

Bushmeat Hunting : Extent and Consequences

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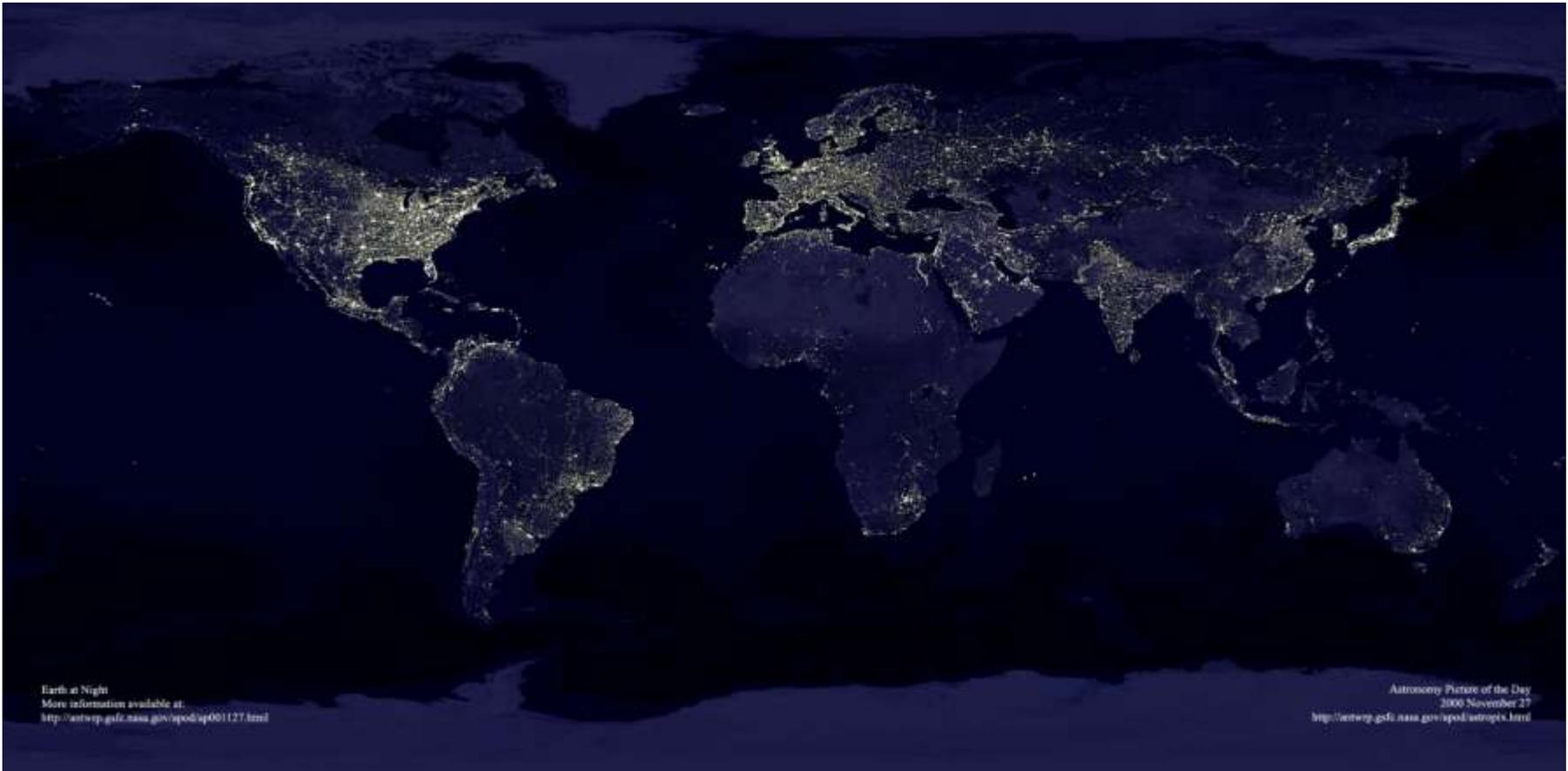
Lee White, Anne-Marie Ndong Obiang & Kevin Ndong, National Parks Agency, Gabon

