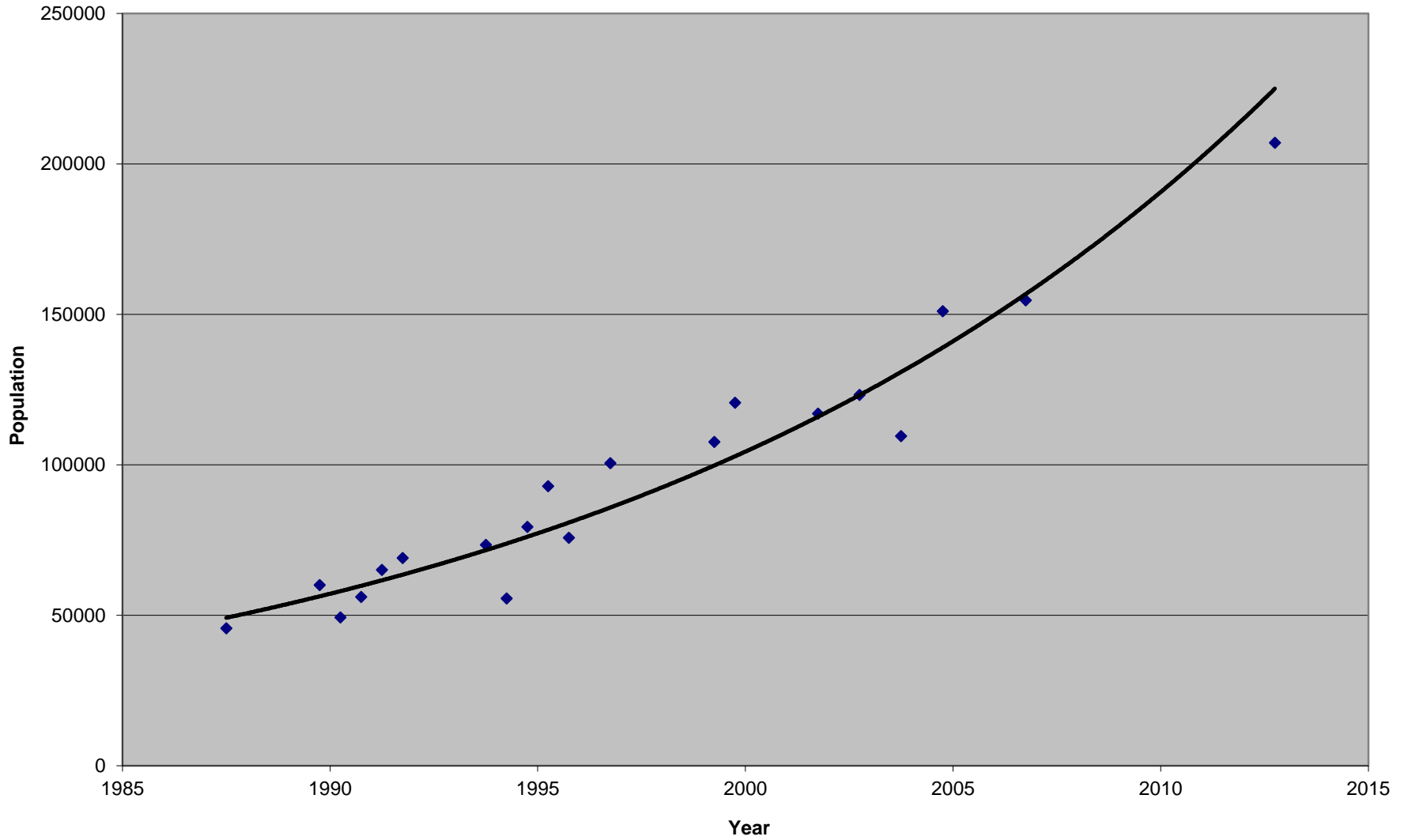


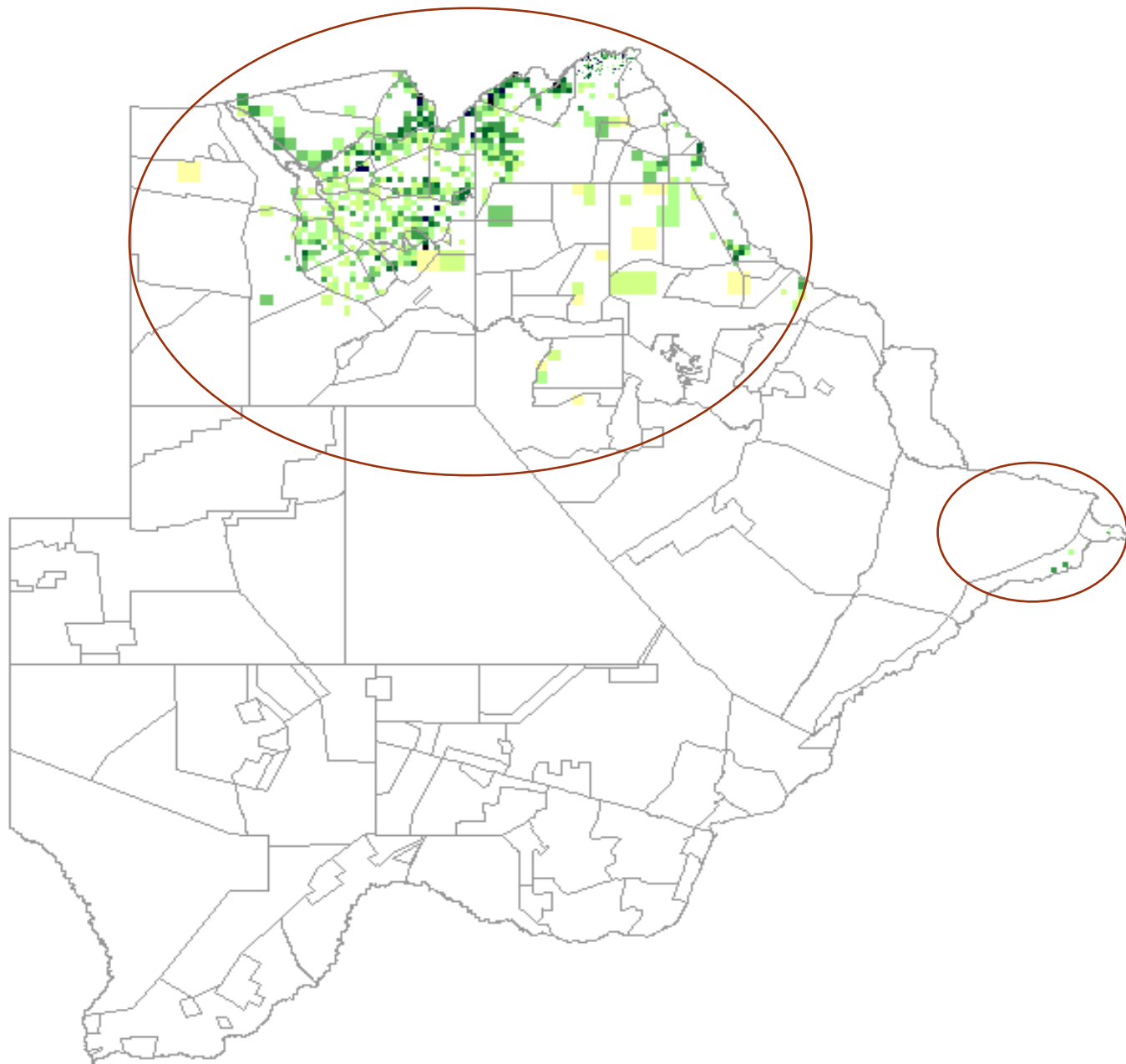
STATUS OF ELEPHANTS IN BOTSWANA

- Aerial surveys of elephants have been carried out in a standardized manner since 1989. Surveys have been carried out mainly in the dry season.
- The trans boundary elephant populations between Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe were jointly counted in the early 1990 during the ELESMAF project which covered border populations of the three countries.
- It is anticipated that KAZA TFCA wide elephant survey will be done in the near future

- Aerial surveys are conducted in a standardized manner for the elephant range. This has been ongoing since 1989. The method of stratified systematic transect sampling (Norton Griffiths, 1978) is used for surveys in Botswana
- The last survey of elephants in Botswana took place in August-October 2012. It is estimated that there are 207 545 (+/- 10%) elephants in Botswana. The elephant population in Botswana is growing at around 5% per annum

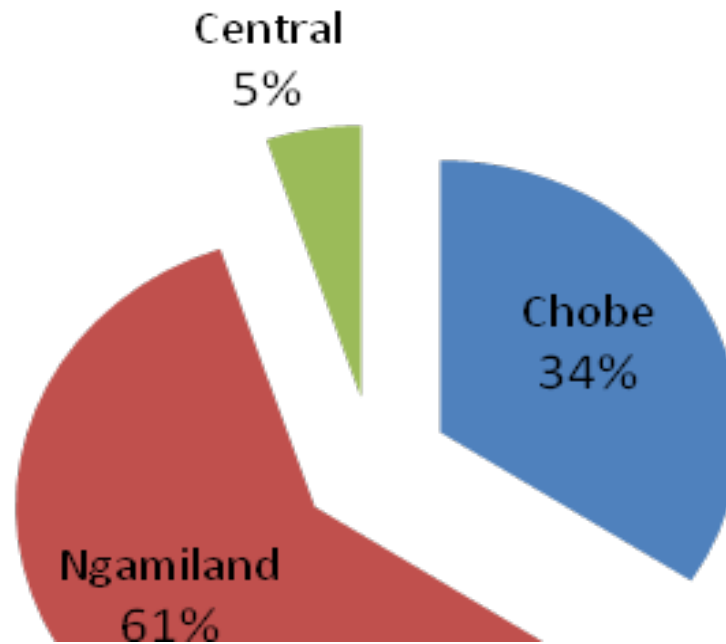
Elephant population trend in Botswana





- The elephant range in Botswana changes seasonally in response to water availability from about 120 000 km² in the wet season to about 93 000km² in the dry season. Densities of elephants can reach over 100 km⁻² (for example along the Chobe River) during the dry season. Most of the elephant range is outside national parks and game reserves. Only about 23% are found within parks, reserves and forest areas in the wet season, increasing to about 32% in the dry season

Proportion of population by District



Example of the relationship between human and elephant densities

DISTRICT	HUMANS /km² (2002 census)	ELEPHANT /km² (1999 wet season)	HUMAN DENSITY	ELEPHANT DENSITY	CONFLICT FREQUENCY
Chobe	0.86	2.18	low	High	15.0%
Ngamiland	1.11	0.45	medium	medium	17.2%
Central	3.43	0.24	high	Low	67.8%

Conclusions

- The elephants in Botswana continue to expand their range both westwards and southwards.
- This expansion is bringing elephants into greater conflict with humans. The number of elephants removed due to conflicts with humans, however, remains low and is not placing the elephant population under any threat as is evidenced by the continued increase in elephant numbers.
- Poaching is under control as is not considered to be a threat to numbers but vigilance is required.
- The major potential threat to elephants and other species is the negative impacts they cause to habitats.
- The revised Elephant Management Plan intends to address the unique challenges posed by the growing elephant population.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION
