



NAPA News from African Protected Areas

Nouvelles des Aires Protégées
en Afrique

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Edito

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PAPACO coordinator

Does anybody hear?



While the planet gathers to talk about climate, while the feeling of humanity's finally developing awareness regarding the situation overwhelms us, while we are all expected to welcome the "historic step" (it will certainly be presented as such) that will conclude the COP, I wonder who is listening, and above all, who hears?

It is not the hollow phrases we'll hear, the sterilized declarations we'll read or the disillusioned speakers we'll watch that prompt me to ask this question; no, we are so used to all this that we no longer see it. What bothers me are the results of the situation analysis of "big game" conservation in West and Central Africa, recently completed and that this NAPA briefly echoes.

The study is detailed, accurate, documented, solid... The information it delivers is worthy of our belief and when reasonable doubts exist, they are mentioned by the authors. Yet, while reading the document, I did not learn much in the end - in fact nothing that has not been repeated again and again, for decades. Nothing that we had not, at our modest scale, already pointed out. For what result?

Let's take a look at some excerpts from the conclusion of the study: "...The analysis shows clearly that the issues highlighted in the Resolutions are reflective of the serious situation facing wildlife throughout the region. The specifics, in terms of the detail of wildlife declines, their

drivers and the nature of responses to the declines, vary from country to country and between West Africa and Central Africa. The overriding conclusion, however, is of substantial wildlife declines and weak responses to either long-standing pressures that have been significant for decades or rapidly escalating pressures that have emerged in recent years. Species extinctions have been recorded nationally and, in extreme cases, from the region as a whole (Black and White Rhinoceros) and even globally (Scimitar-horned Oryx). More are predicted to follow at all levels".

It's pretty clear, isn't it? And in the end, not new. This has been said, repeated; books were published, films produced, conferences, congresses and summits held... There are more international conventions dealing with the subject than individuals of some species on the brink of extinction, before us, today! So, with all this knowledge, we started taking action, right?

Well...

"Wildlife and their habitats may seem low on a political agenda that lists war, civil unrest, poverty and corruption amongst more apparently immediate concerns. In some cases, however, competition for these habitats, and other natural resources, is a source of tension that involves unrest and corruption and exacerbates poverty. These may result in the extremely degraded status of these resources or from competing demands to exploit them (e.g. externally driven commercial drivers versus customary and other use by local communities). The increasing globalization of resource use in West and Central Africa means that current and future pressures on wildlife and

their habitats are likely to be notably different, and far greater than, has been the case in the past. Given the plight of wildlife, especially in West Africa, where forest loss has been extensive with attendant declines in animal populations, the scale of these pressures suggests that extinctions will happen unless there is action of some sort."

Bis repetita. The situation was not good, it did not improve and worse, it will deteriorate... And yes, we know, we witness it every day around or in African parks, pressures are increasing and increasing again. Everyone talks about it, but no one really listens. It is an "inconvenient truth" as Al Gore said in 2006 about climate change. One of these truths we prefer not to hear.

Believe me, we will need more than a few "soft commitments" on mercury height in thermometers at the end of the current century to make us definitely optimistic...

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Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Protected Areas Management

Going on until mid-December!

As you know, our MOOC on protected areas management has started on the 26th of October. It will last until mid-December. A few **figures** by the **30th of November**:

3658 people have registered,
coming from **112 countries**
(**75%** of the **participants** are from **Africa**)

www.papaco.org has been visited
13504 times in November



A new course will start in 2016 on:
<https://www.coursera.org/course/apafrique>

An IUCN situation analysis of terrestrial and freshwater fauna in West and Central Africa

By David P. Mallon, Michael Hoffmann and Philip J.K. McGowan, with contributions from Matthew J. Grainger, Fabrice Hibert and Nathalie van Vliet

Directions 1 to 6 of the Road Map for African PAs

This NAPA presents a summary of a study initiated in 2011 on the conservation status of terrestrial and freshwater fauna in Central and West Africa. The full report (176 pages) is available on www.papaco.org or on the IUCN website (see the Species Survival Commission pages).

The objectives of this situation analysis were:

- i) to summarize the available information on medium or large terrestrial and freshwater fauna in Central and West Africa;

- ii) to document the key impacts and loss factors of this fauna in the region;
- iii) to briefly review existing conservation measures and their effectiveness.