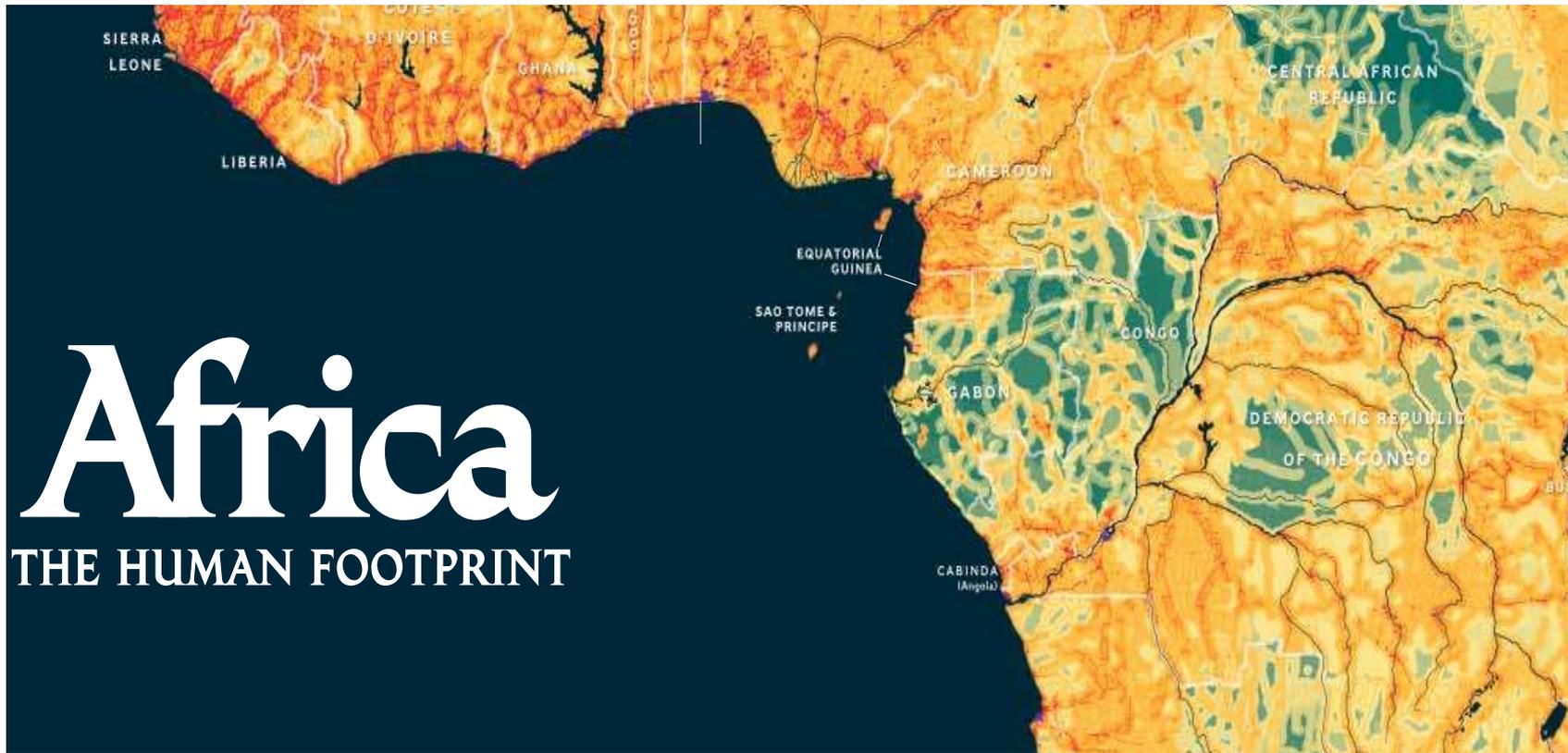
Ernestine Ntsame Effa, Adrien NOUNGOU, Wildlife and Hunting Service, Gabon

Michel Mbazonga, Nathalie van Vliet, EJ Milner Gulland, Noelle Kumpel, Sally Lahm, Omari Ilambu,

