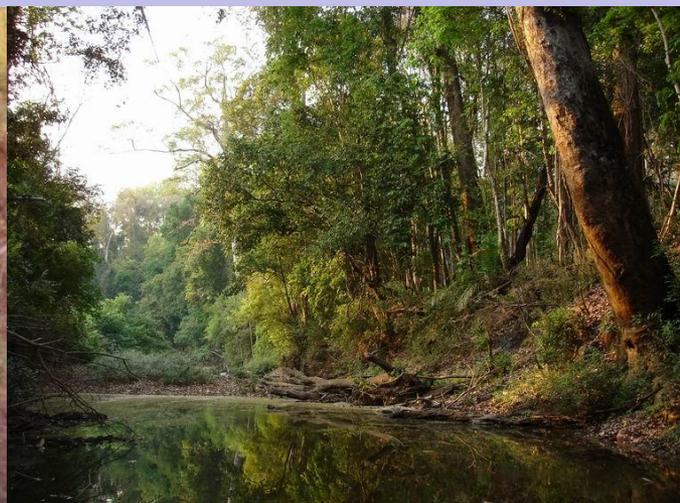




Social benefits linked to REDD+: WCS experiences in Cambodia

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Presented at the REDD+ Learning Exchange
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WCS REDD+ worldwide

All our work is embedded in national readiness processes



We address REDD at a subset of our global portfolio of landscapes where we can make significant contributions to the development of REDD national systems, and through these the global system.

REDD+ demonstration activities in 15 countries, funded by bilateral, multilateral and private donors

Founded on our long-term commitments and relationships in-country

Two flagship REDD+ national demonstration activities, both forest reserves declared for climate change mitigation goals:

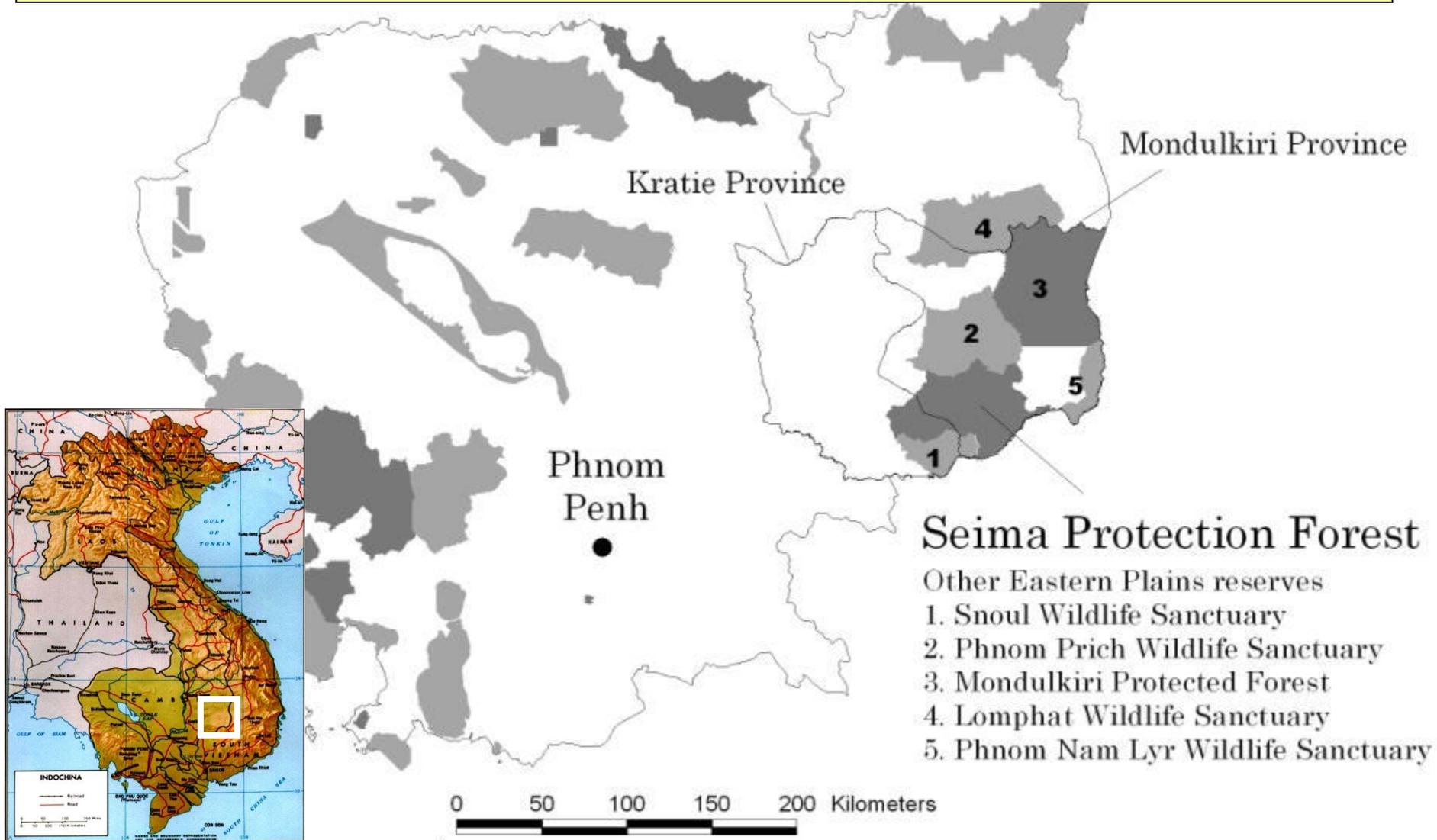
1. Makira, Madagascar (since 2002)
2. Seima Protected Forest, Cambodia (since 2009)

