

CHALLENGES, GAPS AND ON GOING INTERVENTIONS IN COMBATING BUSH MEAT IN KENYA.

PRESENTED TO THE JOINT MEETING OF
THE CBD BUSHMEAT LIASON GROUP
AND THE CITES CENTRAL AFRICA
BUSHMEAT WORKING GROUP
AT.....

*PRESENTED BY: Elema W.
SARU*

HEAD OF INVESTIGATION

6TH - 10TH JUNE, 2011



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

www.kws.go.ke

1. Introduction
2. Challenges faced in combating bush meat
3. On going interventions
4. Gaps and opportunities in combating bush meat
5. Conclusion



1.0 INTRODUCTION

www.kws.go.ke

- Kenya's wildlife resource is managed by Kenya Wildlife Service (a uniformed and disciplined organization).
- The mandate of KWS is to conserve and manage wildlife in Kenya and enforce the related laws and regulations.
- Wildlife conservation areas in Kenya covers approximately 8 per cent of the country's landmass and comprises of :-
 - ✓ 22 National Parks (30,348.29 Km²)
 - ✓ 28 National Reserves (16,478.40 Km²)
 - ✓ 4 National Sanctuaries (71.34 Km²)
 - ✓ 6 Marine National Reserves (706,000 Km²)
 - ✓ 4 Marine National Parks (70.09 Km²)
 - ✓ 125 wildlife stations outside the protected areas