Fiona Maisels, Nathalie Nyare, Daniel Idiata & Elizabeth Bennett

Extent





Almost all African forest is currently under hunting pressure

**something
to
remember**



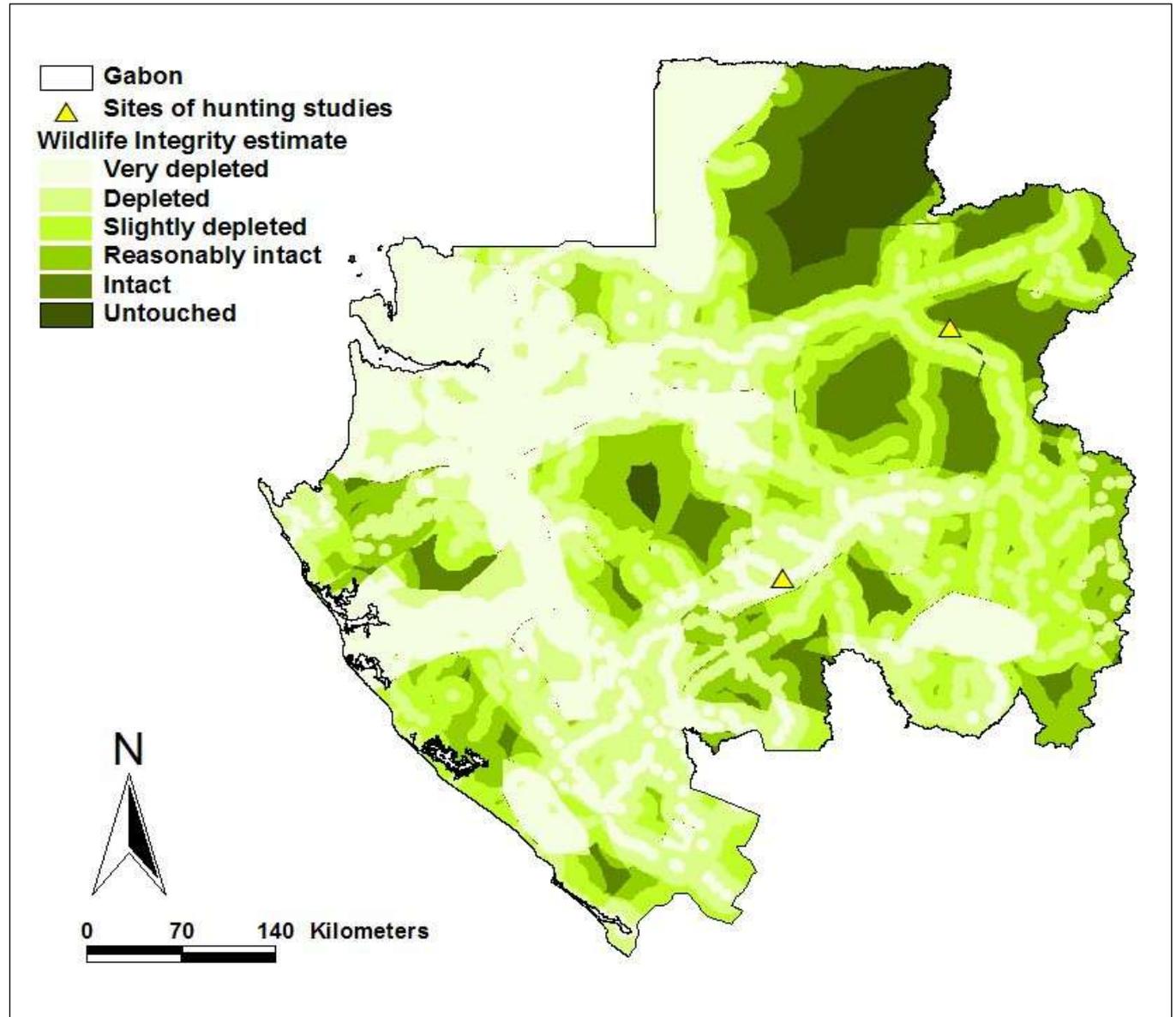
Thing to remember

Central African human hunting behaviour is very similar across the whole region

Where do hunters go?

