

Why don't we ask? The local knowledge and habits for the Great Apes Survey.



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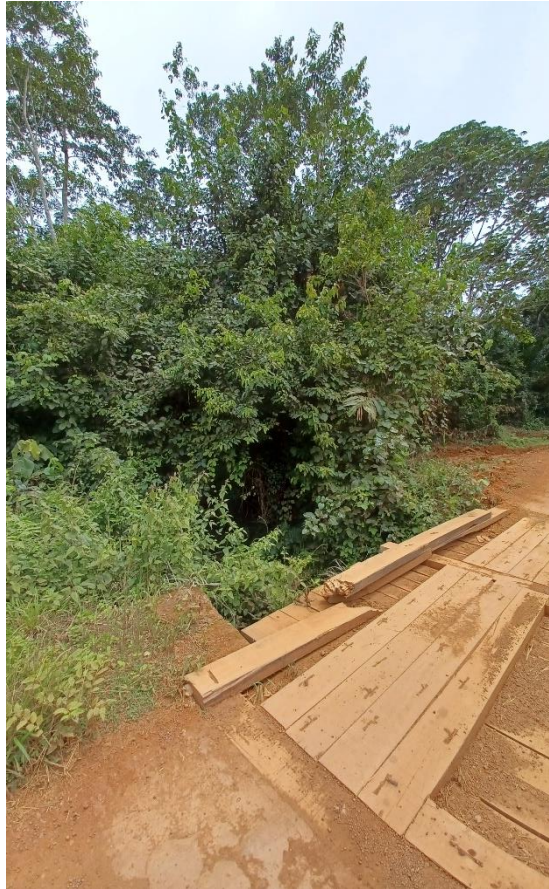
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1. Brief Project description

- v Upgrading a road of 170 km in the south of Cameroon.
- v The road follows about 85% of the existing track.
- v New bypasses, check-in controls station.
- v New bridges, box culverts and so on.



2. *Previous studies*

Before 2021

GAP Analysis

Complaint with best practices and IFC's Performance Standards.

