Rwanda: Wildlife Conservation
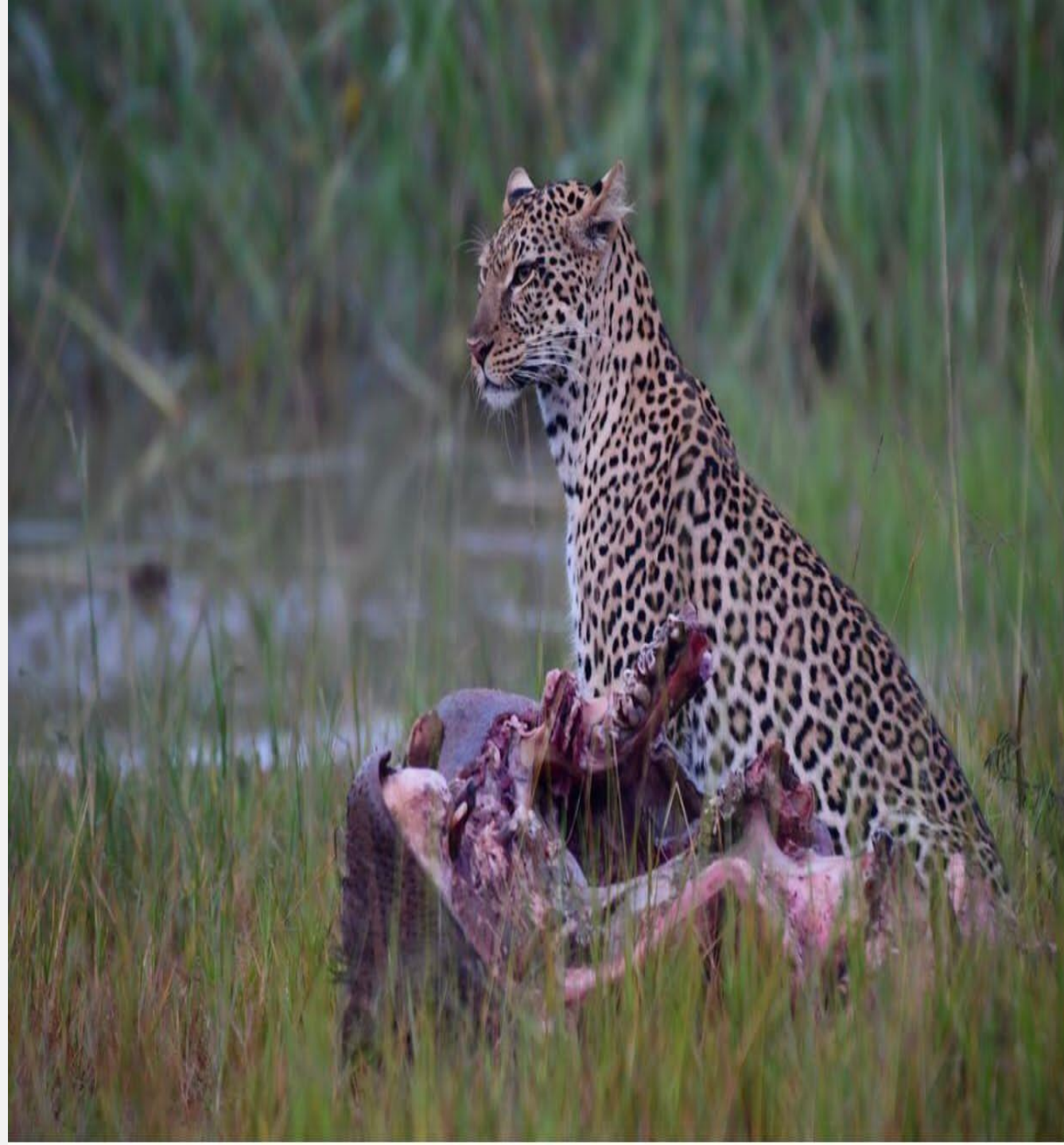
4th May. 2023: Collaborative Management Partnerships

Collaborative Management Partnership

A CMP refers to when a protected area (PA) authority (government, private, or community) enters into a contractual arrangement with a partner (private or NGO) to manage a PA. Through a CMP, a kind of public-private partnership (PPP), the PA authority devolves certain management obligations to the partner and the partner takes on these management responsibilities—and in most cases the funding obligations. The duration of the contract varies and is dependent on the PA and the goal of the PA authority.