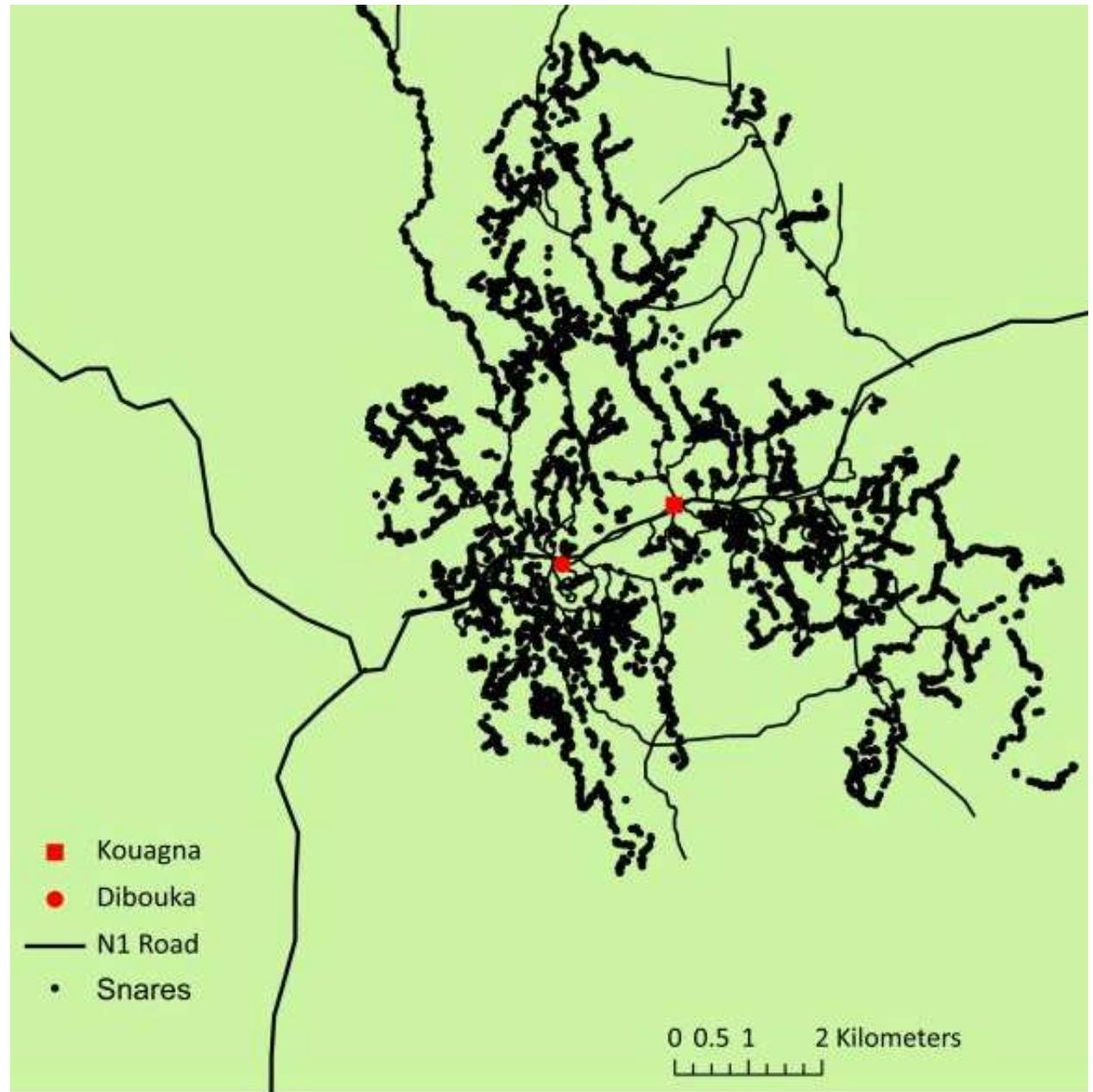
Only land > 45km from vehicle access is likely to be un hunted in Gabon.

Elsewhere hunters may go even further.



How intensely
do hunters use
land?

