

Conservation in a Crisis Zone

Okapi Conservation Project
Epulu, Dem Rep of the Congo



Conservation in a Crisis Zone - DRC



- Lack of security prohibits tourism and trophy hunting to support conservation
- Harbors significant levels of biodiversity, endemism and threatened and endangered species - needs protection
- Rampant habitat loss and degradation, wildlife poaching and illegal mining –needs to be controlled
- Lack of national staff capacity to manage and secure protected areas
- Extreme poverty and lack of economic incentives impede conservation efforts



Range of Okapi



DR Congo
(Zaire)









15S







Epulu Station - Belgium Congo







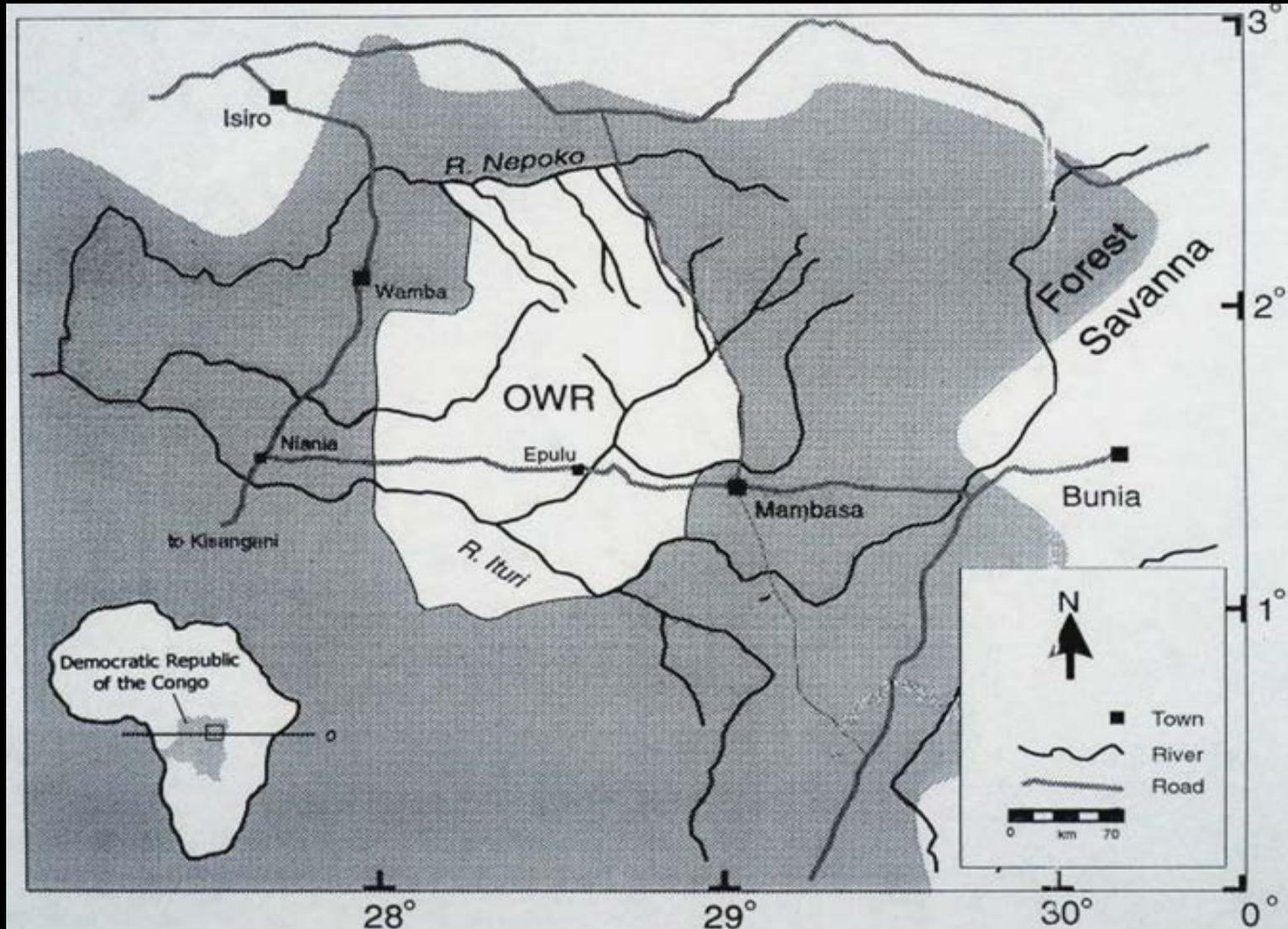
Okapi Conservation and Education Center in Epulu