In-house REDD expertise:

- In-country scientists and conservationists at WCS landscapes
- Regional advisors across Africa and SE Asia
- Support from the core team in US/UK

The Seima area is a key part of Cambodia's Eastern Plains

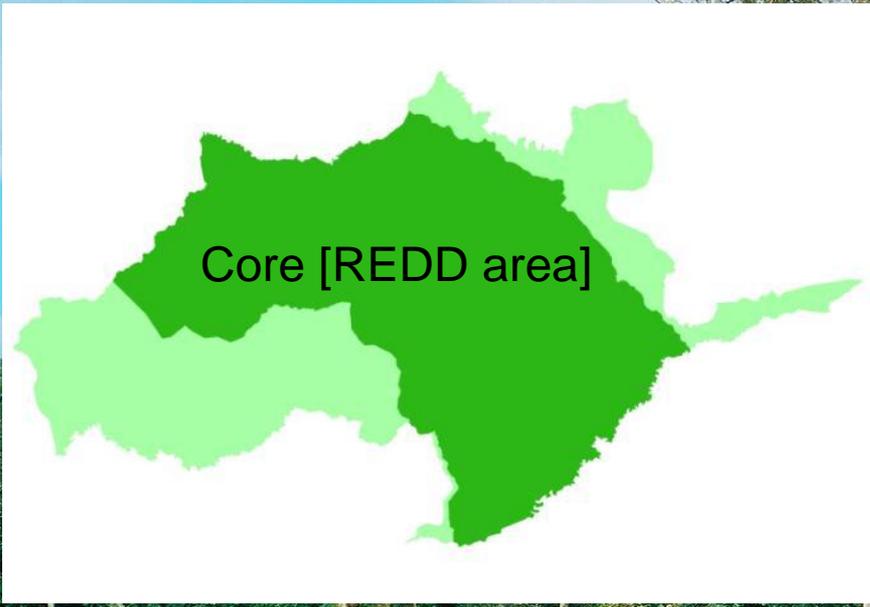
and site of a joint program between WCS and the Forestry Administration since 2001



Since 2008: Voluntary market project

Since 2010: National demonstration site

Cambodia's second REDD pilot site and the first in a conservation area
Informs development of the national system



Core [REDD area]

- The site was formerly production forest
- Seima Protection Forest created Aug. 2009
- Carbon sequestration is one of stated goals
- c.293,000 ha site
- REDD within c.187,000 ha Core Area
- Carbon rights mostly owned by govt.
- VCS and CCB validation underway

