

Department of Forestry, Lao PDR



**SUFORD SCALING UP**

# Forest Landscape Management in four northern Provinces of Lao PDR

Forest Investment Program (FIP) Pilot Country Meeting  
23-26 June, Kinshassa, Democratic Republic of Congo



MAF, DOF, LAO PDR



Indufor



WORLD BANK



FIP

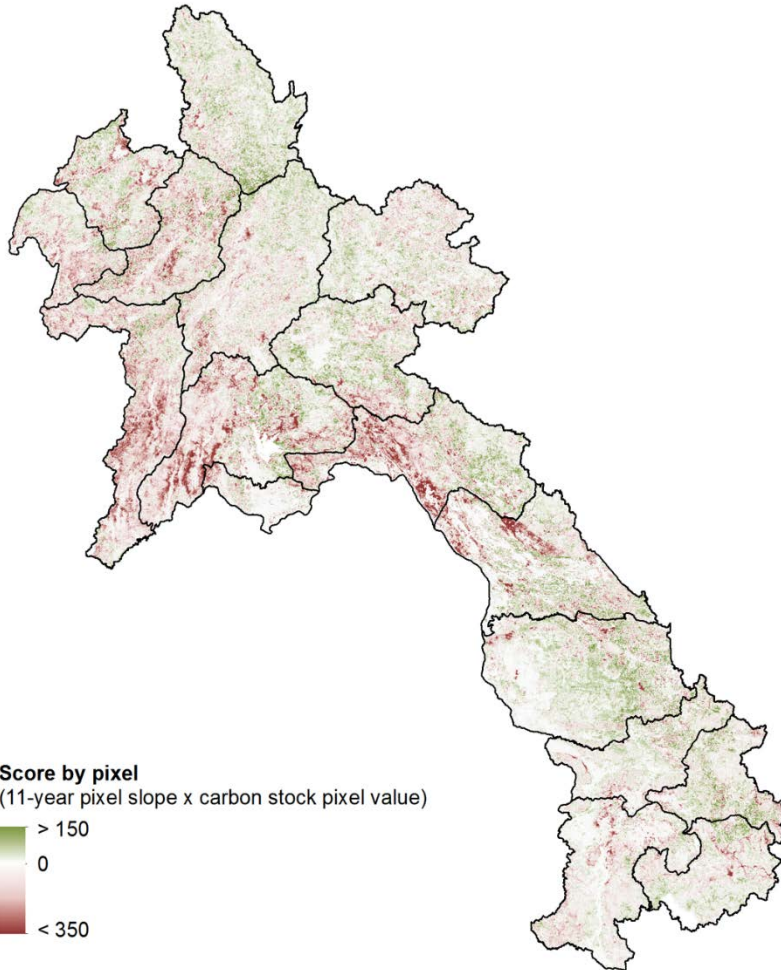


MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

# Lao PDR: at the center of Southeast Asia



# Despite deforestation, Lao PDR still has significant forest cover



Forest Management Categories	Area (M ha)	Forested Area (M ha)	Forest Cover
Protection Forest	8.2	3.13	38%
Conservation Forest	4.7	2.64	56%
Production Forest	3.1	1.48	48%
Plantations	0.3	0.30	100%
Other Areas	6.8	2.00	29%
<b>Total Land Area</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>9.55</b>	<b>41%</b>

*Source: Forest Cover Assessment, DOF, 2010.*

*→ Updated forest cover assessment coming soon!*

**Net Forest Loss (2000-2013): 1,110,268 ha**

**Average: 85,405 ha/year**

*Source: Hansen et al. 2013*

Lao PDR has set aside 70% of land for use as forest. It aims to increase forest cover to 70%.