1987 – Okapi Conservation Project is Initiated
1992 - Okapi Wildlife Reserve Created
1996 - UNESCO World Heritage Site Status













Institute in the Congo for the Conservation of Nature – ICCN Protecting the Wildlife and Natural Resources of the OWR

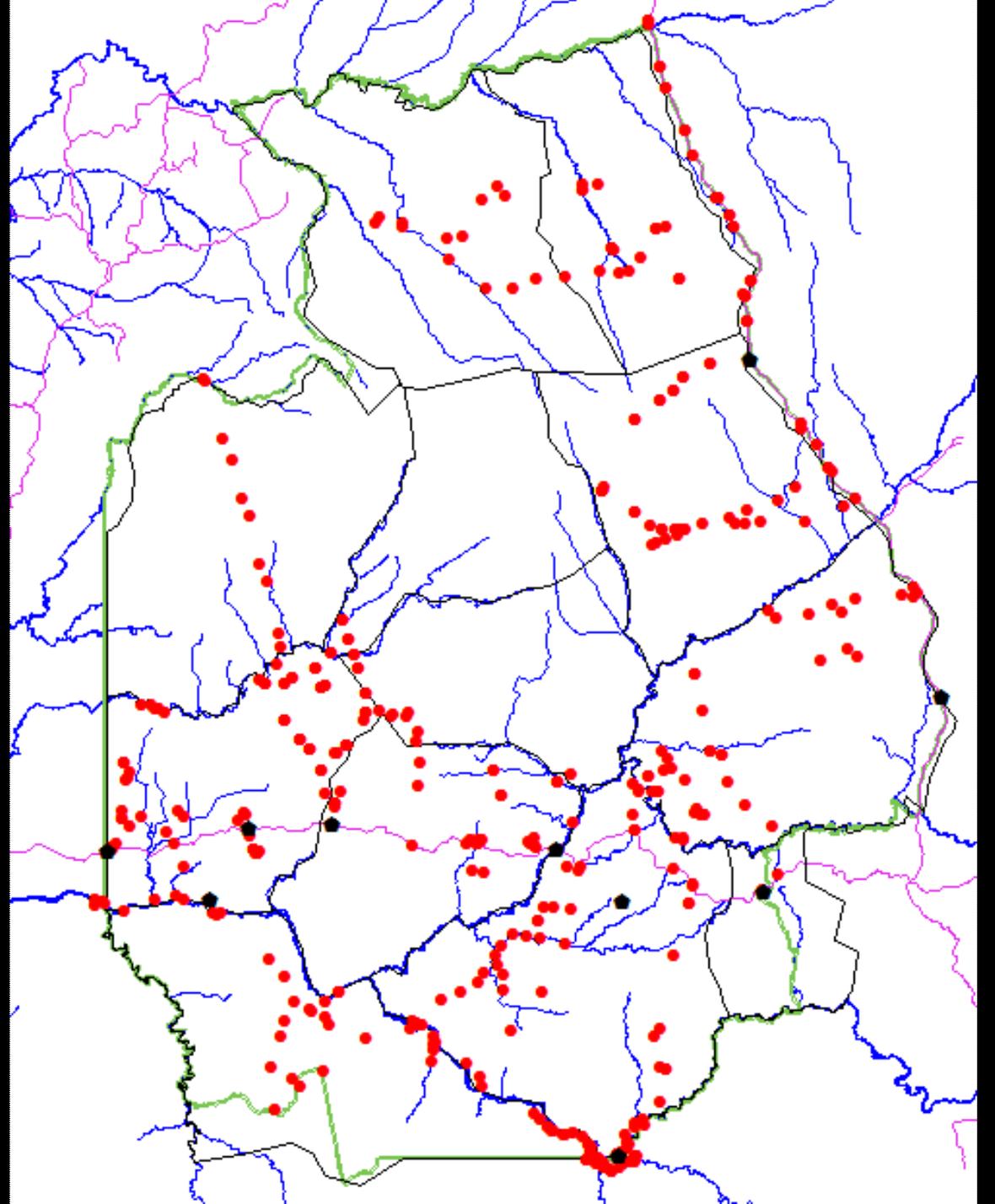






OCP Support for ICCN Rangers







ICCN Rangers in 2017:

- Carried out 468 patrols
- Covered 15,130 km on foot
- Dismantled 3,168 snares
- Arrested 145 poachers
- Destroyed 50 poaching camps
- Evacuated 930 miners
- Observed 19 okapi in the wild



Eastern DRC-Conflict Zone













Close Down Illegal Gold Mines



Poaching for
Bushmeat
Declines

June 24th 2012 Attack by Maimai Militia



Most Facilities Have Been Rebuilt Since the June 2012 Attack by the Maimai Militia