October '21

Biodiversity Baseline Field Survey

First evidence of GAs presence



Primates nest



Primate food remains

2. Previous studies

❖ Central chimpanzee

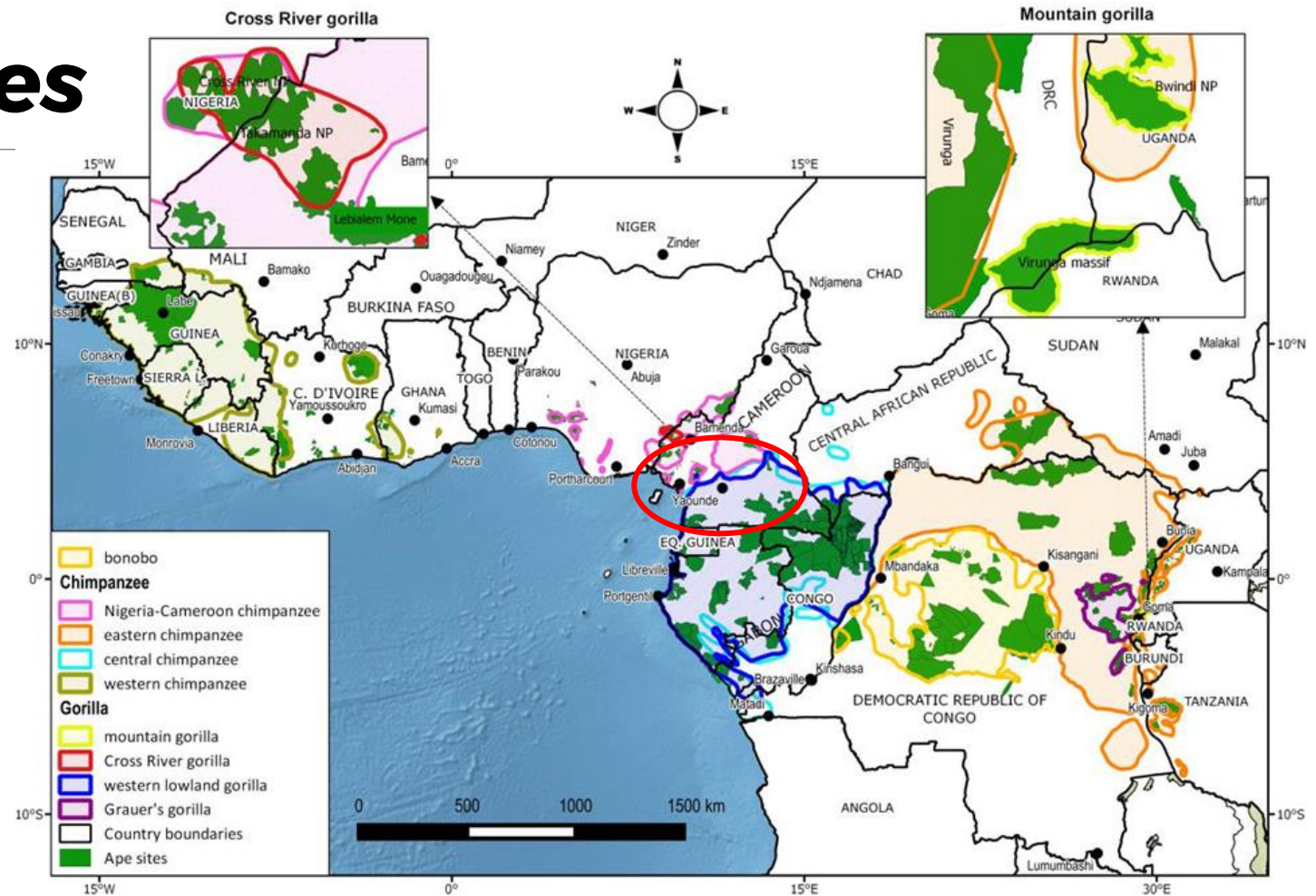
Pan troglodytes troglodytes

EN for the IUCN Global Red List

❖ Western lowland gorilla

Gorilla gorilla gorilla,

CR for the IUCN Global Red List



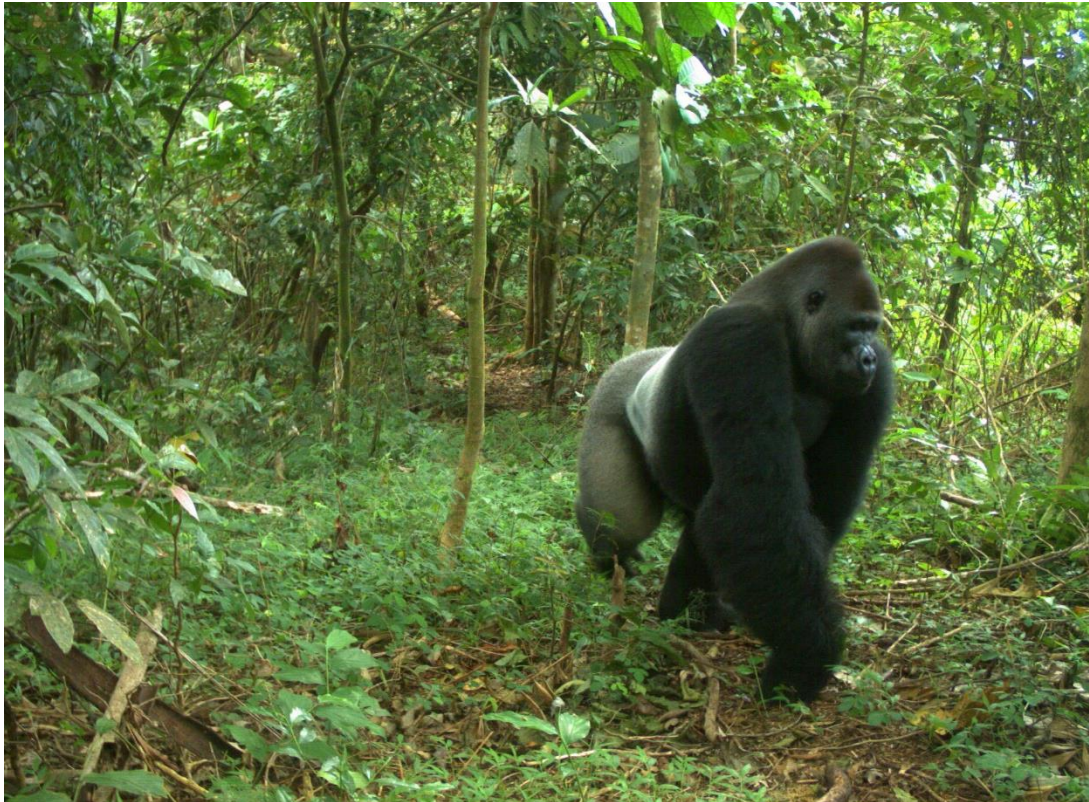
Source: IUCN SSC A.P.E.S. database, 2017, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

2. Previous studies



Central chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*)

2. Previous studies



Western lowland gorilla (*Corilla gorilla gorilla*)

2. Previous studies

GN73. Special consideration should be given to great apes (gorillas, orangutans, chimpanzees and bonobos) due to their anthropological significance. Where great apes may potentially occur,^{GN17} the IUCN/Species Survival Commission (SSC) Primate Specialist Group (PSG) Section on Great Apes (SGA) must be consulted as early as possible to assist in the determination of the occurrence of great apes in the project's area of influence. Any area where there are great apes is likely to be treated as critical habitat. Projects in such areas will be acceptable only in exceptional circumstances, and individuals from the IUCN/SSC PSG SGA must be involved in the development of any mitigation strategy.

Before 2021

GAP Analysis

Complaint with best practices and IFC's Performance Standards.