# Lao Forest Investment Plan

FOREST INVESTMENT PROGRAM



SUFORD-SU

- DOF, MAF
- World Bank
- MFA of Finland



Smallholder Plantation

- DOF, MAF
- International Finance Corporation
- Private sector partner (s)

National FIP Focal Point

Protecting Forests for Ecosystem Services (BCC)

- DFRM, MONRE
- Asian Development Bank
- GIZ, KfW, JICA, others





# Role of Lao FIP in national REDD+ program



- Lao FIP is managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and their REDD+ Offices



- Supports Lao PDR Forest Strategy 2020 and its target of increasing forest cover to 70%
- Working in range of forest types: will support ongoing review (2014-16) of 3 national forest categories, which may involve some reclassification of boundaries
- Lao FIP has \$30 million from FIP, plus other funds



# Lao FIP Objectives

**Participatory Sustainable Forest Management (PSFM)** – in all types of forests in Lao PDR, to:

- Address deforestation and forest degradation; and
- Support grassroots managers to: 1) help protect forests; 2) rehabilitate degraded lands; 3) derive benefits

Lao FIP Project	Focus	Start of field activities
Sustainable Forestry for Rural Development - Scaling Up (SUFORD-SU)	Production forests, forest landscapes, village forests	Late 2013 (began working in some areas in 1995)
Smallholder Plantation	Private sector work with smallholders	MOU signed in 2015
Protecting Forests for Ecosystem Services (Additional financing for Biodiversity Conservation Corridors)	Protection and conservation forests Village forests	Final approval expected Dec. 2015; start in field in early 2016



# Sustainable Forestry for Rural Development – Scaling Up (SUFORD-SU, 2013-18)

- \$53 million, of which \$13 from FIP; 4<sup>th</sup> in a series of projects

Key activities:

- **Participatory sustainable forest management (PSFM)** in 41 production forest areas (PFAs) in 13 provinces and supporting **village livelihood development** with almost 1100 villages
- **Piloting forest landscape management** in 4 provinces, including village forestry and forest restoration activities
- Supporting **policy, legal, and governance** work, including support to the Department of Forest Inspection (DOFI)'s forest and wildlife **law enforcement** nationwide
- **Information** systems development, monitoring, evaluation, program management