An IUCN situation analysis of terrestrial and freshwater fauna in West and Central Africa

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Occasional Paper of the IUCN Species Survival Commission No. 54

SSC

Produced with support from

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As with other IUCN situation analysis, this report is not intended to provide recommendations; however, it aims to serve as a baseline for stakeholders with the final objective to make or influence decisions and policies for the region, in order to better work “for the purpose of halting and/or reversing the decline of mammals, and biological diversity in general in the region”.

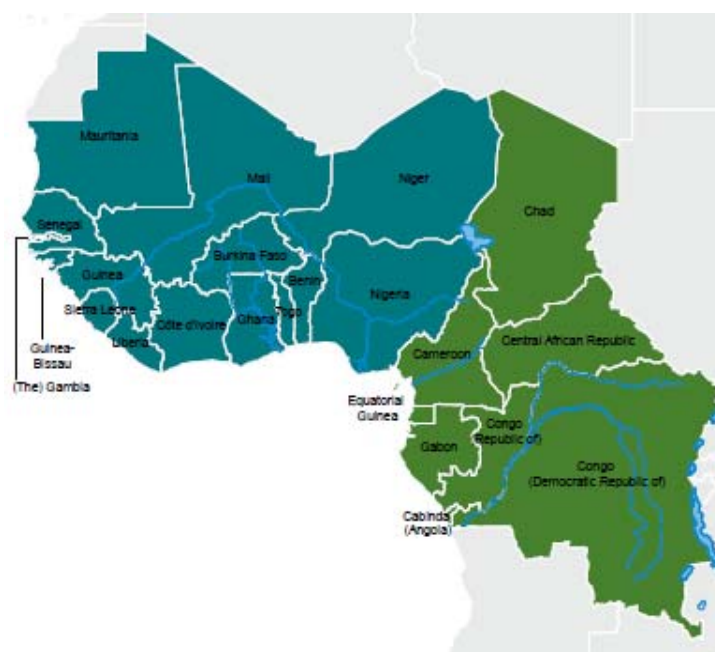
The main results of the study are summarized here after:

1. The 22 countries of West and Central Africa are physically and politically diverse. The biodiversity importance of the region is well established: for example, the Upper Guinea forests, the Afromontane forests of the Nigeria and Cameroon border and the Albertine Rift, and the Congo Basin feature prominently as conservation priorities.

But this natural heritage is under tremendous pressure. A human population of ~450 million in 2013 is projected to rise to >600 million in a little over a decade, in parallel with rapid rates of urbanization (>3% for nearly all countries).

With the exception of Liberia, all West and Central Africa countries achieved independence from colonial powers less than half a century ago; civil strife, political instability, and violent conflict is widespread, and the region has been a centre of coup activity.

Sixteen countries are classed by the United Nations as Least Developed Countries and 19 of them fall in the bottom 20% on the Human Development Index. Governance in-region is generally considered weak or ineffective, with 18 countries ranked in the bottom half of countries on the Corruption Perception Index.



The region which is covered by the study is made up of 22 countries

2. The region as a whole is home to 2,471 amphibian, bird and mammal species¹, with ~10% threatened with extinction; of >1,600 species of freshwater fishes known to occur, ~17% are threatened.

Among these, medium- to large-sized vertebrates have experienced substantial reductions in populations across the region, but particularly in West Africa. Two species of rhinoceros, Black Rhino *Diceros bicornis* and White Rhino

¹ Reptiles have not yet been fully assessed across the entire region, only in West Africa

Ceratotherium simum, while surviving elsewhere on the continent, have disappeared from the region within the last decade; the last-known, wild Scimitar-horned Oryx *Oryx dammah* were seen in the 1980s and the species is now Extinct in the Wild.

Species	Global IUCN Red List	Regional Red List in West Africa	
<i>Lycaon pictus</i>	EN	West Africa sub-population	CR
<i>Panthera leo</i>	VU	West Africa sub-population	CR
<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	VU	<i>A. j. hecki</i>	CR
<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	LC	<i>G. c. peralta</i>	CR
<i>Tragelaphus derbianus</i>	LC	<i>T. d. derbianus</i>	CR
<i>Cephalophus ogilbyi</i>	LC	<i>C. o. brookei</i>	VU
<i>Redunca fulvorufula</i>	LC	<i>R. f. adamauae</i>	EN
<i>Kobus kob</i>	LC	<i>K. k. kob</i>	VU
<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>	LC	<i>O. o. porteousi</i>	EN
<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>	LC	<i>D. l. korrigum</i>	VU
<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>	LC	<i>A. b. major</i>	NT

Regional and global Red List status of selected, non-primate, mammal species in West Africa.

