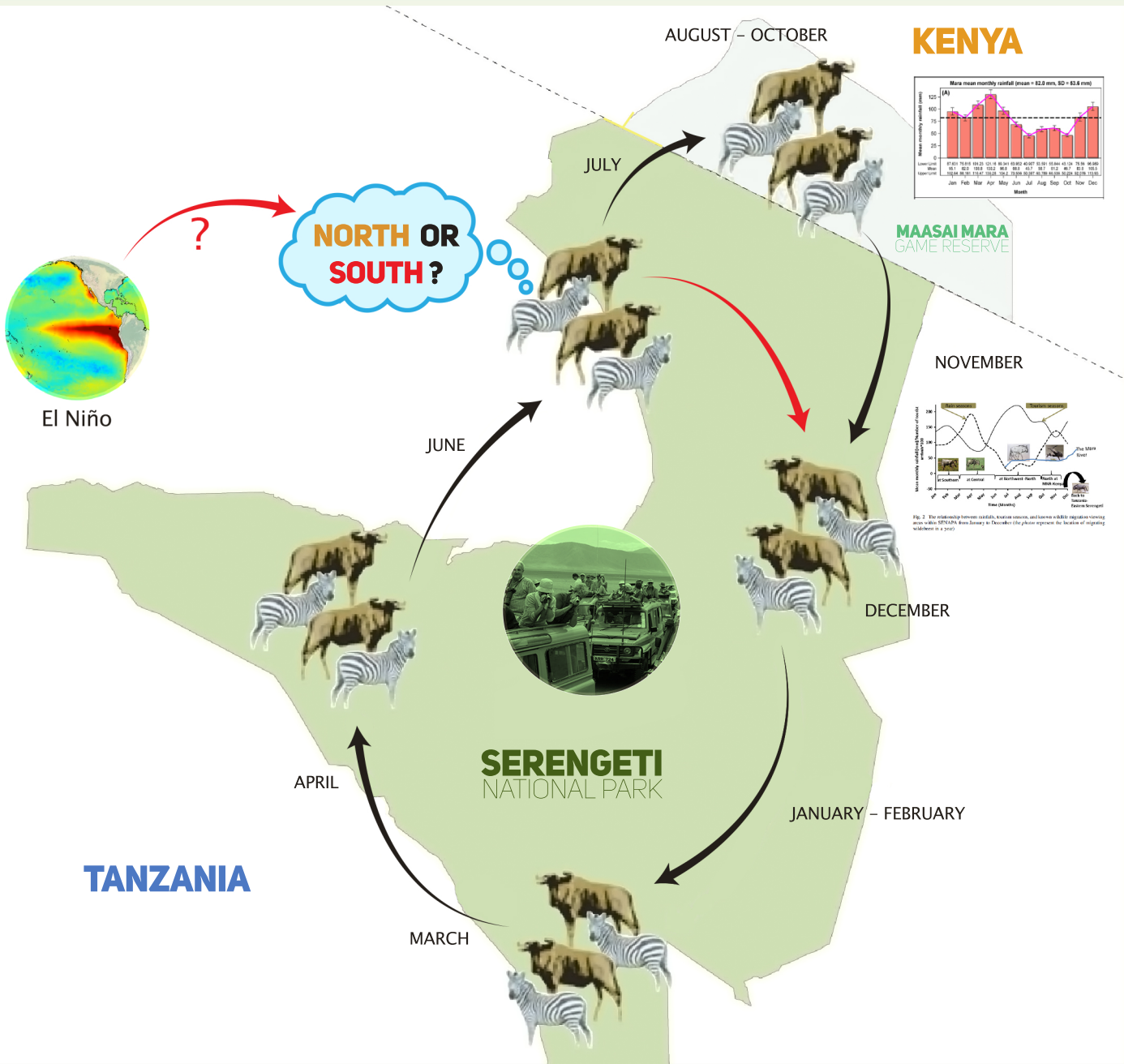


WILDEBEEST TOURISM: SIX DIALOGS



MARCH 6, 2019 9-10AM, 1-2PM, 4-5PM EST

WILDEBEEST FORUM: HISTORY OF THE MIGRATION

>>> [SIGN UP HERE](#) <<<

Entrepreneurs, Indigenous Peoples, Scientists, Tourism Operators,
Government Departments, NGO's, Landowners, Industry, Foundations