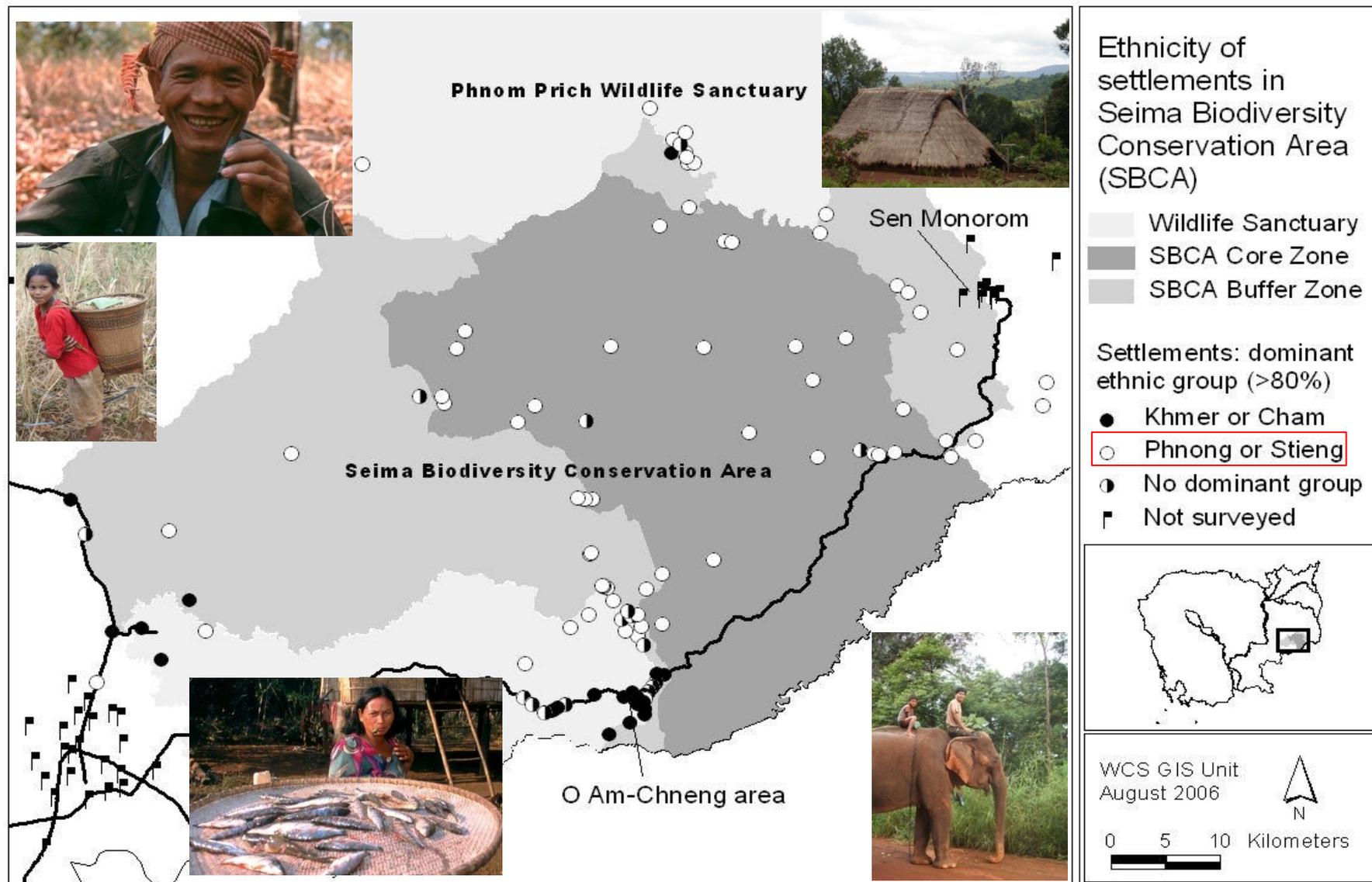
CCB criteria reinforce existing approaches to social issues e.g. :

- Forest/land rights are recognised and in most cases, enhanced
- Project design requires no involuntary relocations
- Net positive social impacts using qual. and quant. measures

The key communities are ethnic Bunong (Phnong)

20 villages are directly participating in the REDD project

About 13,000 people, 67% Bunong



Goal

A well-managed forest landscape that supports increasing wildlife populations and improving livelihoods for the people who currently live there.

Targets

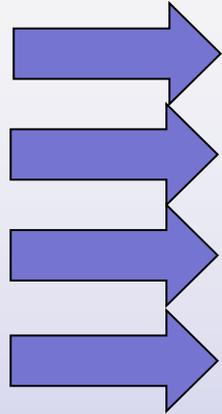
- *Maintain the variety, integrity and extent of all forest types*
- *Increase populations of wildlife of conservation concern*
- *Increase security and productivity of natural resources to support local livelihoods*
- *Ensure sufficient farmland to support the livelihoods of current residents.*

Key threats addressed by the project

relevant to both biodiversity and livelihoods

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| D I R E C T | Land converted to large scale plantations | Increasing loss to concessions |
| | Forest crime (clearance, logging, hunting etc) | Widespread over-harvesting /clearance |
| | Land alienation and legal conflict | Alienation, forced sales, uncertain tenure |
| | Limited agricultural productivity | Decline, stagnation or slow improvement |
| I N D I R E C T | Undefined borders and regulations for the SPF | Continuing weaknesses in protection |
| | Population movements | Continued high in-migration, increased competition; increased conflict |
| | Weak traditional institutions | Declining cohesion, lack of voice |
| | Lack of sustainable development opportunities | Dependence on few, often unsustainable livelihoods |
| | Climate change | Changes in wild-harvested resources and farming systems |

SPF management activities



1. Legal and planning frameworks
2. Law enforcement support
3. Community land and resource use
4. Livelihood development
5. Monitoring (social and ecological)
6. Administration
7. Financing (including REDD+)

Net social benefits will stem from

Improved security/productivity of forest resources/farmland
Increased **social capital** and **improved governance**
Income/education from **livelihood improvement projects**
[and **possibly other financial incentives** from C revenue]

Land security: Indigenous Communal Titles



- ✓ Secure legal tenure
- ✓ Agreed forest boundaries
- ✓ Zone regulations
- ✓ Framework for cooperation
- ✓ Builds social capital
- ✓ A REDD safeguard

The site is a national leader in progress on this difficult issue.

- 10 villages are legally registered
- 3 have land claims approved
- All remaining villages titled within 3-5 years?
- All require follow-up support

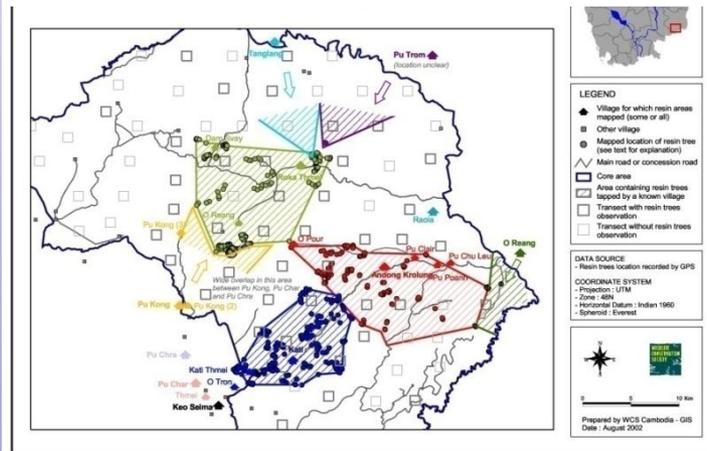


Forest security: Many villages are highly forest dependent

Dipterocarp resins are a key income source



Traditional tree ownership



Project activities aim to protect both the resource base *and* access to it – which is supported by Cambodia's progressive forest legislation

Governance benefits: consultations, consent and monitoring

Again, CCB requirements have reinforced existing approaches

- Free, Prior and Informed Consent specific to REDD obtained through extensive consultations that aim to meet best practice
- Formal community agreements ensure role of government and community are clearly set out
- Ongoing consultations - maintain consent and guide management
- Grievance process to deal with unresolved community concerns
- Support to community networking – collective voice and action