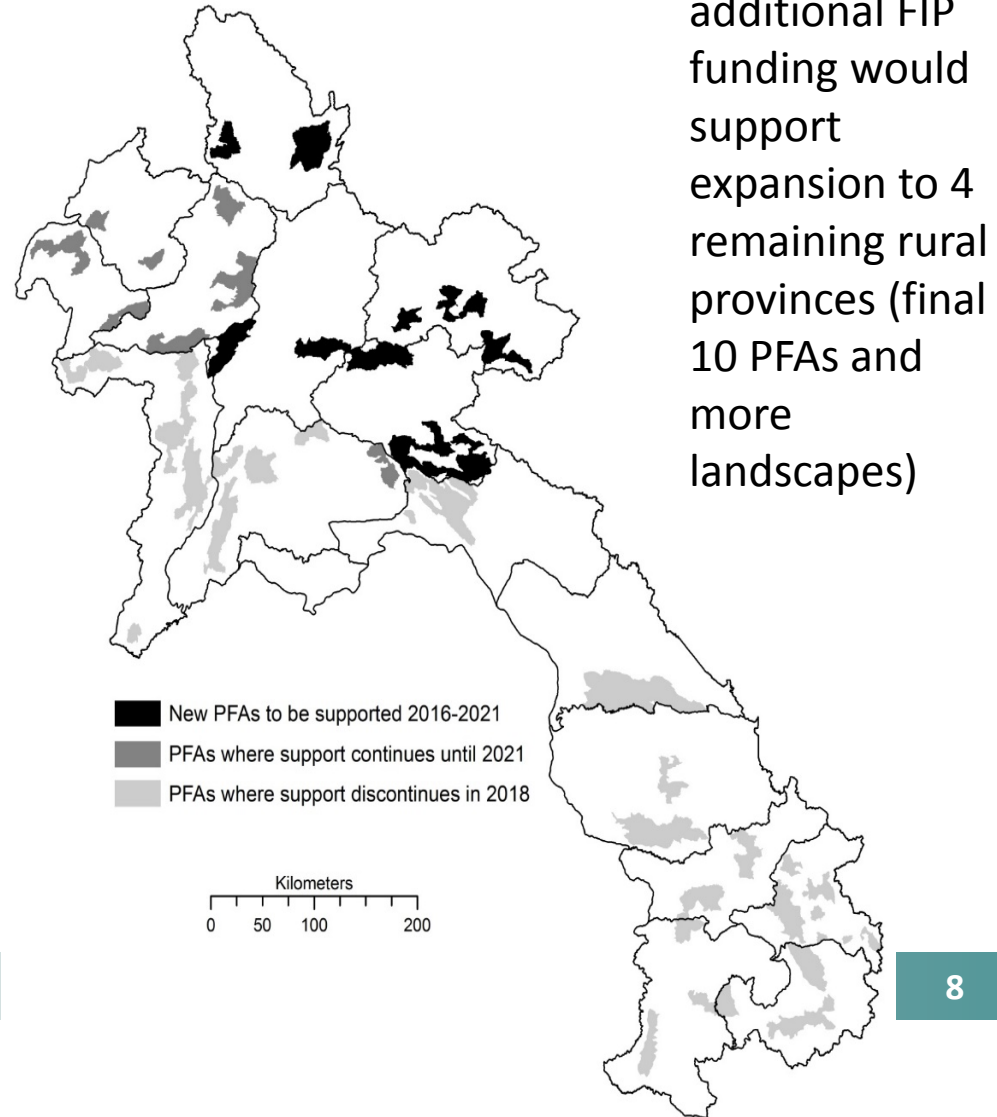
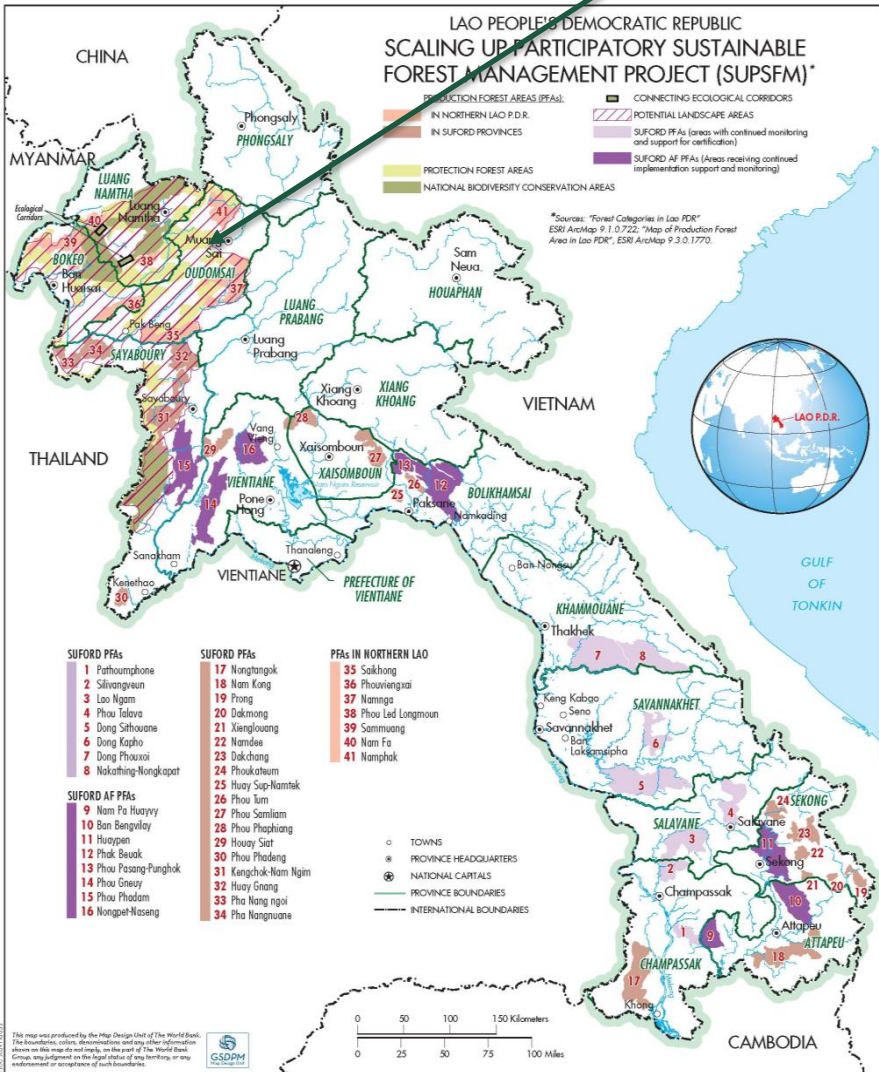
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# SUFORD scaling up nationwide