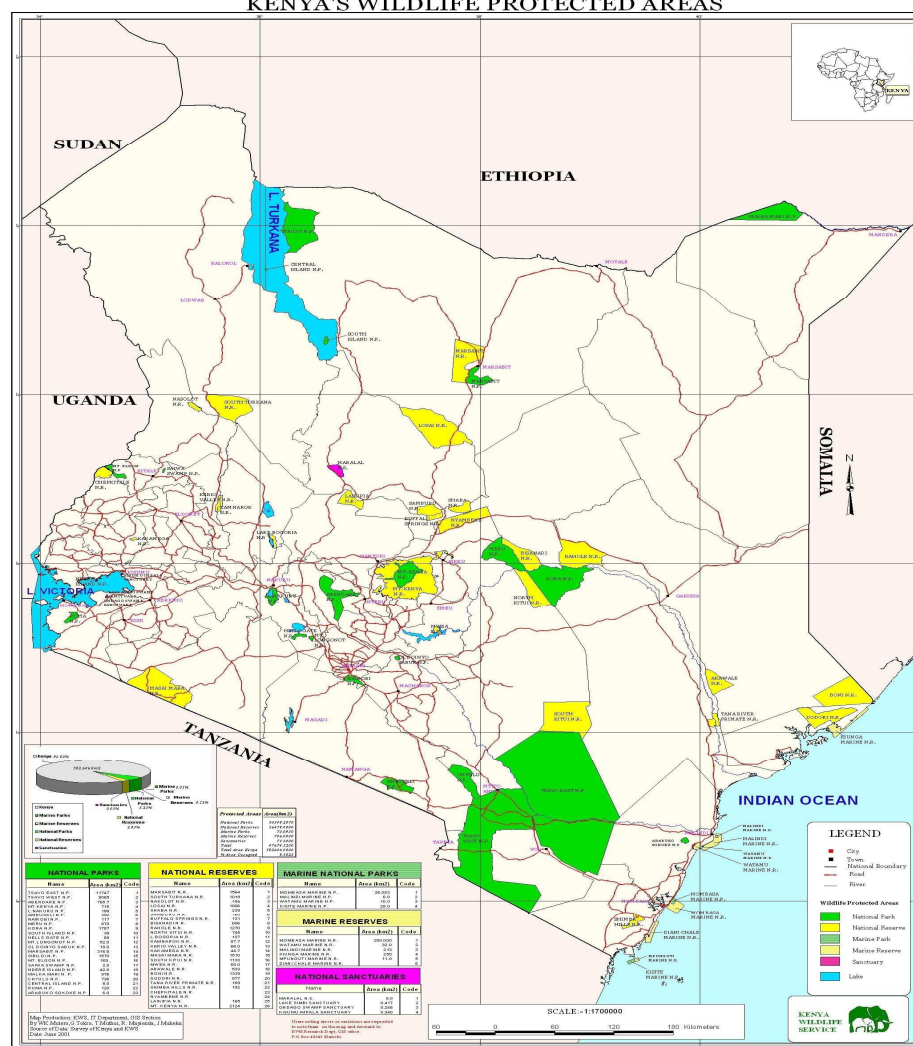


Introduction...cont'd

- Conservation experts have singled out bush meat as one of the most significant wildlife conservation and development issues facing communities across Africa
- Due to its complex nature no one solution will solve the problem completely
- In Kenya bush meat ranks second in number of suspects arrested for various wildlife offences. Annual recoveries exceed 20 tonnes
- The bush meat problem threatens the wildlife based community development which most often rely on the species most targeted for bush meat
- Poaching for bush meat is the predominant factor in the decline of wildlife number outside parks and reserves in Kenya – Kajiado, Machakos, Naivasha, Taita Ranches, Tana River, Lamu etc.



Kenya's Wildlife Protected Areas



2.0 ON GOING INTERVENTIONS IN COMBATING BUSH MEAT

www.wildlife.go.ke

- **Anti poaching patrols – carried out on a day to day basis by overt teams. Operations may be based on information or intention to dominate an area perceived to be affected.**
- **Investigations – since 2002 specific units have been established in most affected regions. Teams operate covertly and target individuals and markets.**
- **Cross border operations – one of the issues addressed is bush meat**



On Going Interventions.. Cont'd..

- **Bush meat operations** – ad hoc measure which is mounted during crisis seasons (drought, long holiday) to rid affected areas of the menace. Involves a lot of logistics and resources and cannot therefore be undertaken continuously.
- **Intelligence collection** – to inform management of current situation for further action. Bush meat poaching has also been undertaken by organized gangs which are better handled through intelligence
- **Desnaring operations** – jointly undertaken with stakeholders (YFC, David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, British Army etc). Long time collaboration with DWST has led to massive removal of snares targeted at wildlife



On Going Interventions.. Cont'd..

www.kws.go.ke

- Forensic testing – for prosecution purposes samples are taken to Government Chemist.
- Sensitization workshops – targeted at enlightening stakeholders on gravity of bush meat on conservation and economy. Groups targeted include judiciary, customs, police, Airport/Seaport Authorities, Provincial administration etc.
- Collaboration with other government departments – Veterinary dept, provincial administration, Customs, Police, entry/exit points Agencies etc. to play a role in combating bush meat.
- Performance contracting – all wardens being rated on measures undertaken to control bush meat



2.1 Interventions - Pictorial

www.kws.go.ke



Pictorial...cont'd..

