

# **Panthera's role in large carnivore conservation, with a special focus on lion conservation in West and Central Africa**



**Philipp Henschel, PhD, PANTHERA**  
**Lion Conservation Program, Survey Coordinator**

# Facts about PANTHERA

- “ Founded in 2006, with its main seat in New York City
- “ Our mission is to conserve the world's 36 species of wild cats
- “ Current focus on range-wide conservation strategies on the world's largest, most imperiled cats . **tigers, jaguars, snow leopards, and lions**
- “ Next priority is the planning of conservation strategies for cheetahs, leopards and mountain lions
- “ For more information, please visit **[www.panthera.org](http://www.panthera.org)**



# Species Programs Ë Jaguars

Panthera works in 13 of the 18 jaguar range state

“ Main initiatives:

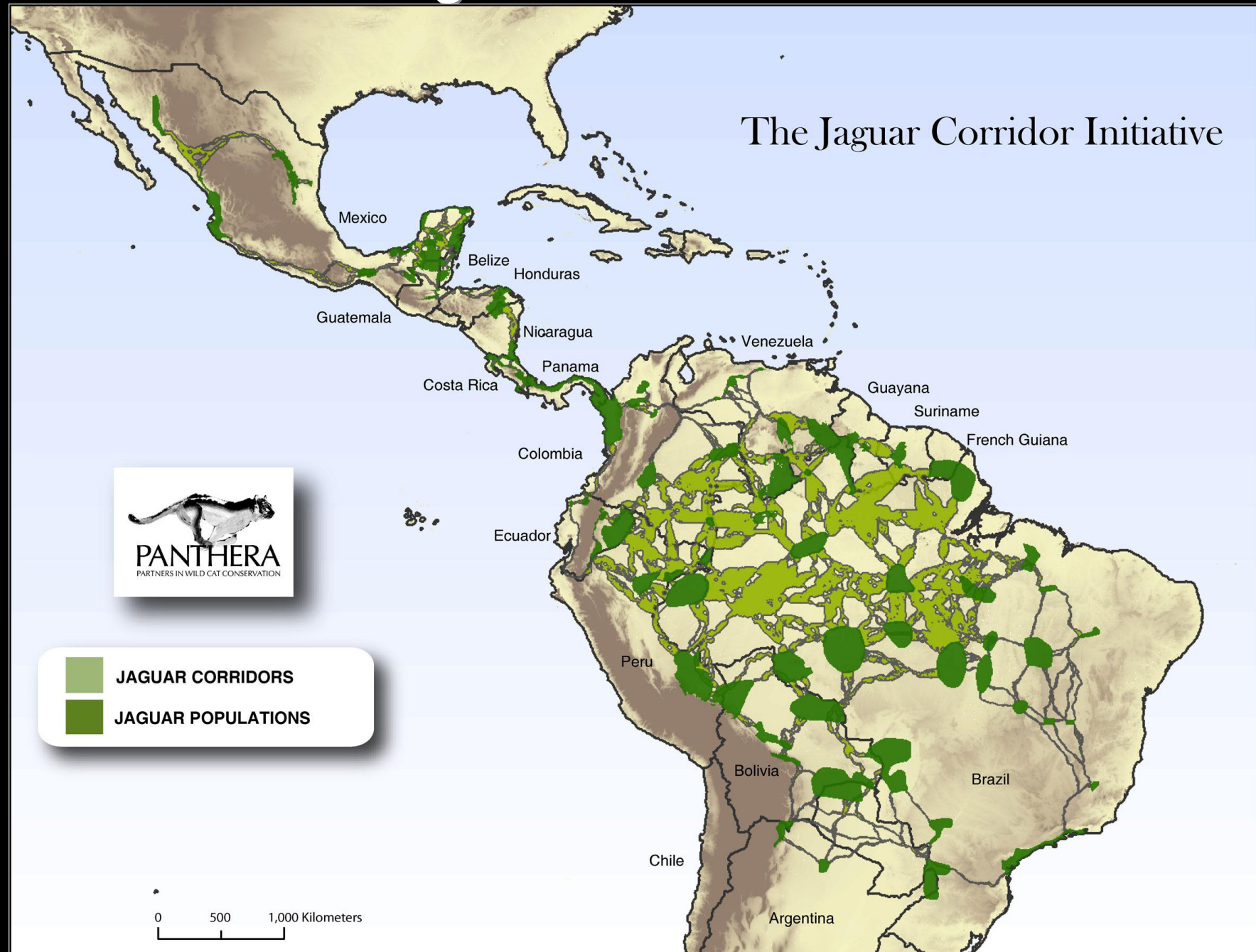
“ Pantanal Jaguar Project

“ Jaguar Corridor Initiative





# The Jaguar Corridor Initiative





# Species Programs – Tigers

- ” Main initiatives:
  - ” Tigers Forever
  - ” Tiger Corridor Initiative





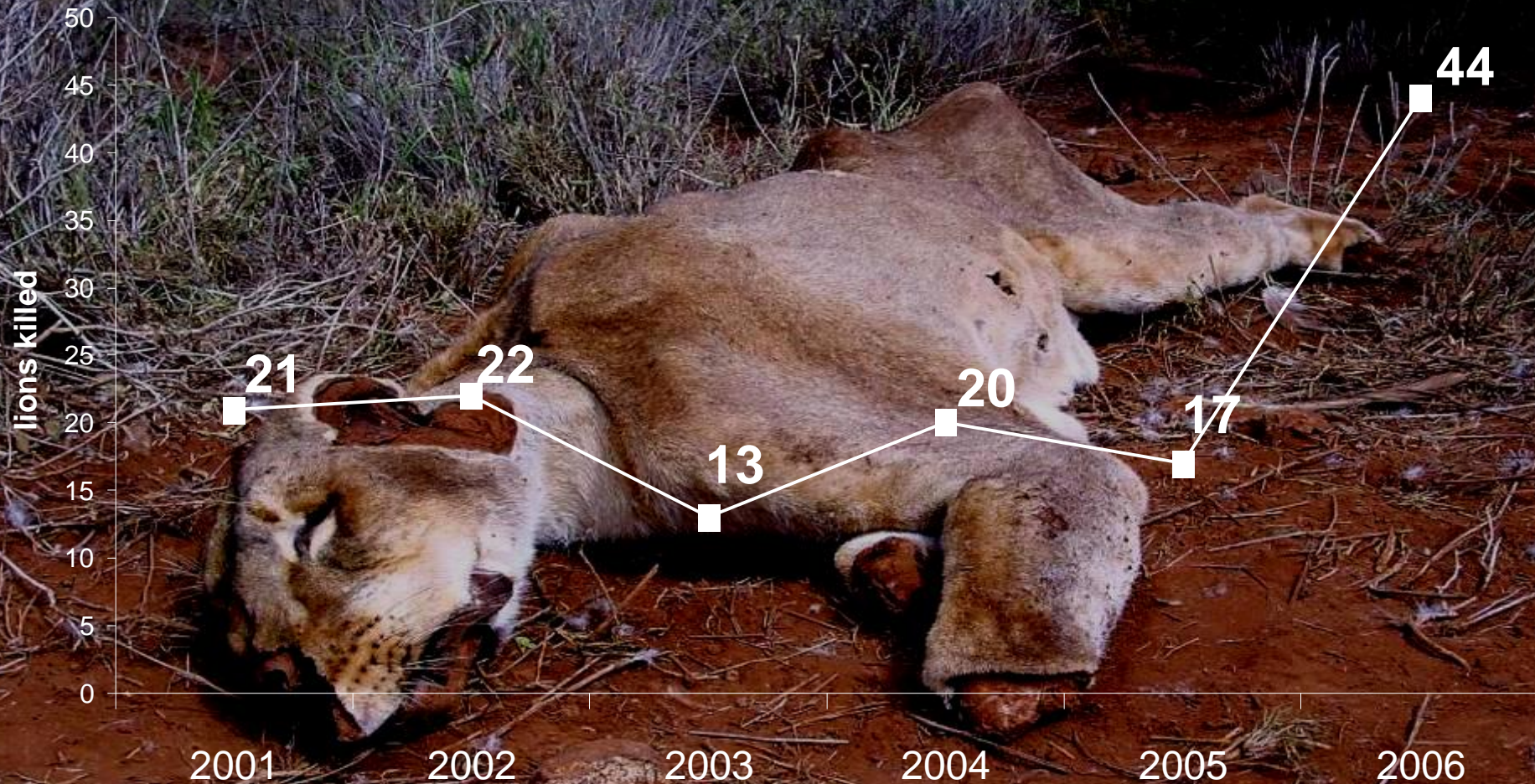