October '21

Biodiversity Baseline Field Survey

First evidence of GAs presence

February '22

First conversation with IUCN Great Apes Task Force

In alignment with IFC GN 73

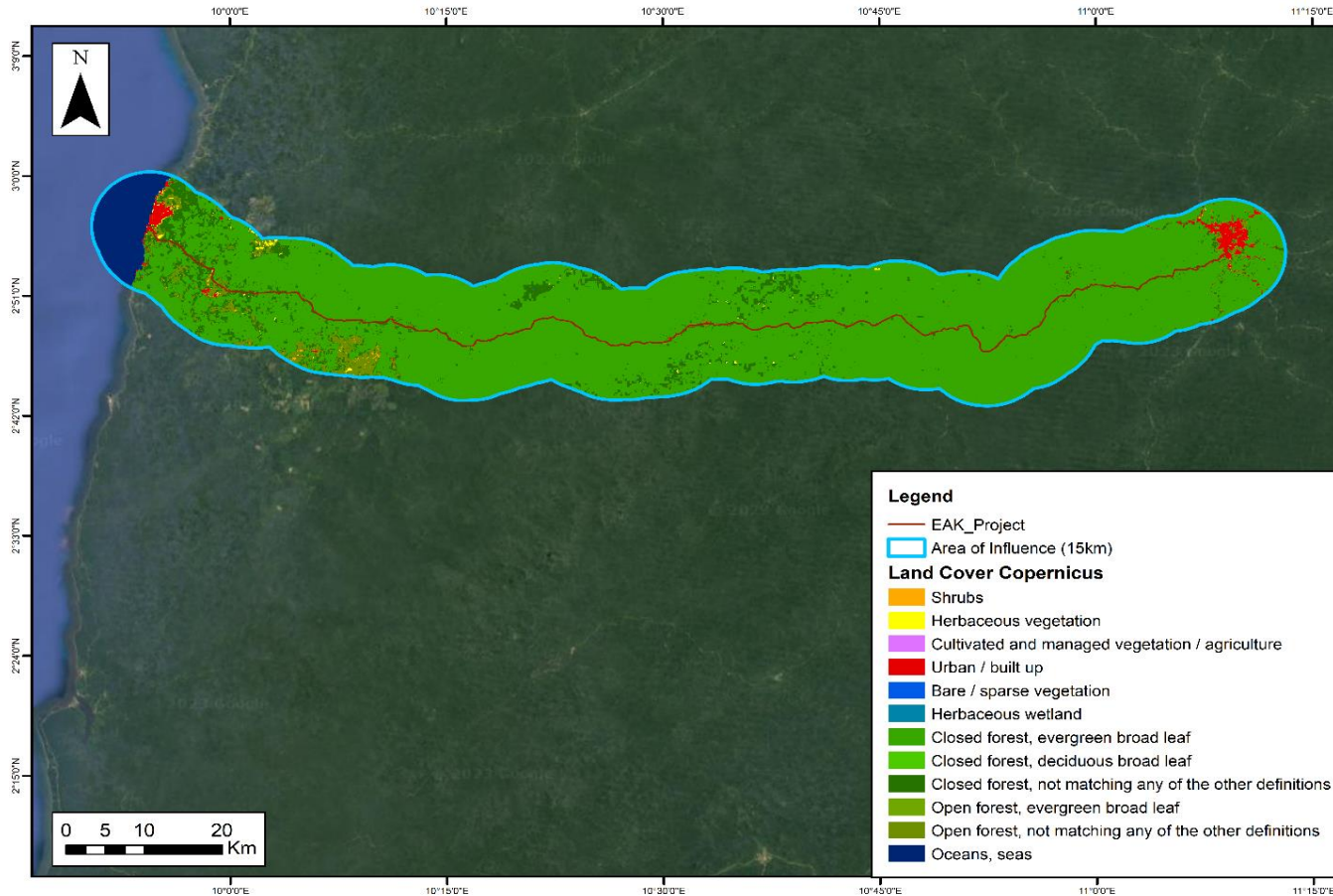
July '22

Task Force's comments

Comment, approach and future steps on the Project



3. Great Apes Survey Plan



- ❖ Area of Influence 7,5 km on each side from the RoW
- ❖ Closed forest (primary and secondary forest), patches of open forest, agriculture, swamps, and seasonally flooded areas.
- ❖ A National Park (KBA and IBA) at 7km.
- ❖ Logging concession, palm oil and rubber plantation, mining concession, and roads.

3. Great Apes Survey Plan

Phase I :
*General
Survey*

Phase II:
*Field
Survey**

Main goal

- ❖ Qualitative information of GAs presence/absence
- ❖ Potential distribution and abundance
- ❖ Habitat preference and movement trajectories
- ❖ Information on sources of threat (*i.e.*, road crossing, crop raiding)
- ❖ Type, distribution, and intensity of human activities
- ❖ Bushmeat trade

*Involvement of local people

3.1 Interviews



Local consultant team.



Meetings with traditional authorities



Meetings with technical administration staff from the Ministry of Forest and Fauna



Technical administration staff showing information to the primatologist expert.

3.1 Interviews



Explain the aim of the study during a village meeting.



Reliability test.



Primatologist interviewing a person in the village.

3.1 Interviews

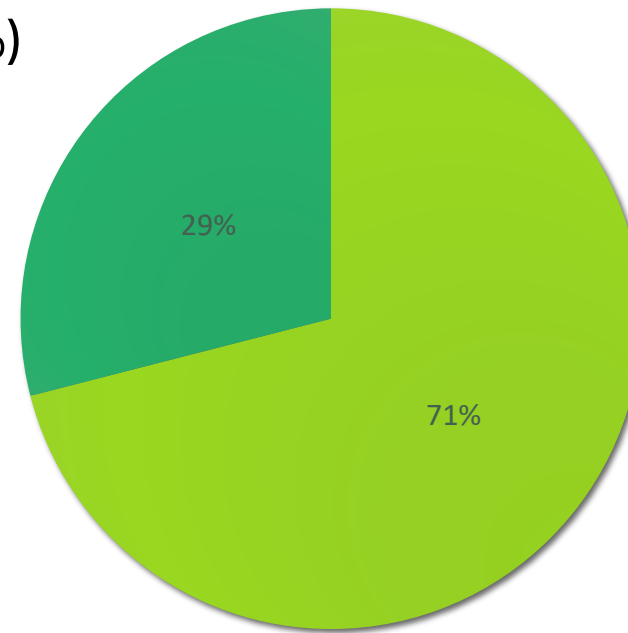
- 209 people were interviewed in the 20 villages;
- 185 were males and 24 females;
- the youngest interviewed is aged 18, while the oldest is 94;
- 90% farmers and hunters and 10% fisherman, gold digger, bushmeat trader, teacher, pastor.
- The population living in the survey area is predominantly Bulu 92%.
- The 8% are other ethnic groups represented by Bagweli, Bakoko, Ewondo, Fang, Mvae, Nord ouest and Ntoumu.
- The main religion among the interviewees is Christian (indicated to be the religious belief of almost 98%).

3.1 Interviews

Great Apes presence and interactions

Have you ever seen/heard a Great Ape in the village or the area nearby?

- ❖ **YES** for 114 interviewees out of 209 (54%)
- ❖ Some villages had zero sightings.



