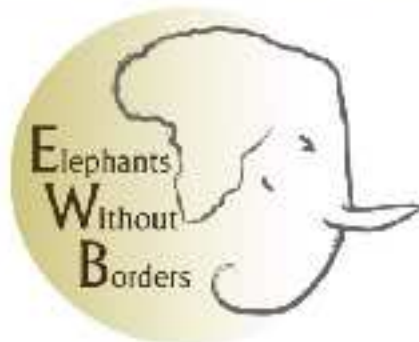


Sustainable Development of Chobe District Forest Reserves



Presented to: Stakeholders Meeting
Tlotlo Gaborone
23 April 2013

Presented by: Michael Chase
Elephants Without Borders

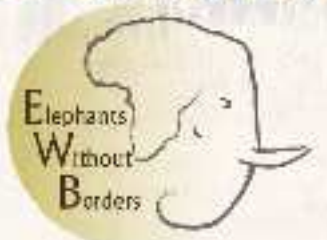
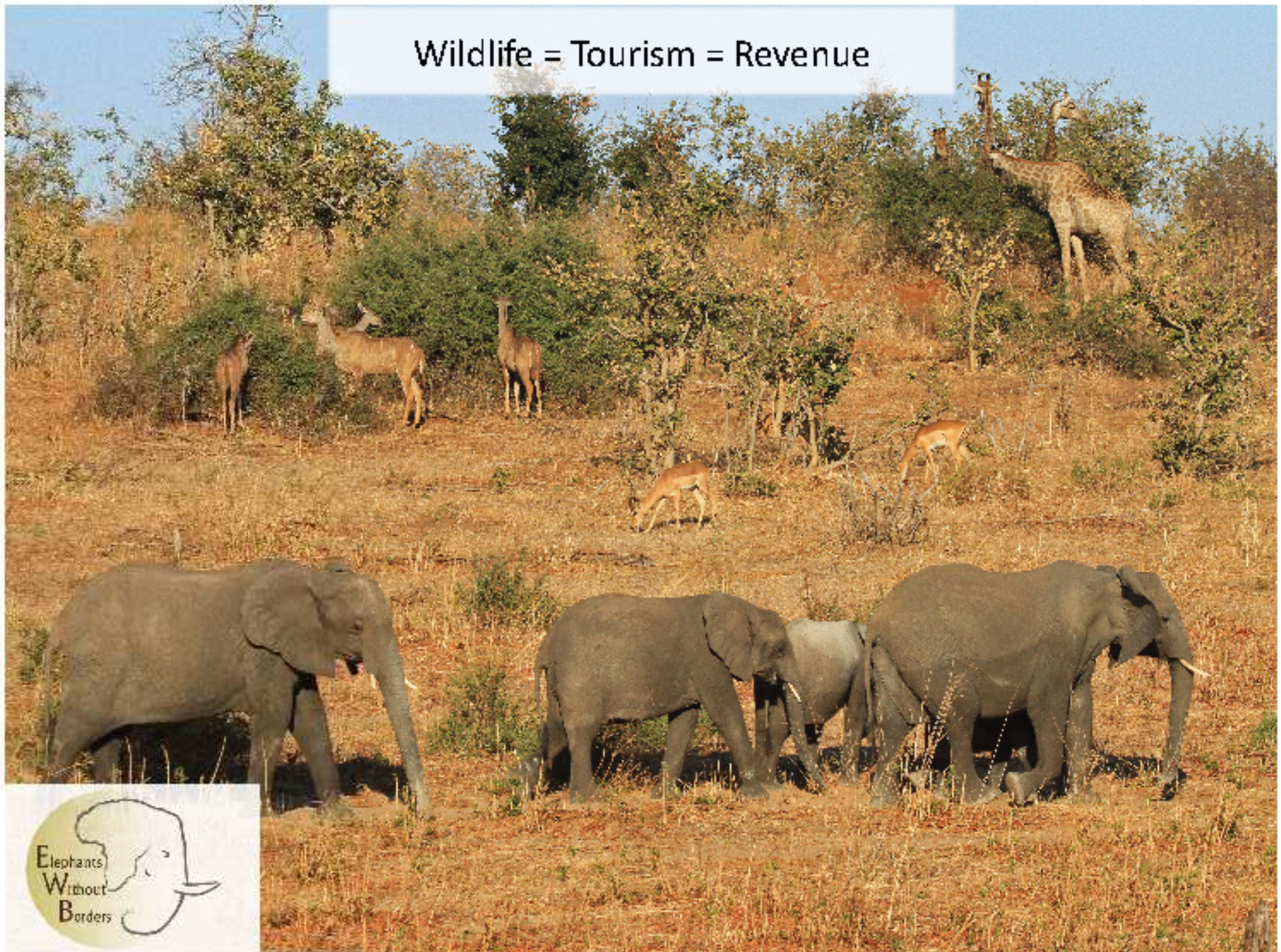


Introduction

- Outline the potential of ecotourism in the FR
- Concern about the congestion of tourists along the Chobe riverfront
- The following benefits would be realised if tourism was permitted in FR:
 - Reduce guest activities along the Chobe riverfront
 - FR can offer different activities
 - Increasing interest from tourism companies to conduct activities within FR
 - Revenue for government (employment, training, capacity building for communities)
- A number of studies about the feasibility of establishing tourism in the FR
 1. Centre for Applied Research. 2009 Development of the Botswana guidelines for utilisation of Forest Reserves for ecotourism activities. Department of Forestry and Range Resources and UNDP Environmental Support Programme, Gaborone.
 2. Steven Ross. 2001 An ecotourism feasibility study of the Chobe District Forest Reserves. Dept. of Forestry, Kasane.
 3. Department of Forestry and Range Resources. 2010. Ecotourism manual for Forest Reserves. Standards, quality control and compensation, Gaborone.
 4. Department of Forestry and Range Resources. 2013. Ecotourism manual for Forest Reserves. Standards, quality control and compensation, Gaborone



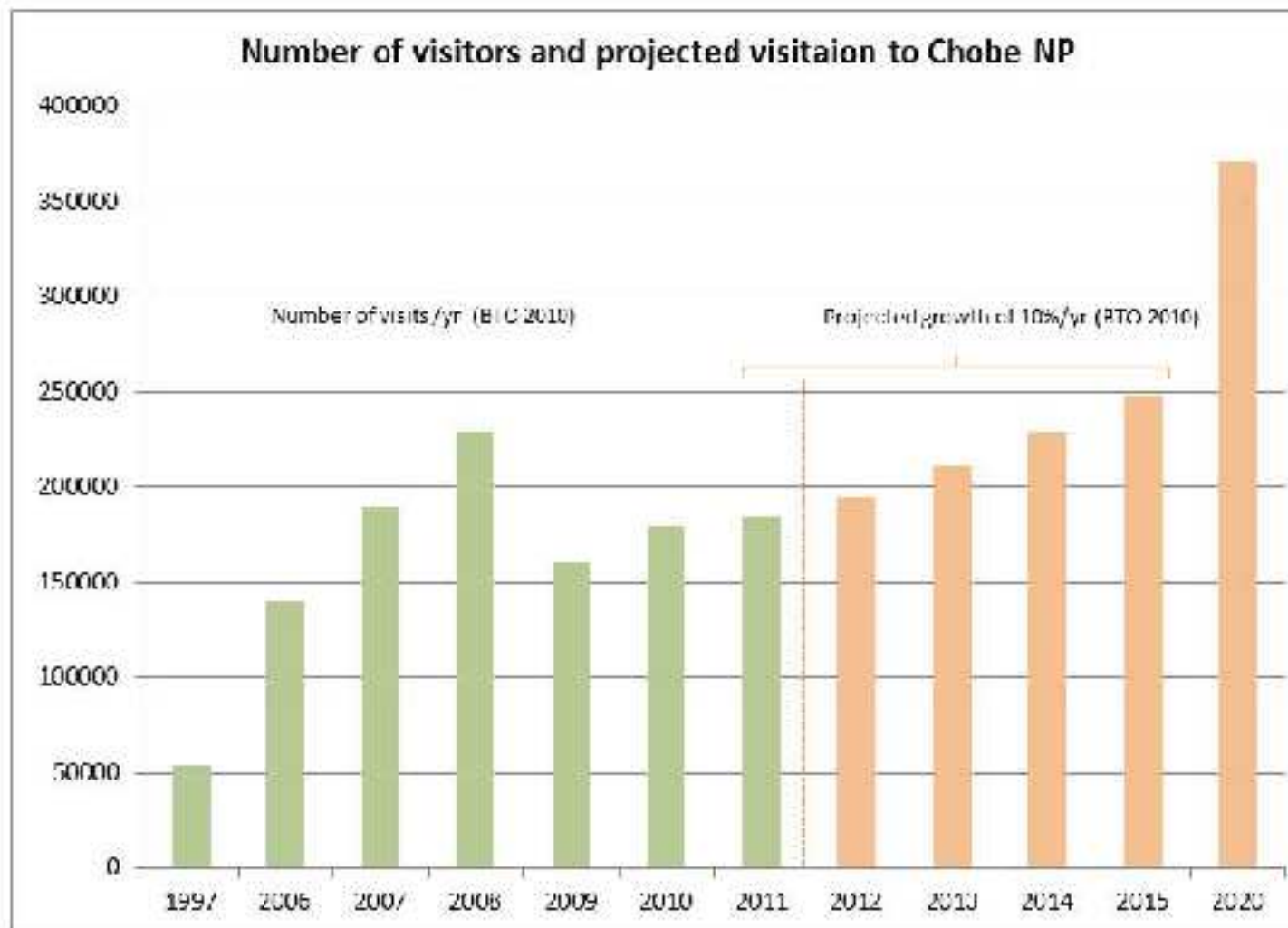
Wildlife = Tourism = Revenue



Tourism



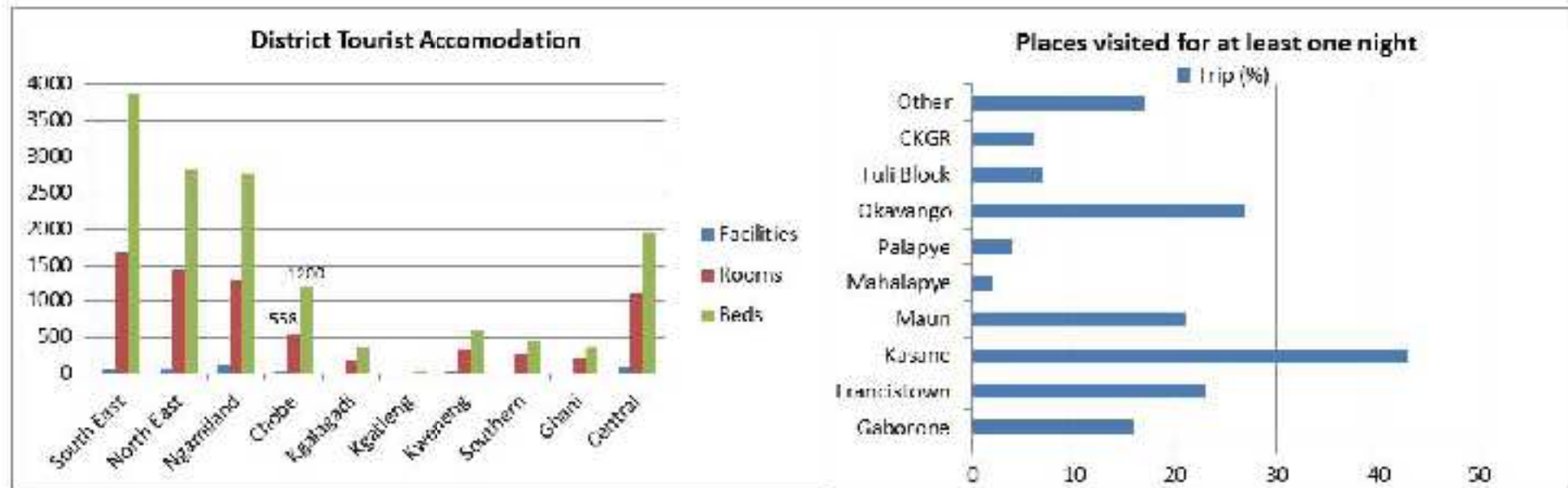
- Chobe District is the hub of tourism development in northern Botswana
- Tourist arrivals increased from 90 000 in 2003 to 140 000 in 2006 (Dept. of Tourism)



Tourism in Kasane



- Hotel accommodation in Kasane offers 453 rooms (1005 beds)
- Occupancies between April and October are 80 – 90%
- The value of this industry is estimated at 300 million/yr, approx. 60% of the gross tourism product in Botswana.

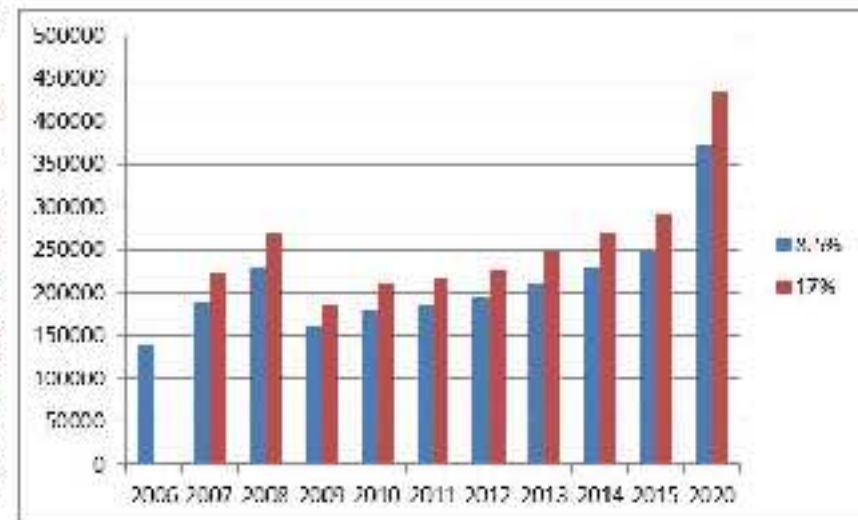


Tourism in Chobe NP

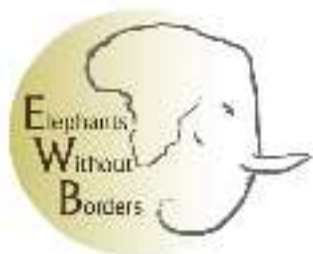
Visitors to CNP have increased by 17% p/yr, with overnight visitors up by 26%