Gambia (8), Mauritania (7), Senegal (5), and Mali (5) have lost five or more of their historically native large mammal species. Furthermore, species or subspecies that have global populations now down to only a few 100 individuals in the wild, include Addax *Addax nasomaculatus*, Dama Gazelle *Nanger dama* (<250), Cross River Gorilla *Gorilla gorilla diehlii* (<300), and Dryad Monkey *Cercopithecus dryas* (<200).



Regional subpopulations of African Wild Dog *Lycaon pictus*, Lion *Panthera leo*, Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus*, Giraffe *Giraffa camelopardalis*, and Giant Eland *Tragelaphus derbianus* are all

Critically Endangered due to low population size and decline.

Other, formerly widespread species or subspecies like African Elephant *Loxodonta africana*, Korrigum *Damaliscus lunatus korrigum*, Lelwel Hartebeest *Alcelaphus buselaphus lelwel*, White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*, and two species of sawfish (*Pristis* spp.) have experienced dramatic declines across the region.

3. A total of 2,186 national protected areas have been identified in the region currently covering around 9.1% and 10% of terrestrial area in West Africa and Central Africa, respectively. There has been a marked increase in coverage since the late 1960s.

Approximately 90% of these protected areas are in West Africa, where they are small and dominated by reserves outside IUCN categories I-IV (e.g. the protected area networks of countries like Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire are dominated by classified forests with an unclear management status).

Protected areas in Central Africa tend to be larger and are spread across all management categories. In total, only 209 protected areas have been assigned an IUCN management category, although some "Not Reported" sites likely correspond to IUCN category II (e.g., most of Gabon's new national parks).

In addition, 188 protected areas have international designations, including 17 World Heritage sites under the "biodiversity" criteria; 10 of these are on the World Heritage in Danger list, and 11 have been assessed as "Critical" in a recent independent evaluation. International sites increase the area under protection, on paper, to 12.0% in West Africa and 12.6% in Central Africa.

NGO-led efforts have previously identified 16 sites known to hold the last remaining populations of highly threatened species, nine of them in Cameroon, and more than 300 sites important for the persistence of avian biodiversity. This study identifies 337 sites of value for the conservation of medium- to large-sized, terrestrial threatened and Near Threatened vertebrates, of which nearly one-quarter are unprotected at the national level.

Country	Definite	Probable	Possible	Speculative	Range Area (km²)	% of Regional Range	% of Range Assessed
<i>West Africa</i>							
Benin	916	48	188	0	13,672	8	53
Burkina Faso	4,477	320	320	200	19,874	11	71
Côte d'Ivoire	211	254	155	547	33,986	19	63
Ghana	857	344	138	58	23,715	14	42
Guinea	0	64	37	57	1,524	1	75
Guinea Bissau	0	0	7	13	1,346	1	100
Liberia	25	99	99	1,363	15,977	9	63
Mali	344	0	0	0	31,881	18	100
Niger	85	0	17	0	2,683	2	100
Nigeria	0	0	108	667	22,968	13	37
Senegal	1	0	0	9	1,090	1	100
Sierra Leone	0	0	80	135	1,804	1	59
Togo	4	0	61	0	5,032	3	74
Sub-total	7,107	942	938	3,049	175,552	100	65
<i>Central Africa</i>							
Cameroon	775	1,079	2,150	10,045	120,510	12	39
CAR	1,019	113	113	1,040	81,041	8	97
Chad	454	0	2,000	550	149,443	15	26
ROC	7,198	30,979	11,071	0	141,302	14	40
DRC	1,668	3,036	5,099	4,130	276,209	27	45
Equatorial Guinea	0	0	700	630	15,023	1	13
Gabon	4,996	30,511	12,103	29,642	221,706	22	94
Sub-total	16,446	65,104	26,310	46,037	1,005,234	100	55
Total	23,553	66,046	27,248	49,086	1,180,786	-	-

¹ Note that totals for the Definite, Probable, and Possible categories are derived by pooling the variances of individual estimates, as described at <http://www.elephantdatabase.org/reliability>. As a result, totals do not necessarily match the simple sum of the entries within a given category.