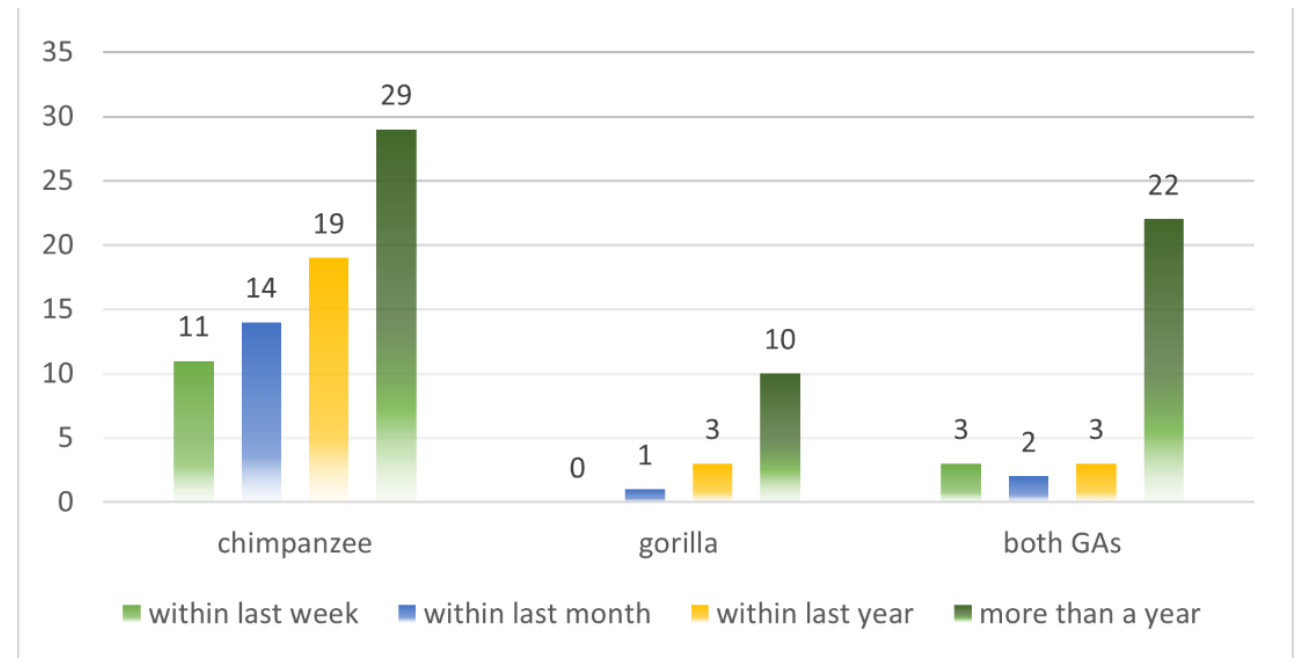
■ Chimpanzee ■ Gorilla

3.1 Interviews

Great Apes presence and interactions

❖ *Where and when do you usually have seen a GAs?*

Forest	Field	Along the road
73%	23%	4%



3.1 Interviews

Great Apes presence and interactions

Have you ever found a dead GAs?

- ❖ **YES** 89 interviewees out of 209 (42%)
- ❖ 68% in the village and 28% in the forest

❖ *Why were the GAs killed?*

Traditional medicine	Food	To sell babies	Crop-raiding	Truck/car	Afraid/self-defence	I don't know
0%	74%	0%	3%	0%	5%	18%

3.1 Interviews

Great Apes presence and interactions

- ❖ Only two over 20 villages have a **taboo** on hunting Great Apes because are considered **totem animals**.

Local folklore was:

- ❖ **Healing**, *“chimpanzees and/or gorillas’ arms, bones or hair are used to heal broken bones, spleen pain, and kidney disease”*.
- ❖ **Good omen**, *“chimpanzees and/or gorillas’ bones or arms, are used to strengthen children or newborns or women in labor”*.
- ❖ **Death in the village**, *“when chimpanzees and/or gorillas are heard/seen nearby the village an old man or the person who has seen the GA is going to die”*.
- ❖ **To seduce a woman**, *“eating the heart will help to seduce women”*.

3.1 Interviews

Ecosystem services

❖ Forest use?

69% five or more times a week

22% 2-4 times a week

8% 1-2 times a week

1% 1-2 times a month

❖ Traditional activities?