Entries and revenues for Chobe NP, 2003 - 2006

	2003	2004	2005	2006	% AAG 03-05
Visitors					
Private visitors	17629	16156	23780	25955	13.8
Day	11621	9561	14077	15182	9.3
OverNight	6008	6595	9703	10773	21.5
Mobile Tours	36270	38936	39083	43771	6.5
Day	31756	33541	33619	38004	6.5
OverNight	4514	5395	5464	5767	8.5
Fixed Camps	35201	55615	64420	74270	28.3
Total visitors	89100	110707	127283	143996	17.4
Day	43377	43102	47696	53186	7
OverNight	45723	67605	79587	90810	25.7
Revenues (P'000)	9020	11213	13331	15533	19.9



Source: BTO (2007) CTO 2006
DaT, DWNP



Tourism Impact Chobe NP

Based upon occupancy in facilities and visitor numbers to Chobe NP the following figures have been estimated:

Occupancy	Facilities	Rooms	Beds	Tourists	Vehicles
45%	19	501	1005	452	65
85%	19	501	1005	854	122

Year	Visitors/Yr	Visitors/Mon	Visitors/d	Vehicles
2006	140000	11667	389	56
2015	250000	20833	694	99



FOREST ACT - Chapter 38:04



- **Part V - Control of Forest Produce, Section 12:**

'(1) No person shall in a forest reserve,

(a) fell, cut, take, cut, burn, injure or remove any forest produce;

(b) squat, reside or build any hut or other living place or livestock enclosure, or construct or re-open any saw-pit or road;

(c) set fire to any grass or undergrowth, or light or assist in lighting any fire, or leave unattended a fire which he has lit, or caused by negligence, before such fire has been thoroughly extinguished, or leave therein any object likely to cause fire;

(d) graze livestock or allow livestock to trespass;

(e) clear, cultivate or break up land for cultivation or other purpose; ...

Unless he is the holder of a **licence** to do so, issued under the provisions of this Act'

- **Through the issuance of a license, the following activities are permitted:**

- Collection of natural resources (dead wood, thatching grass)
- Bird hunting
- Cattle grazing
- No formal tourism within FR

- **These activities are NOT well regulated**





Elephants
Without
Borders

UNREGULATED ACTIVITIES



- Cattle posts within Kasane FR
- Camping, walking and bird hunting
- Road development and harvesting of sand
- Tour operators using FR
 - Kazuma FR (Lodges offer game drives, self drive camping along the old hunters Rd)
 - Kasane FR (Game drives by Elephant Valley Lodge, which is the only Lodge in a FR)
 - Chobe FR (Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust have hunting/traditional and tribal rights)
- Unregulated future development could compromise the attraction of FR as a safari destination
 - Four forest guards, two camps, poor policing, remote, difficult access during the wet season
- These activities are occurring without any benefit to Gov. and communities

'The Camp Kuzuma concession is now closed to transit traffic and bush camping'...

'All activities are land based and include drives (day and night), guided walks and other excursions ...with over 4000km² of private traversing concession...'

<http://campkuzuma-bw.com/> <http://www.maunselfdrive4x4.com/campmaika-elele.htm>

