



# Nature and Extent of Human Wildlife Conflict in the Chichibon corridor, Ghana

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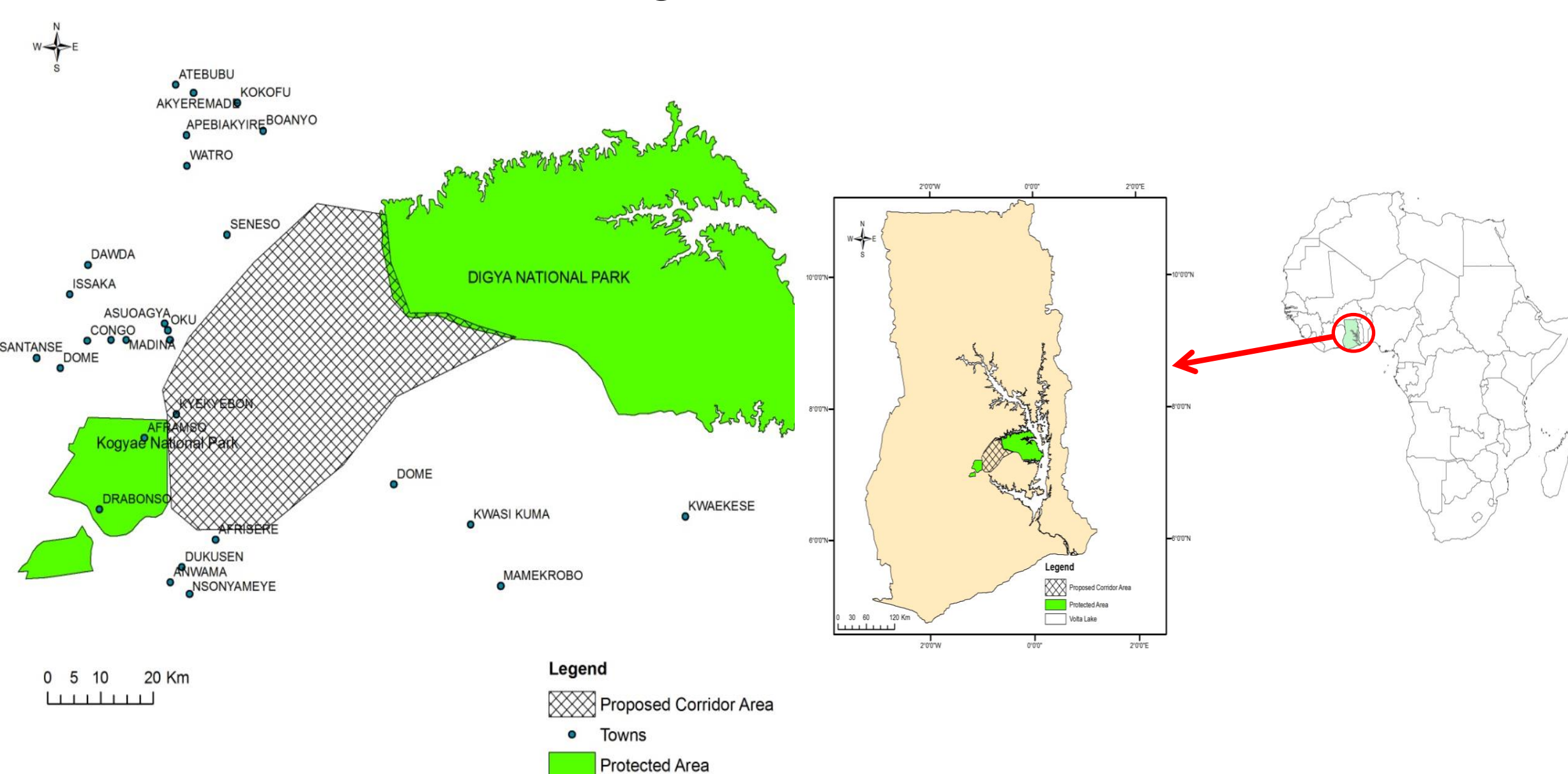


## Background and Objectives

- Man has dramatically transformed wildlife habitats
- Competition for more space between human and wildlife is bound to increase
- Human population living around Protected Areas (PAs) are likely to suffer crop damage by wildlife
- Urgent information is needed on the characteristics of human wildlife conflicts (HWC) in the study area to plan an effective campaign to reduce it