www.kws.go.ke

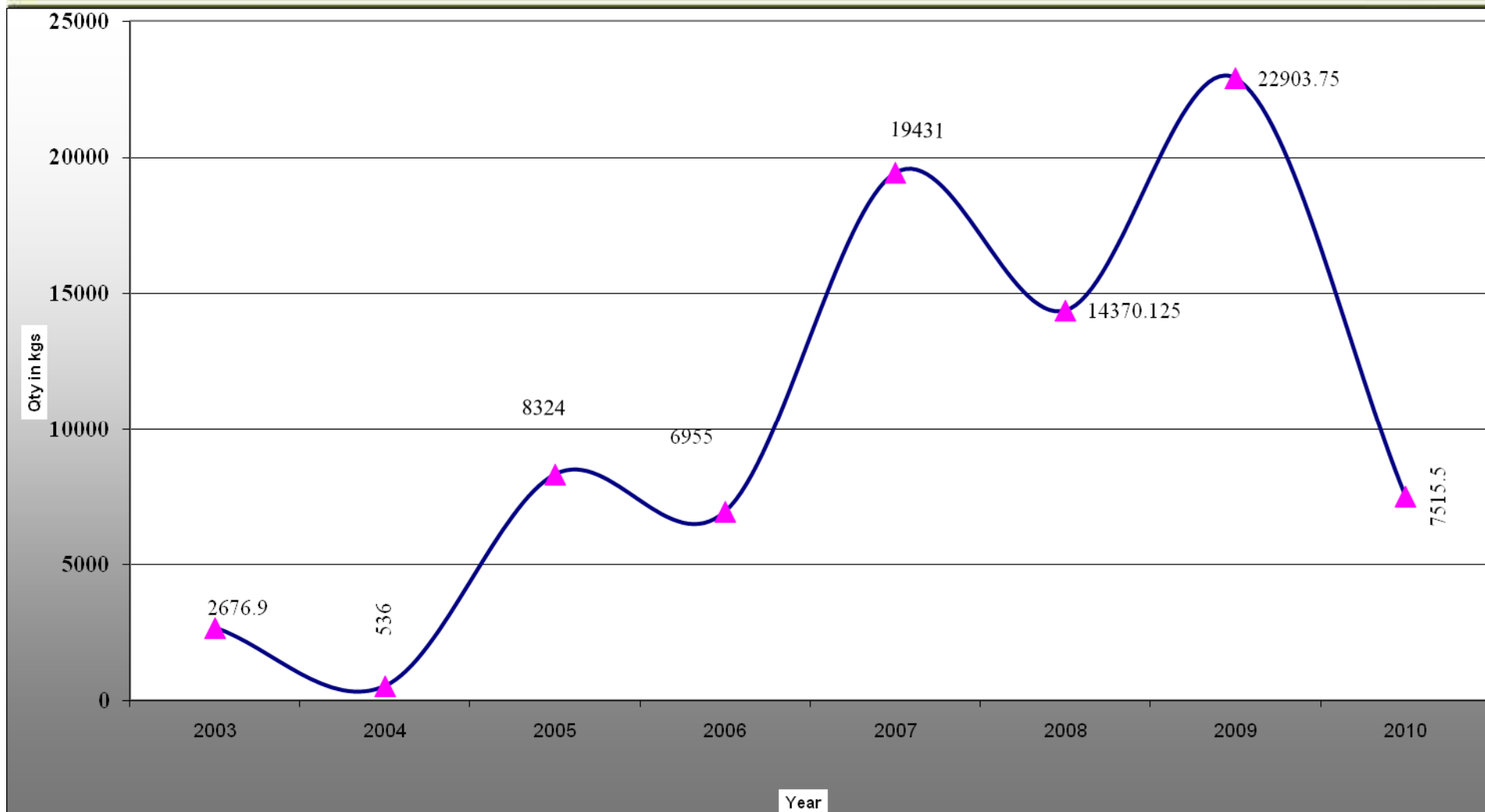


KENYA
WILDLIFE
SERVICE

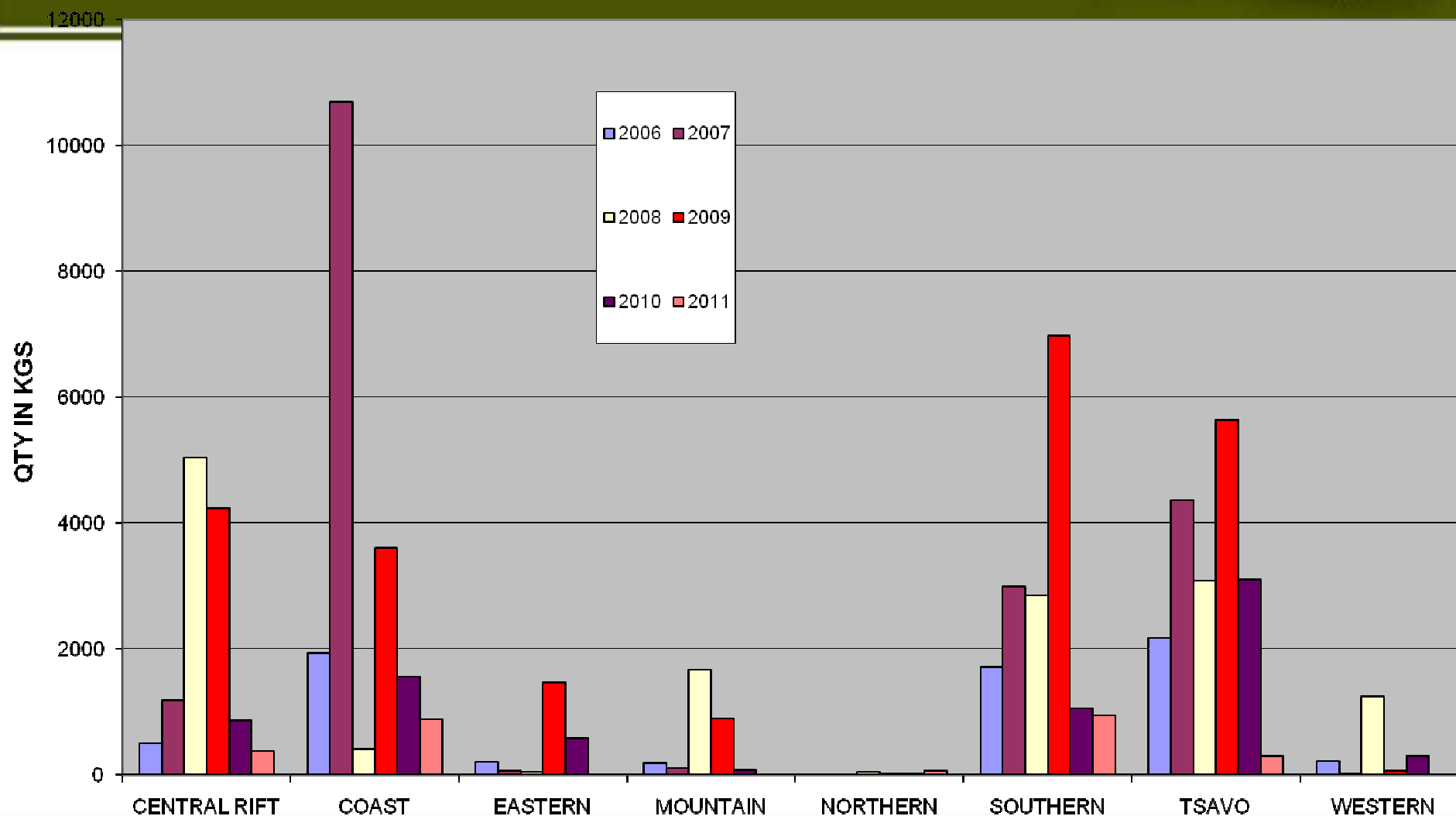


Bush Meat Recoveries

www.kws.go.ke



Bush meat Recoveries by Conservation Areas



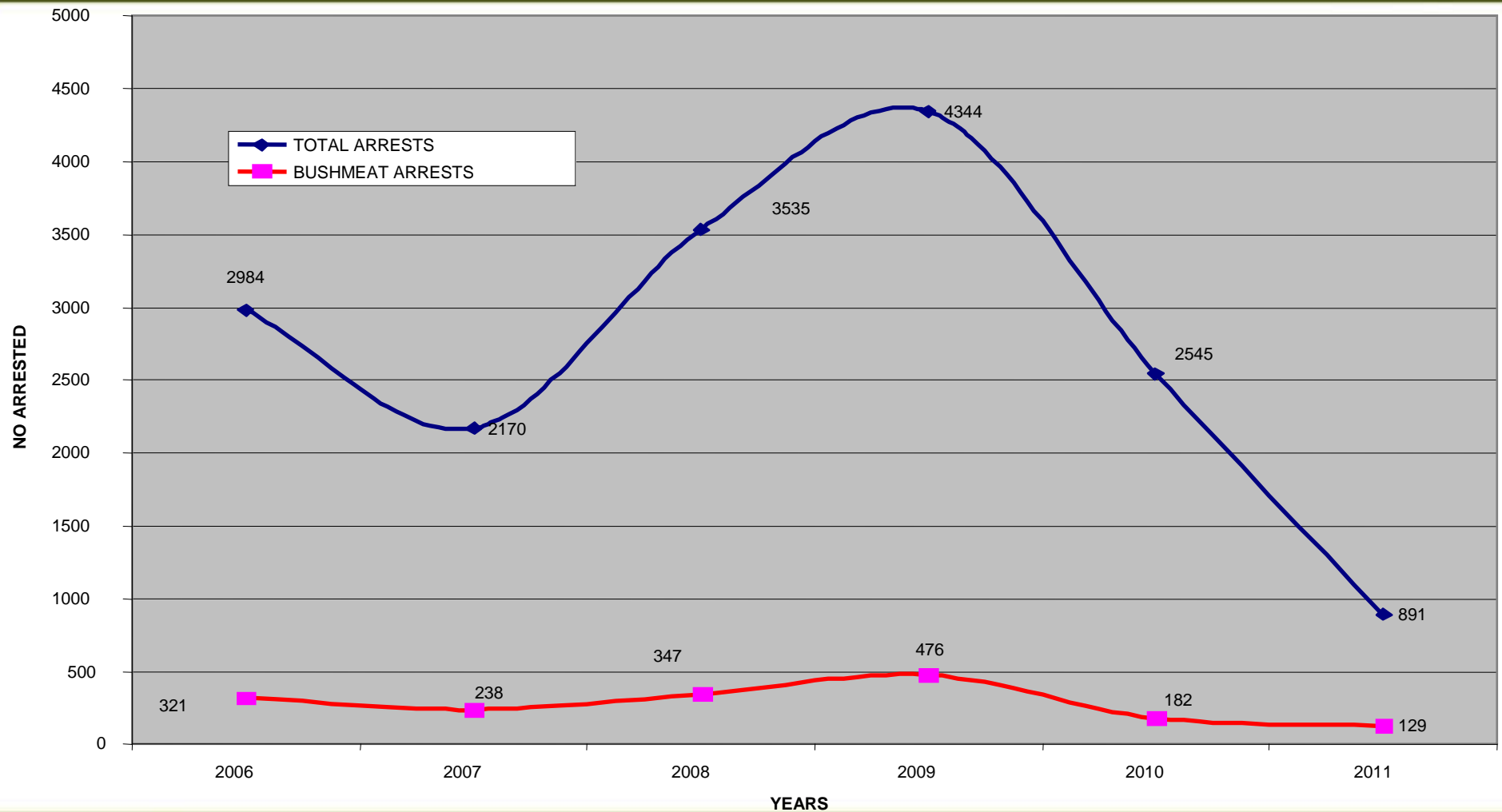
CONSERVATION AREAS



KENYA
WILDLIFE
SERVICE

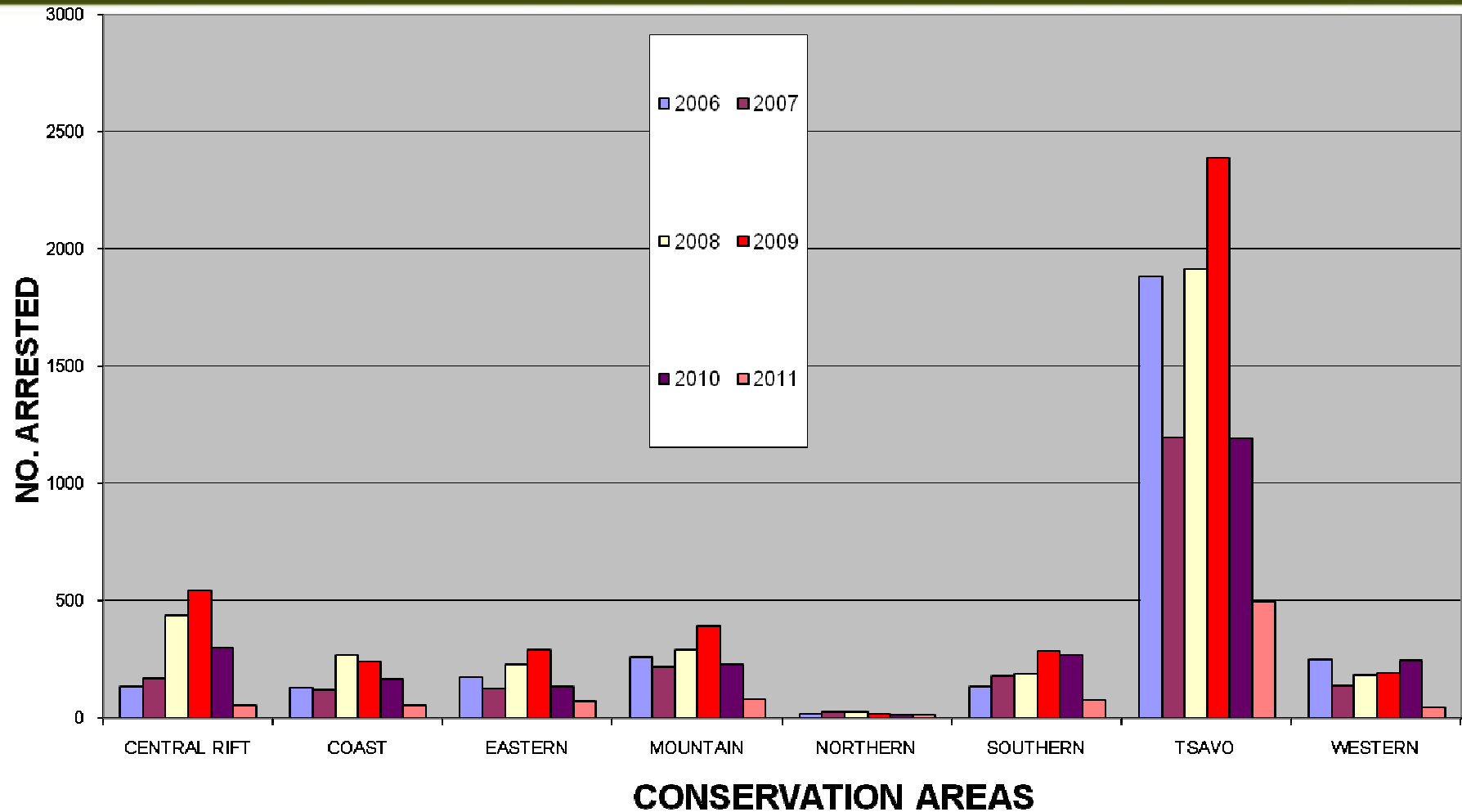


Bushmeat Poaching Arrests in relation to all Total Arrests



Bushmeat Arrests by Conservation Area

www.kws.go.ke



3.0 CHALLENGES FACED IN COMBATING BUSH MEAT

www.kws.go.ke

- Demographic changes (rapid human population increase) – coupled with increasing poverty levels makes more people to rely on bush meat
- Weak wildlife policy and legislation
- Low priority ratings (by the police and courts of law) for environmental crimes.