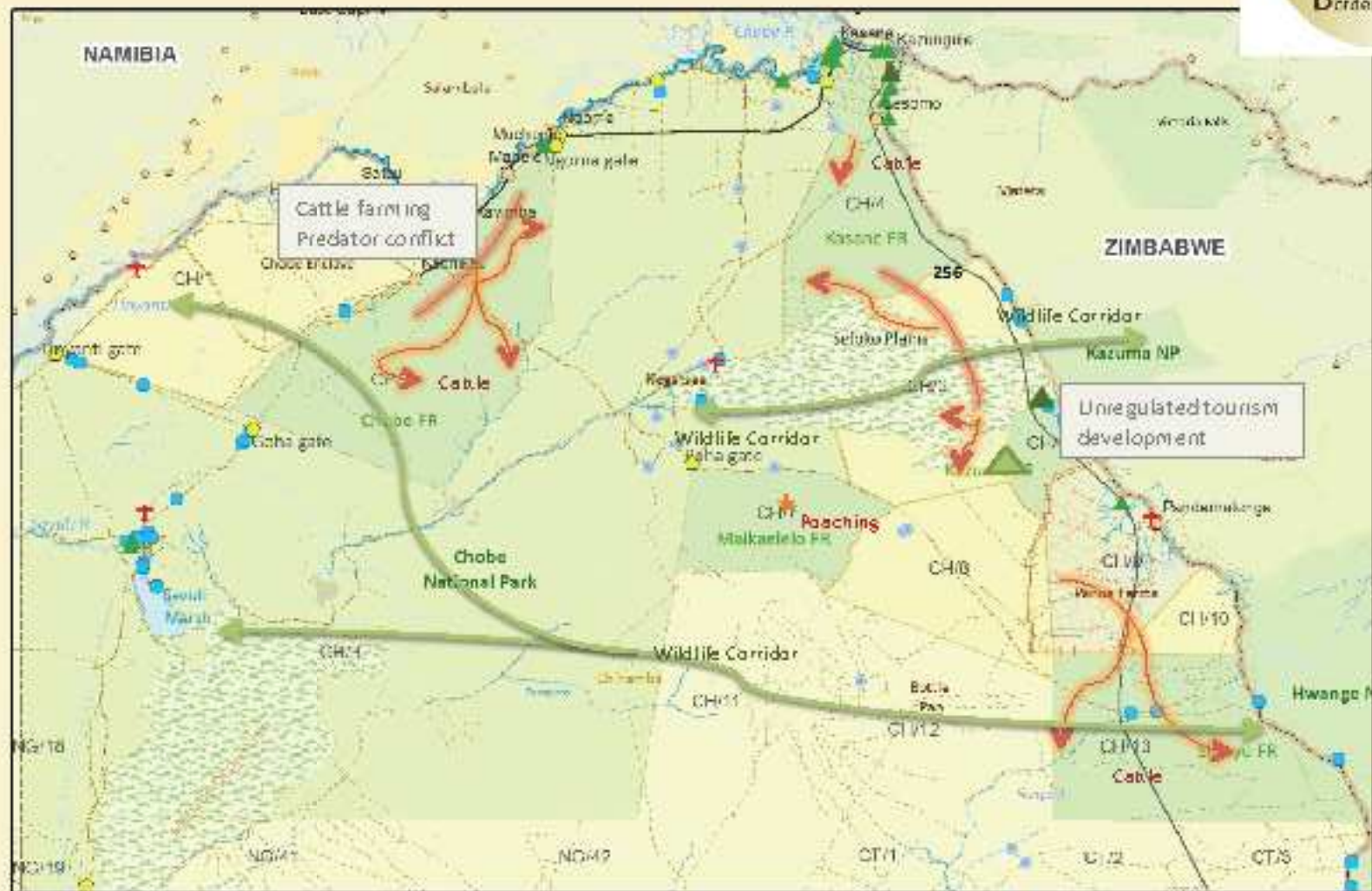


Attraction to FR for wildlife tourism



- Attract tourists to FR by:
 - Wilderness or adventure based tourism
 - Reduced entry fees
- Unique activities that could be offered and are in great demand:
 - Night drives (nocturnal species)
 - Bush dinners
 - Artificial waterholes
 - Walking trails
 - Horseback safaris
 - Natural history education centre
 - Adventure based tourism
 - Lodges along the Nata/Kasane Rd (Elephant Sands at Ngwasha)
 - Wilderness campsites (HATAB, BOGAA)
- The lower wildlife densities are being used as an opportunity to diversify the kinds of activities not currently available to tourists in Chobe District

RISKS AND THREATS



FR ID	Legend
FR 1 (Red T)	Controlled
FR 2 (Blue C)	Control Reserve (FR 1)
FR 3 (Green G)	Control Reserve (FR 2)
FR 4 (Yellow Y)	Control Reserve (FR 3)
FR 5 (Purple P)	Control Reserve (FR 4)
	Control Reserve (FR 5)

