

# **Challenges of illegal wildlife trafficking and cross-border Transhumant in South Sudan**

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# Presentation:

- Introduction
- The problems
- Challenges
- Current efforts
- Way forward



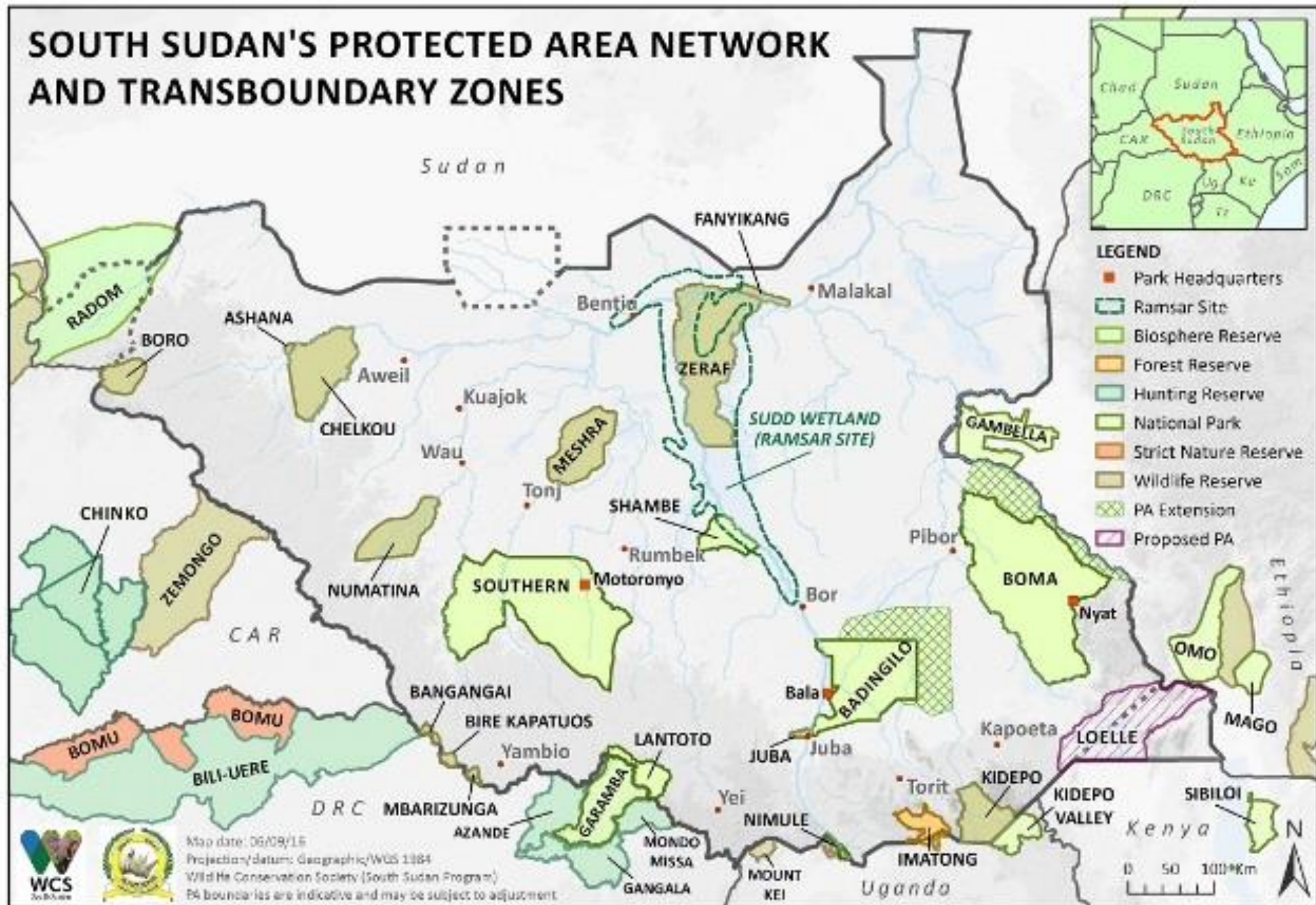
- 630 km<sup>2</sup> is rich in biodiversity, represented in 19 Protected
- borders with six countries
- long borders with CAR and DRC in western regions of the country





- There are 8 out of the 19 Protected Areas in South Sudan, share borders with CAR, DRC and Sudan.
- These PAs share common challenges with PAs across the international borders.
- They include the following:

# SOUTH SUDAN'S PROTECTED AREA NETWORK AND TRANSBOUNDARY ZONES



- Boro Game Reserve –Bordering CAR
- Numatina Game Reserve – near CAR
- The Southern National Park – close to  
Numatina
- Bangangai Game Reserve – bordering DRC



- Mbarizonga Game Reserve – bordering DRC
- Bire Kpatua Game Reserve – Bordering DRC
- Lantoto National – across the border from Garamba in the DRC
- Ashana and Chelkuo – near Sudan borders

# The Problem at Hand

- Movements of poachers and trafficking within the region is a reality, even though data is insufficient.
- It has been there for long time over decades

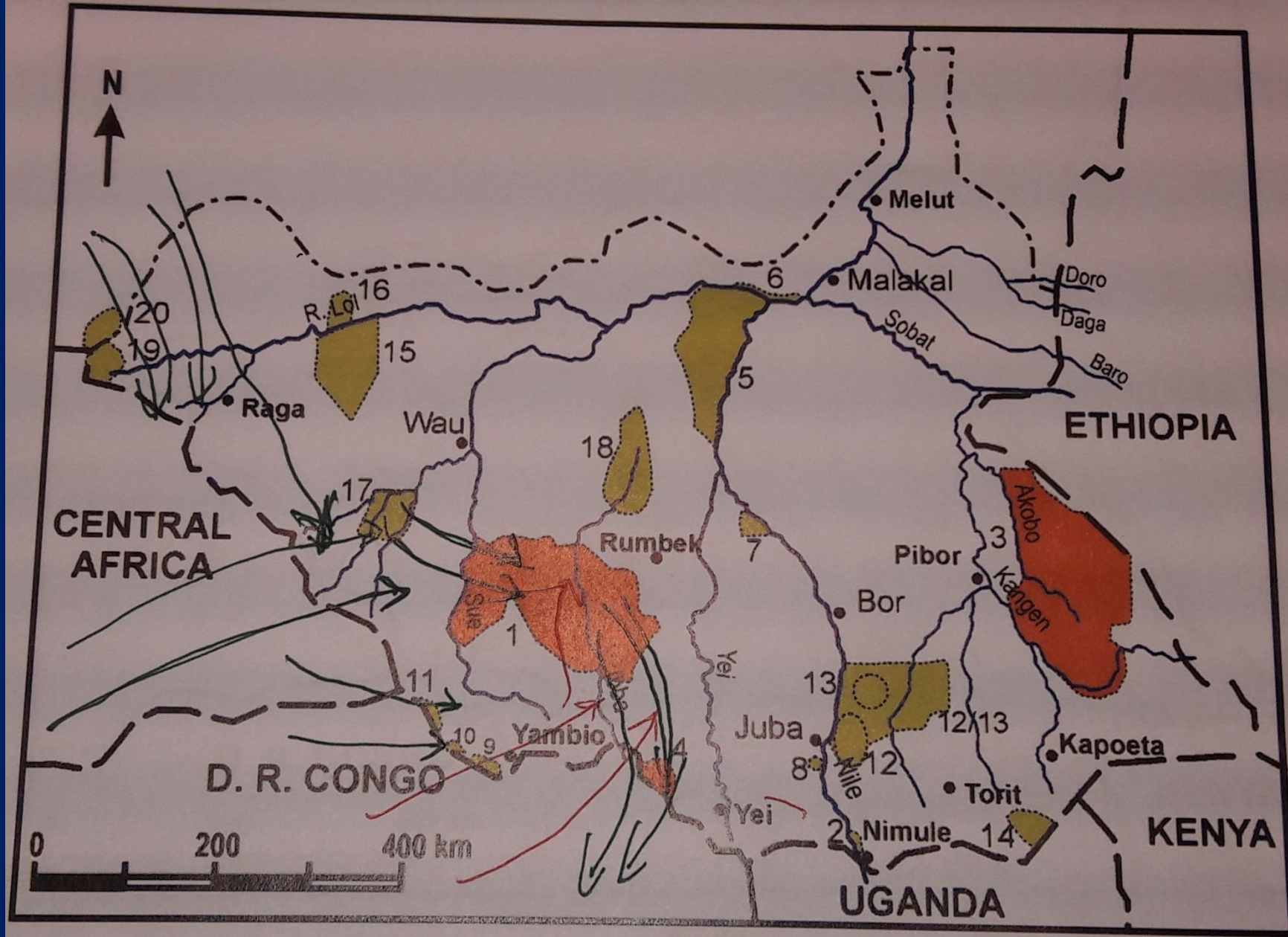
# Poaching and trafficking: Armed group around Tombura State.



## Movements of armed poachers:

- They cross western and north-western borders into South Sudan PAs from CAR and Sudan.
- They transverse through Boro and Numatina; Southern Park and Lantoto and into Garamba.
- They are notorious and dangerous poachers.

Figure 1: Protected areas of Southern Sudan



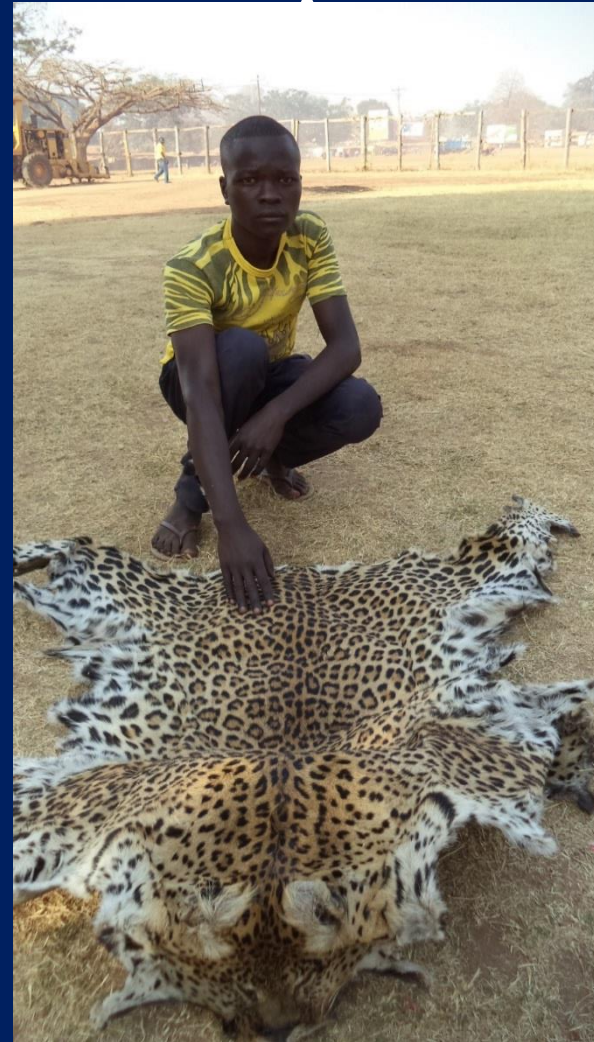
- Movements of pastoralists (Mbororo) has been there for decades.
- Latest seen in Bangagai Reserve in August 2018; and Southern Park in Jan 2019.
- They cross borders for cattle grazing in South Sudan.

- They Pose potentials of:
  - *Poaching*
  - *Insecurity*
  - *Transmission of zoonotic diseases*

- Armed conflicts in the country/neighbours impact negatively on practical conservation work.
- Proliferation of small arms in hands of local people (war effect) used in poaching.



# Proliferation of small arms in hands of local people (war effect) used in poaching





# Little research, fieldwork and data available



- The borders are large spanning over hundreds of kilometres making it difficult for controlling from side one country single-handedly.
- Practical difficulties such as lack of communications and logistics support hinders actions when armed groups are reported.

- Insufficient support for studies and documentations on site.
- Problems of coordination, difficulty in communication and information sharing between neighbouring countries.
- Recent trafficking attempts (ivory) by international syndicates through the country have been foiled.

# Current efforts

- Despite all challenges conservation work never stopped:
- Government maintained core ranger force operations in Protected Areas
- WCS is supporting Lantoto Park; and FFI supporting Bire-Kpatua reserve