## Study Area

- Covers an area of approximately 200 sq km that stretches between the Digya National Park (DNP) and the Kogyae Strict Nature Reserve (KSNR)
- Located between 70 20' 42.03"N, 00 01' 1.43"W and 70 17' 00.29"N, 10 21' 00.78"W .
- Mean annual rainfall ranges between 1270 and 1370 mm per year
- Savanna-forest transition vegetation zone of Ghana



Location of the study area in context of Africa and Ghana and the protected areas

## Approach

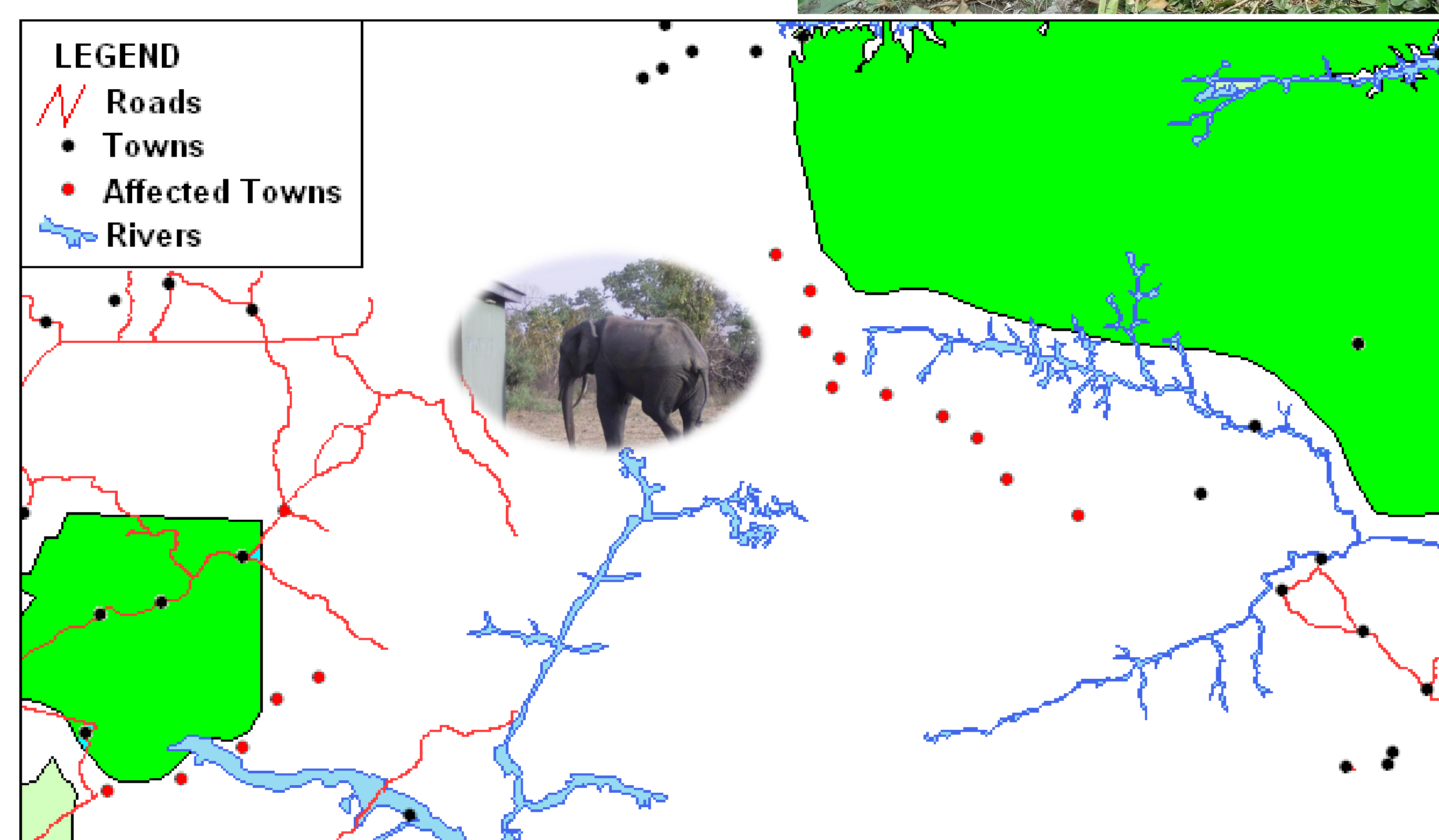