Current SUFORD-SU areas – 41 PFAs and 13 provinces

## Pilot Forest Landscape Management Areas





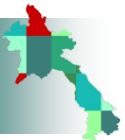
# Forest Landscape Management

- **Concept:** *Forest Landscape Management (FLM)* is a new approach to involve provincial and district level decision makers and other stakeholders in the protection and management of large forest landscapes to safeguard and enhance their ecological functions
- **Definition:** *Forest Landscape* consists of all existing forests, areas to be restored as forest, and other elements of the landscape that are relevant to the ecological functions of forest
- **Management** activities may prioritize smaller areas within the forest landscape with high ecological values, such as biodiversity corridors



# Institutional Arrangements

- Project will **pilot Forest Landscape Management** in 4 provinces
  - First pilots will be in Bokeo and Luangnamtha provinces
  - Later pilots in Oudomxay and Xayabouly provinces
- A coordination framework, or “**Forest Landscape Agreement,**” will:
  - Define overall objectives, priorities, and restrictions for managing land and forest resources in the forest landscape – may be linked to **Integrated Spatial Plans (ISP)** being developed in provinces
  - Specify that all FLM **partners commit** themselves to ensuring that their actions do not conflict with the overall objectives
  - Define the responsibilities and tasks of each partner
- **FLM implementation** is based on coordination of activities implemented by several stakeholders. Partners will formulate and implement individual forest management plans, or other development plans, in line with the overall FLM objectives.

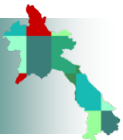


# Stakeholders in Forest Landscape Management

Management level	Stakeholders
Forest landscape	Participants in the Forest Landscape Agreement
Forest landscape management unit	MAF and line agencies as resource manager of PFAs
	MONRE and line agencies as resource manager of National Protected Areas and Protection Forest Areas
	Villages as management partner or resource manager of forest resources in the villages
	Smallholders as resource manager of smallholdings for tree farming or agroforestry
	Private sector as resource managers of concessions for forest, agroforestry, and agricultural plantations
	Other forest landscape stakeholders

# Forest Landscape Management SUFORD-SU FY 14/15 Activities

1. Developing the Forest Landscape Management concept
2. Identifying pilot sites for FLM in the Bokeo-Luangnamtha Forest Landscape
3. Establishing the Bokeo-Louangnamtha FLM Stakeholders Network
4. Integrating Forest Landscape Management into Integrated Spatial Plans
5. FLM implemented by SUFORD-SU using PSFM and village forestry; other partners implement in their areas
6. Forest Landscape Restoration Planning



Kumban (Village cluster) as the target unit for village forestry that will shape the distribution and extension into 3 forest categories of Lao PDR.

Component 2: Planning forest landscape management  
 Component 2 will support the development and extension of a village forestry program in targeted provinces, which primarily comprise several hundred thousand to over a million ha of forest. Forest Landscape Management will be applied to large forest landscapes that comprise production, conservation, and protection forest types. Village forest lands and local-level forestry activities. The introduction of village forestry activities is meant for a more effective pursuit of objectives related to REDD+, biodiversity conservation, and empowerment of forest concession services.

Luangnamtha  
 Province

Pink =  
 Biodiversity  
 Conservation  
 Forest Areas  
 (NBCAs)

Beige =  
 Protection  
 Forest  
 Areas

# Initial Ideas: Bokeo- Luangnamtha Forest Landscape

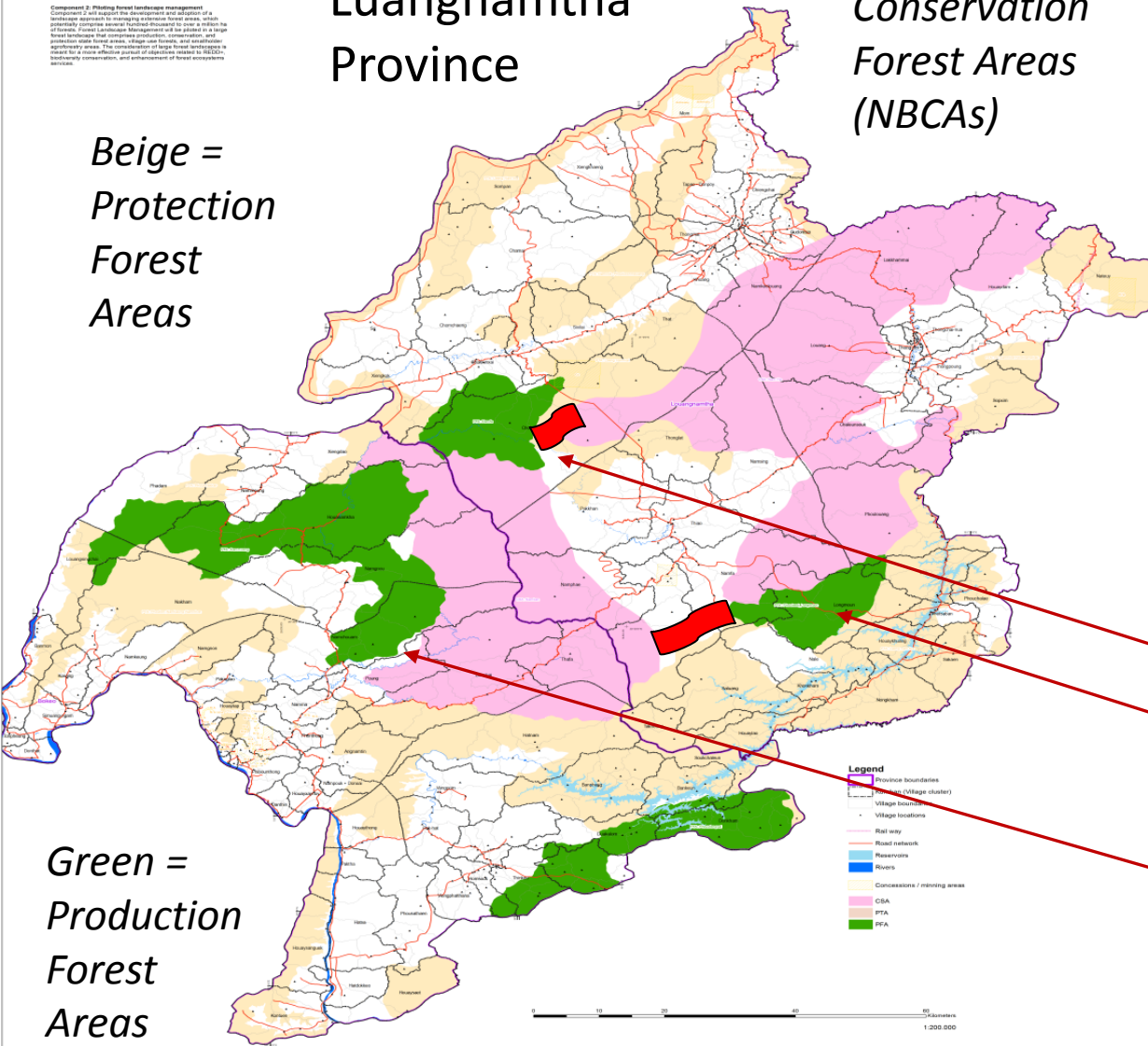
33 Potential Village  
 Forestry sites

Nam Fa PFA: 9 villages

Phoulet Longmoun PFA:  
 10 villages

Sammeuang PFA:  
 14 villages (Eastern side  
 of PFA)

Green =  
 Production  
 Forest  
 Areas



Legend  
 Province boundaries  
 Village cluster (Village cluster)  
 Village location  
 Village locations  
 Rail way  
 Road network  
 Reservoirs  
 Rivers  
 Concessions / mining areas  
 CSA  
 PFA  
 PFA

Bokeo  
 Province





# Ongoing Work on FLM Prioritization

- **Objective:** Identify priority areas for forest protection, forest restoration and wildlife corridors
- **Methodology:** Collect and analyze data on key landscape patterns and processes to provide a basis for prioritization.
- **Key Output:** Forest Landscape Management Maps

