

Conservation Status of Botswana's Forest Reserves



Presented to: Stakeholders Meeting
Tlotlo Gaborone
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Elephants Without Borders





Elephants Without Borders

“Without adequate, relevant and timely information and dialogue, policy makers, and businesses are not able to make strategic and informed decisions and actions in their interactions with the environment. Inadequate and/or poor information exposes society to the risk of destroying the environment on which their very existence depends”

(Lare Sisay, UNDP 2010)

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A non-profit public, charitable organization dedicated to conserving wildlife and natural resources; through innovative research, education, and information sharing with all people, we strive to encourage mankind to live in harmony with wildlife and the natural world



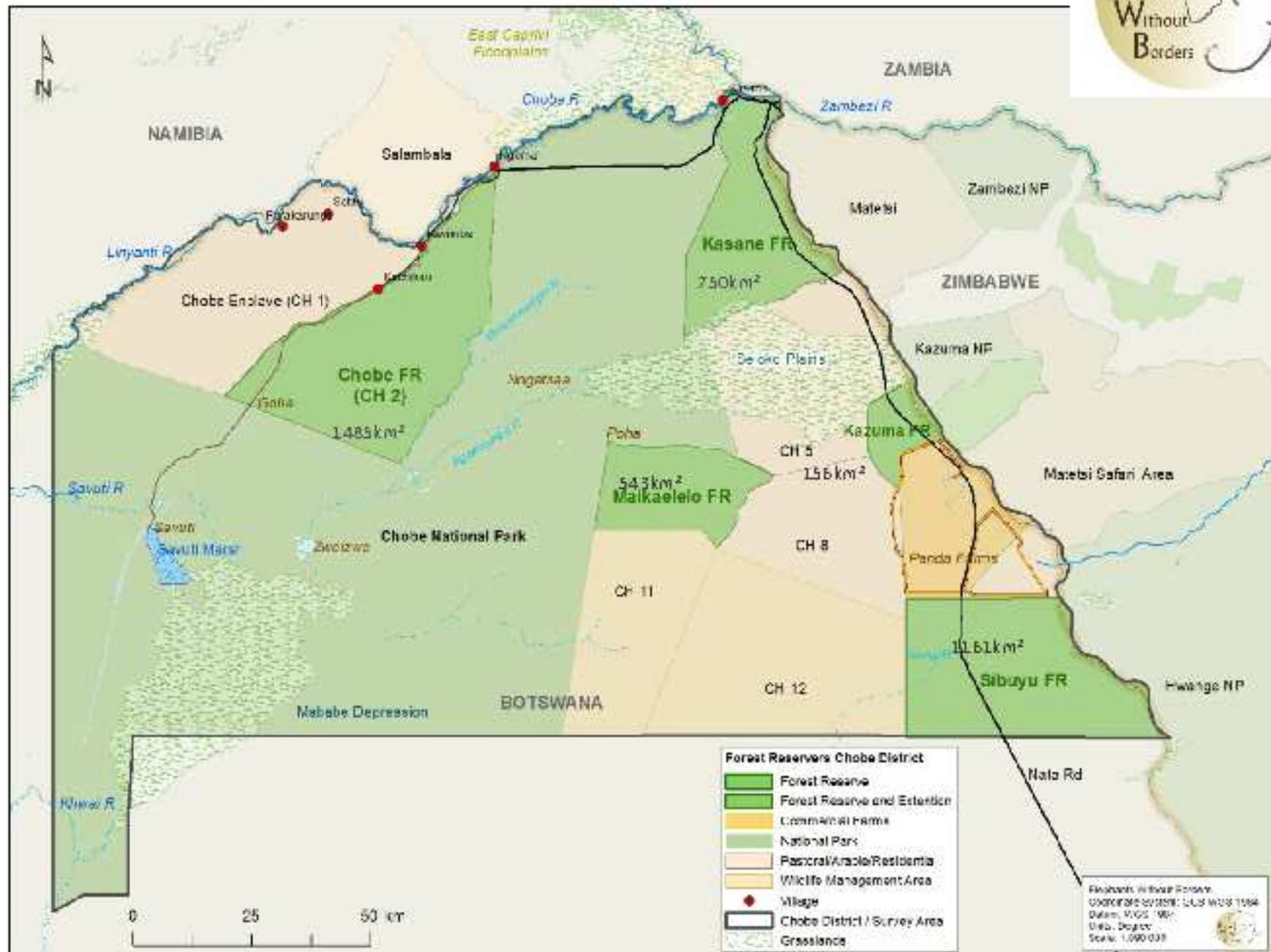
INTRODUCTION

- FCB provided funding to EWB for a project titled:

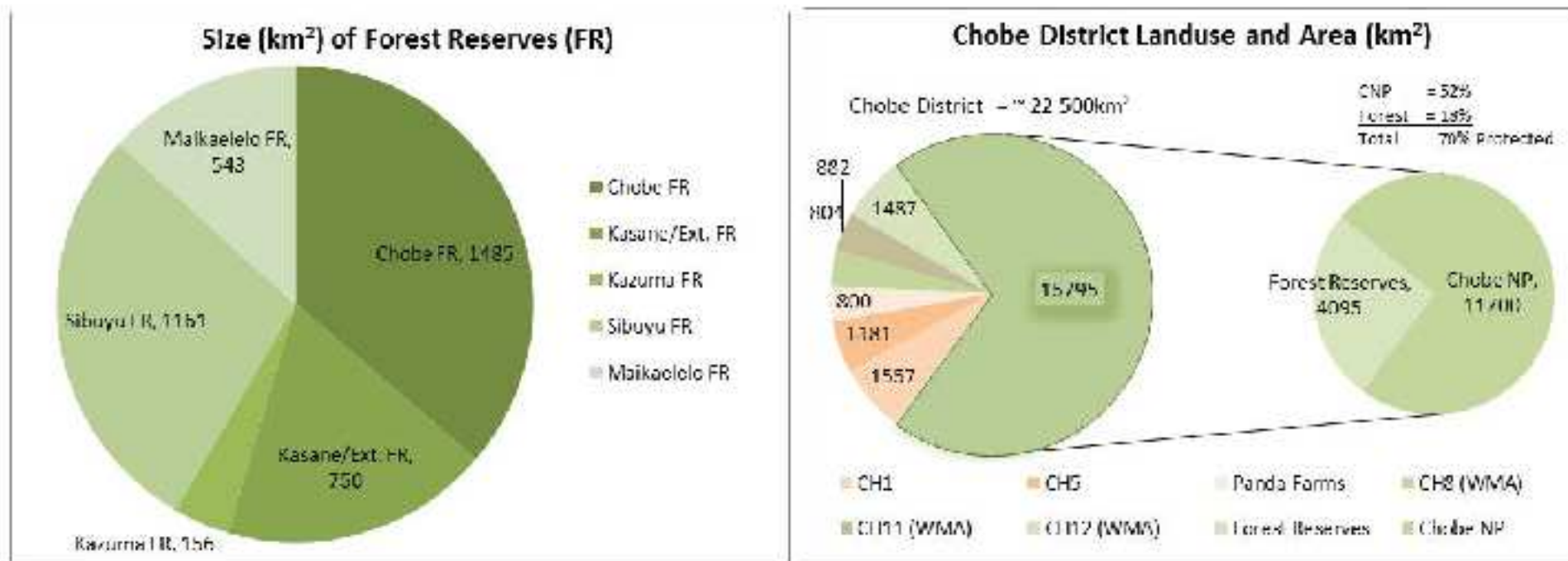
“Status of wildlife populations and land degradation in Botswana’s Forest Reserves”
- Presentation outline:
 1. Current conservation status of our six FR
 2. Status of wildlife and land degradation in FR
 3. Sustainably developing our FR