# Species Programs È Lions

- ” Main initiatives:
  - ” Lion Guardians
  - ” Setting Standards for Sustainable Harvest
  - ” Lion Survey Program



# Lion Program Ì Lion Guardians

Lions killed on all group ranches within the Amboseli-Tsavo Ecosystem



Data: L Frank et al



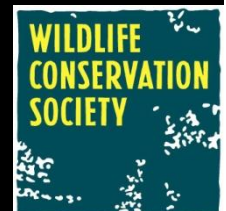
# Lion Program Ì Lion Guardians

- “ Why do people kill lions in Masailand?
  - “ Masai warriors traditionally hunt lions
  - “ Retaliation for depredation on livestock
  - “ Availability of cheap effective poison



Poisoned lioness, Kenya

© Seamus MacLennan





# Lion Program Ë Lion Guardians

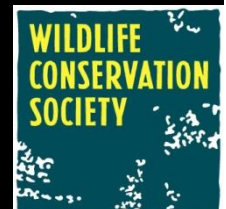




# Lion Program Ë Lion Guardians

## Approach:

### 1. Monitor lions daily

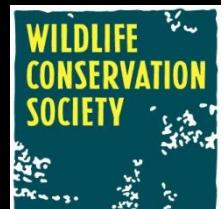




# Lion Program Ë Lion Guardians

## Approach:

### 2. Assisting their community

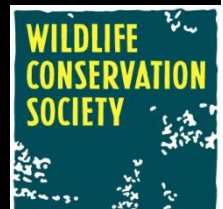




# Lion Program Ë Lion Guardians
















## Progress:

- “ 9 guardians hired on Mbirikani in high conflict areas
- “ October 2006 ffwds: no lions killed on MGR while over 16 killed on a neighbouring group ranch