West and Central Africa regional and national population estimates¹ for African Elephant in 2012 (source: Elephant Database / IUCN SSC African Elephant Specialist Group; www.elephantdatabase.org).

4. The decline of wildlife in West Africa, in particular, can be attributed to extensive habitat loss (with forest patches now highly fragmented), exacerbated by immigration and increasing human densities, incurred primarily through wide-scale clear-cutting to replace forests for agriculture.

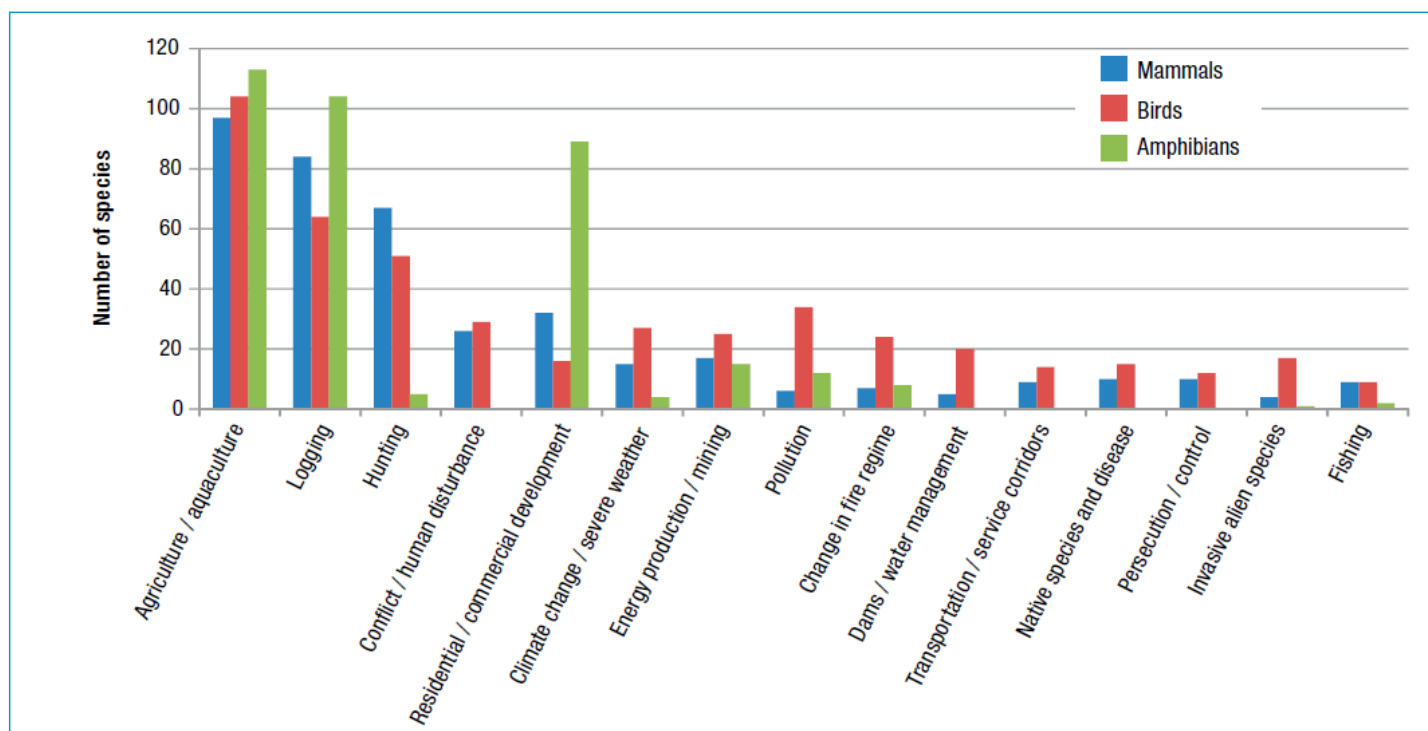
Recent (1990-2010) deforestation rates have been estimated at three times those in Central Africa. Central African forests remain relatively intact, but roughly one-third of forests are in logging concessions. However, there is evidence that, where appropriately managed, logging concessions can have beneficial impacts.

Meanwhile, agricultural activities are expanding in line with the region's recognized cultivation potential for many key crops. The region has been,

and continues to be, subject to extensive and increasing exploitation of its mineral and oil reserves, involving both large commercial, open-cast operations and artisanal activities; mining operations already have led to the downsizing and degazettement of protected areas, including one World Heritage site.