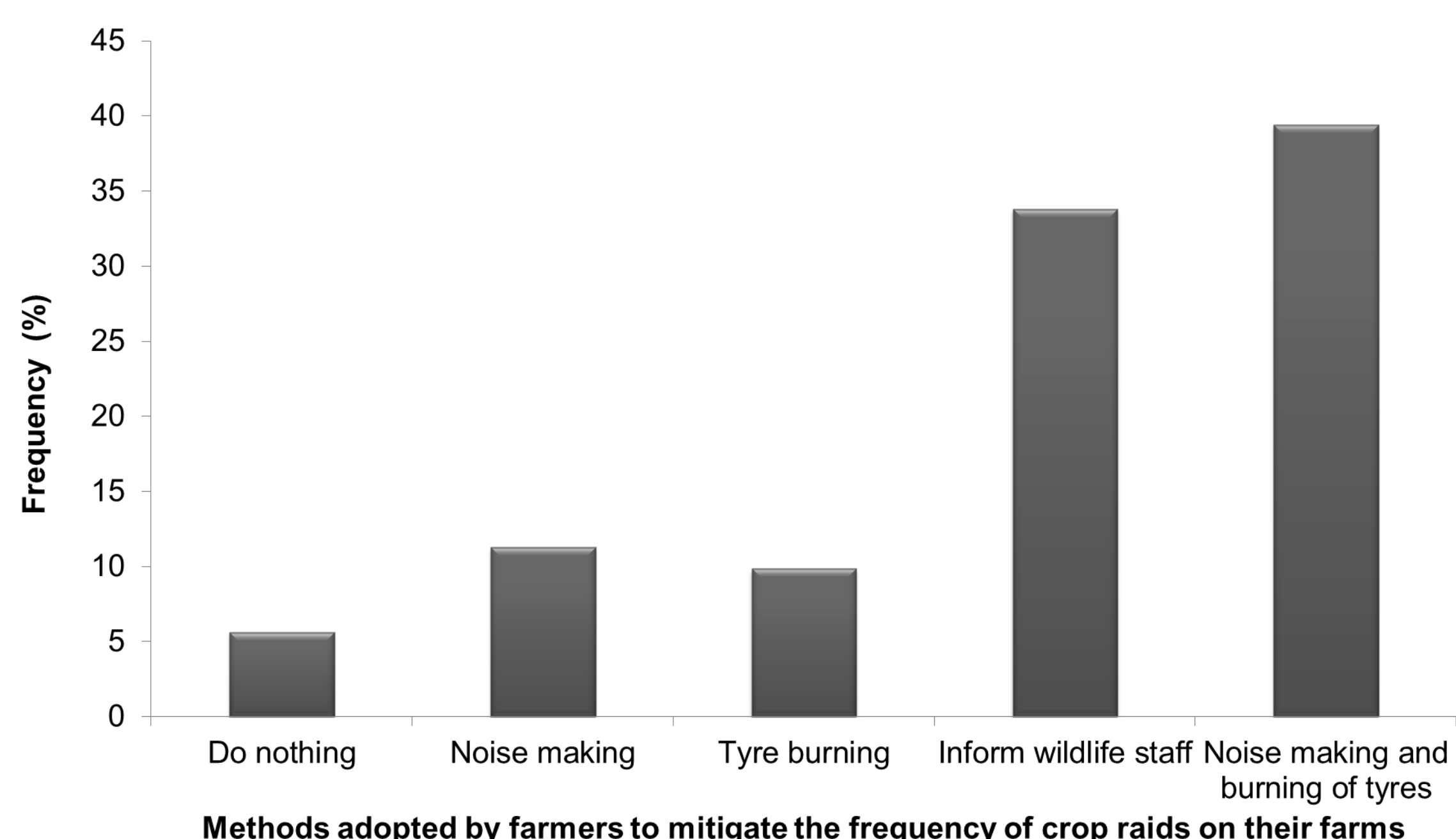
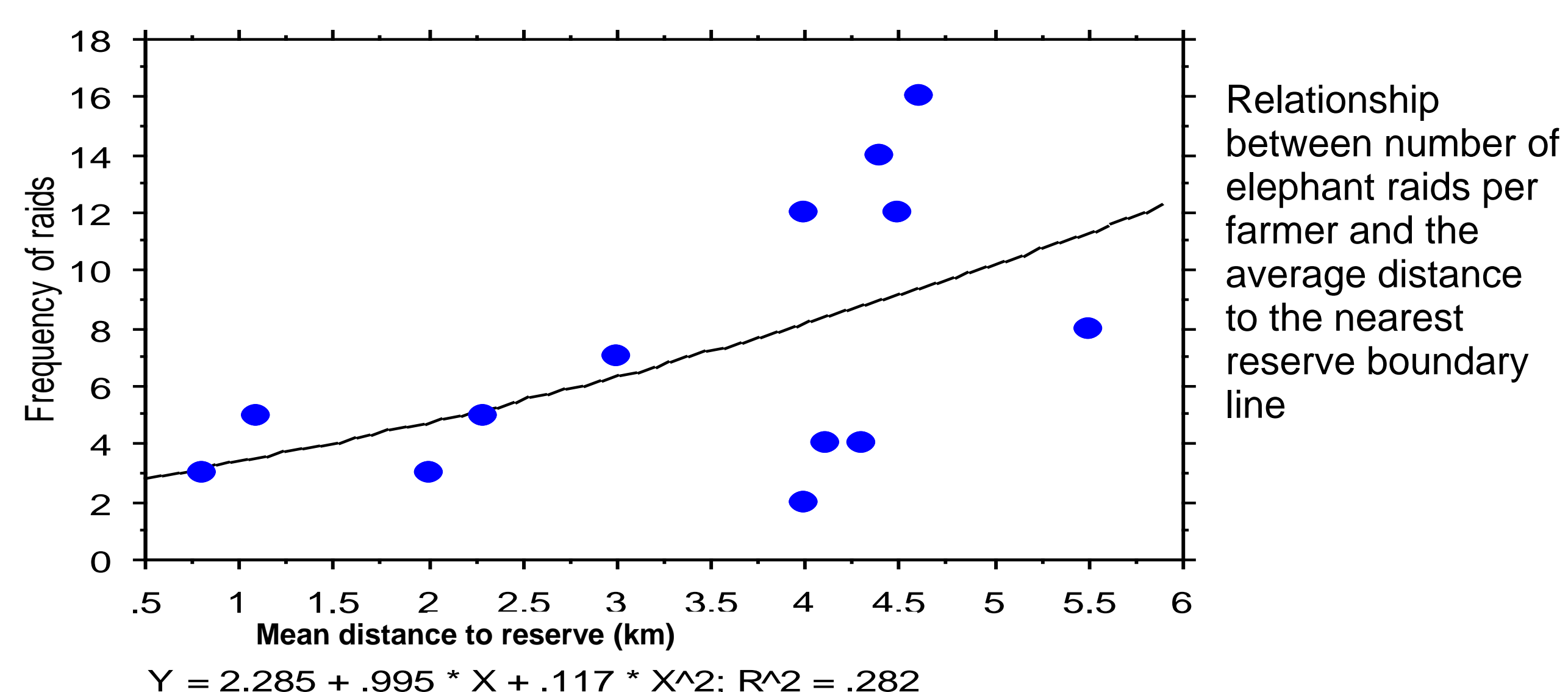
- Elephant damage report form, developed by the African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG) was used to gather current crop damage incidents.
- Random selection of 83 farmers from 12 communities for questionnaire administration
- Geographical coordinates of raided farms were recorded with a handheld Geographical Positioning System (GPS Garmin 12XL)