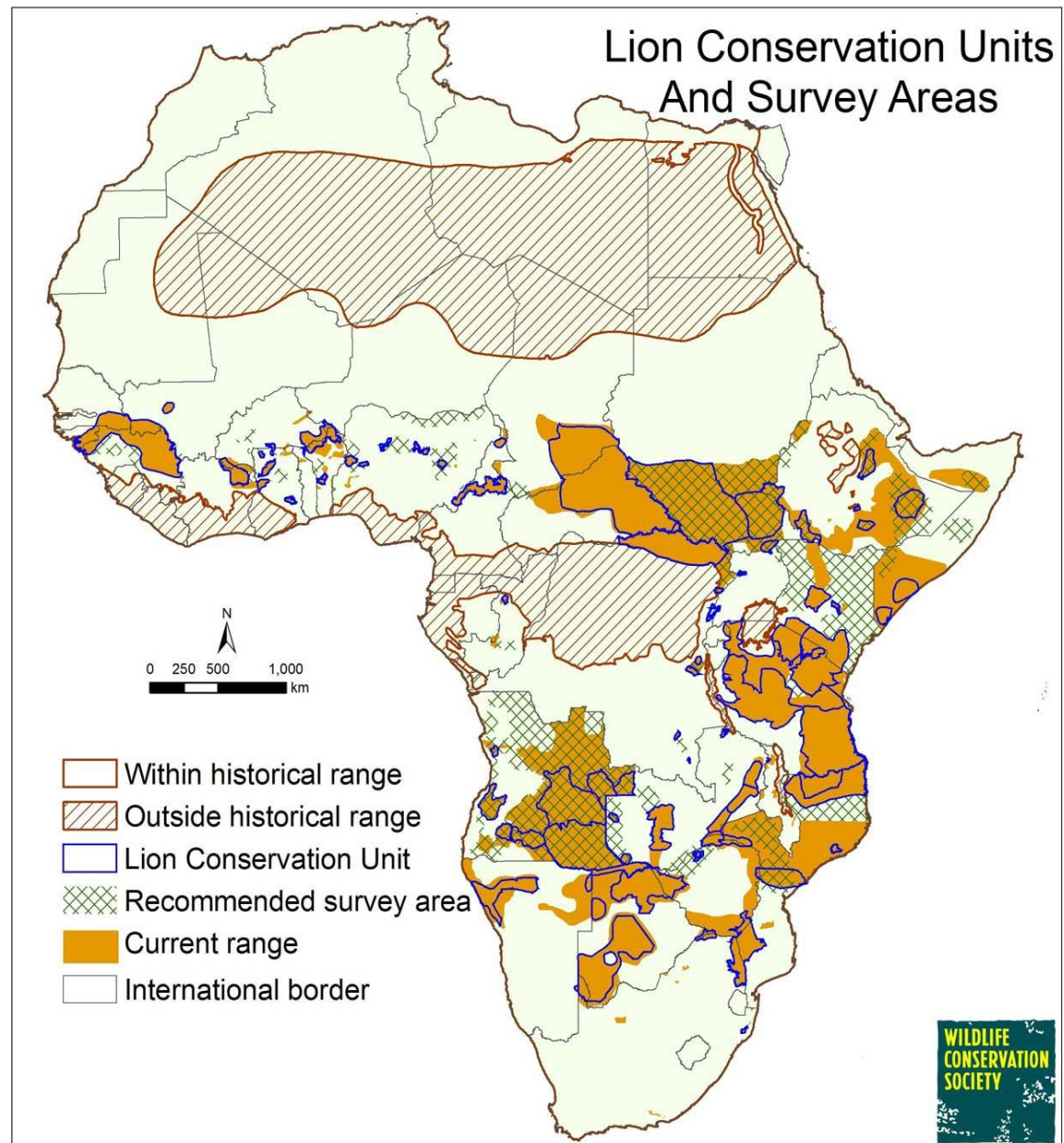
# Lion Program – Sustainable Harvest

a) LI-L8-01-07 	 5-9 yrs		
b) LI-L2-01-07 	 >9 Yrs	 >8 yrs (poor image)	
c) LI-L7-01-07 	TEETH PICTURE NOT YET FILED  5-9 yrs	 5-8 yrs	
d) LI-R1-02-07 	 7-9 yrs	 5-8 yrs	

From: Begg, C. & Begg, K. (2008) Trophy Monitoring of lion and leopard trophies in Niassa National Reserve, Mozambique: 2007 Hunting Season. SRN, Moçambique