**Risks and Threats
Chobe Forest Reservers**

0 5 10 20 30 km

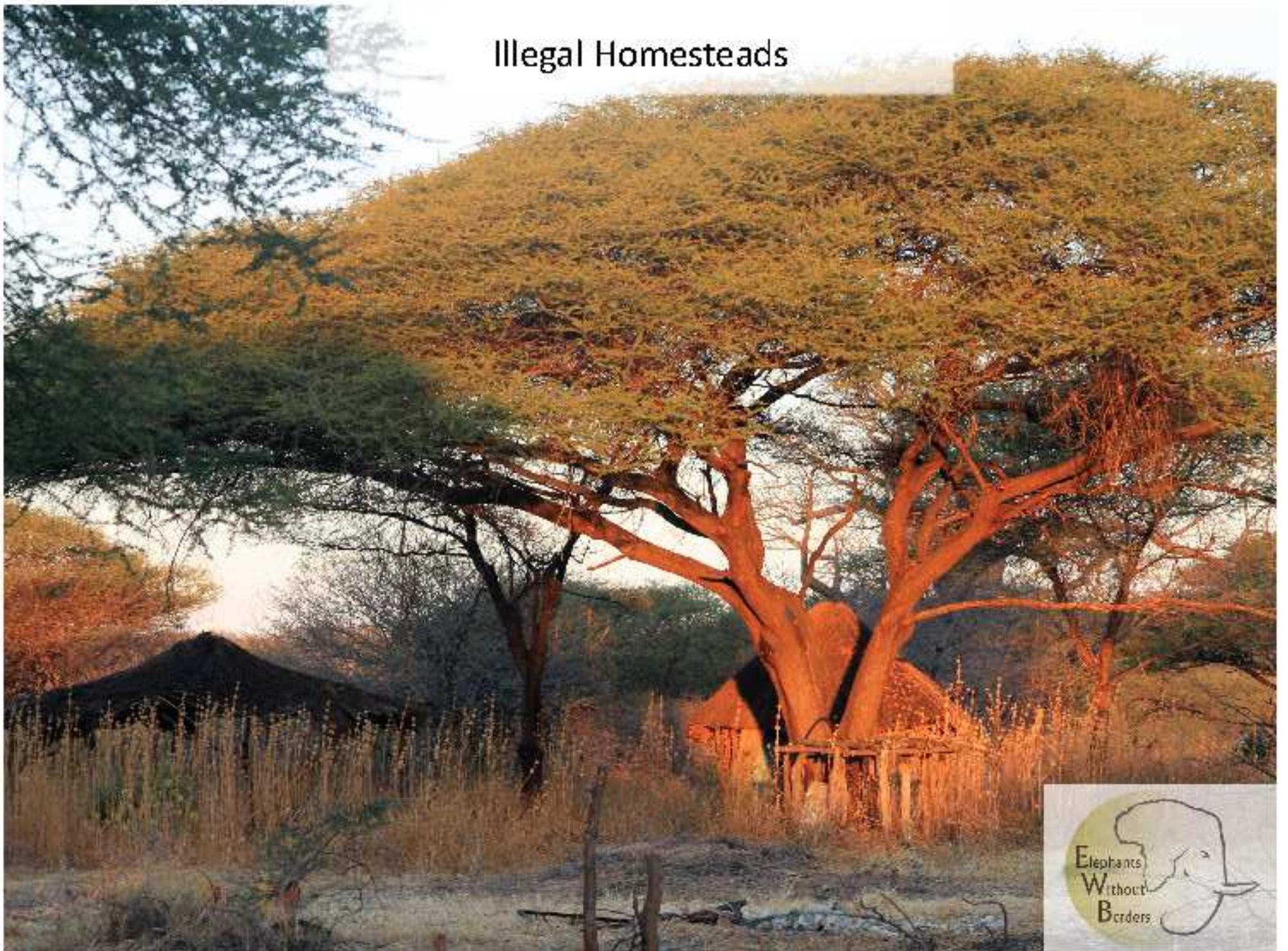
Development



Development



Illegal Homesteads



Illegal hunting / Bushmeat trade



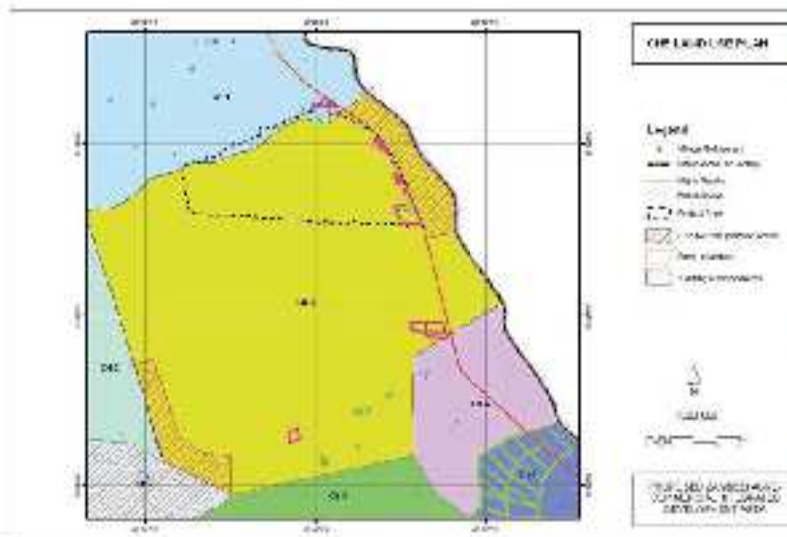
Need to Resolve / Avoid Wildlife Conflict



What do we know about CH 5?