Even where forests remain intact, bushmeat hunting, especially for ungulates, is prevalent and off-take rates in some cases are not sustainable.

These activities are often exacerbated by extractive operations that open up avenues into previously inaccessible areas. Illegal wildlife trade involving ivory and, more recently, pangolin scales, to supply international markets, is further driving wildlife declines.



Main threats to globally threatened and Near Threatened mammals (n=129), birds (n=122) and amphibians (n=123) in the region (source: IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2014.2).



5. Existing national-level legislation relating to wildlife and wider biodiversity is inadequate, although the degree to which it is considered so varies.

The weakness of many national legal frameworks hinders their ability to fulfil obligations to international agreements (all countries are Parties to CBD, CITES, World Heritage, and Ramsar; for CMS, Central African Republic has not ratified and Sierra Leone is not yet a Party). For example, only four countries are considered to have legislations in place that generally meet the requirements for CITES, and 11 are presently subject of notifications concerning suspension of trade in one or more species.

Most countries (Liberia excepted) have legal systems that were established by colonial powers.

Virtually all countries have legislation concerning hunting regulations. However, it appears difficult to determine the legal basis (and its applicability) for

protected species, and thus it is not possible to be certain that there is true legal provision for the range of threatened species that require such protection.

Box: Lion *Panthera leo* status by range country

Senegal: A small relict population survives in Niokolo-Koba NP in the south-east.

Guinea: Potentially still present in Haut-Niger NP and Kankan Faunal Reserve (Henschel *et al.* 2014a).

Cameroon: Estimated that 50 individuals occurred in Waza NP in the far north and 150–250 are estimated in the Benoué complex (Benoué, Faro and Bouba Njida NPs and surrounding hunting zones in Cameroon) extending into Gashaka Gumti NP in Nigeria (IUCN 2006). Camera trap evidence was obtained in Benoué by De longh *et al.* (2011).

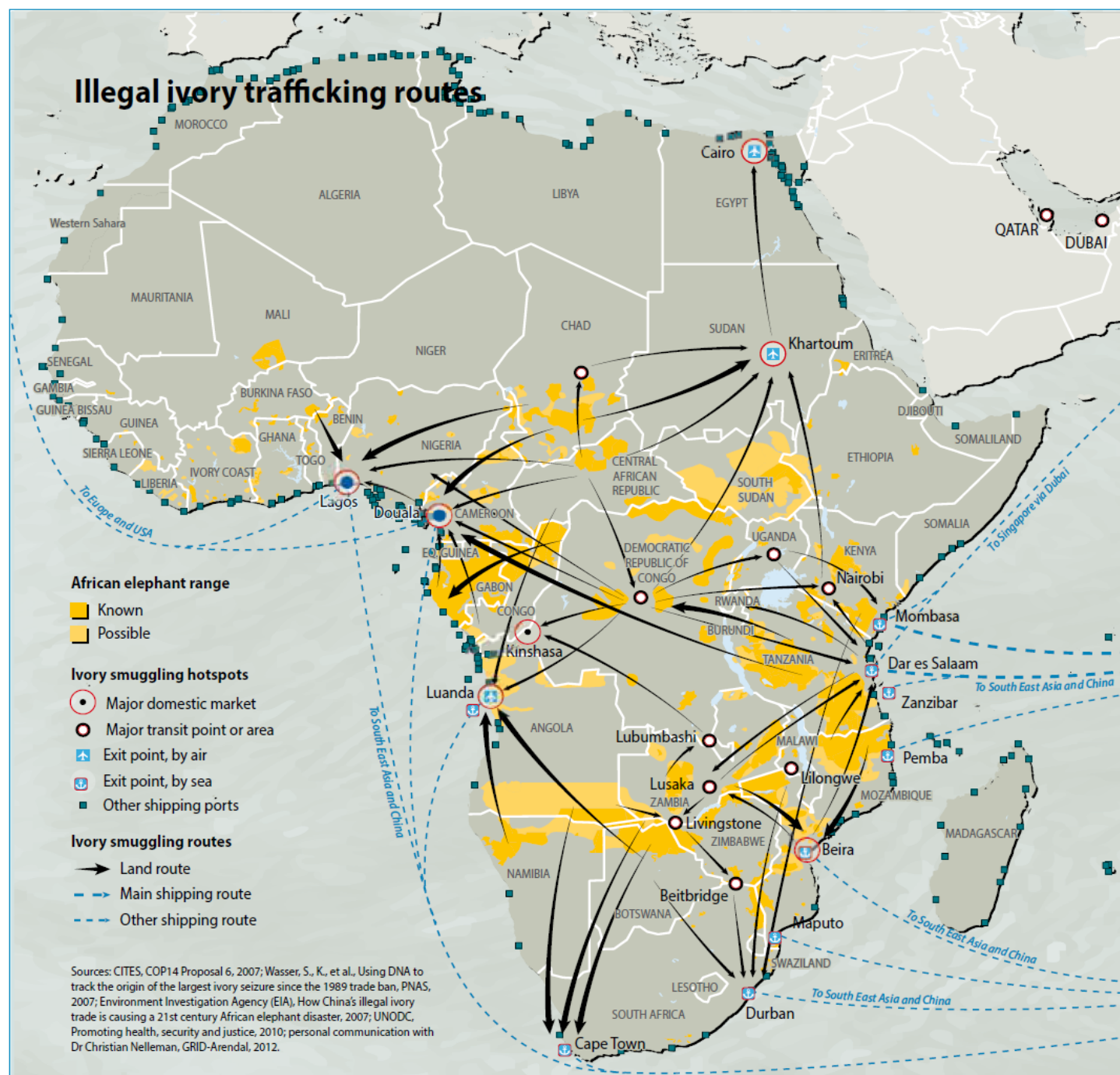
Chad: The main population occurs in Zakouma NR.

