <b>which balance the need to tackle the illegal wildlife trade with the needs of communities</b> , including the sustainable use of wildlife.

# Growing Policy Momentum

## Brazzaville Declaration (2015)

**Recognize the rights and increase the participation** of indigenous peoples and local communities in the planning, management and use of wildlife through sustainable use and alternative livelihoods and strengthen their ability to combat wildlife crime.

## UN GA adopted Resolution 69/314 on Tackling Illicit Trafficking In Wildlife (2015)

Strongly encourages Member States to support...**the development of sustainable and alternative livelihoods for communities affected by illicit trafficking in wildlife and its adverse impacts**, with the full engagement of the communities in and adjacent to wildlife habitats **as active partners in conservation and sustainable use, enhancing the rights and capacity of the members of such communities to manage and benefit from wildlife and wilderness; ...**

## Sustainable Development Goal 15 (2015)

...in Target 15.7 to end IWT and in Target 15.c which emphasises the need to do this through **“increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities”**

# Managing Elephants

- Confluence of pressures
- Necessity to plan for possible scenarios given these dynamics
- Policies and management actions at multiple scales to avoid worst case scenarios





# How do we approach the challenges and threats?



# African Elephant Action Plan

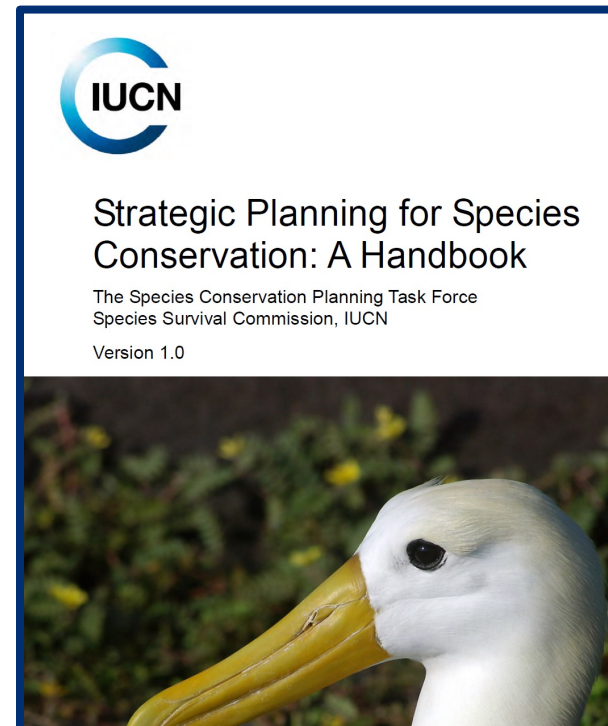
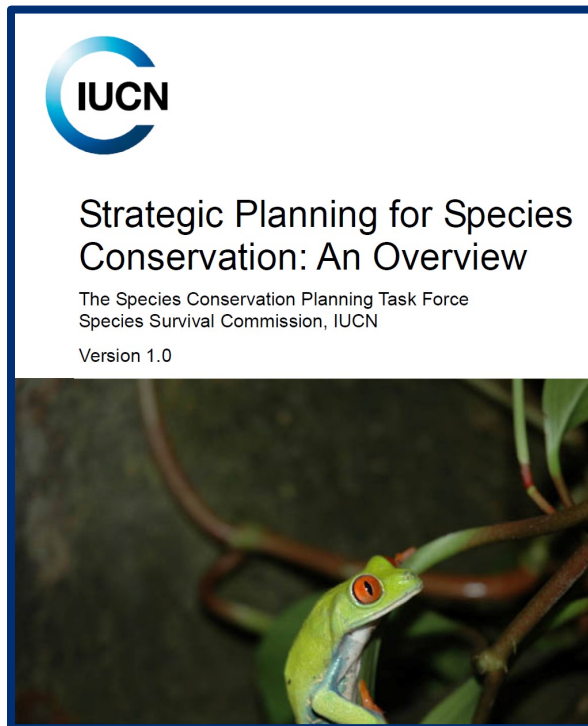
- AfESG served as the technical consultant to the CITES Secretariat in facilitating meetings & developing the drafts with range States
- Plan negotiated for years, approved in 2010
  - consensus document among Range States
  - framework for future strategies and action plans across the range States
  - eight objectives supported by key strategies and actions
  - supported by a funding mechanism, the African Elephant Fund, governed by a Steering Committee
- AEF Steering Committee has two range State members from each region and UNEP, CITES, and donor representatives





# History of Strategic Planning for Species

- National plans and even regional plans and MOUs preceded AEAP and can still inform future planning
- IUCN recommended guidelines based on multiple species but particularly AfESG's work with elephants



# Range State Planning

Recently, more national planning is being linked to the AEAP, the AEF, and funding mechanisms such as the EPI.