1 History of Migration

2 Population Up/Down

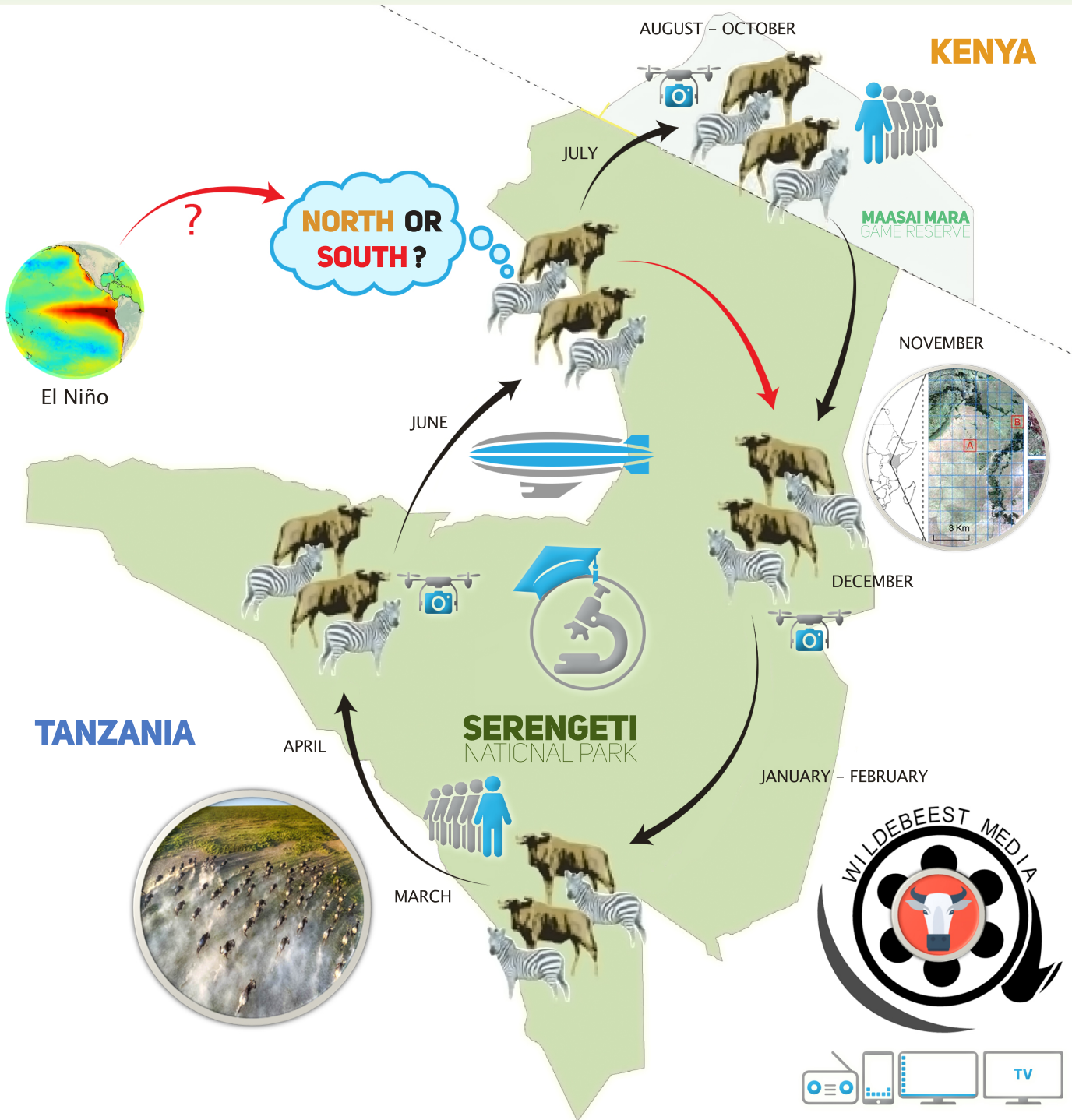
3 Climate & Food

4 Tourism Flows

5 View From the Mara & Serengeti

6 Solutions Prediction

WILDEBEEST TOURISM: RESULTS FROM THE INITIAL WG



RESULTS FROM THE INITIAL WILDEBEEST MIGRATION MEETING

① **Establish An International Media Consortium.** The WM is one of the last great migrations on the planet. While the WM is well known it is not widely accessible to those outside of the actual migration route. We propose to establish a WM Media Consortium (Wildebeest Media) to bring the migration in all forms to the world. All content will be syndicated. Revenues administered by a non-profit will be used exclusively for conservation of the migration. We seek film makers, interactive social media creators and writers to bring the full WM experience to radio, TV and social media worldwide.

② **Real-Time WM Aerial Footage & Sounds.** The first step in creating media is to develop, fund and implement aerial footage of the complete migration event every year. We seek collaborators and funders to establish automated drone platforms along the WM route, high spatial and temporal satellite imagery and other approaches to document the WM in real-time every year, including ground sensors to record the sounds at the surface that are unique to the WM.

③ **Develop Less Invasive Tourist WM Viewing Options.** We seek collaborators and funders to develop and commercialize less invasive WM viewing options for tourists along the actual migration route. Ideas include restricting proximity zones to select corridors with temporary bleachers, viewing pavilions featuring aerial imagery and inflatable dirigibles. Standard and premium pricing for viewing options along the WM corridor could increase and expand revenue for all stakeholders.

④ **Establish Paid Fellowship Opportunities.** Paid Fellowships will attract students, Indigenous Leaders and professionals from diverse backgrounds to explore the WM conservation issues and solutions. The Fellowships emphasize the importance of conservation efforts now, ensuring that future generations will benefit from the WM majesty, grandeur and natural wonder.

ARCHAEOLOGY TRACKING IPCC + MODELS

10-20-30

WON

1000-100

This White Paper summarizes data documenting what we know about the origins of the WM from the fossil record to historic times to the contemporary context. The summary will include environmental and anthropogenic factors that appear to have influenced the magnitude and the cyclic march of the Wildebeest. A graphical summary will be provided for public dissemination.

