

Tshuapa-Lomami-Lualaba

TL2

Democratic Republic of Congo's
newest conservation landscape



The TL2 Conservation landscape and the *Parc National de la Lomami*

- What are the conservation values of this landscape, and why did these values remain unknown until recently ?
- Why a new national park for DRC ?
- How was the proposal for national park developed and how is the area protected?

From discovery to protection

– 2007 – 2008 discovery and inventory

- Large mammals, human occupation and use
- Threats

– 2009 - 2010 Kindu and Kisangani gatherings “*makutano*”

- Over 500 representatives from the landscape: from vice governor to traditional authorities gathered to debate protection. ICCN declares intention to develop national park. Local communities agree, but stipulate consensus must be confirmed by *tambiko* ceremonies evoking ancestors.

– 2010 – 2012 Outreach and provincial protection

- Provincial and territorial administration participate in outreach to communities
- Participatory delimitation of the future park with local communities
- Five *tambiko* ceremonies
- Signatures of governors of two provinces in favor of national Park gazettelement and establishing provincial park status in the area, providing mandate for ICCN patrols.

– 2013 – present

- Project for national park gazettelement presented to ICCN.
- Voluntary relocation of Obenge, only settlement in park area (population 320)
- Resurgence of 2 groups of former mai mai and elephant poachers;
- establishment of FARDC brigade with TL2 project base at Obenge.

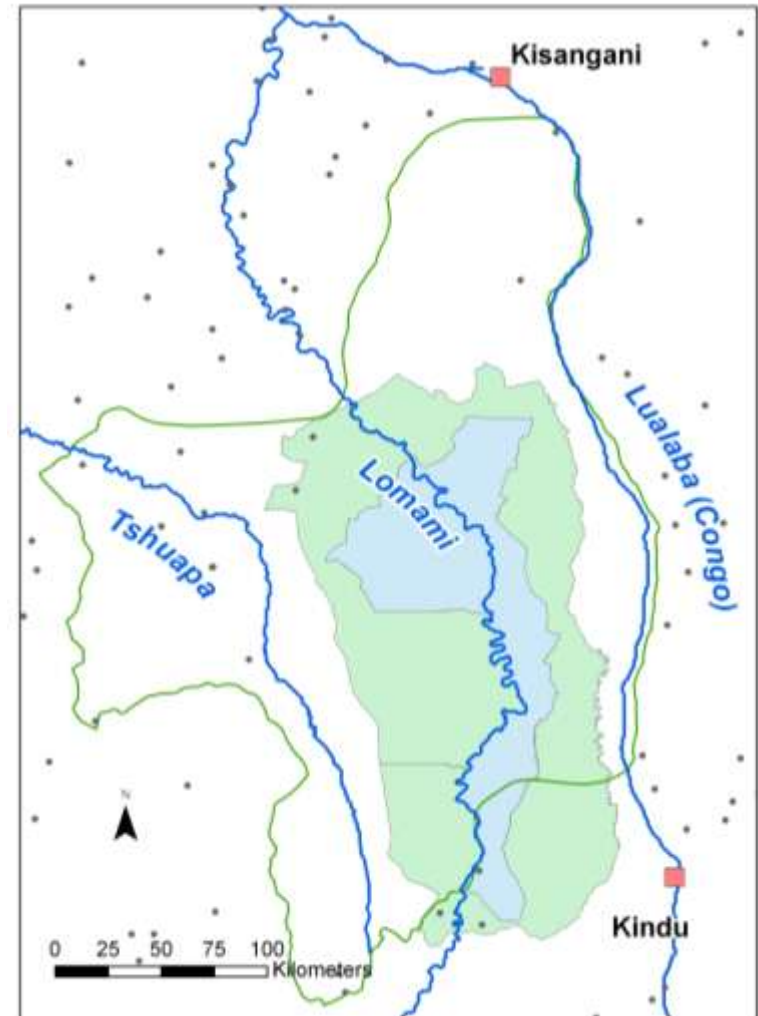
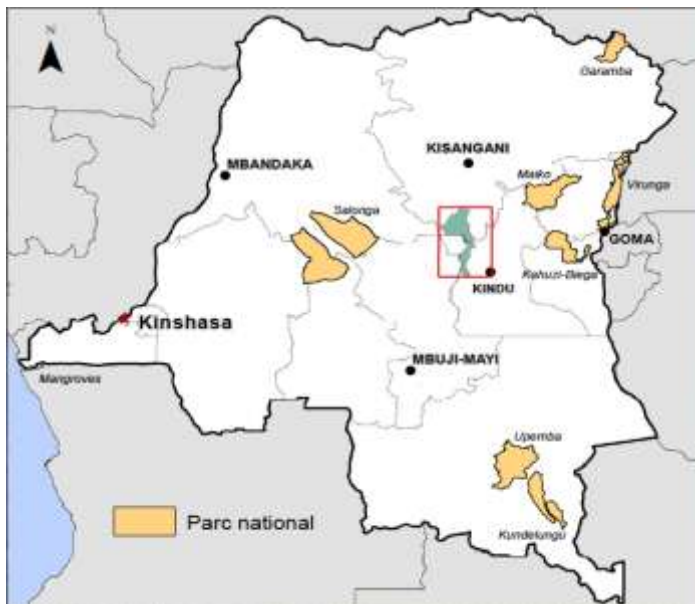
– The process continues....

Between three rivers....