## East Africa

- Conservation and Management Strategy for the Elephant in Kenya, 2012-2021
- Tanzania Elephant Management Plan, 2010-2015 & upcoming
- Ethiopian Elephant Action Plan, 2015-2025
- Elephant Conservation Action Plan for Uganda, 2015-2025

## Central Africa

Strategy for the Conservation of Elephants in Central Africa (2005)

- \* Cameroon (2011)\* Chad (2015) \* Gabon (upcoming)
- \* Congo (upcoming)



# Range State Planning

## West Africa

Strategy for the Conservation of West African Elephants (2003, 2005)

Convention on Migratory Species West African Elephant MOU(2005)

\* Benin (2005) \* Burkina Faso (2003) \* Cote d'Ivoire (2004)

\* Ghana (2000) \* Guinea (2008) \* Guinea-Bissau(2000)

\* Niger (2010) \* Togo (2005) \* Liberia (upcoming) \* Mali (upcoming)

## Southern Africa

Southern Africa Regional Elephant Conservation and Management Strategy (2005)

\* Botswana (2003) \* Mozambique (2010) and upcoming \* Namibia (2007) \* Zambia (2003) \* South Africa (Norms & Standards)

\* Zimbabwe (2016) \* Angola (upcoming) \* Malawi (upcoming)

# National Ivory Action Plans

- Can complement other national planning processes
- Most recent reporting was at CITES SC66



Parties of primary concern	Parties of secondary concern	Parties of importance to watch
China	Cameroon	Angola
Kenya	Congo	Cambodia
Malaysia	DRC	Japan
The Philippines	Egypt	Laos
Thailand	Ethiopia	Qatar
Uganda	Gabon	UAE
United Republic of Tanzania	Mozambique	
Viet Nam	Nigeria	

# Informing Range State Planning

## The most successful plans:

- are informed by a current situational analysis that considers local and global dynamics *as well as* likely future scenarios
- use available data to inform actions and set measurable goals
- align with other plans, initiatives, etc. where appropriate rather than recreating the wheel
- integrate multiple stakeholders into the design and monitoring processes



# How do we know if our strategies are successful?



# Monitoring Performance

- African Elephant Action Plan: Objective 5 (Strengthen range States' knowledge on African elephant management)
- Urgent Measure 5: “to support evidence-based decision-making”
- London Declaration XXIV: “further assessment” of “progress”
- CITES Dec. 14.78 --> likely to be enshrined in Res Conf 10.10 at COP17