Types of CMP

There are three different kinds of CMPs: They range from financial and technical support, where the PA authority retains full governance authority and the private partner provides technical and financial support, to a delegated CMP, where the state and the partner agree to collaborate on PA management through a management agreement and create a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to undertake management. In the latter case, management rights are devolved to the SPV.

Rwanda & 14 other countries in Africa have entered into co-management and delegated management CMPs. In fact, more than 11% of Africa's PA estate is managed through co-management and delegated management CMPs.
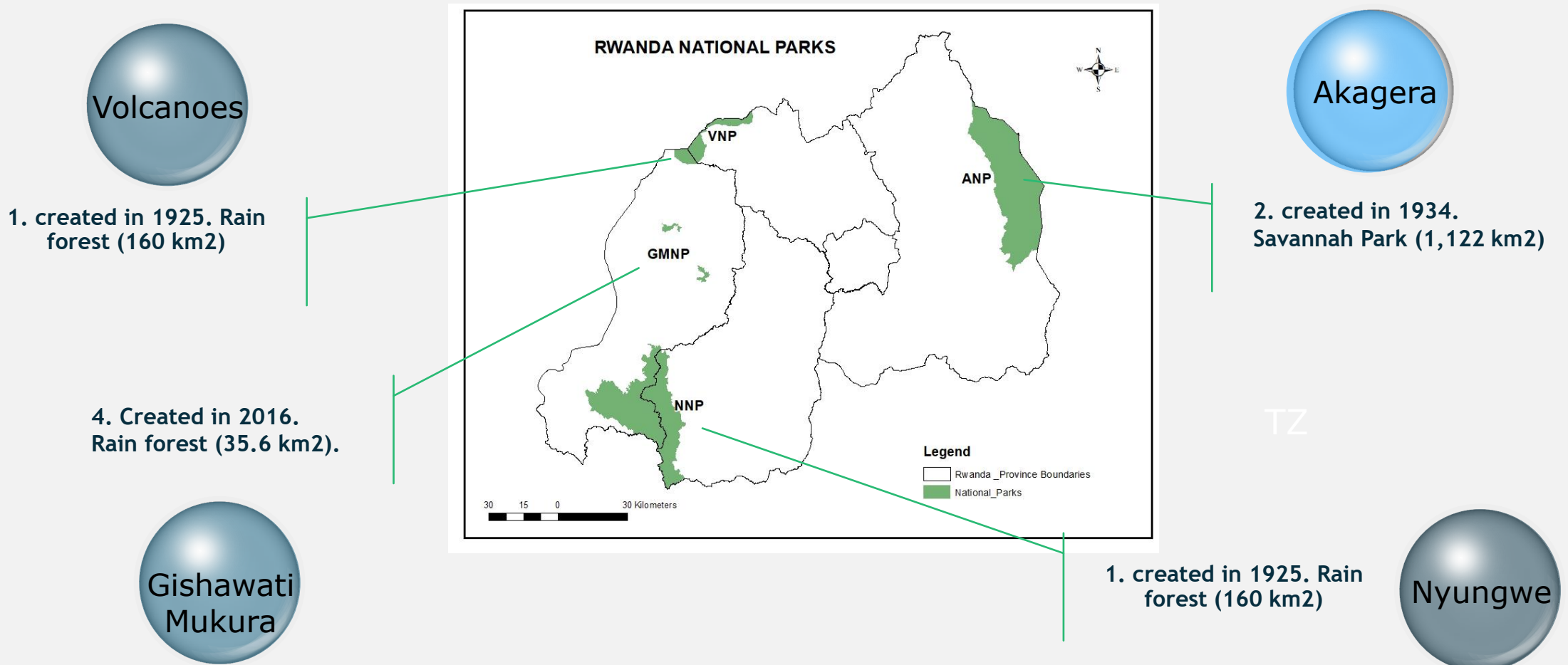
Why a collaborative Management Partnership?