CAR: Found in a wide area of the east including St Floris- Gounda-Manovo NP, and Zémongo NP- Chinko/Mbari landscape and adjacent hunting zones.

Nigeria: Isolated populations occur in Yankari GR and Kainji Lake NP.

Gabon: Formerly occurred in the forest-savanna mosaic of the south. Considered likely extinct (Henschel *et al.* 2014b), until a young male was observed in the Batéké Plateau NP in early 2015.

ROC: Reported on the Batéké plateau (Chardonnet 2002), but no evidence of Lion presence found there by Aust & Nkulu (2005). Last recorded in Odzala-Kokua NP, but now likely extinct there (Henschel *et al.* 2014b).



Illegal ivory trafficking routes (source: UNEP, CITES, IUCN, TRAFFIC 2013).

6. Protected area coverage is not on target to meet the 17% required under Aichi Target 11. While half of countries have on paper already met national coverage targets, others (especially Mauritania, Liberia, Gambia and Mali) fall well short.

More importantly, many sites important for biodiversity remain unprotected in the region, including more than one-third of Alliance for Zero Extinction sites and three-fifths of Ramsar sites.

The effectiveness of protected area management has been assessed in a range of ways. Available evidence from biological indicators of performance, including deforestation and wildlife population trends, suggests that while protected areas have seen declines of large wildlife species, they still harbour the best blocks of habitat and, in some cases, the last remaining populations of vertebrates.

However, the overriding conclusion is that actual management is weak almost everywhere, in large part due to inadequate resources. Other

challenges, that vary in severity from country to country, include pressures from rural communities for land or other resources, corruption and poaching by armed gangs.

Country	Location	PADDD	Year	PADDD Area (km ²)	Mining activity
Guinea	Mount Nimba World Heritage Site	Downsize	1992	15.5	Iron-ore prospect
DRC	Basse Kando Reserve	Degazette	2006	unknown	Mining

Examples of protected area downgrading, downsizing, and degazettement (PADDD) for mining prospecting or extraction in Africa. Downsizing relates to a reduction in park area, and degazettement to a removal of formal protection (source: Edwards et al. 2014; see www.paddtracker.org).

7. The available evidence suggests that while trophy hunting makes an important (albeit controversial) contribution to the *de facto* protected area estate in some countries, such as Cameroon and Central African Republic, its overall potential to contribute to wildlife conservation in the region is limited. There is very limited, if any, immediate potential for large-scale expansion in West Africa.