97% slash and burn for agriculture

71% snare for crop protection

75% hunting

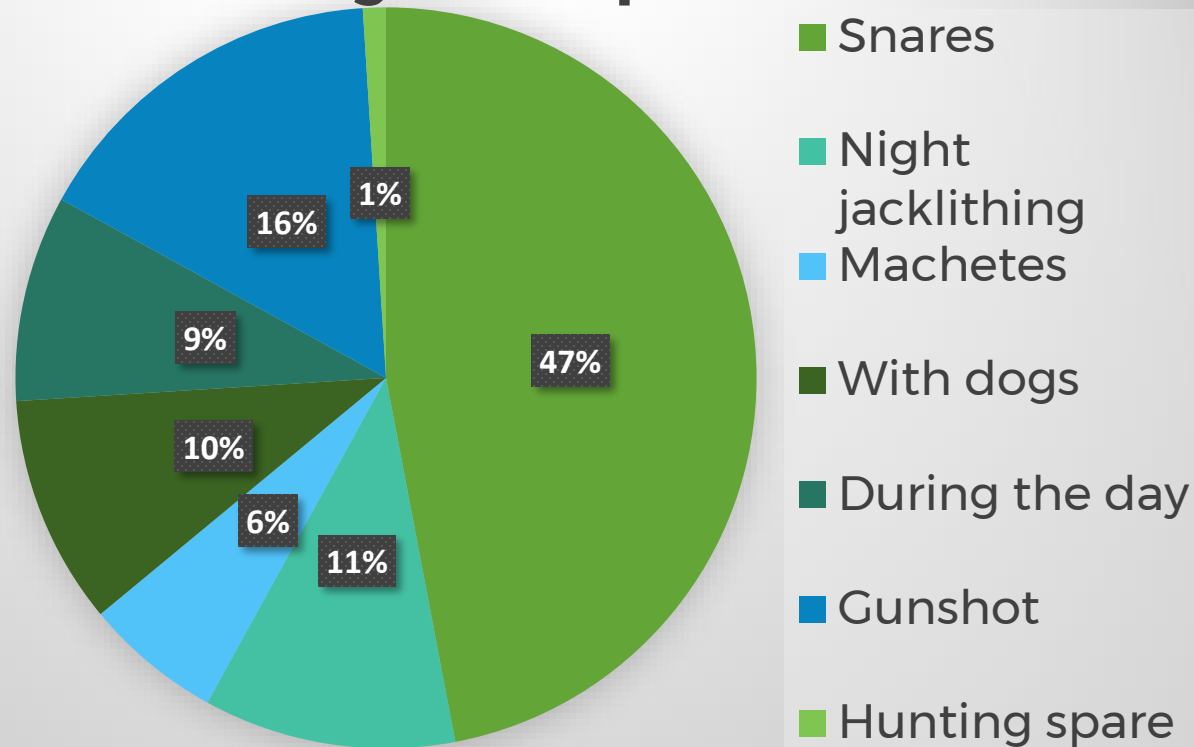
67% collecting wood for cooking

43% harvesting of natural resources

3.1 Interviews

Ecosystem services

Hunting technique

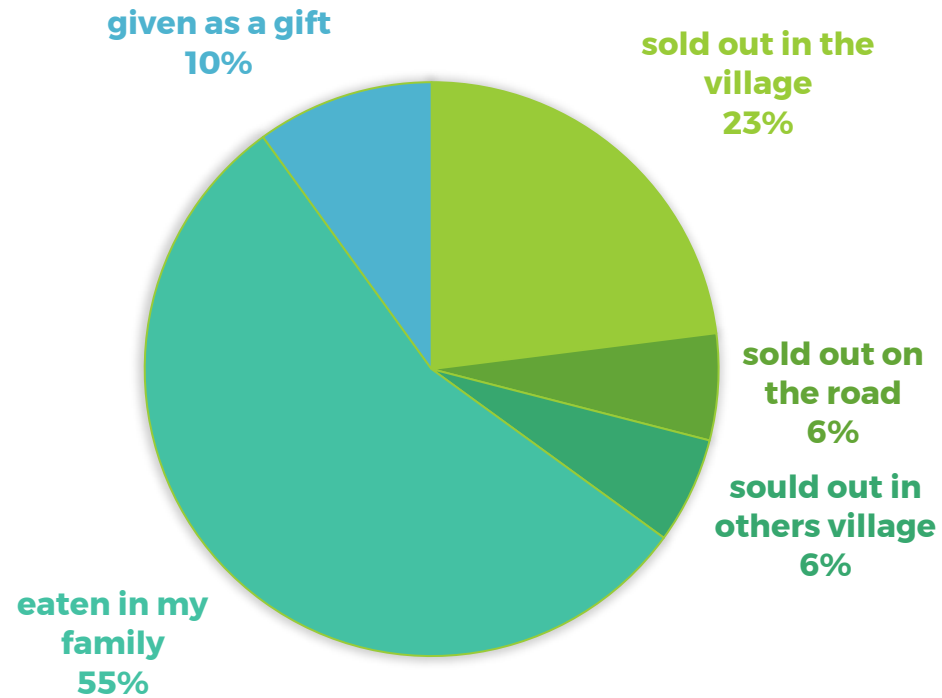


- ✓ Rat and hare
- ✓ Porcupine
- ✓ Snakes
- ✓ Antelope
- ✓ Duikers
- ✓ Pangolin
- ✓ Turtle
- ✓ Monkey
- ✓ Great Apes
- ✓ Wild boar