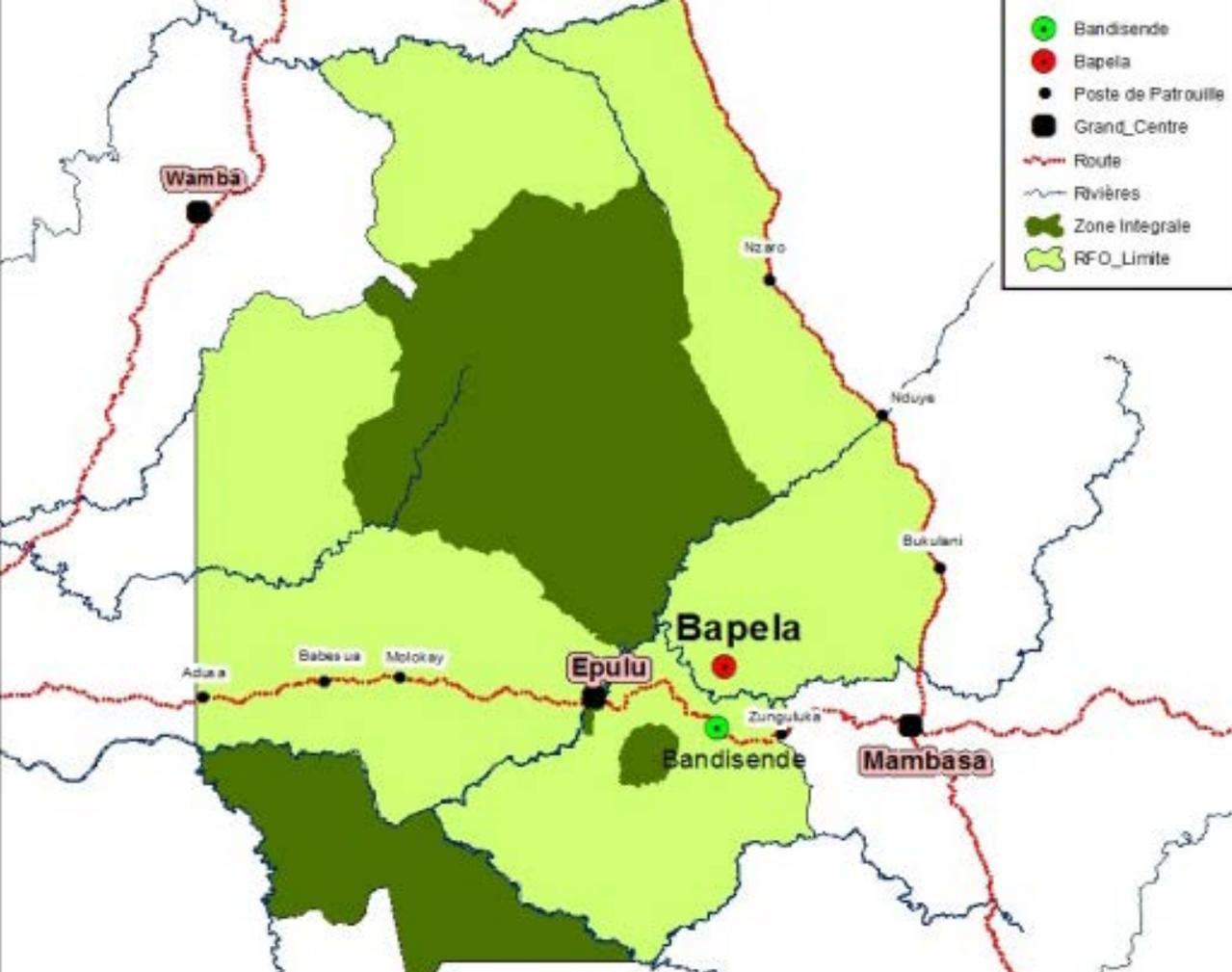
Rebuilt Zunguluka Patrol Post





Rehabilitated Tourist Facilities





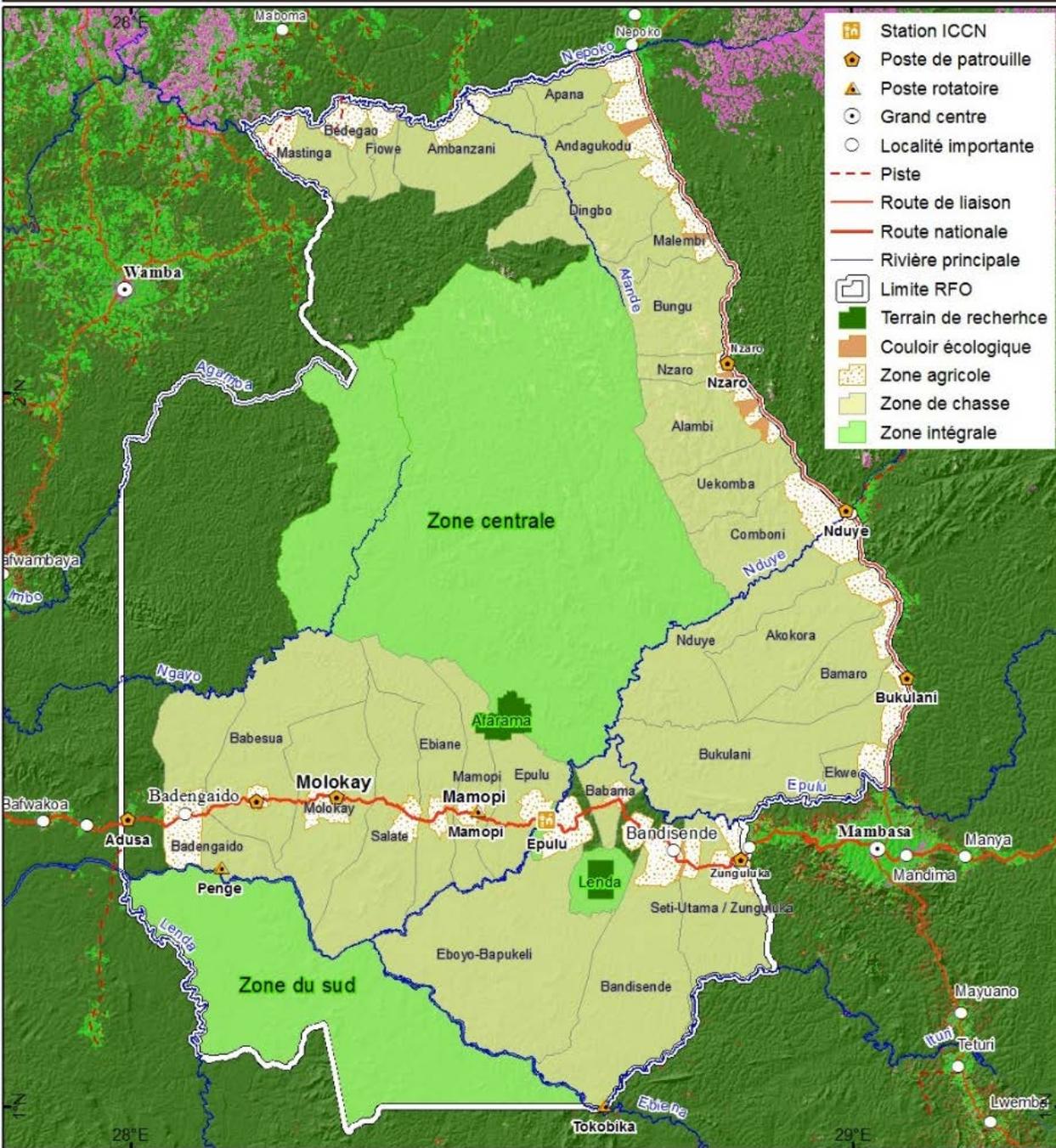
Unpredictable Breaches in Security

- Attack at the Bapela Gold Mine July '17
- Attack on OCP Truck near Beni Feb '18

Wildlife conservation is ultimately about people and needs to address long term solutions to education, health, poverty and sustainable living.



RESERVE DE FAUNE A OKAPIS



- Agriculture Zones
- Subsistence Hunting Zones (Mbuti)
- Central Core Zone – No Human Activities - All Wildlife Protected







Agriculture and Forest Zones







50,492 Trees Planted in 2017







OCP Supports