Country	No. of operators	No. of hunting guides	No. of clients/year	Turnover (US\$ million)	No. of animals shot/year	No. of jobs
South Africa	1,000	2,000	8,530	100	53,885	5,500
Namibia		505	5,363	29	22,462	2,125
Tanzania	42	221	1,654	27.6	7,034	4,328
Botswana	13		350	20	2,500	1,000
Zimbabwe	149	545	1,874	16	11,318	
Zambia	22		250	5	5,436	
Cameroon	23	47	175	2	960	1,200
CAR	19	41	150	1.4	738	900
Ethiopia	4	15	50	1.3	300	
Burkina Faso	14		300	1.0	994	280
Benin	5		90	0.4	200	100
Chad	1	1	10			
Total	1,292	3,375	18,796	203	105,827	15,433

Trophy hunting statistics for major hunting destinations in Africa (source: Lindsey et al. 2007).

Similarly, there may be unrealistic expectations placed on nature-based tourism to provide incentives for conservation, especially since only a handful of countries have the wildlife populations and political stability to support it.

Without a considerable turn-around in infrastructure, security and wildlife-viewing opportunities, ecotourism is likely to remain highly under-developed compared with elsewhere on the Continent (see *table next page*).

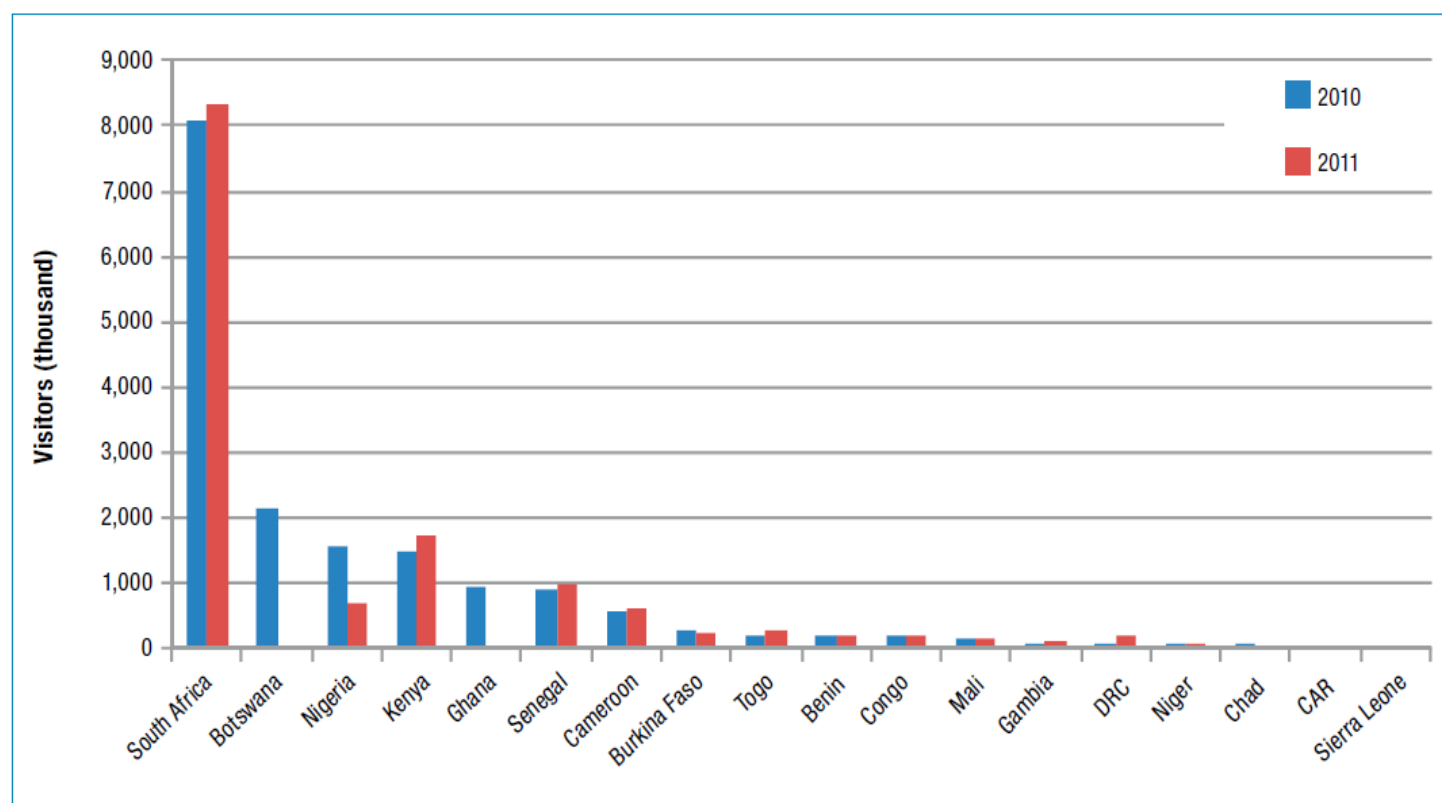


Finally, despite considerable effort and investment, fully devolved Community-based Natural Resource Management initiatives to manage wildlife resources are scarce and the potential remains largely unrealized in West and Central Africa.