Small
sanctuaries
can persist

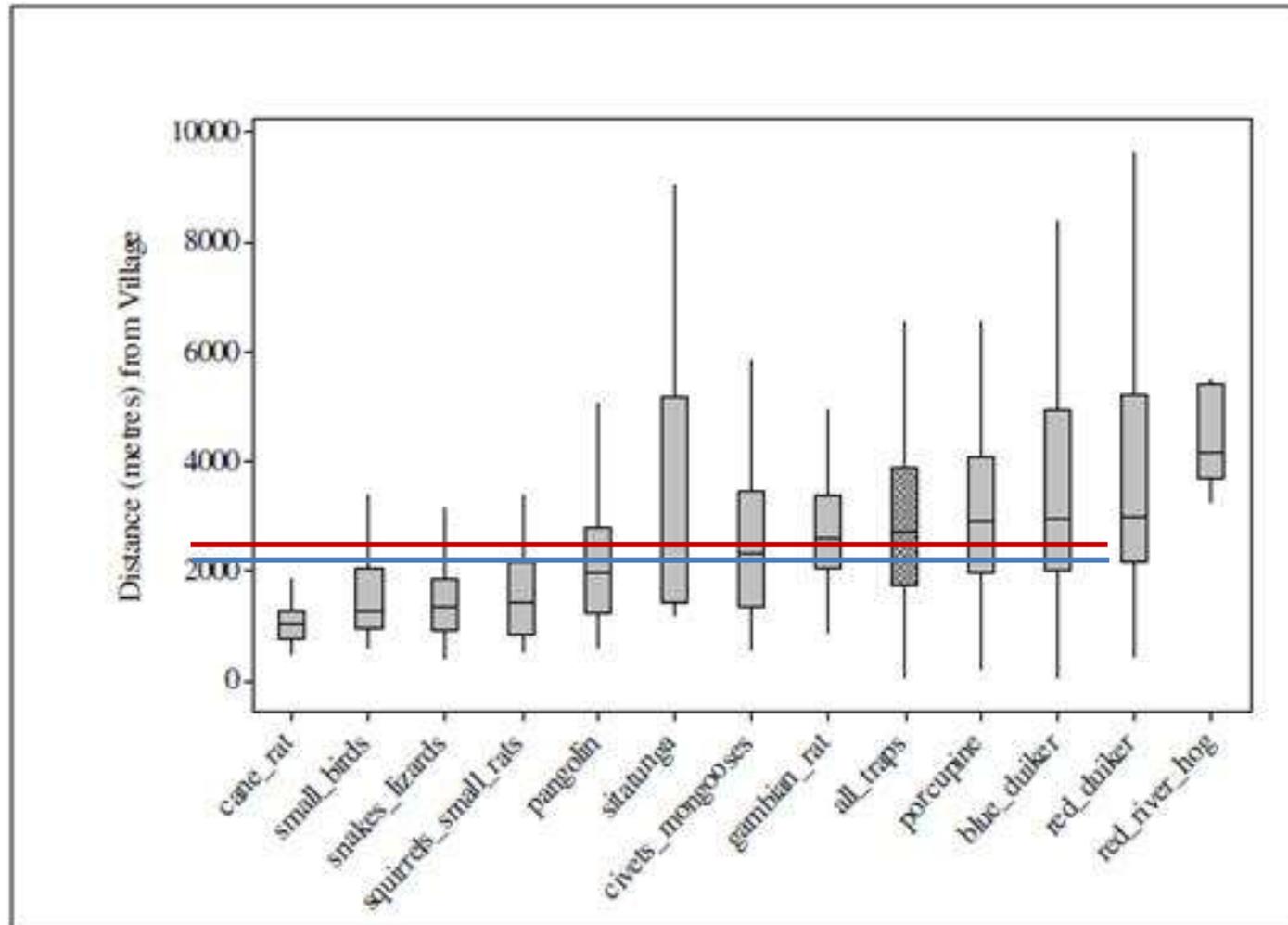


Consequences

NOW

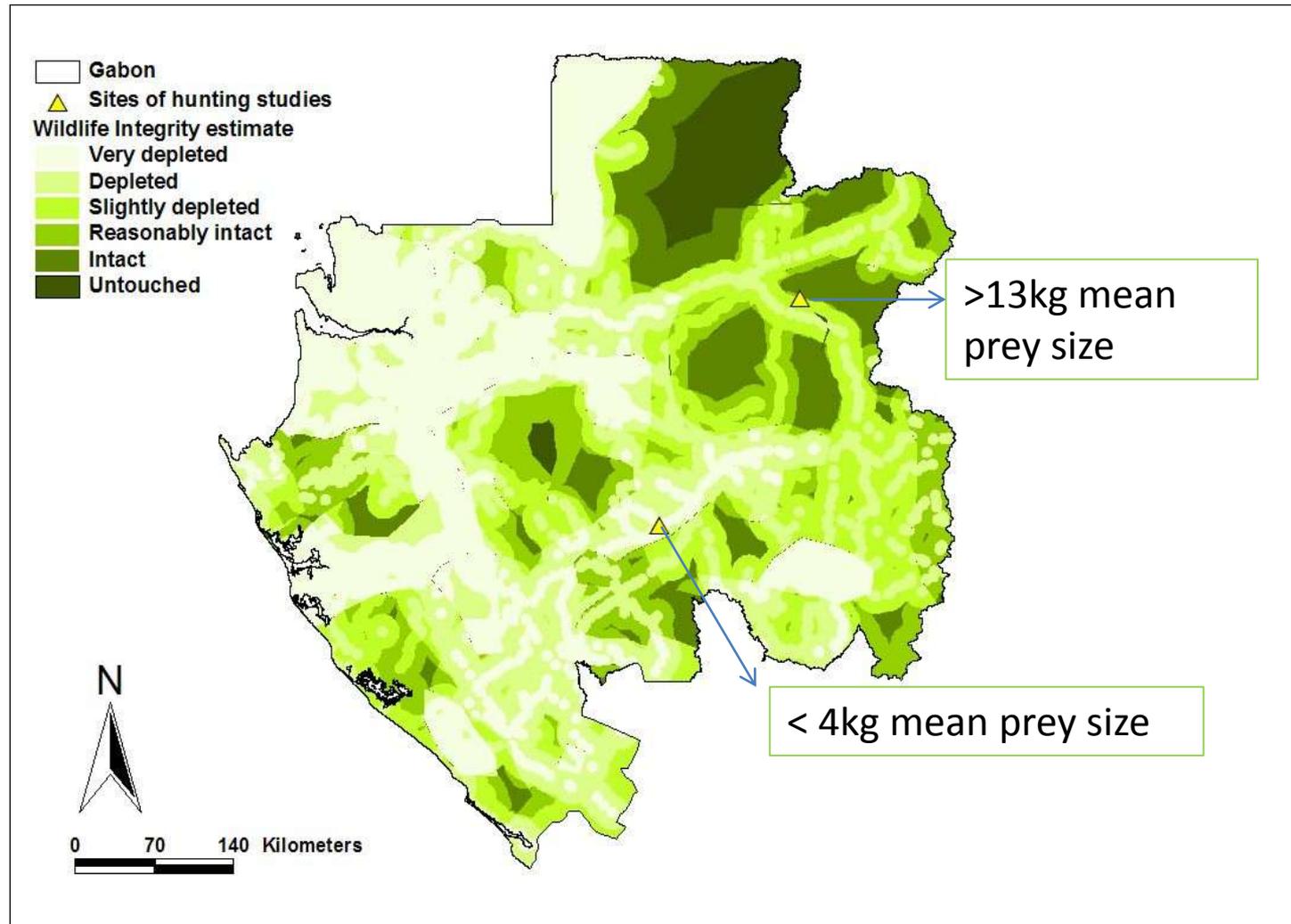
Impacts on individual species vary

Small, fast-breeding things survive better than large, slow-breeding things



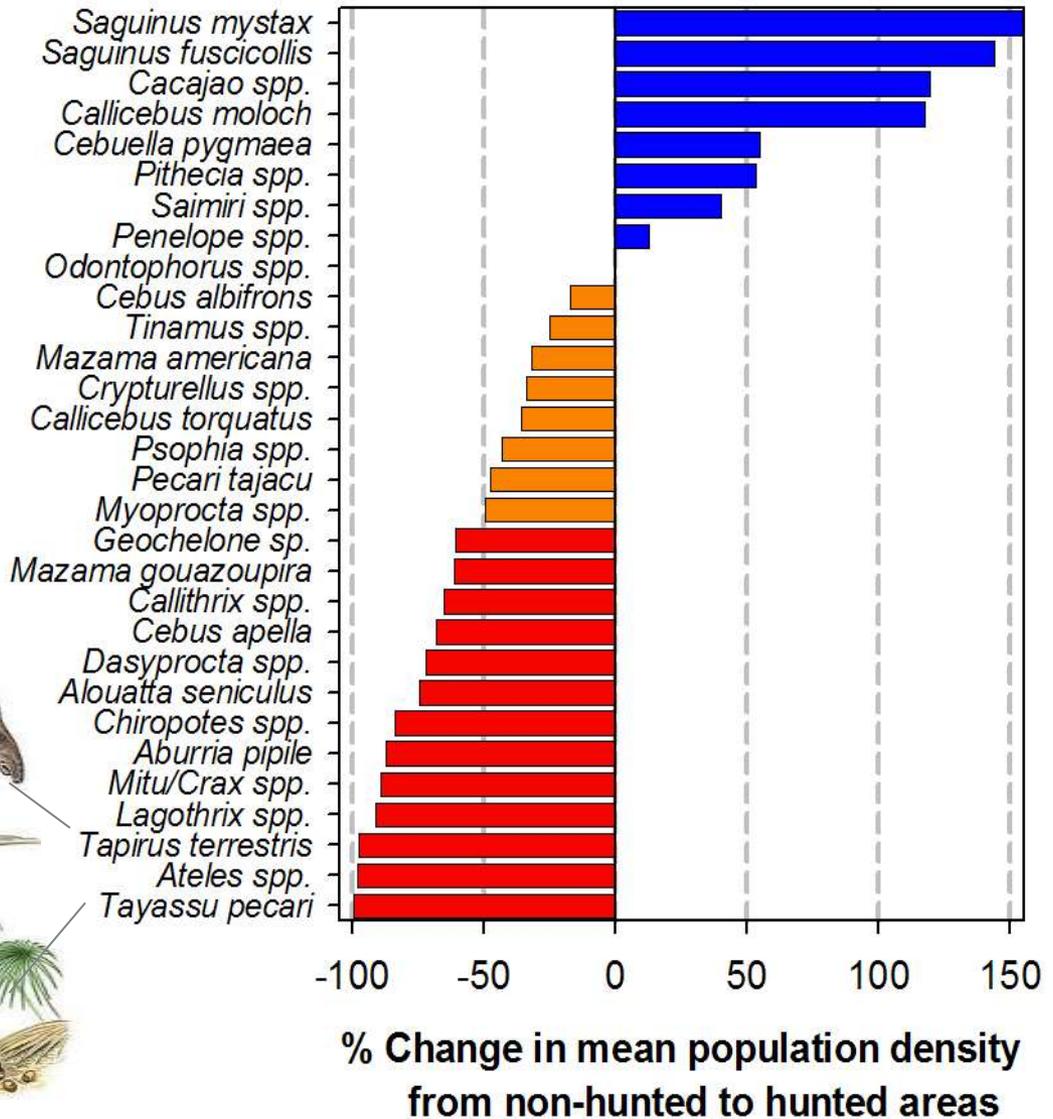
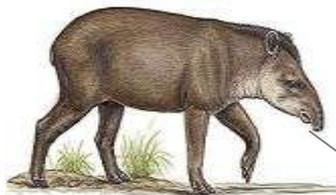
Catchments expand, offtakes drop, species profiles change

Poor hunters 'step up', but eventually, they 'step out'



Thing to remember

Hunting changes species assemblages, and thus ecosystem function, in an insidious way.