# CITES Reporting Mandate



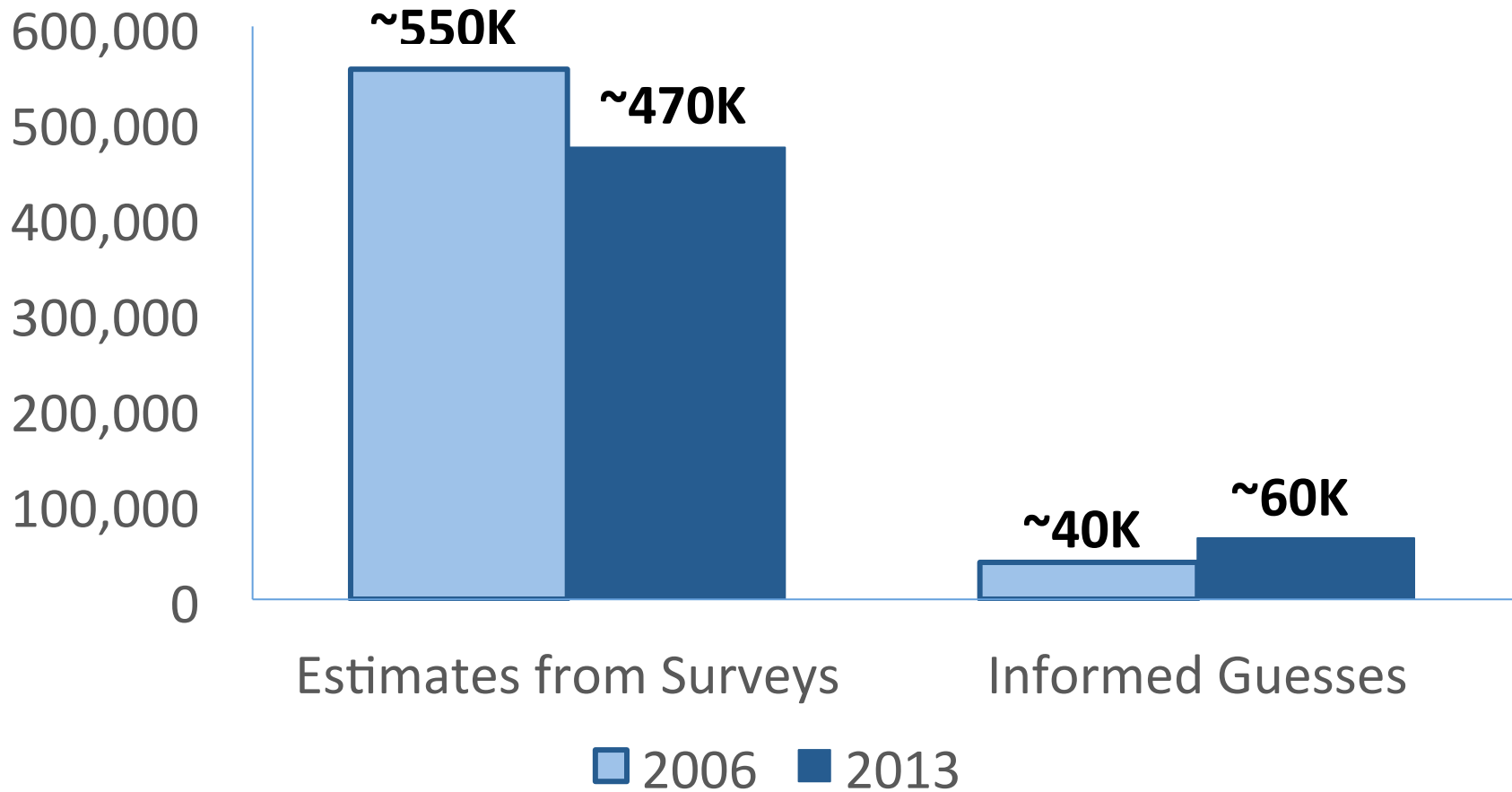
- Decision 14.78
- Report on the entire ivory value chain with MIKE and ETIS, including *“submit[ing] any new and relevant information on the conservation status of elephants, and on pertinent conservation actions and management strategies”*
- Recommended for inclusion in Resolution Conf. 10.10 after reporting at CITES SC66 in January