Tshuapa, Lomami, Lualaba

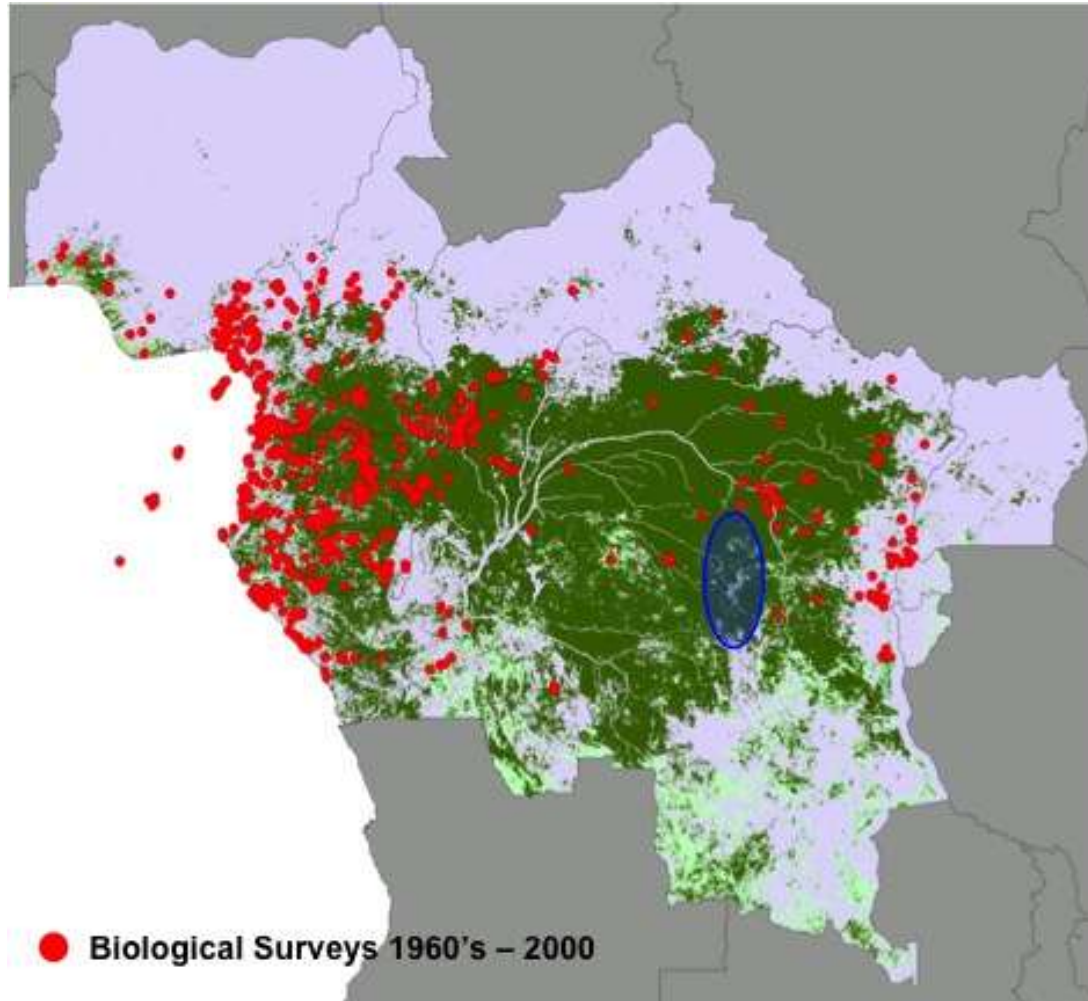
– Central location in country. Remote from international borders.

- Exploration 65,000 km²
- Identify landscape 20,000 km²
- National Park 9,000 km²



Jacques Verschuren pointed out the likely biological importance of the what is now known as the TL2 landscape in a review of Congolese biodiversity and protected areas in *Oryx* in 1975 and urged exploration.....but no one picked up on this lead at the time.

Much of DRC, in contrast to west central Africa, had little biological exploration from 1960 – 2000.



Discovery of conservation value is based on field work. We have limited basis to discover and evaluate this without direct contact with the landscape and its biodiversity.

PNL is not Congo's most diverse park.... But it does contain the largest representation of Congo's endemic flagship species

	PNL	PNVi	PNG	PNU	PNM	PNS	PNKB	PNK	RFO
Eastern gorillas									
Bonobo									
Okapi									
Congo Peacock									
Primates	2	1							



Bonobos

Eastern most population.

Population estimate 4500 – 6000

Landscape contains genetically distinct populations separated by Lomami River



TL2 Elephants

Core : 3000 km²
 Core periphery: 4500 km²
 Recovery: 9000 km²



Estimates:

2008: 800 - 900
 2012: 450 - 600



Migrant Red-backed
shrike stop over



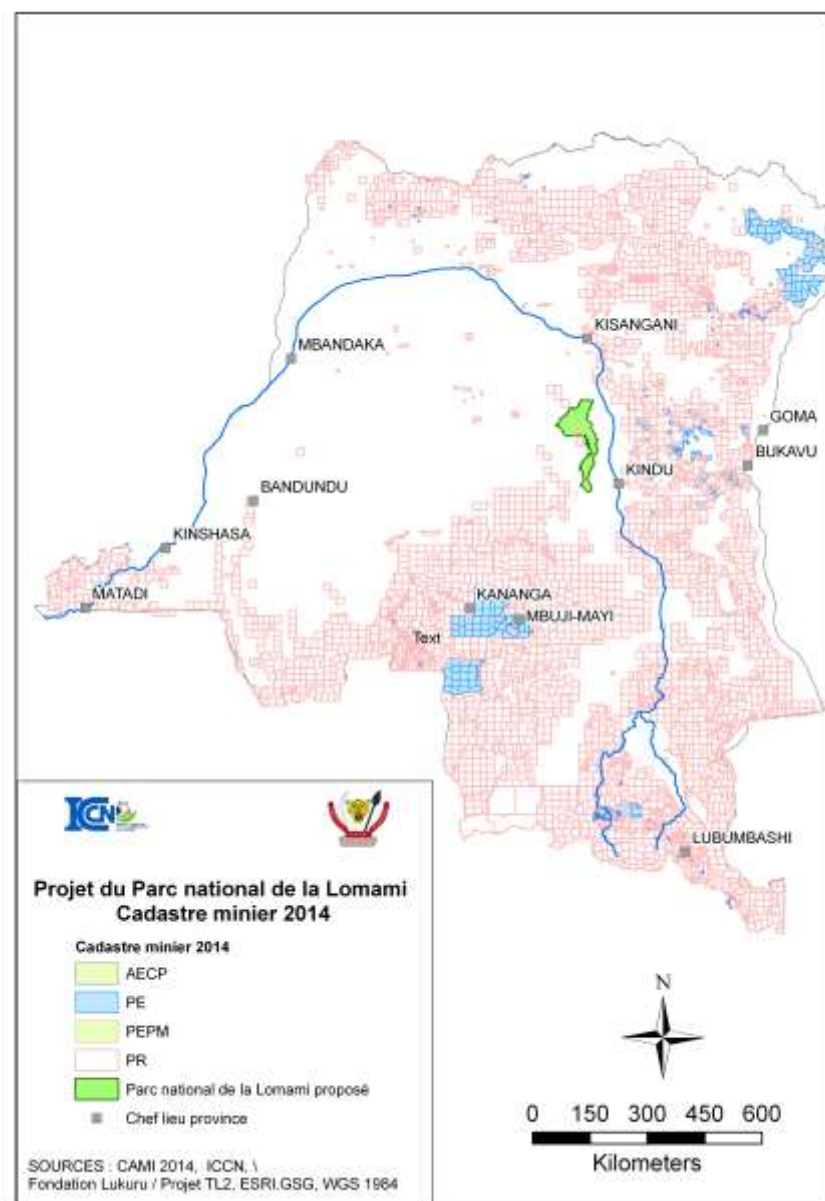
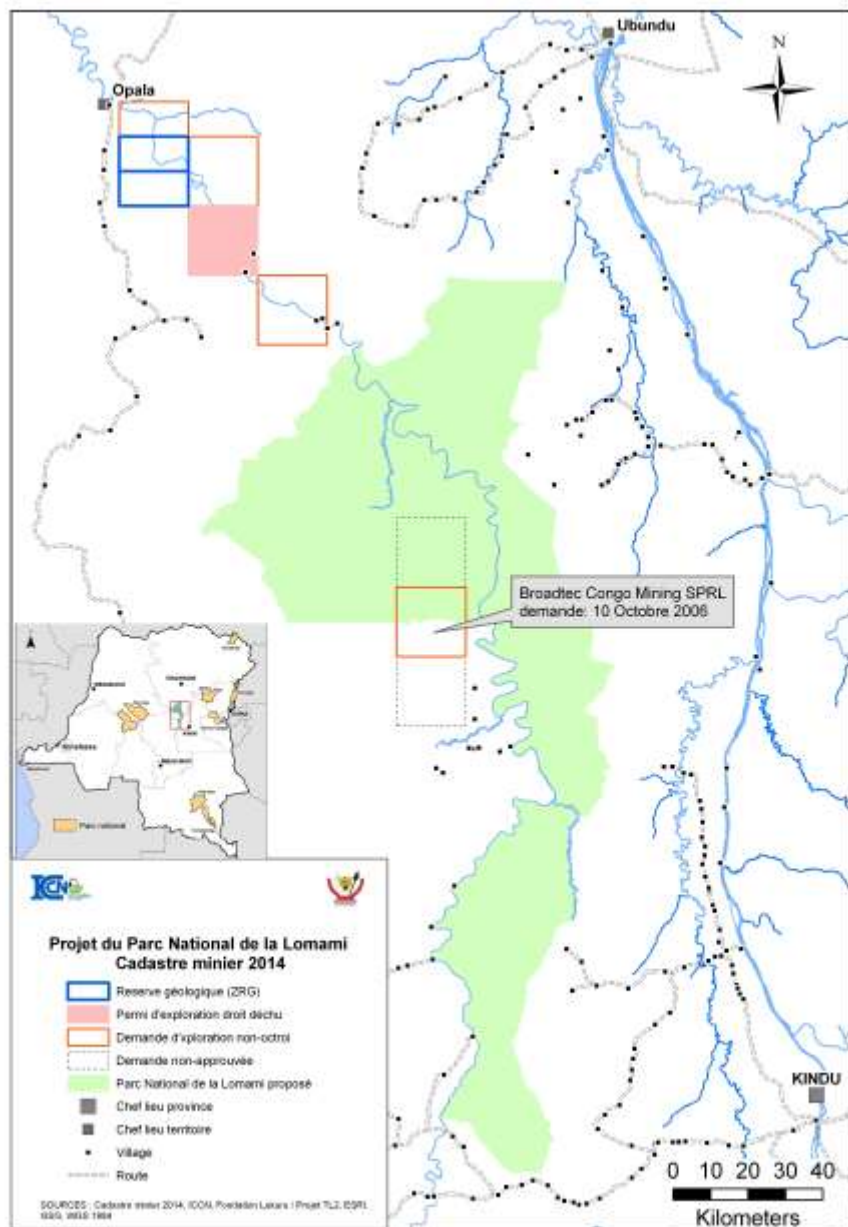
**TL2 birds: 275
species to date**