Livelihood development

- Mostly through local NGO partners
- Participatory approaches to identify suitable activities
- Long-term support to ensure effective capacity is built

Agricultural assistance
including
marketing and
savings groups



Wildlife tourism



Adult literacy and numeracy



Also -
community infrastructure
NTFP marketing
(and **direct financial benefit-sharing?**)

Benefit-share approaches

- **Benefit-share principles being discussed with government**.....community consultations will lead to a detailed design process and probably field-testing
- Pro-community policy decisions were taken for the other national pilot and are likely to apply here too
- Analytical work will inform discussions (WCS and academics from Australian National University and Imperial College, London)
- Reports about local-level system currently under consideration by government – 20 key design issues outlined below
- Structures at national level still under discussion

Suggested hierarchy of benefit distribution

REDD Revenue from sale of Seima carbon credits = R

A. REDD certification costs
e.g. MRV, transaction costs

Core running costs
and generation of
benefits from forest
and land protection

B. Seima Protection Forest running costs, e.g. law
enforcement, community engagement, land titling etc.

C. Expenditure on community
development and alternative livelihoods

Additional
benefits &
incentives

D. Additional community-level incentives, not
necessarily linked to alternative livelihoods

E: Surplus: to national budget = $R - (A + B + C + D)$

Key Area 1: Key actors and stakeholder engagement

1. Overall management of benefits
 - A site-specific, multi-stakeholder board?
2. Whether to mainstream into existing mechanisms
 - Difficult for a number of reasons
3. Who are the legitimate beneficiaries
 - Clearly the 20 participating villages; who else?
4. Management of benefits within each community
 - Existing or newly created structures? Or no need at all?
5. Participation within the community
 - What degree of consultation? How flexible between villages?
6. Participation in the overall system
 - What degree of input in the structure chosen in point 1?

Key Area 2: Benefit types and sizes

1. What is the hierarchy of payments ?
Is the diagram shown earlier accurate?
2. Benefit type(s): Is the 'mixed basket' a suitable approach?
Flexibility over time also important
3. Do lower priorities get investment when revenues are poor?
Important to fund some community dev. even at low income levels?
4. Size - based on opportunity-cost?
This would be problematic
5. Size - 'willingness to accept' framework may be preferable
Built on a negotiation/consultation approach

Key Area 3: Benefit distribution rules

1. Protection benefits are communal and non-conditional
May need work to ensure they are equitable
2. Employment – how to ensure its fairly shared?
3. Minimum conditions before other benefits are shared
Agreed forest boundaries?
4. Choice of criteria for level of benefit
Performance and need are the two key parameters
Many options exist – consultations needed
5. Priority criteria
Likely: village size and adherence to boundaries plus others

Key Area 4: Transparency and accountability

1. Degree of transparency within the village
Some level of external scrutiny needed?
2. Transparency procedures
Should include monitoring, reporting, and annual review
3. Community responsibilities
Record keeping, book-keeping etc

Key Area 5: Conflict resolution

1. Is a formal system with 3rd party involvement the right approach?
Commune Councils may be the right mechanism

Scaling up – initial thoughts

- ❑ Site → Province → Region 20 → 90 → 100s of villages
- ❑ Almost all State forest lands, but tenure varies

- ❑ Many similar prot. areas PLUS other systems - community forests, concessions and unclassified forests
- ❑ Wider range of project activities (e.g. ANR/ARR, avoided degr.)

- ❖ The models for village land tenure and forest access remain broadly applicable across scales
- ❖ Increased participation feasible (at forest management unit scale)
- ❖ More involvement of networks and technical NGOs
- ❖ Community development projects also still relevant
- ❖ Community-level intermediaries in many but not all villages
- ❖ Conditional payments become increasingly hard to manage and monitor at scale and opp costs/expectations also vary more

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Thank you for listening



Pygmy Lorises, Seima

Historical deforestation in the reference region, 1998-2010

spreading through lowlands around villages, along roads and in land concessions