- Conflicting policies governing related sectors – land, water, agriculture, livestock development, etc. Sub division of land making more animals prone to poaching. Resettlement of IDPs and squatters a challenge to wildlife security.



Challenges... cont'd..

www.kws.go.ke

- Insecurity especially banditry activities in several remote areas and access roads to wildlife areas. Makes it difficult to control bush meat.
- Proliferation of small arms in the region (accelerates poaching and banditry activities). Some gangs survive on bush meat while in the bush.
- Worsening of causal factors – drought, famine, poverty, human wildlife conflicts are getting worse by the day implying that more population resorts to bush meat for protein or abets it due to negative perception arising from human wildlife conflict.
- Conflicting policies and legislation regarding the conservation and management of shared wildlife resources between neighboring states. Bush meat is allowed in some countries and totally banned in Kenya.



Challenges... cont'd..

www.kws.go.ke

- Lack of awareness by other law enforcement personnel – albeit the sensitizations some officers are not conversant with the legal and administrative matters relating to bush meat.
- Forensic analysis – there is no test that can identify bush meat for prosecution purposes. Government Chemist only eliminates sample from selected domestic species. Immuno diffusion methods earlier jointly undertaken by KWS, UoN and Traffic failed.
- Changes in culture and believes - Bush meat now is rampant in non- traditional areas such as Garissa, Tana River and by non hunter/ gatherer communities e.g Masaai
- Inadequate budgetary allocations for law enforcement.



4.0 OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASED CONTROL OF BUSH MEAT

www.kws.go.ke

- Non -consumptive utilization opportunities – establishment of community based enterprises now a viable option in Kenya. E.g. Machakos ranches would have formed a good tourism attraction site
- Pending Wildlife Policy and Bill provide for user rights
- Kenya's Vision 2030 provides opportunity for harnessing government goodwill
- Enhanced collaboration nationally, regionally and internationally



5.0 CONCLUSION

www.kws.go.ke



Networking and collaboration among law enforcement agencies at the local, regional and international level is very critical to successful enforcement against bushmeat poaching.



www.kws.go.ke

THANK YOU



**KENYA
WILDLIFE
SERVICE**