## Results

- Major land-use in the area is farming with charcoal production as a minor
- Elephant crop raiding is the most serious human-wildlife conflict in the area
- Occurs seasonally in the wet season (May to June with a peak in June)
- 81% elephant raids occurred in fringe communities that are within 5 km of the two protected areas
- no significant relationship ( $r^2=0.282$ ,  $P>0.05$ , NS) between number of raided farms and the average distance of farms to the nearest reserve boundary line
- Yam is the most raided crop (33% of crops raided)
- Noise making (beating of metallic objects) and burning of car tyres to produce smoke were mostly used to ward off raiding elephants



a) Survey team navigating through the field  
b) A typical cassava (*Manihot esculenta*) farm close to the boundary of a reserve  
c) Charcoal production in process  
d) Elephant raided farms being inspected by the owners



Distribution of elephant crop raiding activities in the Chichibon Corridor as observed through field and social surveys (Insert: Solitary elephant sighted behind a ranger's bungalow)

## Conclusions & Recommendation

- Elephant crop raiding is the most serious HWC in the area and it occurs in the wet season
- Major crops raided included yam, cassava, maize, plantain and groundnut
- Most raids occurs in farms within 5km that border the south-western fringes of DNP and south-eastern fringes of KSNR
- Proper land use planning within the corridor with farming practices that do not attract elephants is recommended

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