Black Guinea Fowl major
range extension

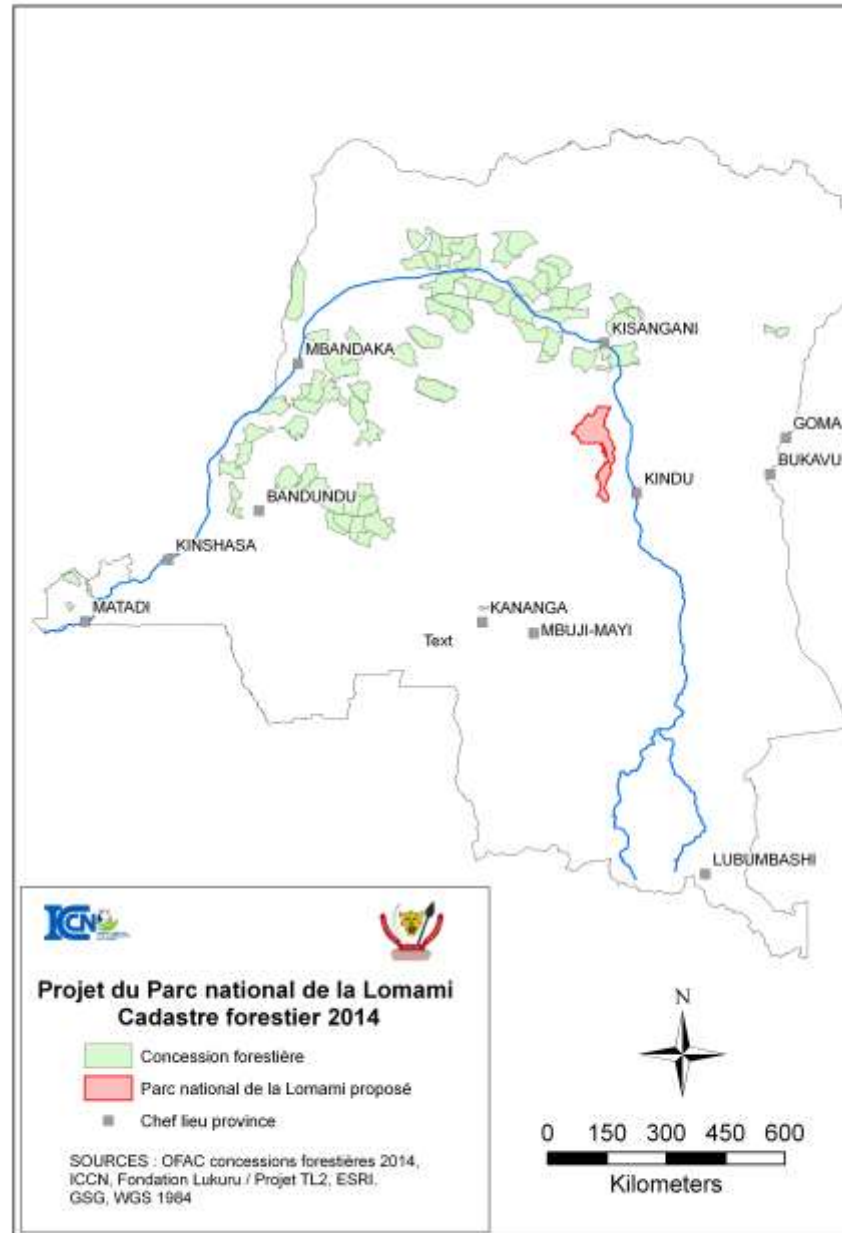


Aikogno Edo. June 13, 7:46. 127 African grey Parrots

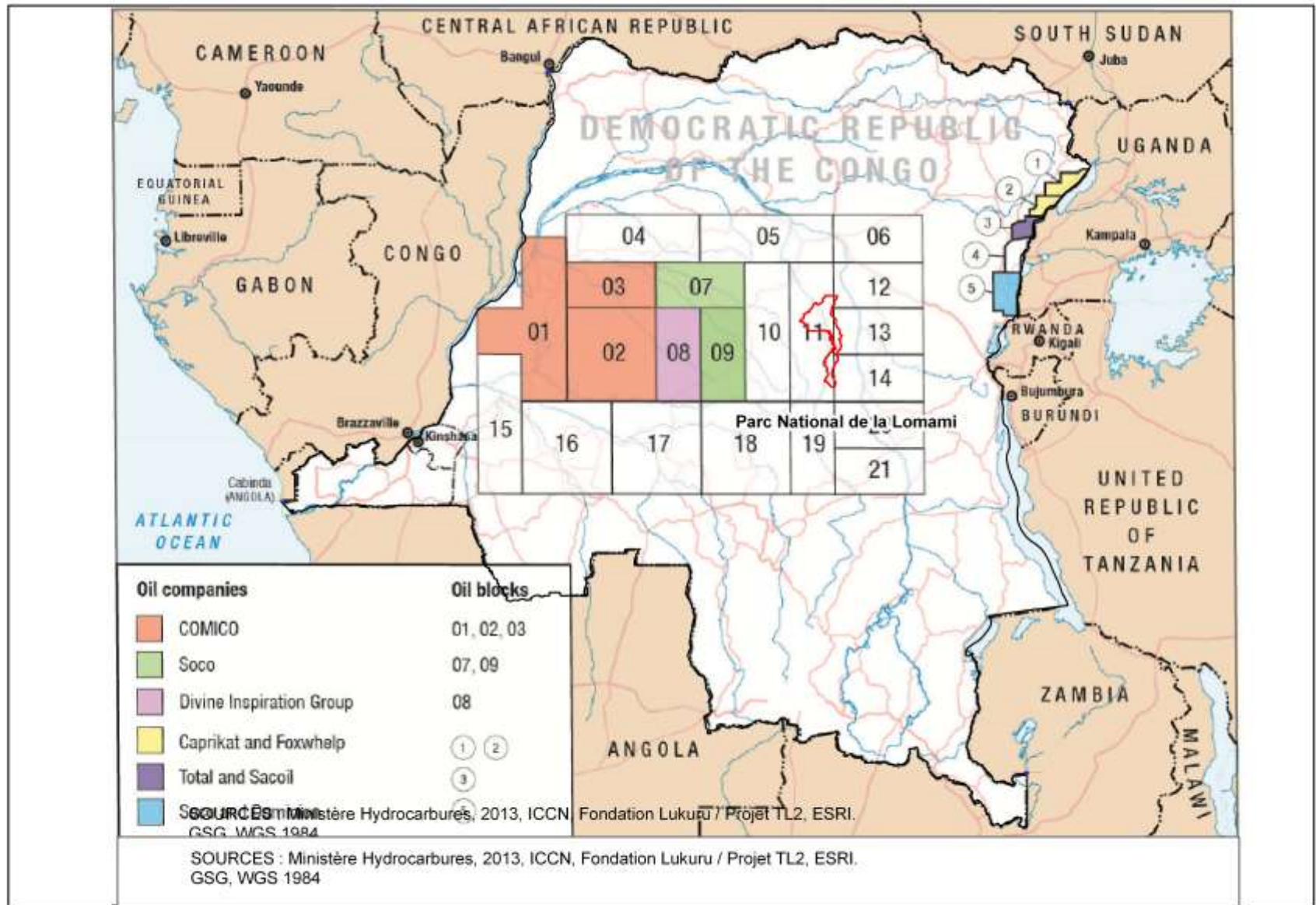
Cadastre minier



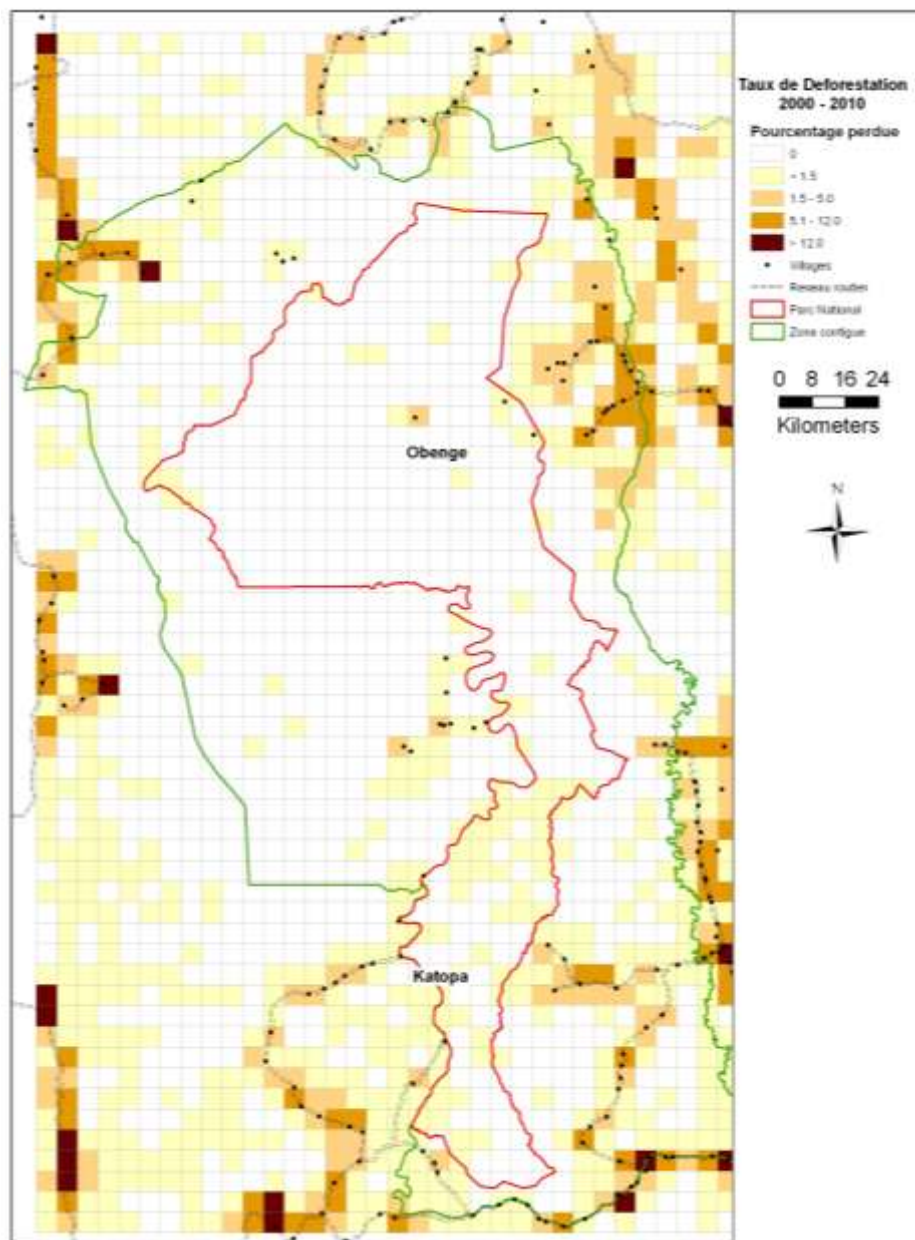
Cadastre forestier



Situation hydrocarbure



Deforestation dans le complexe 2000 - 2010



Analysis: Rene Beyers

•Le parc n'avait pas de déforestation pendant la période a part de cellule d'Obenge (4 %)

•La zone contiguë: plusieurs carrés ont eu une déforestation de 5 % ou plus pendant la période.