STUDY AREA - Forest Reserves



CHOBE DISTRICT – Land use

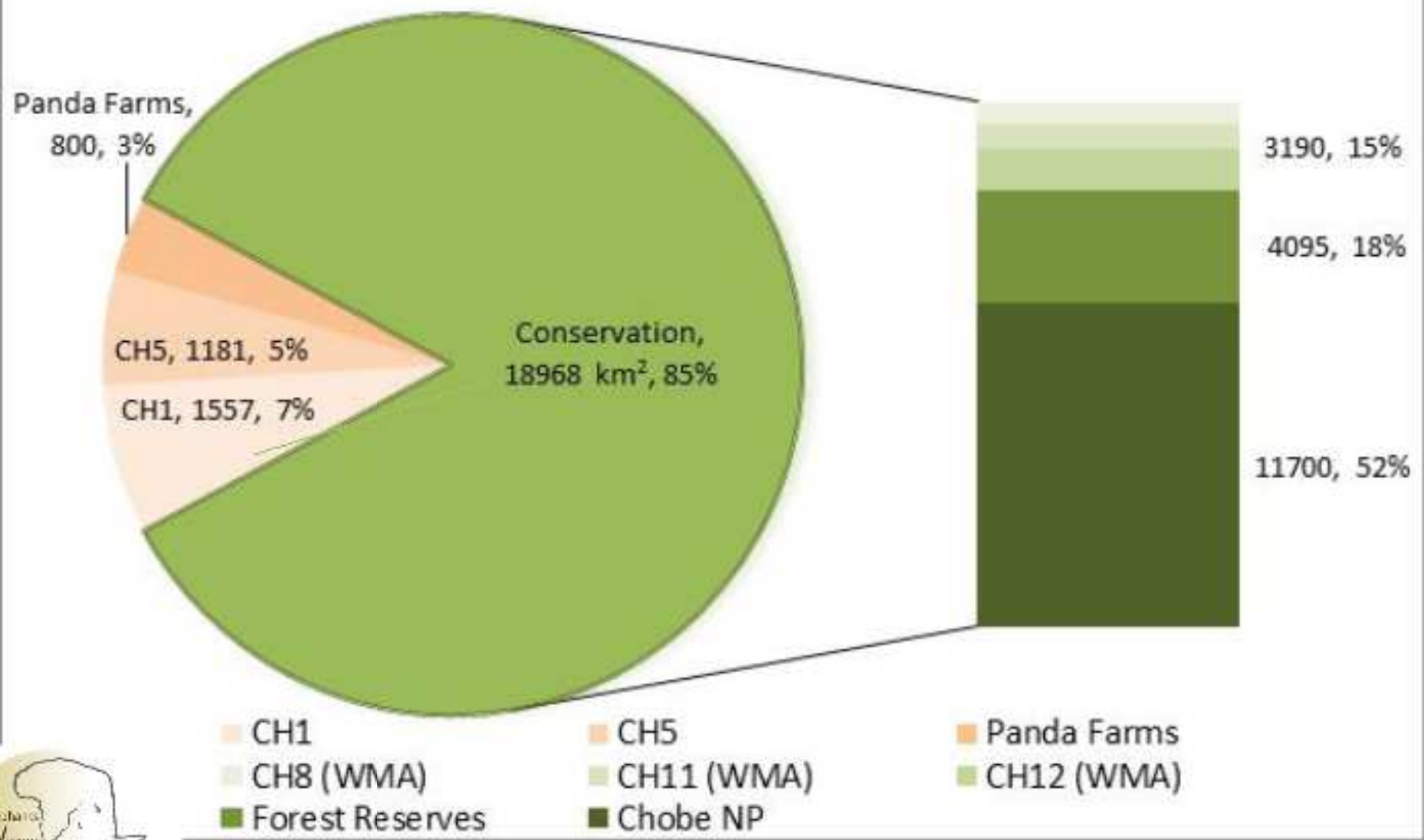


- The six forest reserves make about 0.8% of Botswana's total area (582 000km²)
- Chobe District 22,500 sq km, Chobe NP 12,000 sq km, FRs 4,000 sq km
- Official Conservation area totals 70% of Chobe District