Consequences 2

**FUTURE – or
maybe already**

Altered animal communities



Altered seed dispersal and plant predation



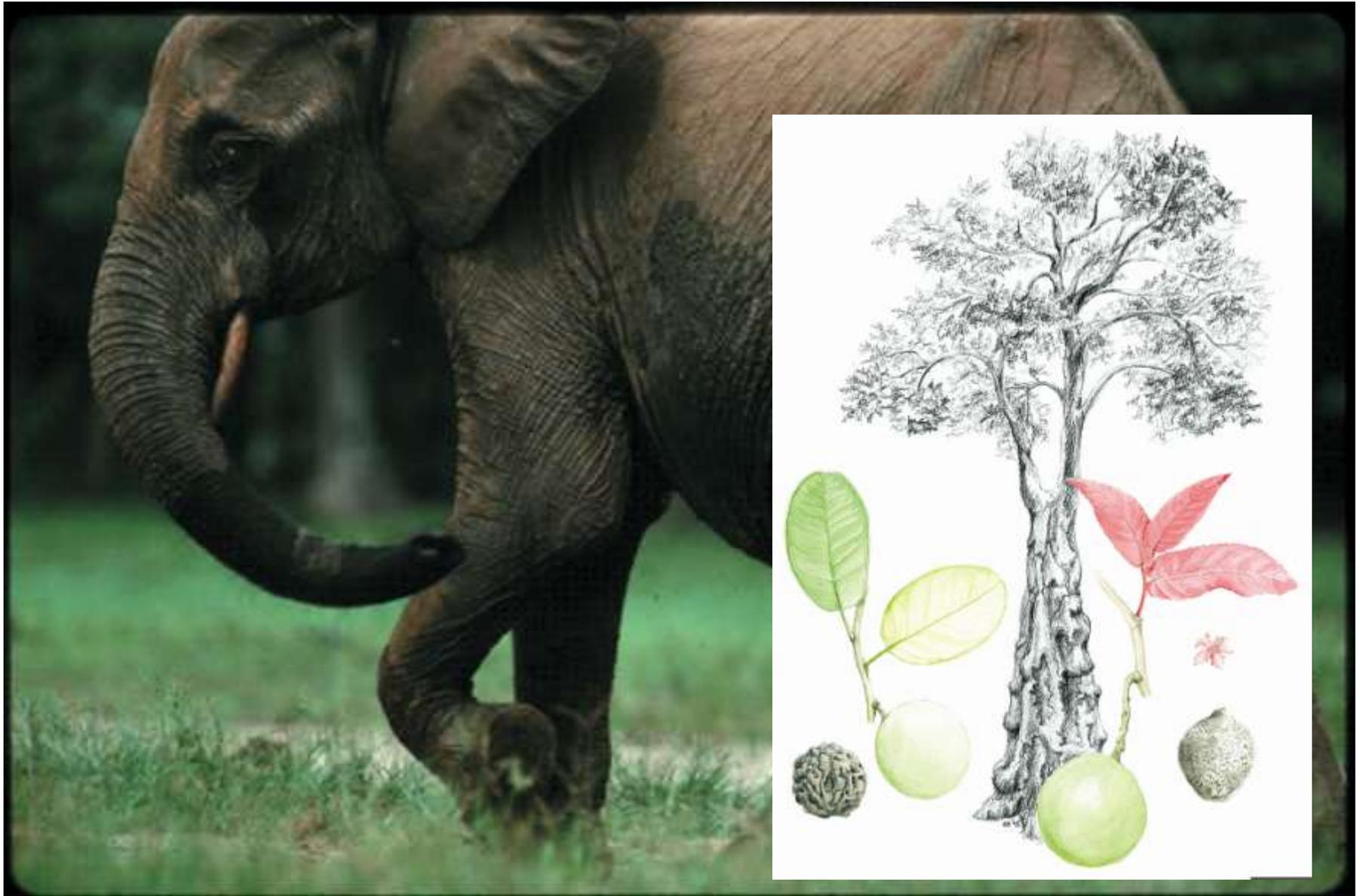
Altered food availability



Altered seedling establishment and survival

Altered forest structure





Thing to
remember

**El Nino signal causes
changes in fruiting in
Central African.**



**Relationships between Minimum Temperature and Fruit Production in some
Tropical Forest Trees in Gabon**

Caroline E. G. Tutin; Michel Fernandez

Journal of Tropical Ecology, Vol. 9, No. 2. (May, 1993), pp. 241-248.