•Les villages de Balanga rive gauche n'ont pas montré une importante déforestation. Est-ce qu'ils sont mieux classés comme camps de chasse ?

10 localités avec un taux de défrichement de plus de 12 pourcent entre 2000 à 2010.

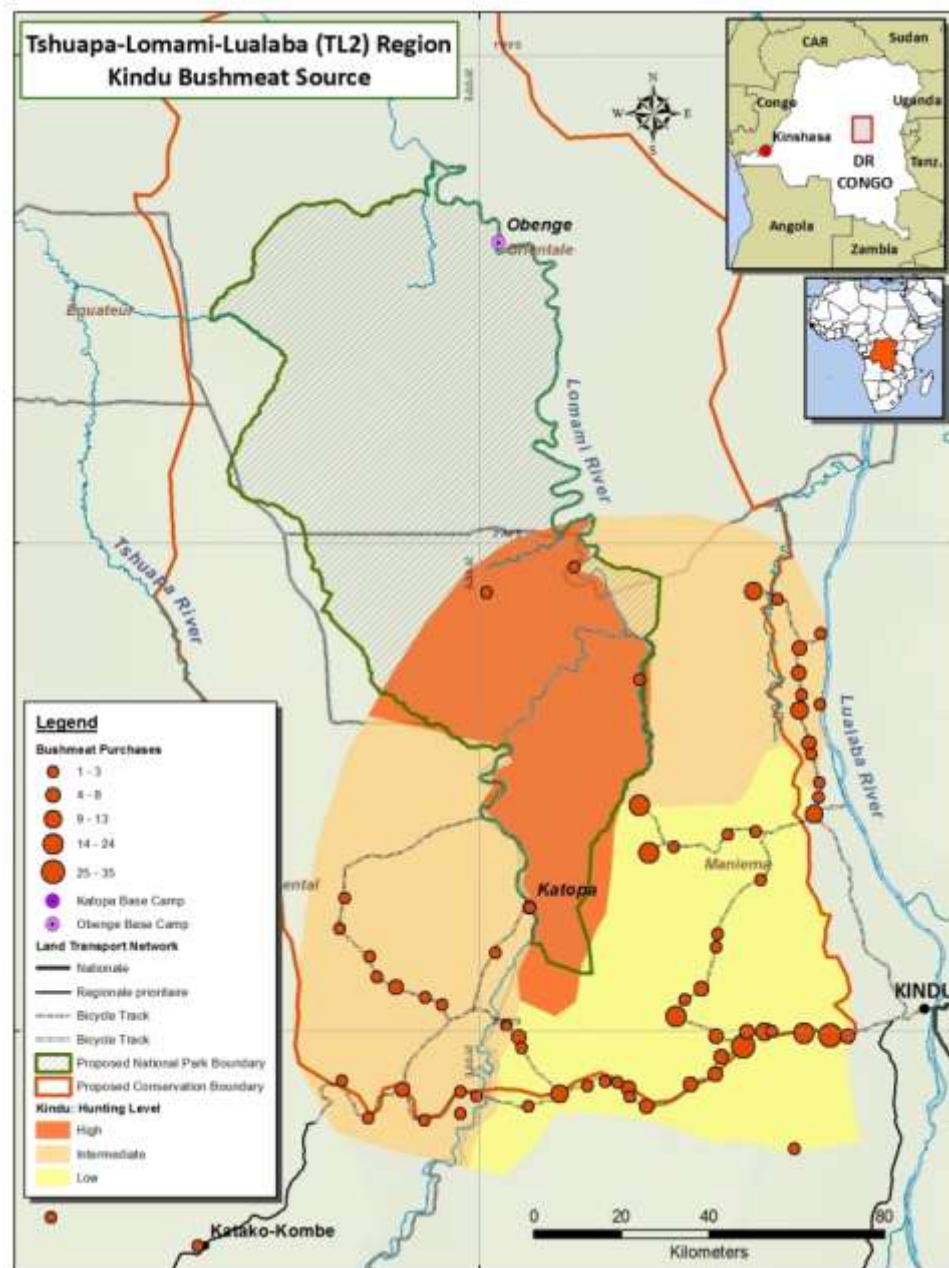
Village	Territoire	taux pourcentage
Chulochulo	Kailo	12.5
Elingalale	Opala	12.9
Bolota	Lomela	13.1
Masimango	Ubundu	13.4
Osuke	Opala	13.6
Olangate	Kailo	14.5
Miamba	Katako kombe	15.2
Kitambala	Ubundu	19.5
Chumbechum	Kailo	22.1
Dingi	Kailo	22.6