Five Women's Groups with over 300 members







CENTRE DE SANTE

ABDALLAH SWEDY

5KG

Subex Sun
SUNBELT
SUNBELT

METZ

SPO 6

243 313
DRC

Rebuilding Water Sources in The OWR





















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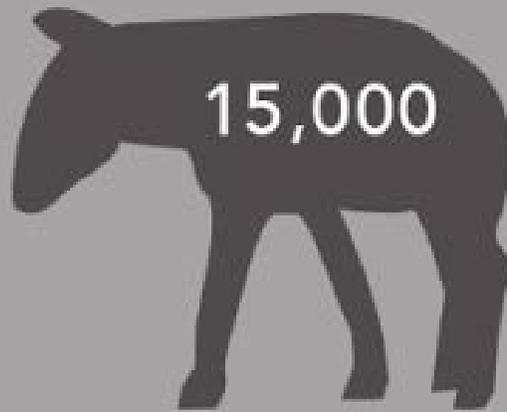






A SPECIES ON THE BRINK

A 2013 WORKSHOP FINDS THE WILD
OKAPI POPULATION DOWN MORE THAN
50 PERCENT IN JUST 15 YEARS



Okapi Listed on Red List as “Endangered” 2013





Celebrated on October 18th Each Year

World  kapi Day



Wildlife Conservation – Field Based Solutions

- Political reality dictates what can be done to conserve wildlife and protect habitat. Need to improve range state governments transparency on all levels.
- NGO's do the conservation work on the ground – need support – USFWS valuable partner, fills a critical role.
- Need to identify pressures on habitat and wildlife – apply community based solutions.
- Support educational institutions to build capacity of nationals to scientifically manage their own wildlife and protected areas.
- Funding for wildlife conservation needs to fund protection first and then develop revenue generation strategies i.e. tourism, trophy hunting, incentives for communities.



Okapi Conservation Project

Epulu – DR Congo

www.okapiconservation.org

OKAPI
CONSERVATION
PROJECT



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