# African Elephant Database

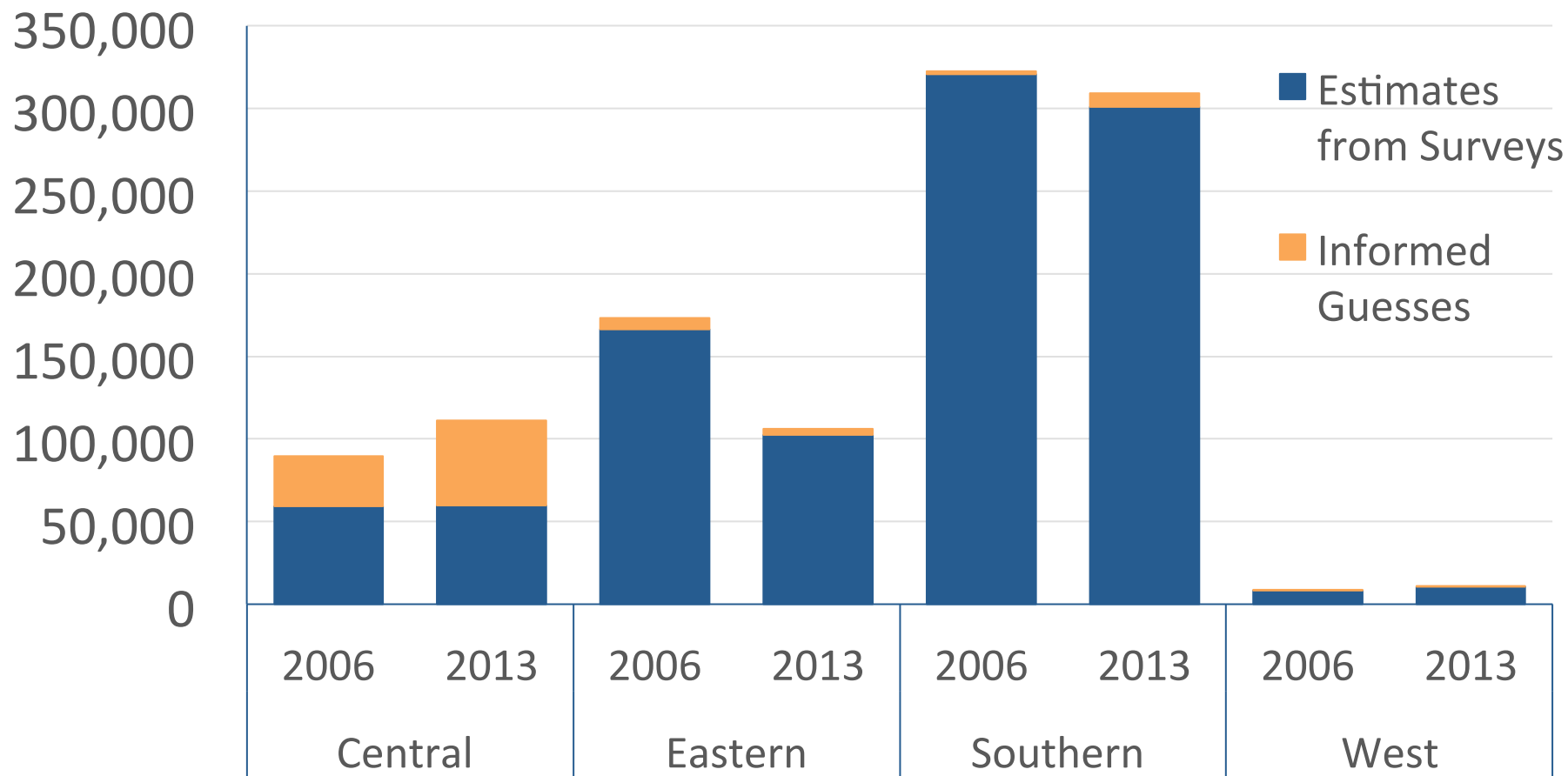
- Spatially-enabled website,  
[www.elephantdatabase.org](http://www.elephantdatabase.org)
- Links to estimates from reports and updates (1995, 1998, 2002, 2006, and 2013)
- Shows aggregated summary estimates for countries, regions, and the continent as well as individual survey results
- Over 47,000 visitors since online debut in 2012
- **New website to be launched with AESR 2016**