3.1 Interviews

Ecosystem services

BUSHMEAT HUNTING DESTINATION AND USE



SHOT ON A56 Pro
itel DUAL CAMERA

SHOT ON A56 Pro
itel DUAL CAMERA

3.2 Biological Data collection



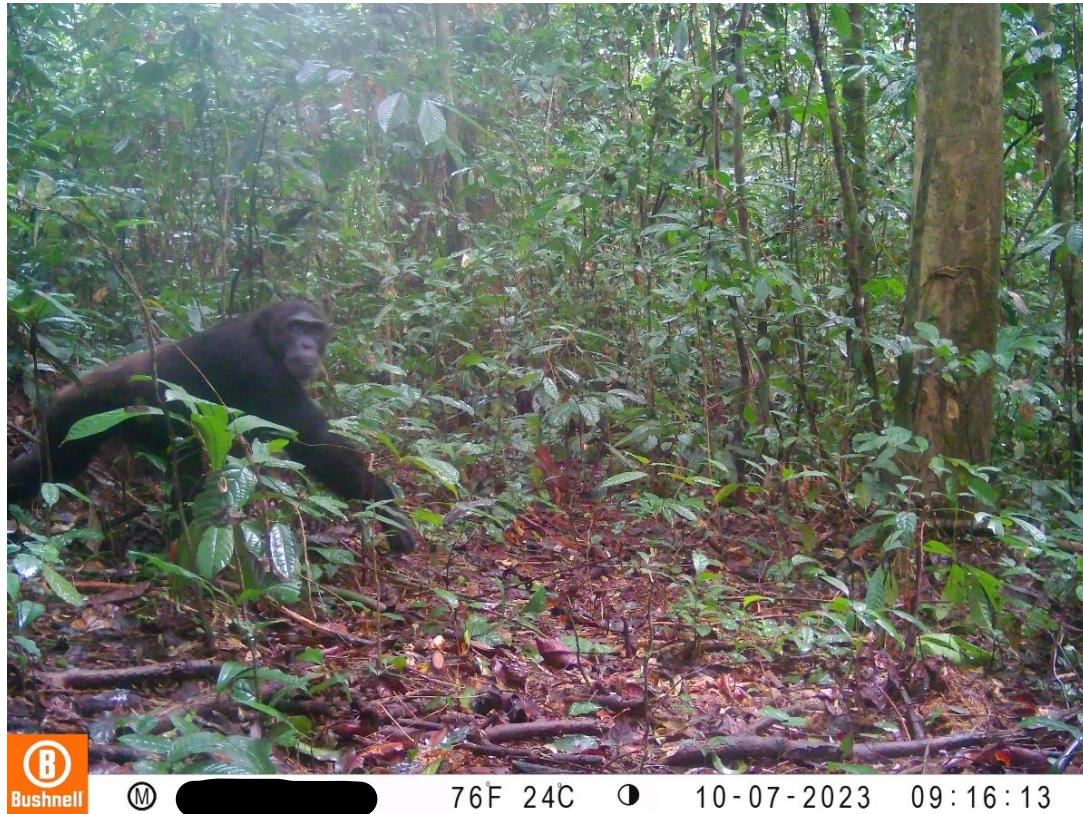
3.2 Biological Data collection



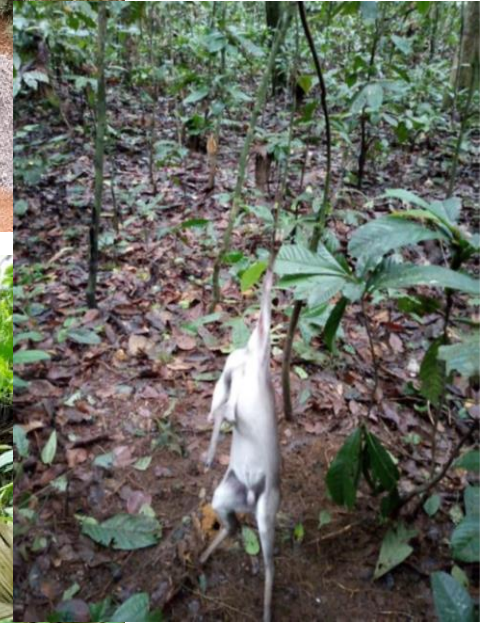
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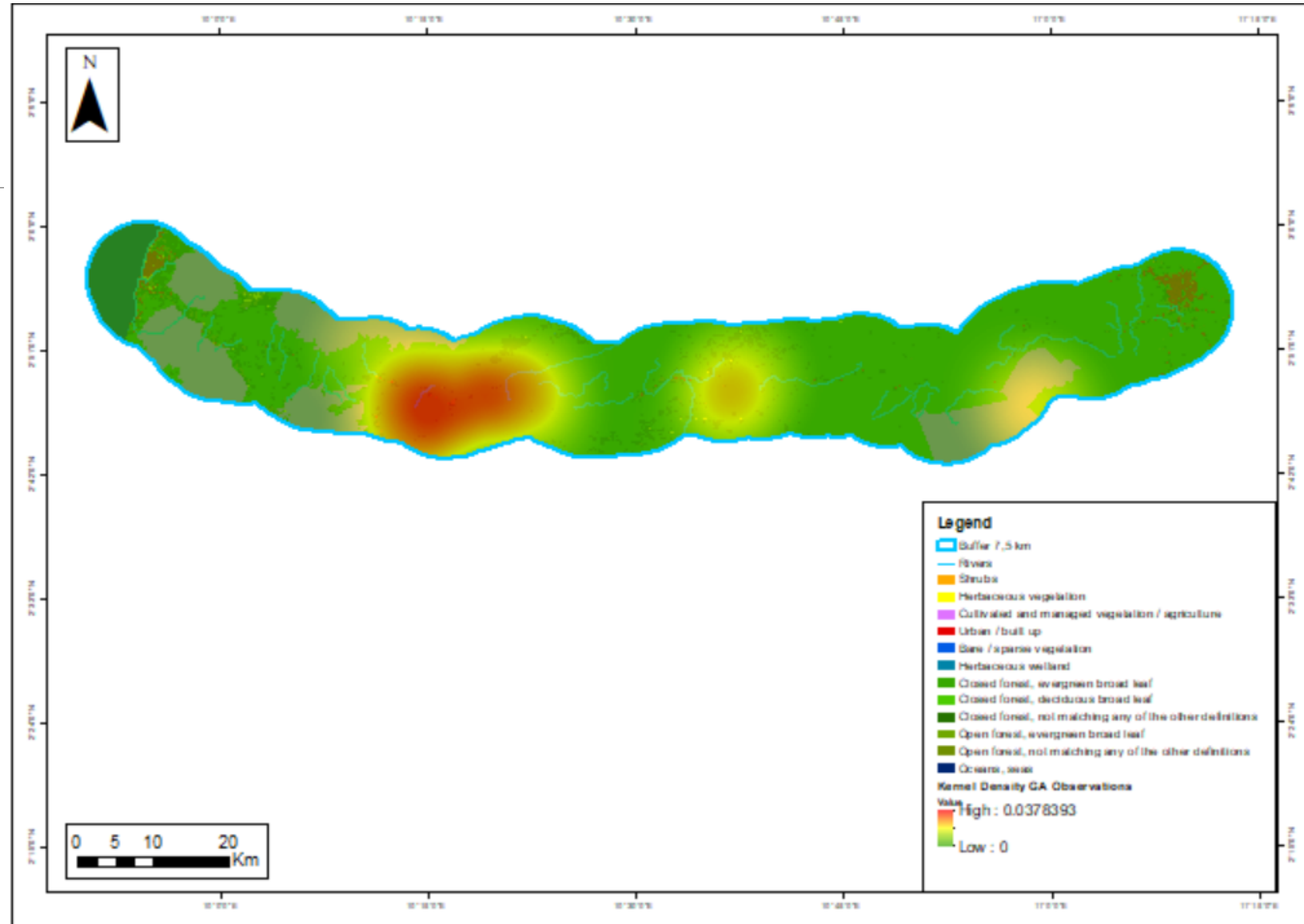