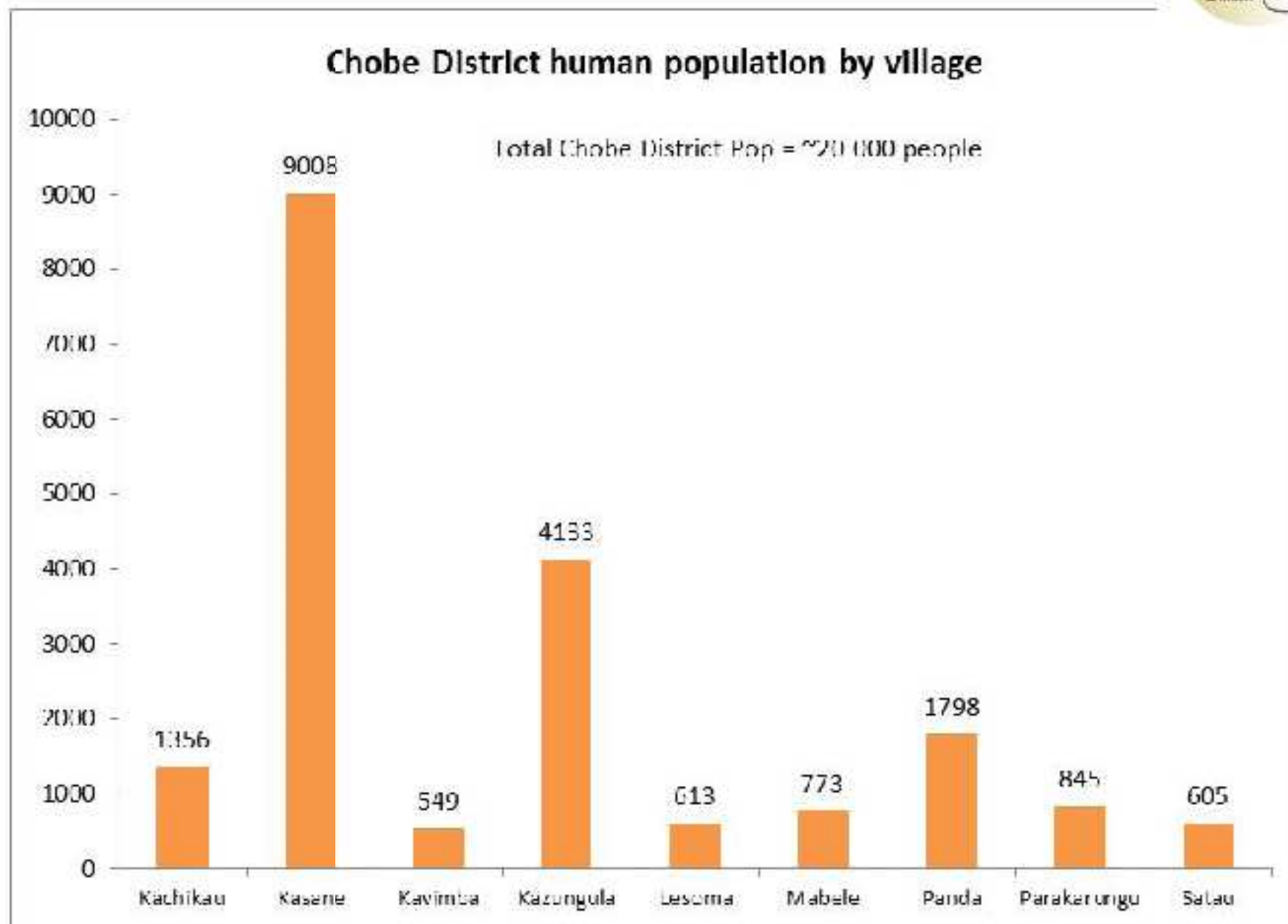


CHOBE DISTRICT - Conservation

Land (km²) in Chobe District Designated to Conservation



CHOBE DISTRICT- Human Population



De-gazetting parts of the Forest Reserves



- Increase in human population and associated human activities have led to infringement into the neighbouring forest reserves
- Government has de-gazetted:
 - i. 6000 ha of land from Chobe Forest Reserve,
 - ii. 3000 ha of Kasane Forest Extension to augment the Kasane-Kazungula planning area, and
 - iii. 1200 ha from Kazuma Forest Reserve for extension of Pandamatenga Commercial Farms.



FOREST RESERVES - History

- Since the early 1930s, the government granted concessions to companies to exploit timber in the forest reserves in return for royalties
- Concerns that concessionaires were not observing their contractual obligations especially concerning the tree sizes that they were supposed to harvest
- Harvesting operations were suspended in 1994
- The reserves were created primarily to safeguard valuable timber (State Land)
- Forestry in Botswana was a subsector under the MoA,
- 2003 it was transferred to MEWT
- Managed by the Department of Forestry and Range Resources (DFRR)



FOREST RESERVES – Legal Framework

'An Act to provide for the better regulation and protection of forests and forest produce in Botswana and to provide for matters incidental thereto'

10th March 1968

- A revised Forest Act is yet to be approved
- Forest Reserves EcoTourism Guidelines in final draft, 2013
- Still an urgent need for:
 - Update Forestry Act
 - Land Use and Development Plan



Republic of Botswana

FOREST

CHAPTER 38:04

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Natural Environment Forest Reserves

- Mukusi/Teak (*Baikiaea plurijunga*) dominates the FR together with *Brachystegia*
- This vegetation types is commonly referred to as *Miombo*
- Belts of *mopane* woodland, with open vleis and grassland plains
- Ecotones (ridges that separate clay from sand) are high in biodiversity



Protea Gagedi