2009 TL2 Bushmeat survey

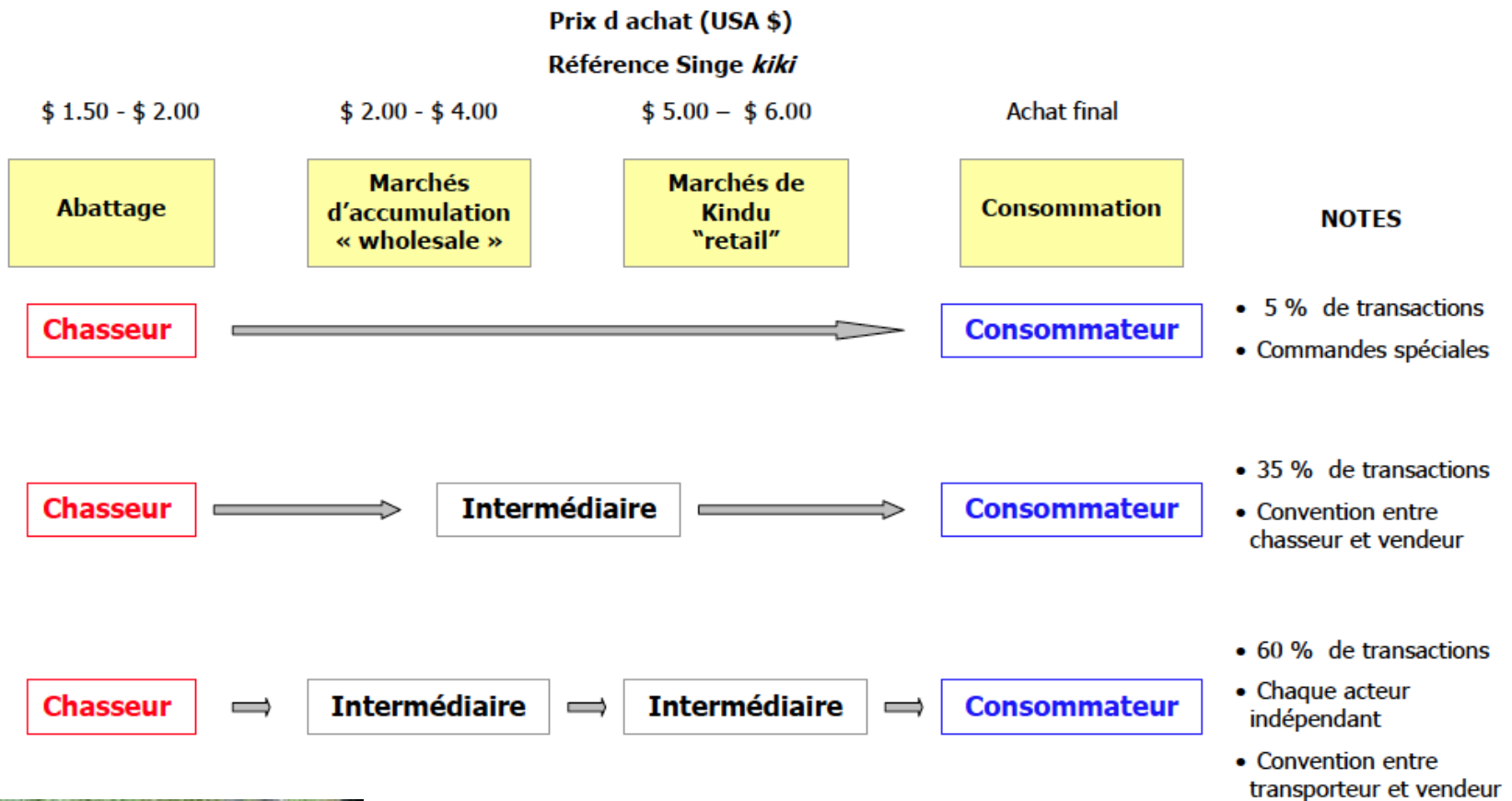
➤ 387 transporters surveyed at river crossings “choke points”

➤ Kindu Major destination for TL2 bushmeat is Kindu



La chaîne de *Bushmeat* : Transactions

Province de Maniema, Marché de Kindu



Impact of uncontrolled hunting

30 metric tons of bushmeat / month to Kindu

13 bonobos in 387 bushmeat loads in

At this rate: 270 bonobos killed annually in a

12,000 km² catchment

Why a new national park ?

- A **national mandate** for protection is an important statement of commitment to known value
- National Park status **clarifies the level of protection** to be provided. This is not (yet) the case for many protected areas with community occupation.
 - No permanent settlement
 - Strict protection of habitats and fauna
- **Opportunity and Value**: 9000 km² with only one small permanent settlement, and surrounded by lightly occupied forest. No outstanding mining or logging claims. Local communities agreed to park limits