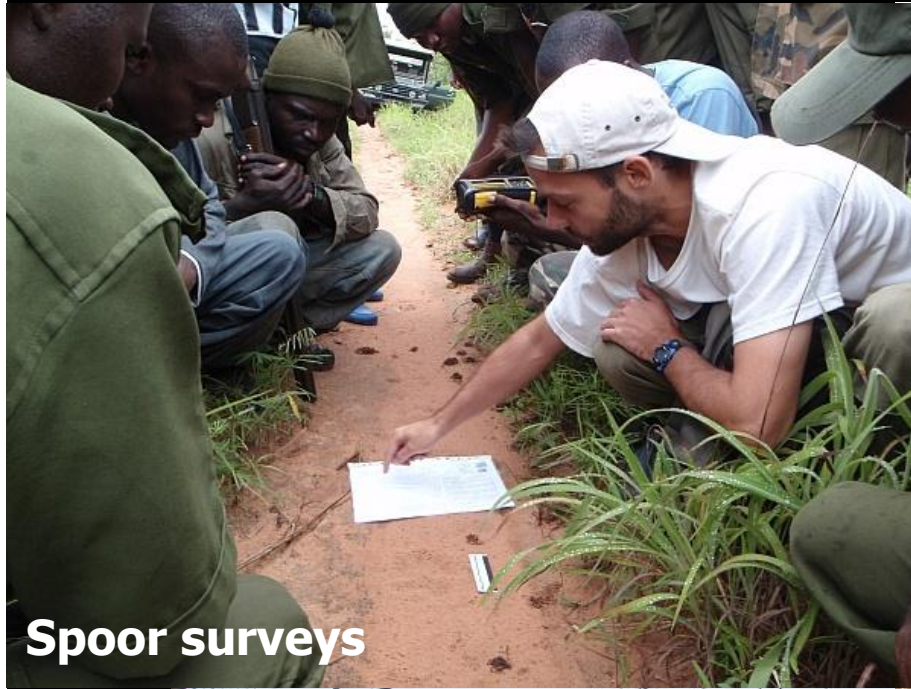
# Lion Program Field Surveys

"Chad  
"Côte d'Ivoire  
"D.R. Congo  
"Gabon  
"Ghana  
"Nigeria  
"Rep. of Congo  
"Uganda  
"Tanzania  
"Senegal