# Continental Data through 2013





# Sub-Regional Data through 2013





# Vulcan Partnership

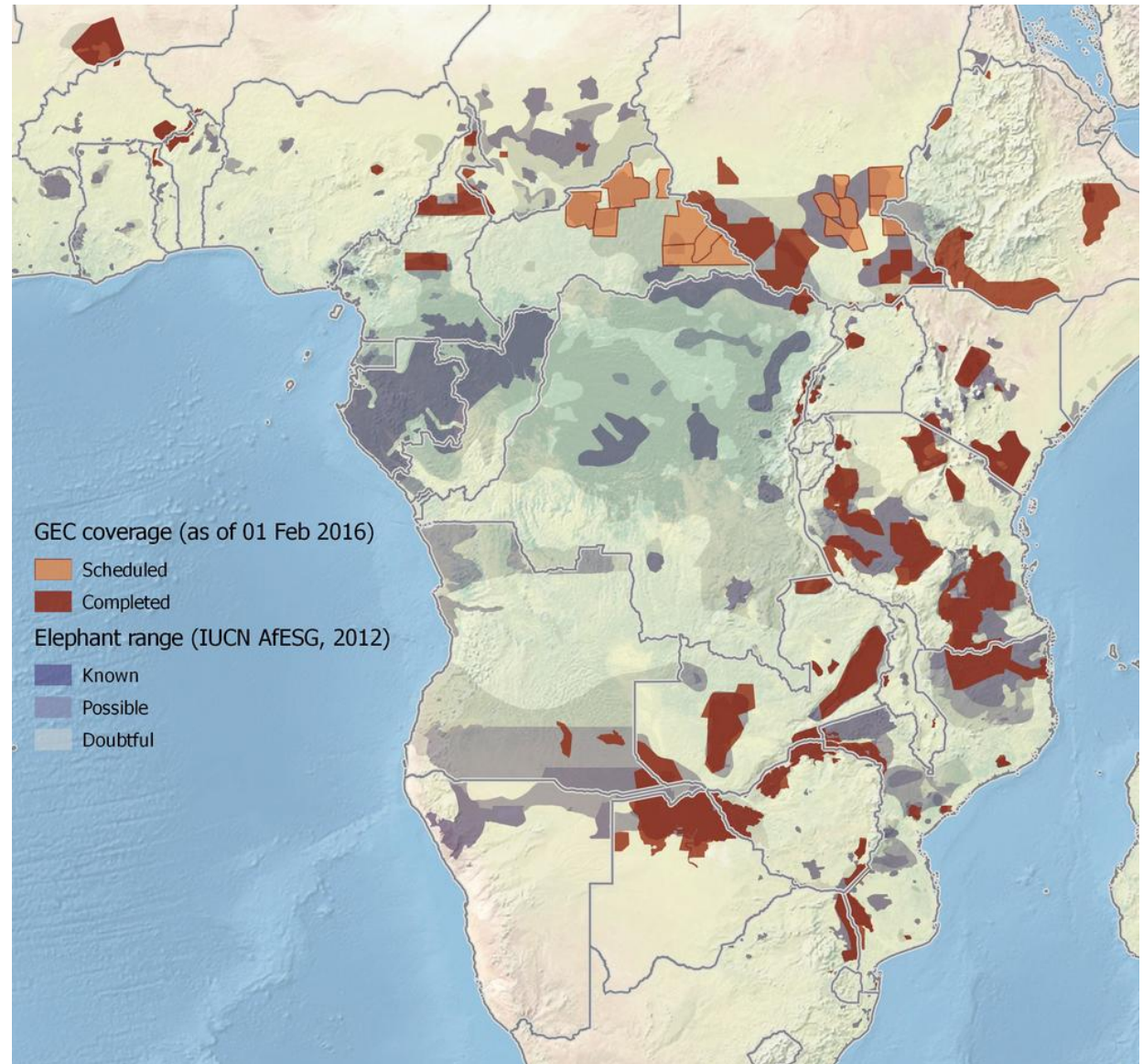


- MOU that enables access to results from extensive surveying initiative
- Technical support and guidance from Seattle on our PostgreSQL database and website
- Valued partner in the production of the African Elephant Status Report 2016
- Commitment to aid in launching the AESR at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (Sept 2016)

# Extensive Updates from the GEC

The AESR 2016 will also include:

- 2015 Namibian data
- additional forest survey
- informed guesses for more Central and West African countries.





# African Elephant Status Report

- Updates to range and estimates in progress for publication in AESR 2016
- 75+ new surveys entered for 25+ countries
- Expert-led, web-enabled review process addresses reasons for change from previous data
- New display of data clarifies numbers
- Creation of tables, maps, and text for each range State, four regions, and the continent



# Concluding thoughts



# Successful National Strategies

The most successful strategies and plans have a realistic implementation plan and a monitoring system in place

- **Implementation Plan:** guides action month to month, year to year
- **Monitoring System:** requires 15-20% of budget for ongoing monitoring activities





# This Mid-Term Strategy Review

- Happening at a critical point in implementation, given dynamic Kenyan landscape
- First step toward monitoring success of the Strategy
- 2015 Elephant Research Conference was separate event--not structured around monitoring the progress of the Strategy
- 2016 preparation for the mid-term review happened within an information vacuum--required deeper insight from KWS to complete matrix of actions and indicators
- Must capitalize on the expertise of committed stakeholders
- Key that momentum be maintained through reporting against indicators and related decisions and actions



# THANK YOU TO:

- KWS for the opportunity to present
- MIKE and ETIS for continued collaboration and the ability to present their data
- to Vulcan and the AfESG members contributing to the production of the African Elephant Status Report 2016
- to all our donors

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