- The wildebeest migration (WM) is an iconic and palpable demonstration of a living, moving, and breathing ecosystem that wraps itself around everything it encounters. We hear much about climate change and the effects of human activity on nature. It is often difficult to untangle the two—the WM is unique and is threatened. How can we understand the WM and its vulnerability to both climate change and human activity? Can we develop actionable and cost-effective solutions to preserve the WM for future generations while sustaining economies in the region? These are questions we will consider in this WG and white papers. White paper themes are briefly described below.
- ① History—What do we know about the WM from the late Holocene (~1,000 years ago) to present? synthesis of data (e.g., archaeological, historical, academic) connecting the past with the present will improve our perspectives on the future. Highlights of Indigenous and academic knowledge will be summarized.
- ② Population & Movement—The number of wildebeest participating in migrations have clearly varied in the past associated with drought and recovery in recent years. What can we expect in the coming decades based on the current trends (~1900 to present)? Wildebeest population data will be synthesized on a single timeline. How could drone and related tracking technology be expanded to characterize the WM each year? What is the role of physiological studies of the WM in understanding health of the wildebeest?
- ③ Climate Change & Food—Changing climate conditions are closely tied to grassland ecology and drives the WM at multiple levels. For example, we can explore the effects of changing climate on water resources in Kenya (e.g., Mara River) and in Tanzania (past, present, future). El Nino conditions may result in changing patterns of rainfall—can we gain insight into potential changes and their impact on the northern extent of the migration? This white paper could combine climate and ecological models with wildebeest population data and models.
- ④ Tourism—The sheer majesty, grandeur, and drama of the WM are compelling to tourists who have trekked from around the globe in increasing numbers to stand next to and all but touch the WM. But what is the impact of these interactions on wildebeest individuals and on the migration? Compelling evidence suggests that human activity damages the WM. How can the WM be promoted as tourism yet sustain this natural wonder? Can existing and new corridors be combined to let the WM run free? How can media bring the WM to global audiences providing revenue for conservation and protection of the WM? Climate change and human activity converge on the WM—what will this convergence look like in 10, 20 or 30 years?
- ⑤ Mara & Serengeti Perspectives—Both regions host the wildebeest during specific and critical times of the year, but are these patterns subject to change? How can the twin regions ensure that corridors are fully open and unobstructed for the WM? How can the Mara River catchment area be protected from deforestation and reduced water supply to the Mara and Serengeti regions? What do climate models for the two regions tell us about rainfall patterns in the coming decades?
- ⑥ Solutions & Predictions—Given what we have learned from the five preceding efforts, what solutions are practical, achievable and inclusive of all stakeholders? This white paper offers evaluation of ideas proposed by all participants and will summarize the meeting results.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is the purpose of this working group?**
 - *The purpose of this working group is to offer all stakeholders and interested parties an open and unbiased platform to discuss conservation issues related to the wildebeest migration.*
- **Why are Planet Alpha and Friends of Maasai Forests undertaking this activity?**
 - *We are doing our part to help conserve one of the true biological and ecological wonders on the planet. We worry about the world of nature that we are leaving to future generations. We want to bring others into this dialog of how to preserve nature in balance with the needs of humanity. We understand that experts agree that the WM is under threat.*
- **What is a zoom meeting and how do I join?**
 - *A zoom meeting is an online cloud-hosted meeting that is effective in joining together many individuals. You can join a zoom meeting from your mobile phone, iPad, laptop or desktop. Click here for a brief introduction on how to join.*
- **Are there any sponsors for these activities representing any specific group?**
 - *No.*
- **What is an open forum format?**
 - *The open forum format is simply an informal way of conducting meetings. There are no long presentations or lecture style meetings planned, although persons with material to present are welcome to propose presentations. We encourage discussions and interaction in the online forum.*
- **Who can participate in the forum?**
 - *Anyone can participate in the forums. Individuals, Indigenous Peoples, businesses, corporations, NGO's, foundations, educational programs and local to national level departments are all welcome*
- **What is a white paper and why are we using this format?**
 - *A white paper, as employed in this working group, is a brief (~4-8 pages) summary of facts and opinions focused on a specific topic offering specific solutions to a problem. We also use this format to engage participants with diverse backgrounds. We promote inclusiveness and recognition of all views and expressions in the white papers. The format of a typical white paper can be found here.*
- **Who can author a white paper? How many white papers can be written for a specific topic?**
 - *Anyone can author or coauthor a white paper. Multiple white papers for a specific topic are encouraged.*
- **Is funding associated with this activity or is there a promise of funding?**
 - *We have not designated funding for any part of this activity or for any participant. We are not promising funds for any part of this activity or for any participant.*
- **Who will own the white papers produced and who will have access to the information?**
 - *Authors of white papers will own and take responsibility for their white papers. The white papers will be posted online and made freely available to the public. For example, white papers can be published here at no cost.*

DISCLAIMER: Planet Alpha nor Friends of Maasai Forests takes responsibility for the views and opinions expressed during the proposed activities or for any resulting report or commentary. All views and opinions expressed are the sole responsibility of the individuals involved.