List of large and medium sized animals, their relative seasonal abundance and red data listing for CH 5 in Botswana. (EIA, Zambezi Agro-Dev Project 2009)



Species	Relative abundance	Season	Red List	source
wildebeest	rare	Wet & dry	Low risk	BASIS
buffalo	uncommon	Wet	Low risk	BASIS
zebra	very rare	Wet & dry	Low risk	BASIS
Eland	rare	all	Low risk	BASIS
elephant	abundant	Wet & dry	Low risk	BASIS
giraffe	rare	all	Low risk	BASIS
sable	rare	all	Low risk	BASIS
tsessebe	rare	all	Low risk	BASIS
roan	rare	all	Low risk	BASIS

- 'The field survey revealed presence of developed properties within the project area, as follows: 1 poultry farm; 7 cattle posts and 4 small stock farms' ... there are a total of 14 allocations of campsites plots within CH/5' (ZADP EIA, 2009).



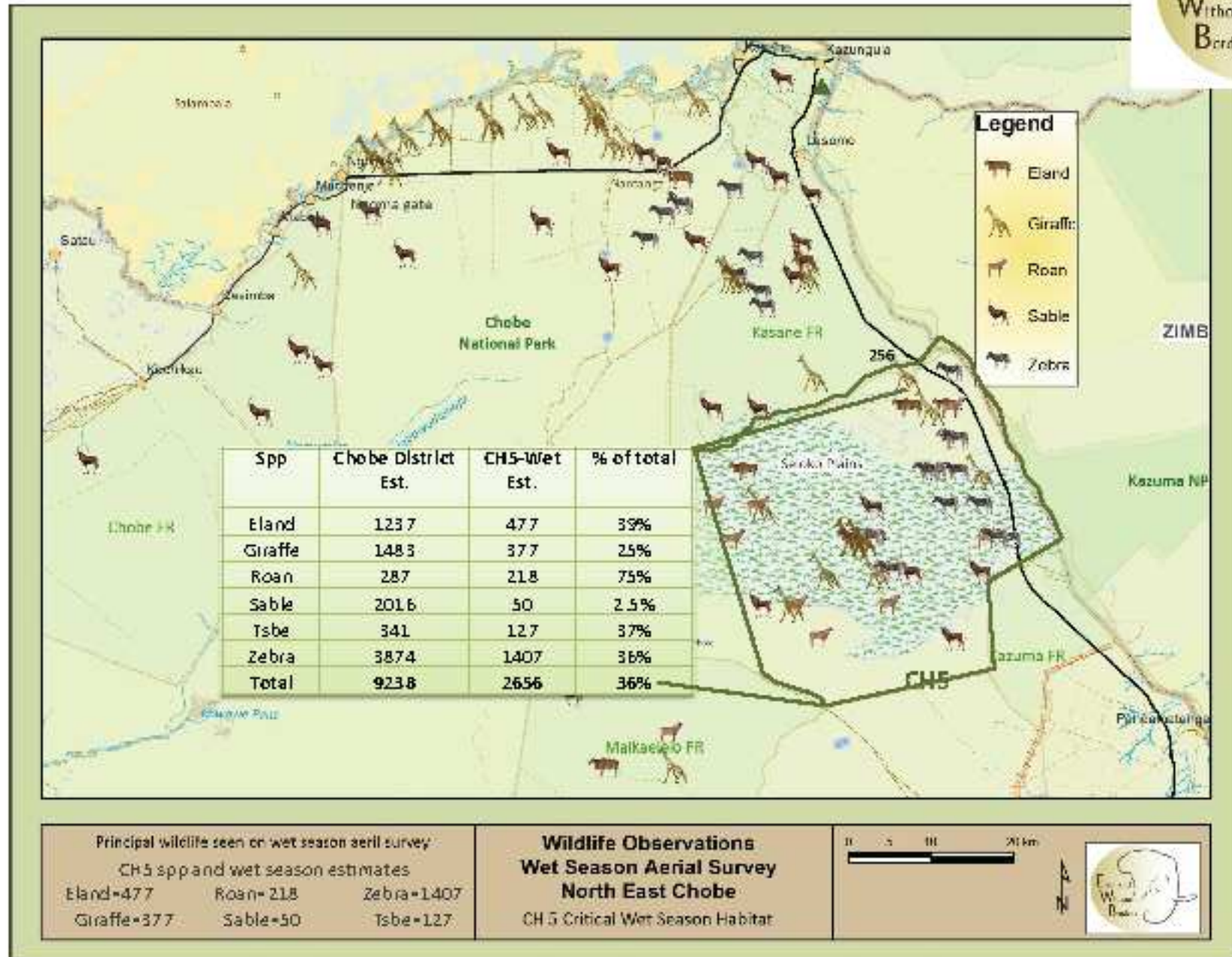
CH 5 - Northern/Seloko Plains





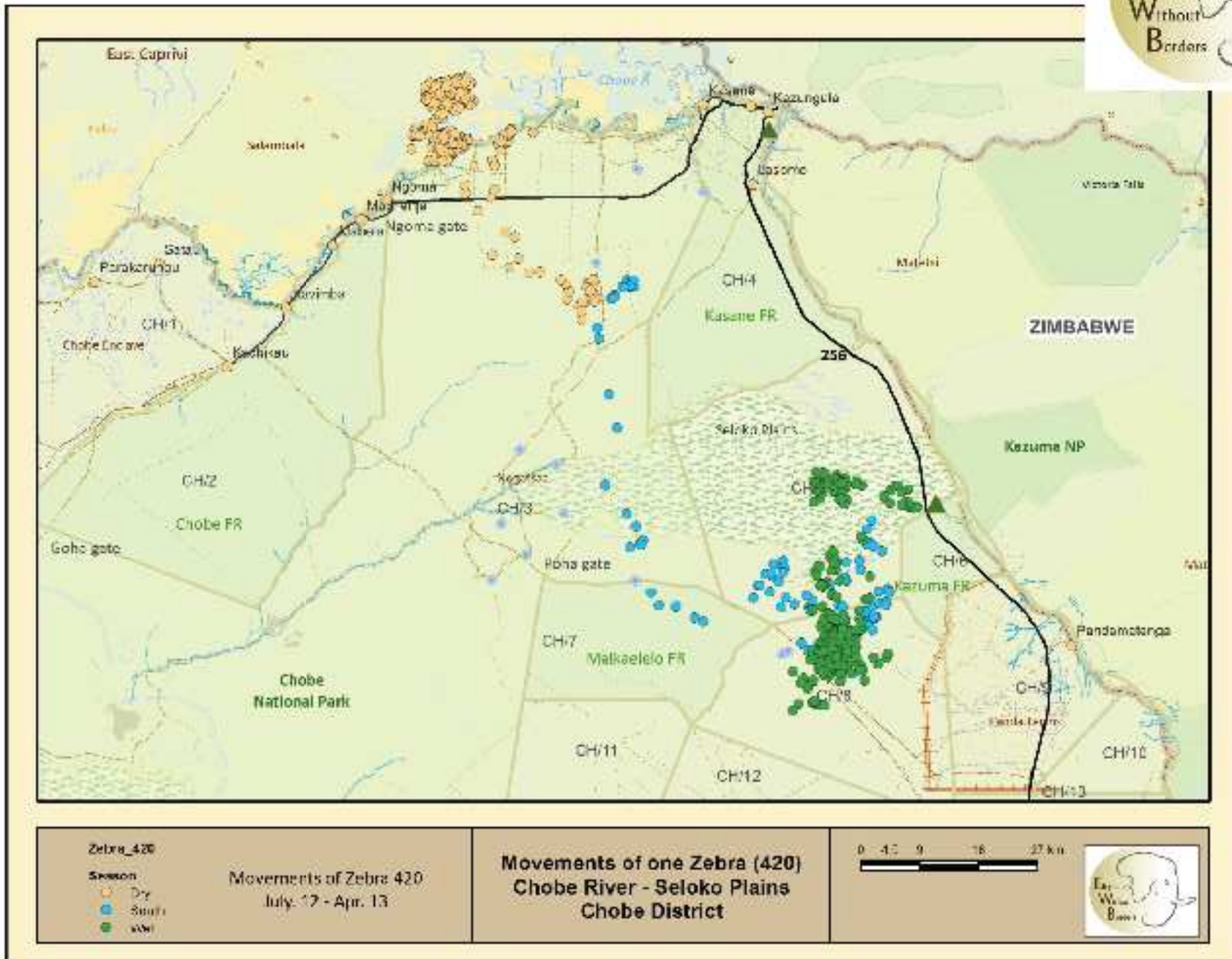


WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS – CH5 Seloko Plains



0 5 10 20 km

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR – Northern Plains



SUMMARY – Threats & Recommendations



- Need an integrated development plan for CH5
- New draft FR Ecotourism guidelines
- Management plans will have to be Reserve specific
 - Allow for multi purpose zoning /multi-use zones in the forest reserves
 - Tourism rights and access to land by communities should not conflict
 - Exclusive leases awarded to tourism companies, CBO's
 - Remote reserves could be integrated into Chobe NP



CONCLUSION

- Tourism development in the FR is timely
- Offer unique activities, may reduce congestion, increase employment
- Limited management of FR, requires collaboration with:
 - Gov. Departments (DWNP, BDF, DoT, BTO)
 - Involvement of communities
 - Private sector tour operators
 - NGOs
- Research and inventory monitoring (Norwegian Forestry Society 1993)