8. Despite considerable pressures, tremendous complexity, and regional instability, there is an excellent track record of civil society organizations supporting, and assuming a mandate for, wildlife conservation interests in the region.

Most large, inter-governmental organizations have a regional head-office or a substantial presence in the region, and there are several large, and well-funded, regional initiatives in second or subsequent phases, including the USAID-funded Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment. NGOs are very active, and most of the larger, international NGOs have a significant (and sustained) presence in one or more countries.

Such investments have made considerable contributions to supporting protected area infrastructure and helping to establish new protected areas. Nonetheless, limited evidence suggests that NGO investment (particularly in West Africa) lags behind East and Southern Africa. This pattern also seems to be reflected in international biodiversity aid spending; West and Central Africa, for example, receive proportionally less funding from the Global Environment Facility than Southern and East Africa (perhaps due to poor performance in project implementation).



International tourist arrivals (thousands) in countries in West and Central Africa for 2010 (source: World Tourism Organization 2013). South Africa, Botswana and Kenya included for comparison. No data available for Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Liberia and Mauritania.



Conclusion

This Situation Analysis was undertaken to inform responses to several resolutions made at the 5th World Conservation Congress in 2012 about the

plight of large vertebrates in West and Central Africa.

It draws on a wide range of information to provide information on the status of these species, important sites, pressures, legislation, the effectiveness of protected areas, and both community-based incentives for conservation and institutional responses.

The overriding conclusion is of substantial wildlife declines and inadequate responses to either long-standing pressures or rapidly escalating threats that have emerged in recent years. Species extinctions have been recorded nationally and, in extreme cases, from the region as a whole and more are predicted to follow at all levels.

There are many reasons why responses have been inadequate and addressing the scale of civil unrest, poverty and natural resources extraction, to name but three pressures, will require substantial and consolidated efforts.

One issue that should be addressed as a matter of urgency is the inconsistency and mismatches between datasets that are seen as global standards, including those on protected areas, sites

identified through global processes and the species they contain, and national legislation. Harmonizing these datasets would allow scarce resources to be targeted with much greater efficiency.

More on www.papaco.org
or

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/SSC-OP-054-Fr.pdf>



JOB OFFER

Control Warden; and Environment and Research Warden (*Ideally a couple should apply for both posts*)

The NamibRand Nature Reserve, located in southern Namibia, is a private nature reserve established to help protect and conserve the unique ecology and wildlife of the south-west Namib Desert. The NamibRand Nature Reserve is one of the largest private nature reserves in Africa and plays an active and leading role in the newly formed Greater Sossusvlei-Namib Landscape Association.

The Control Warden and the Environment and Research Warden are based at Reserve headquarters on NamibRand and are responsible for the natural resource and biodiversity management of the Reserve. They are responsible

for all nature conservation work, liaison with tourism concessionaires and Reserve stakeholders, neighbour relations and outreach, promotion and public relations, research and co-ordination of visiting scientists as well as the day-to-day running and maintenance of the Reserve. A detailed job description and can be downloaded from www.namibrand.org

Requirements:

A tertiary qualification in a relevant field, preferably Nature Conservation.

Above average command of the English language as well as spoken ability of Afrikaans.

A valid driver's license and Namibian work permit or nationality

Good computer and report writing skills - proficiency in GIS would be an advantage.

At least five years of experience in natural resource management or wildlife and park management.

Send a covering letter and your CV to:
info@namibrand.org. Closing date: 31 December
2015 – Only short listed candidates will be
contacted.



African Solutions in a Rapidly Changing World:
Nature-based solutions to climate change by African innovators

Solutions africaines dans un monde qui change rapidement :
des solutions africaines innovantes apportées par la nature pour faire face au changement climatique dans les zones protégées



A new publication for COP 21

with the support of PAPACO, IUCN-Global PA Program produced a booklet on African natural solutions to be presented at COP 21, exposing 10 case studies coming from all over Africa. The book can be downloaded on

iucn.org as per mid- December

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