Rassemblement de Pâques

Kindu, 11 avril 2009



**“Il faut un parc
national pour le TL2”**

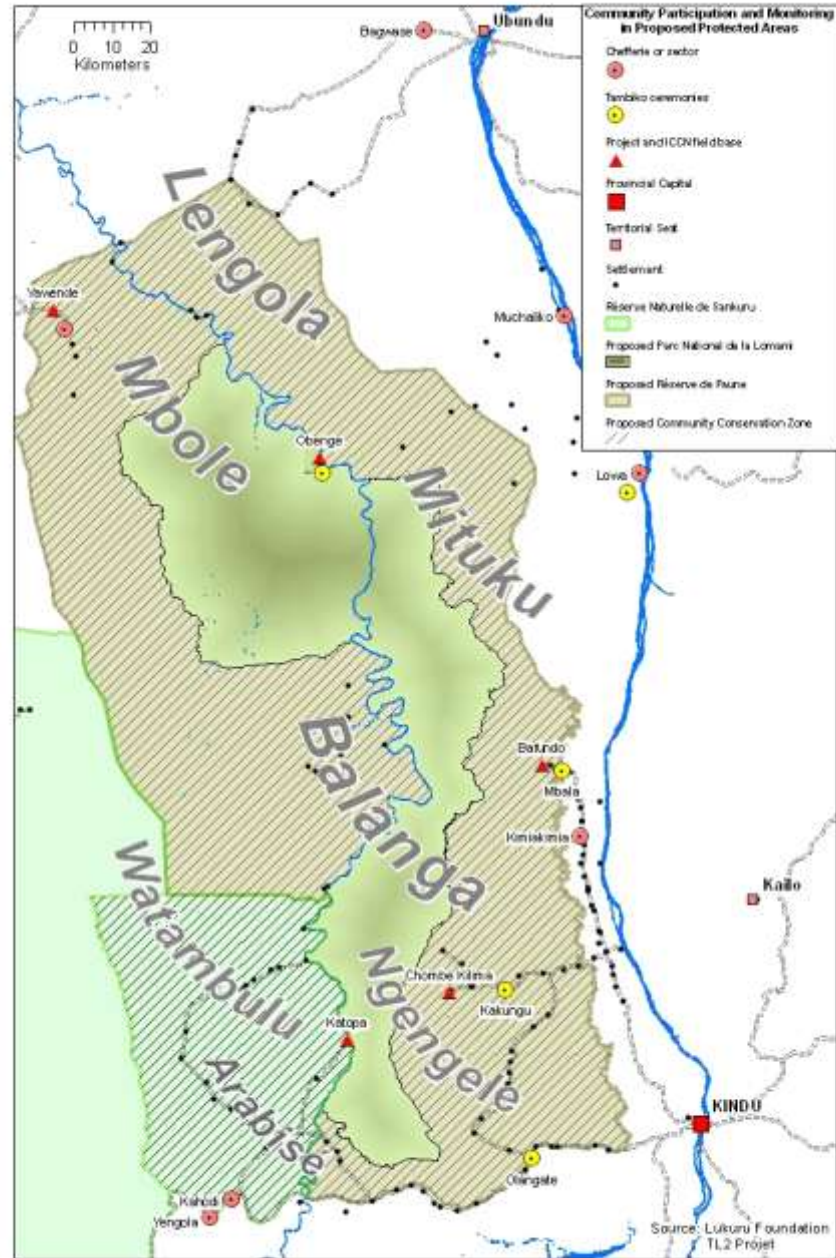


Creating a National Park from the bottom up

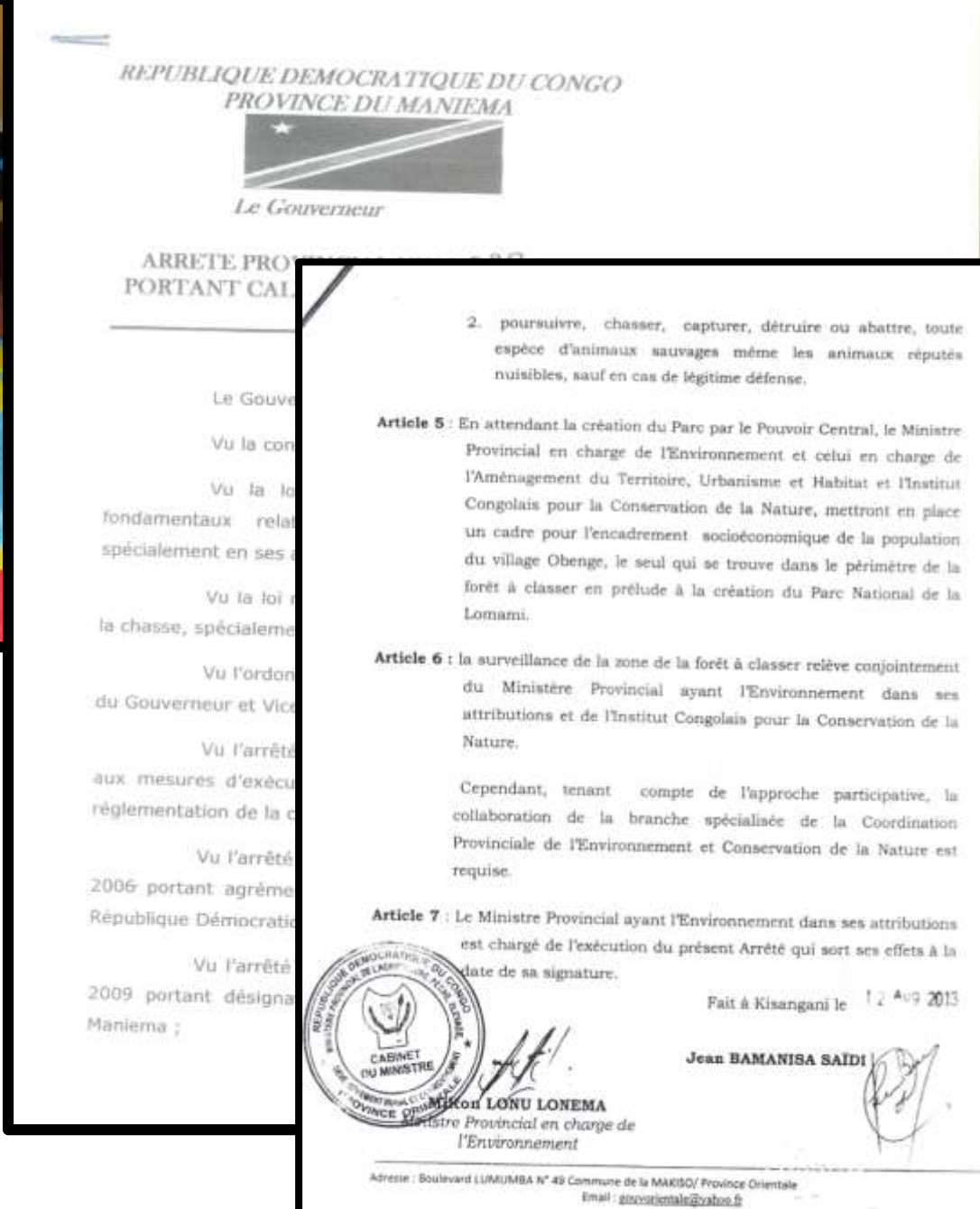
- Outreach and negotiation
- Witnessed agreement ceremonies
- Participatory delimitation



Tambiko: The ancestors witness



Provincial Parks establish mandate and set the stage for a national park



Article 6 of the decrees mandates protection by the ICCN....

Investments in the landscape

- Financial overview
 - more than 5.5 million USD secured by Lukuru Foundation from 2007 to present
 - Private, foundation, USFWS, bilateral donors: small percentage only
 - 2014: 5-year, USFWS co-operative agreement: monitoring, capacity building
- 5-year Commitment by KfW
 - 2015: First phase develop surveillance infrastructure and hiring guards
- GIZ contributions
 - Support for voluntary relocation of Obenge
 - ICCN provincial offices
 - Developments in the buffer zone
- ICCN
 - Contingent of 6 guards operational in landscape.
 - Execution of the mandate



Importance of direct employment

2013 – 2014 74 individuals employed at some level

38 of the buffer zone's 92 communities

\$48,000 / year in local salaries

Community outreach through micro development...

It's not just "for them" , but it's "for us"



Participatory approach to patrolling.

Mixed patrols:

- 1-2 ICCN guards per team
- TL2 Project staff ensure navigation, record keeping and documentation to meet legal standards
- Local guides and informants: most illegal snare and shotgun hunters known
- Follow up in provincial courts: 6 cases all involving personal threat or protected species (one case settled through traditional means)



2015 Maniema: Bringing an end to the slaughter of bonobos

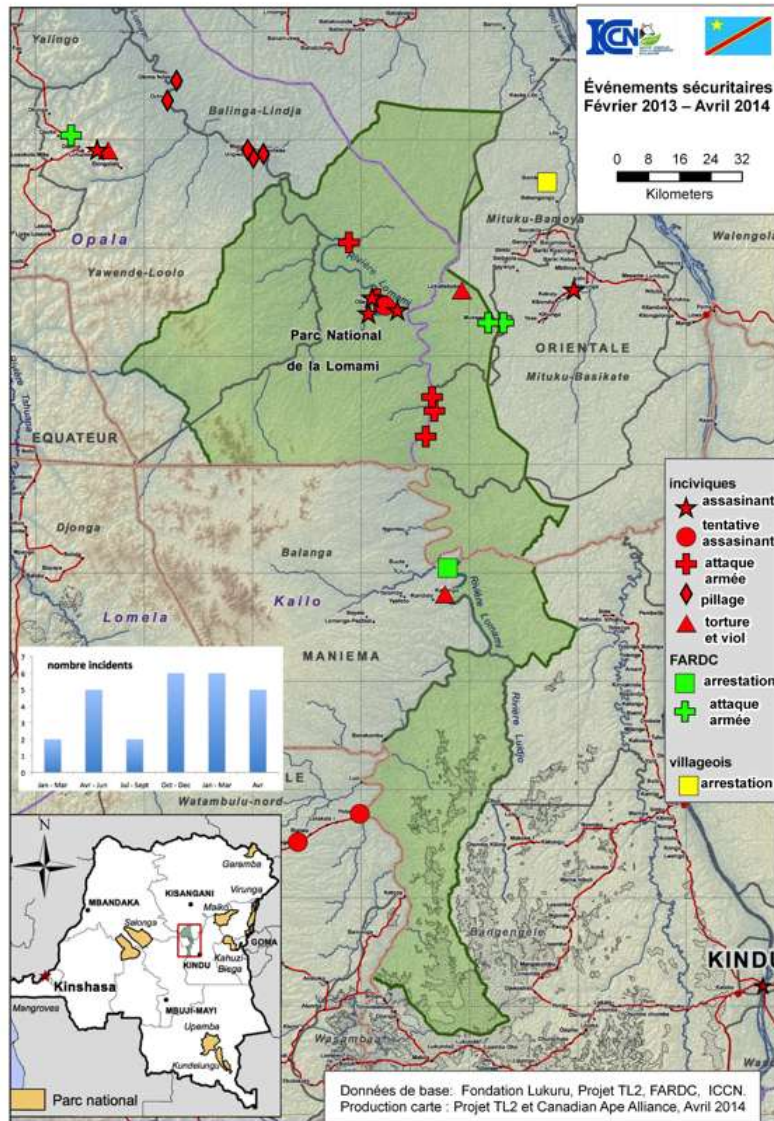
- Collaborate with provincial magistrates, Provincial Ministry of Environment and ICCN to make arrests and court cases for illegal killing of bonobos.
- Since November 2014, 5 cases in Maniema province.
- These arrests are a point of entry into the chain. Next step is to move from the arrests to find the hunters involved, and in particular the sponsors and buyers.
- Evidence of cult use of ape body parts. Will require investigative work.
- Real possibility to reduce if not end illegal killing apes in the landscape

Elephant poachers : Former mai mai militia leaders and military deserters, prison escapees are the primary source of insecurity in the TL2

two main gangs, about 20 followers about half drawn from local communities.
Participation fluid.

Complicity with individuals in local and regional FARDC garrisons (ammunition),
Some arms are stolen

ICCN guards, Project staff and local communities threatened (3 villages burned, torture, rape, 5 killings since 2012)



Les deux faces de la FARDC dans le TL2

The Congolese military and elephants **Good Soldier Bad soldier**



Lt Masudi
102ème Brigade Lodja
Commanditaire braconnage
4 éléphants tués 2013 - 2014

Lt Alpha
10ème Brigade Kisangani
Commandant compagnie anti
braconnage
PN Lomami février 2013 au présent

FARDC

- 10th brigade operational in landscape since February 2013; based at project camp at Obenge; several clashes with militias, militias now in retreat.
- TL2 project staff embedded with military unit, support communication, local transportation and rations.
- Since December 2013, military participate in armed patrols.
- No cases of poaching by 10th brigade; continual monitoring

Challenges: Major dynamics in landscape

- The bottom-up, participatory process set the stage for protection of the landscape. Now it must evolve to strengthen mandate as new challenges emerge
- Evolving security context.
 - Ability to ensure security for vulnerable communities in buffer zone is emerging as key contribution by ICCN and partners.

Meeting rapidly evolving challenges:

- Ensure capacity for decision making based on the ground with information flow assured.
 - Senior, experienced staff based in the field with ability to move information. Investment in people is visible
 - Political outreach and legal outreach based on solid documentation
 - Utilize media at all levels.
- Broadening support for the management of the landscape in a decentralizing context
 - Conservation Mandate is based with provincial administration as well as ICCN.
 - Community participation in surveillance and management.
- Management of buffer zones. What role for community forests ?
 - Emerging resource conflicts as fish and wildlife populations dwindle.
 - Mandate will require engagement of provincial administration
 - Can there be a role for ICCN armed protection in the buffer zones ?

TL2's intrepid Congolese explorer naturalists....





Projet TL2 Acknowledges....

- ICCN, Provincial administrations Orientale and Maniema,
- Secteurs: Ngengele, Balanga, Mituku, Lengola, Mbole, Arabisés
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- Foundations: Arcus, FCF (HongKong), WoodTiger, Wildca
- USFWS, DIFD, UNOPS
- Over 100 private contributors, many anonymous
- Over 25 professional collaborators

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