3.2 Biological Data collection



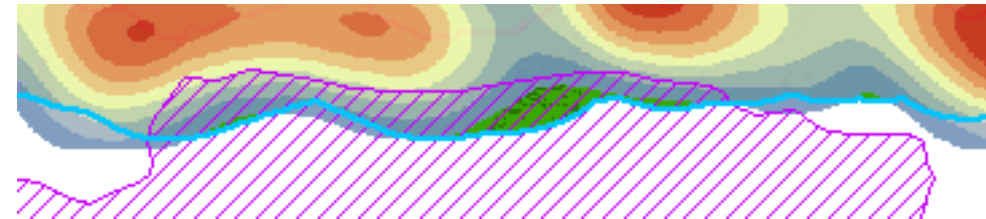
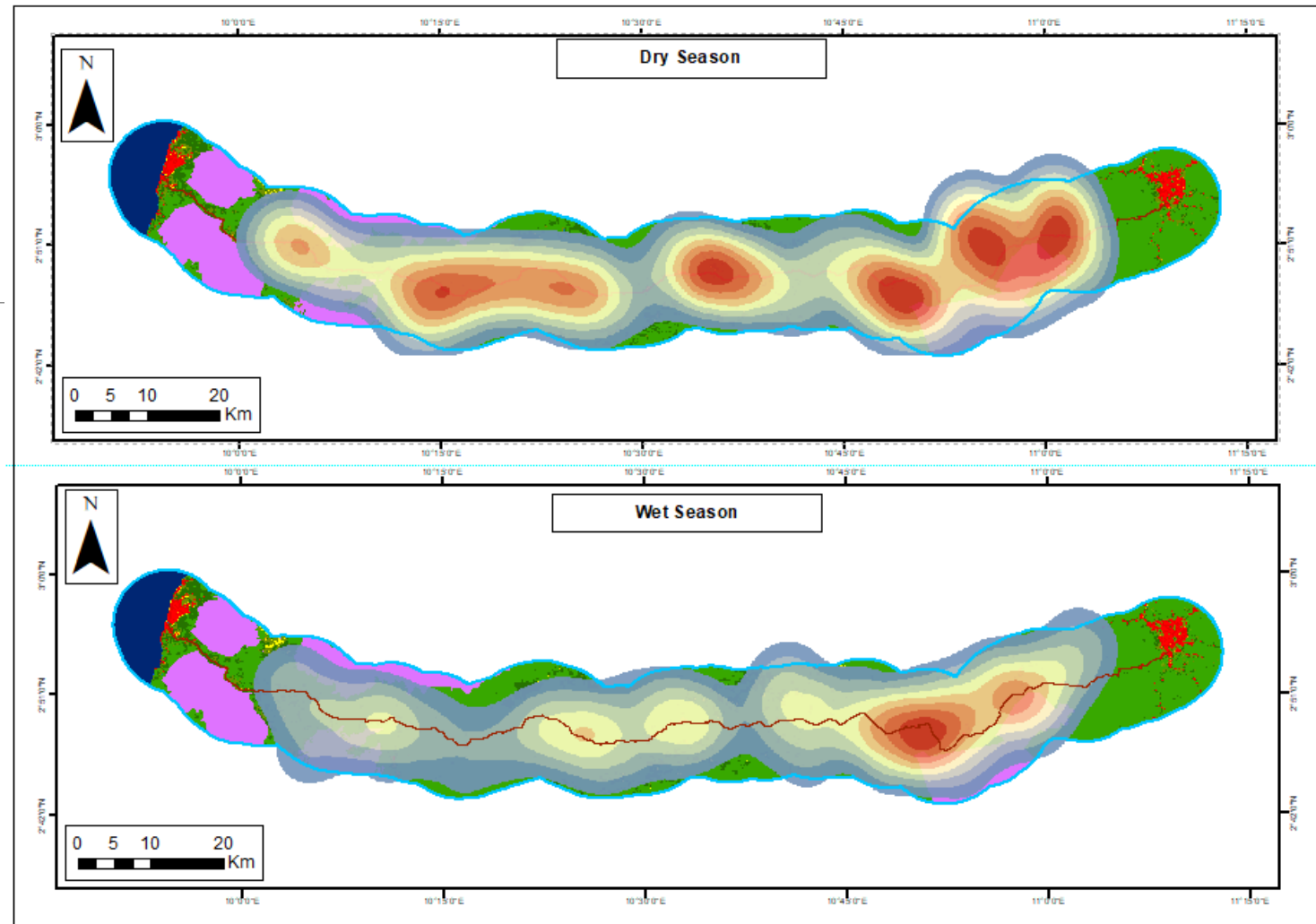
3.3 Result

- ❖ GAs presence confirmation in the Aol.
- ❖ Their abundance is very low.
- ❖ Evidences of presence on both sides of the road.
- ❖ Crossing points and area to be protected.