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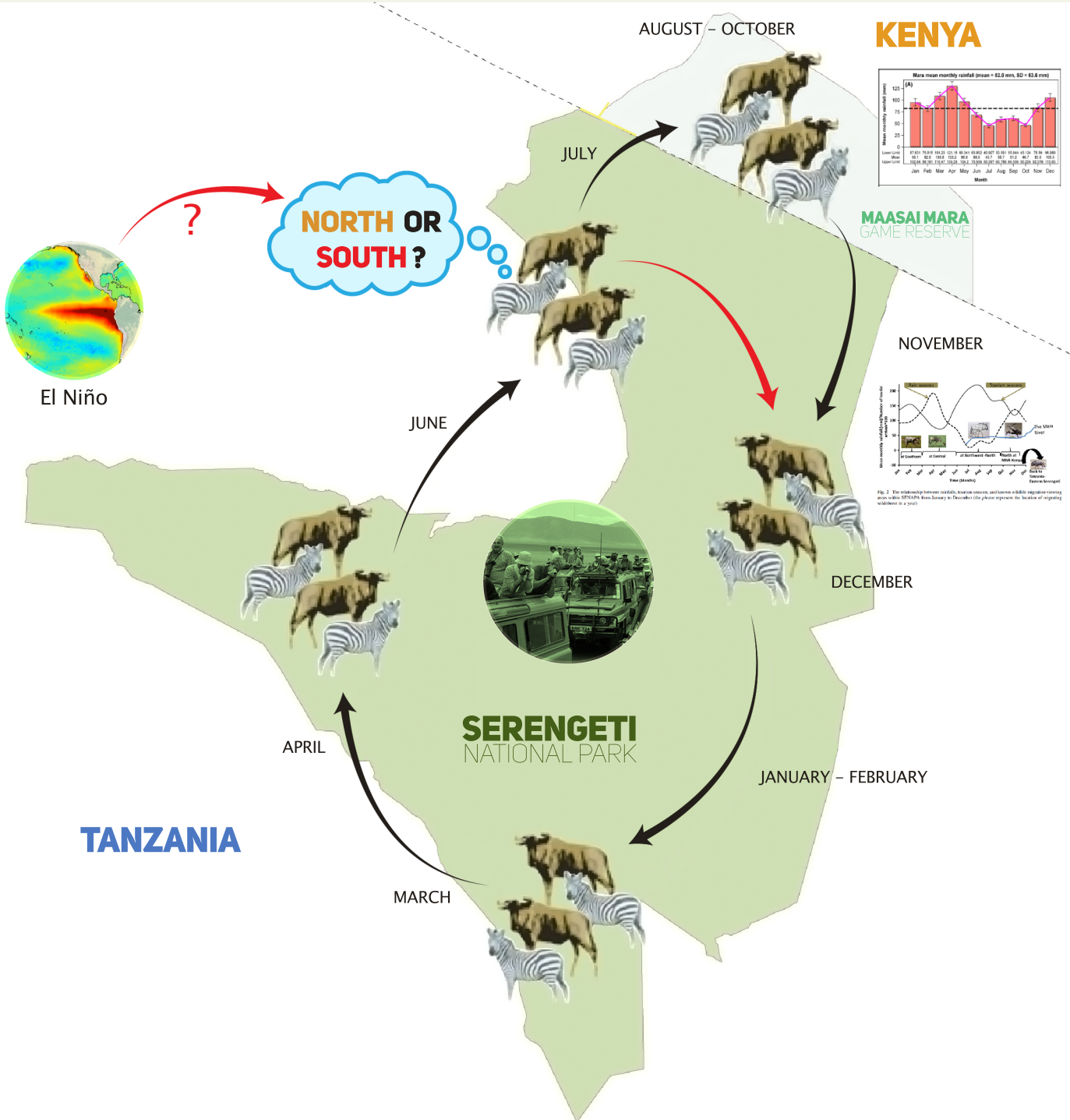
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Wildebeest Migration White Paper Themes & Context

- ① History
- ② Population
- ③ Climate Change & Food
- ④ Tourism
- ⑤ Regional Perspectives
- ⑥ Solutions & Predictions