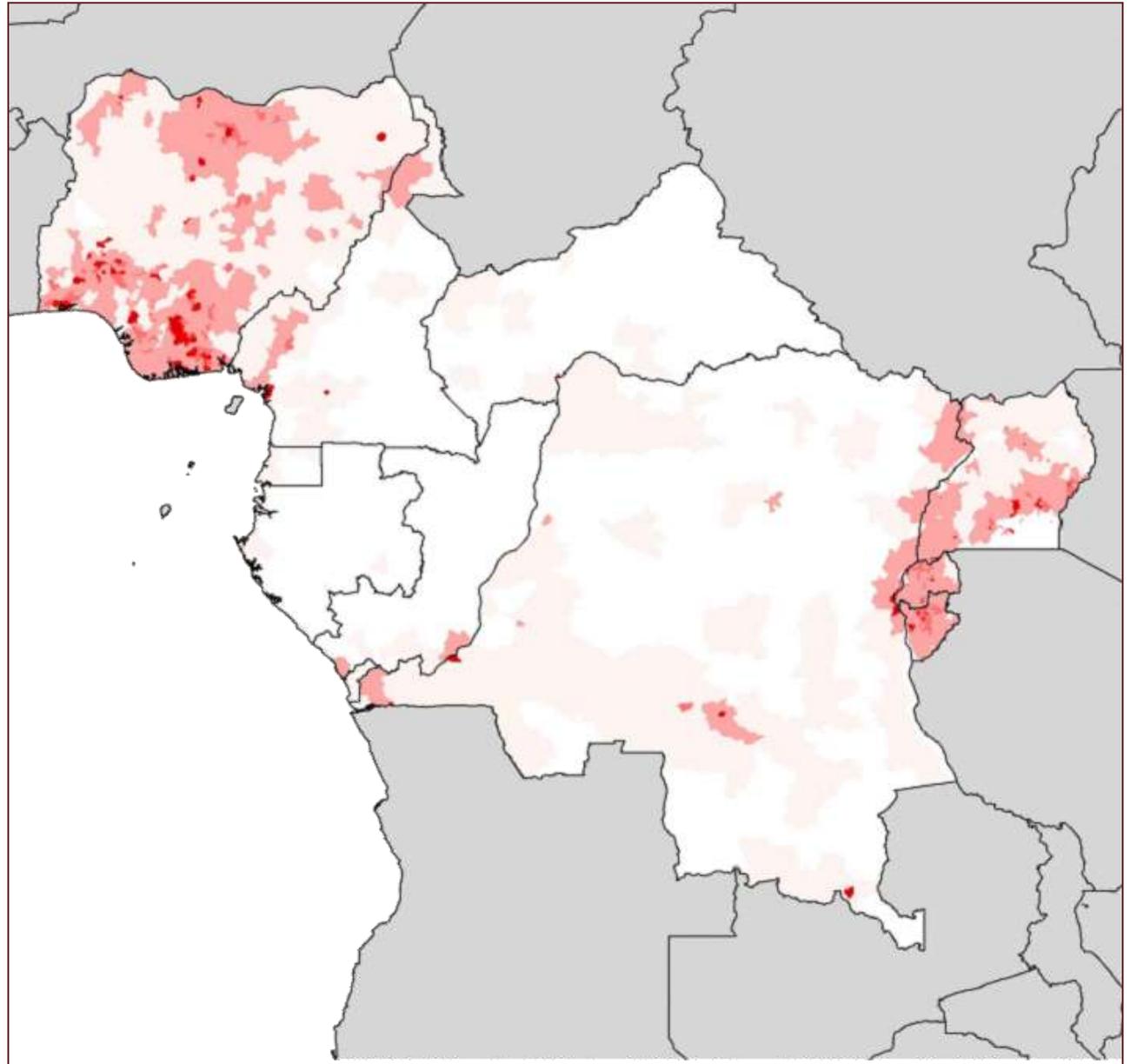
Stable URL:

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0266-4674%28199305%299%3A2%3C241%3ARBMTAF%3E2.0.CO%3B2-0>

Journal of Tropical Ecology is currently published by Cambridge University Press.

Thing to
remember

**Human
migration may
have the most
dramatic
impacts on
wildlife in
Central Africa**



How will African Forests look and function in the
21st century as a consequence of climate change
and
how can management and planning influence
such a future?



TEST !

1. Almost all African forest is hunted
2. Hunting practices and impacts are similar everywhere
3. Hunting is changing wildlife assemblages and therefore entire ecosystem integrity
4. Wildlife can move and adapt faster than vegetation. Climate change impacts on wildlife will not all be direct physiological stresses.

Why do we do it?

FOOD
MONEY

But their relative
importance varies



Climate change?

Likely results of climate change for wildlife

1. More people in forests
2. Sparser, drier forests
3. More small generalist animals
4. Shift in structure and species composition of vegetation
5. Changes in surface water availability

Possible responses for wildlife and human hunting

1. Less prey available, less revenue or food
2. More seasonality in hunting
3. Less biomass per catch, less species
4. ?
5. ? Perhaps changes in prey availability, seasonality or predictability