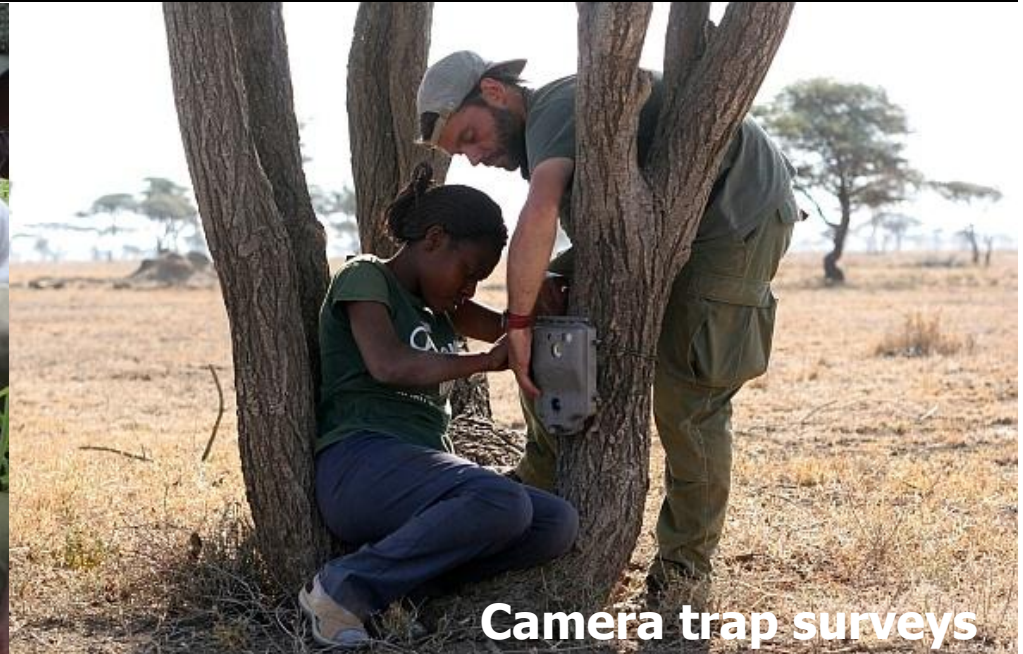




# Lion Field Surveys & Methods



**Spoor surveys**



**Camera trap surveys**

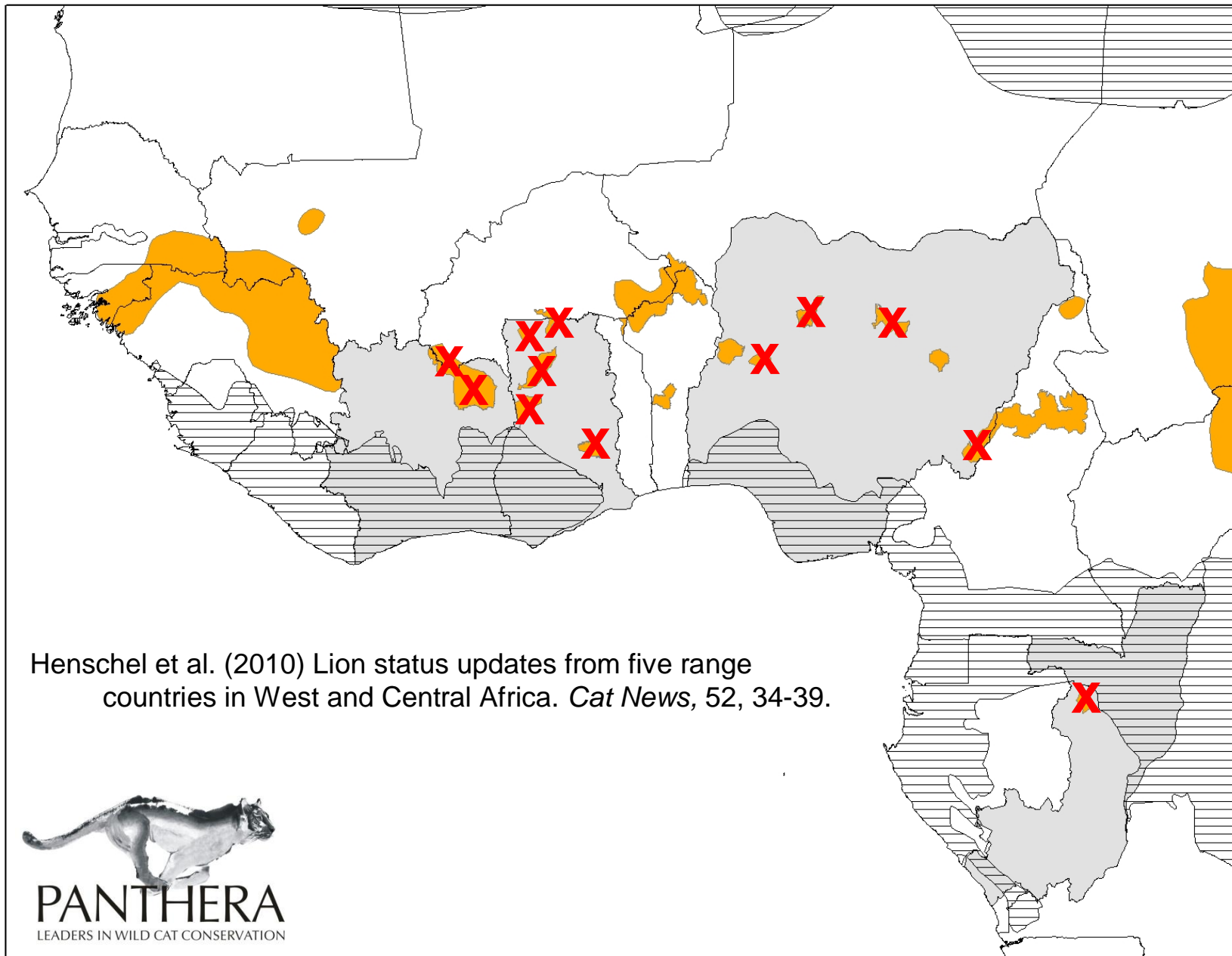


**Call-up surveys**



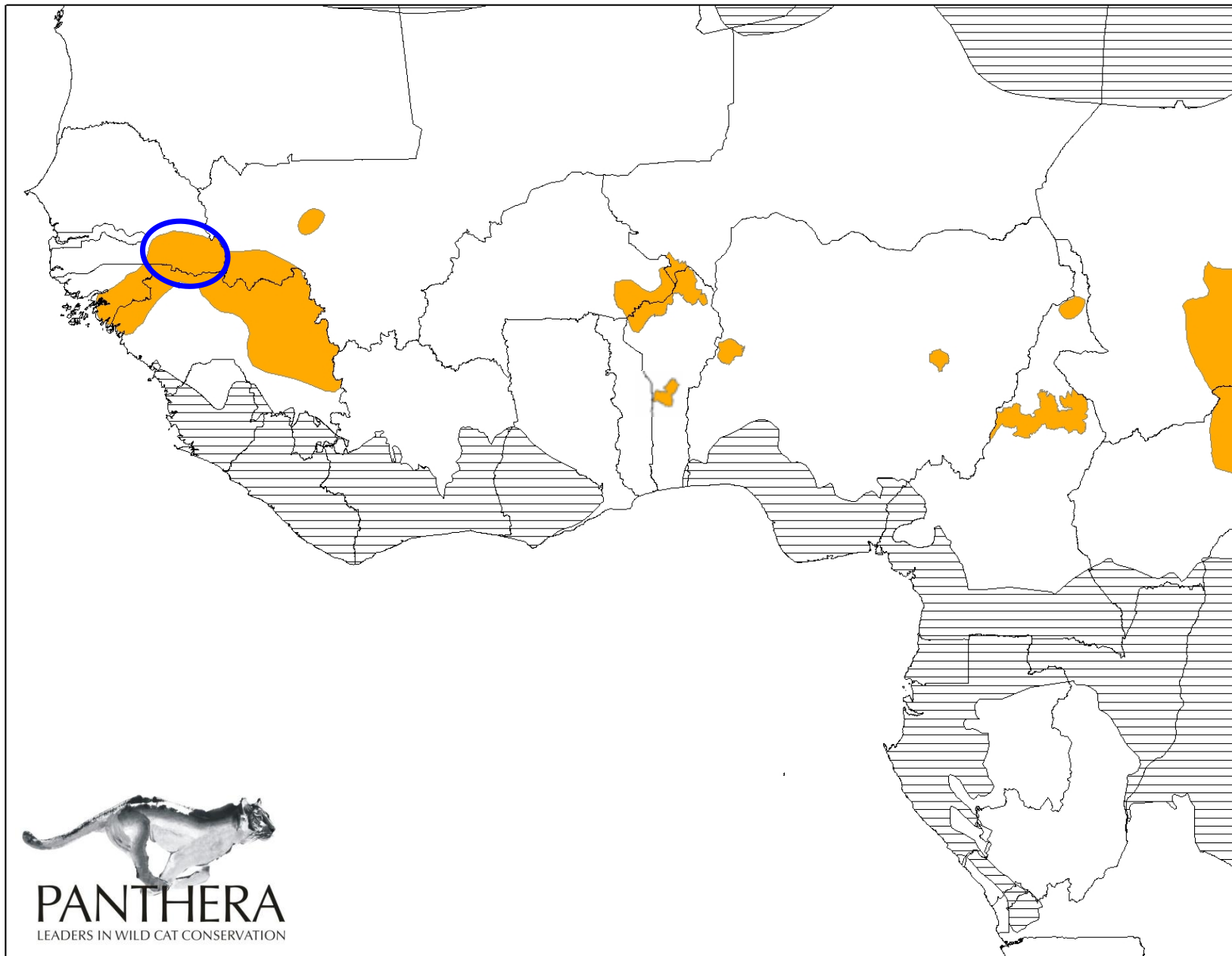
**Genetic surveys**

# Lion Field Surveys in W/C Africa





# Lion Field Surveys in W/C Africa



# Lion Program – Next steps for W/C Africa

- “ Conduct further lion field surveys in areas lacking rigorous survey work
- “ Identify regional priority areas for lion conservation
- “ Assist local authorities and other partners in the monitoring of those populations, where required
- “ Apply lessons learned from the Lion Guardian and/or Sustainable Harvest Programs to these populations, to strengthen them





# Thank you



© Luke Hunter/Panthera