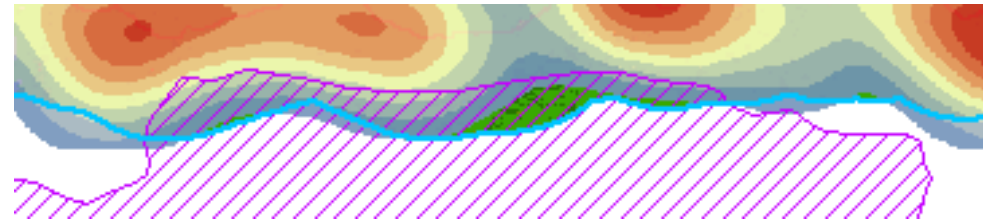
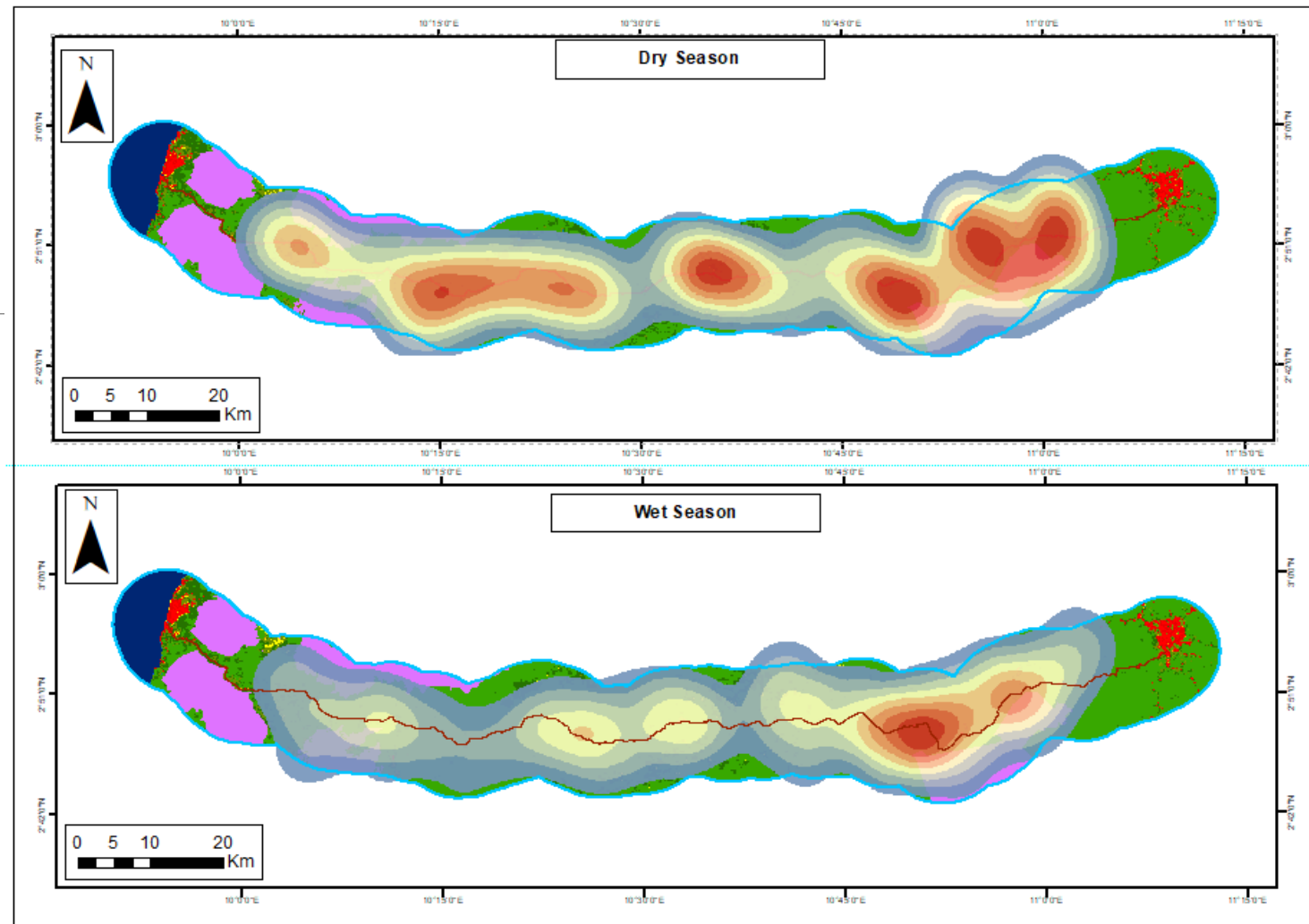
3.3 Result

- ❖ Human activities with direct threats to habitats and GAs species are present throughout the entire sampled area (around 70% of the Aol).
- ❖ These activities tend to spread from the several routes present in the Project's Aol and to slightly decrease near the southern part of the surveyed area (where there is the border of the National Park).



3.3 Result

- ❖ Hunting is mainly carried out using **metal cable traps**, which constitute a dangerous tool for large wildlife.
- ❖ The practice of artisanal logging, agriculture activities with related slash-and-burn practices appears **to be uncontrolled and unregulated**, resulting in the destruction and fragmentation of Great Apes' habitats.



4. Conclusion

- ❖ Field data confirmed the information collected during the interviews.
- ❖ Information from local people was found to be reliable.
- ❖ Extra information on human-Great Apes conflicts/interactions.
- ❖ Mitigation Measures GAs specific.
- ❖ We started a process of the local community's involvement in the monitoring.
- ❖ Preliminary stakeholder engagement with all the other socio-economic actors in the area and the Government.

Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments in the IAIA24 app.



#iaia24

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