Despite recognizing the value of biodiversity and the role PAs play in securing the world's natural capital and ecosystem services and mitigating the impacts of climate change, there is a massive biodiversity funding gap. Researchers found that $ 1.5 billion is needed annually to effectively manage PAs with lions in Africa. This funding gap and other factors have led to the underperformance of many PAs, putting species, ecosystems, and inclusive development at risk.

Some of the early CMPs were developed in direct response to the elephant poaching crisis in central Africa. More recently, governments are strategically engaging partners in PA management to offset budget deficits, enhance rural development, and achieve national and global commitments.

Rwanda's National Parks

- 30% of the National territory is covered by forests
- 8.9% of the whole country is devoted to conservation in national parks. The majority of biodiversity is located in national parks.
- Protected Areas are managed within broader ecosystems and landscapes

Volcanoes

1. created in 1925. Rain forest (160 km2)

Akagera

2. created in 1934. Savannah Park (1,122 km2)

4. Created in 2016. Rain forest (35.6 km2).

Gishawati Mukura

1. created in 1925. Rain forest (160 km2)

Nyungwe

RWANDA NATIONAL PARKS

VNP

ANP

GMNP

NNP

TZ

Legend

Rwanda _Province Boundaries

National_Parks

30   15   0   30 Kilometers

Rwanda's CMP: Akagera & Nyungwe NPs-20 Years' Agreement

Akagera National Park

RWANDA • Kigali

2010

2020

Nyungwe National Park

CMP Success in Rwanda

❖ Government's willingness and support while retaining ownership but embracing AP's 3Ms: **Mandate** AP to **manage**, and find the **money**. Whilst re-investing anything made, for long-term and sustainability.

❖ AP's credibility, Expertise and sustainable funding.

❖ Rwanda's legal system/framework.

❖ The urge to implement, keep consistency and fight corruption.

❖ Long-term Agreement/s

Achievements:

❖ Parks' integrity secured (LE, Equipment, Conservation Technologies, K9

❖ Development & Improvement of park infrastructure (road maintenance, housing)

❖ Human-Wildlife Conflict management: Maintenance of the 120 km electric fence (built by the government)

❖ Reintroduction & Introduction: Lion (2015), Black rhinos (2017-2018), white rhinos (2021)

❖ Local Employment and Capacity Building are harnessed.

❖ Community Constituency Strengthened: Outreach & Collaboration, Tourism Revenue Sharing & SGF Contribution

❖ A new tourism development plan: More than an 8-fold increase in both revenues and tourists.

❖ Attracted world investments

Conservation Actions for Cats:

Lion	Leopard
Human-lion conflict Control: Fence line, collars & tracking teams	Reducing human-leopard conflict: Fence line, community awareness and compensation procedures
Population management: contraception and unilateral hysterectomies	Population management; comprehensive population survey underway that will inform future decisions.
Predator-prey dynamic: biennial census of prey populations, assessment of lion-kill sites for diet profiling	Predator-prey dynamic: Biennial census of prey populations, opportunistic assessment of leopard-kill sites for diet profiling
Research topics: sample collection, GPS collaring, monitoring and tracking.	Research topics: opportunistic sample collection, in future GPS collar deployment, monitoring of known individuals opportunistically, maintenance of a complete database of individuals.

Future perspectives:
- ❖ A comprehensive survey with camera traps will also inform on hyenas.
- ❖ Drafting of compressive predator management plan starting.

Q & A

Thank you - Merci - Asante - Murakoze