# Training, fieldwork is on-going despite limited resources:



**pictures from Lantoto Park**

# Arrests and seizures:





# Poachers of small mammals not spared



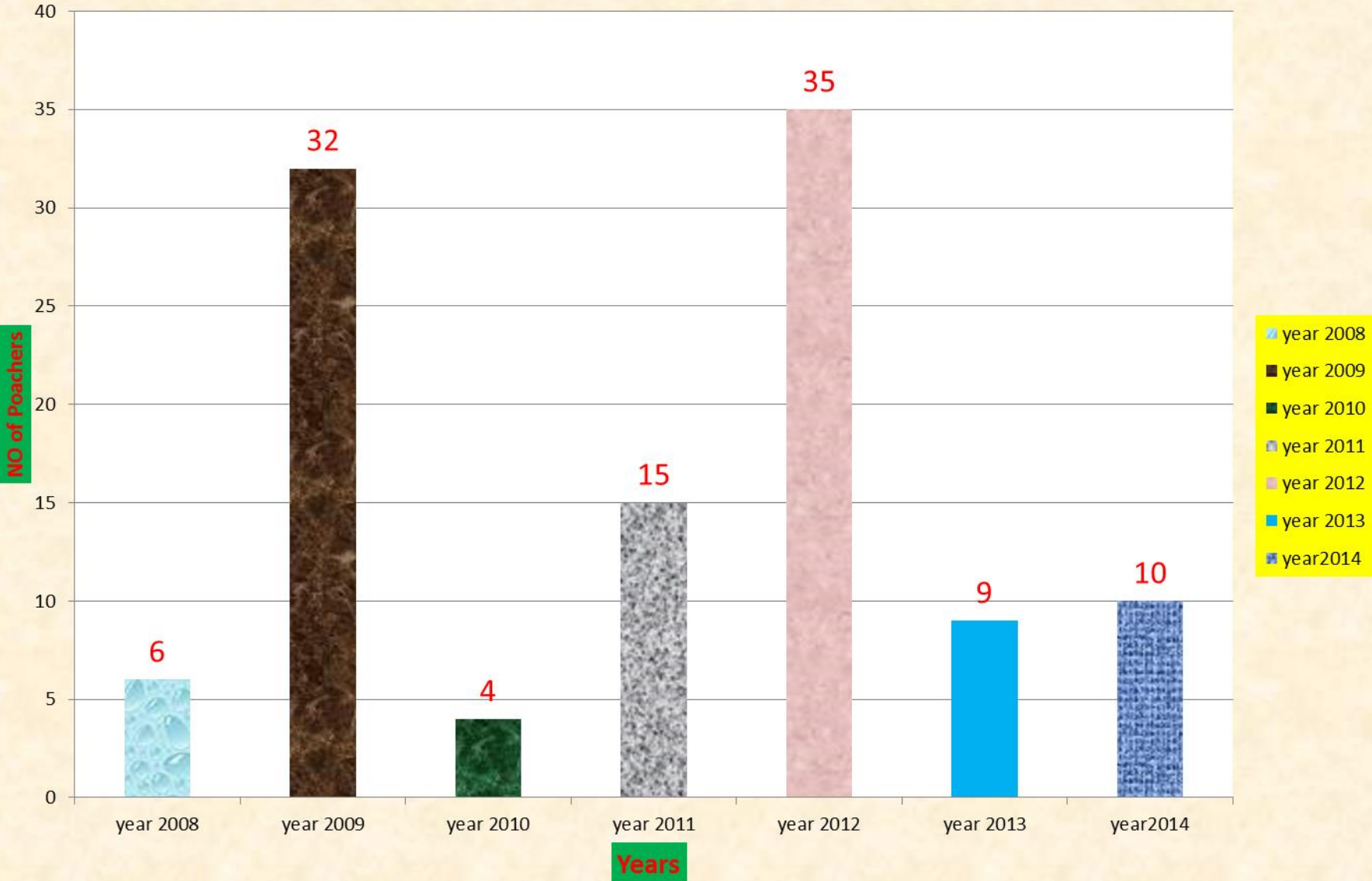
# Arrested suspects are charged and prosecuted – Lantoto Park



After prosecution exhibits are put beyond economic use to ensure zero chance for smuggling



# Chart Showing Number of Poachers Arrested Around Lantoto N Park from 2008-2014



# The Way Forward

- Capacity and capabilities of wildlife protection rangers to be supported to meet the challenges.
- Regional coordination, international cooperation is necessary as no country can do it single-handedly.
- South Sudan (emerging country) should be assisted in addressing these challenges.

- The recently signed peace agreement paves the way for practical solutions in the affected protected areas.
- South Sudan is a member of cross-border wildlife protection initiatives in the IGAD region (HAWEN). Similar arrangements with the Congo Basin Region can be of help, for the challenges being addressed.

- Support to the affected protected areas for management effectiveness and enforcement:
  - *field equipment and materials*
  - *mobility*
  - *communications*
- An internationally supported Trans-boundary conservation programs between neighbouring protected areas would rescue the situation.

Thanks