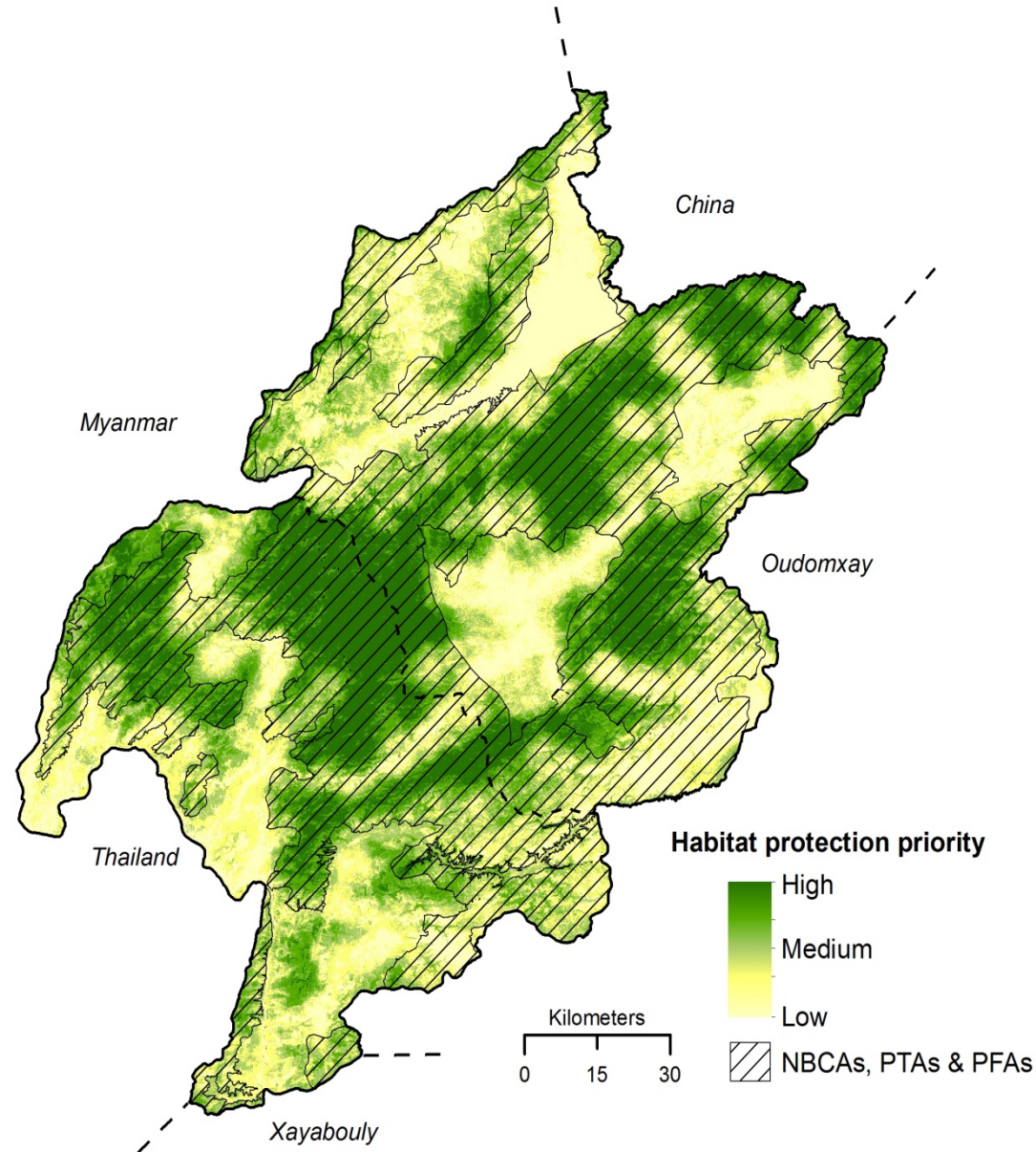
*... We don't have time to discuss in depth, but the following slides show some key elements of this prioritization work....*



# Forest protection priority

Areas with high priority:

- high forest cover
- low rate of deforestation
- long distance from roads and villages (low pressure from local people)
- extremely high or low altitude (rare habitats)
- flat areas (very few such areas within the existing protected areas)



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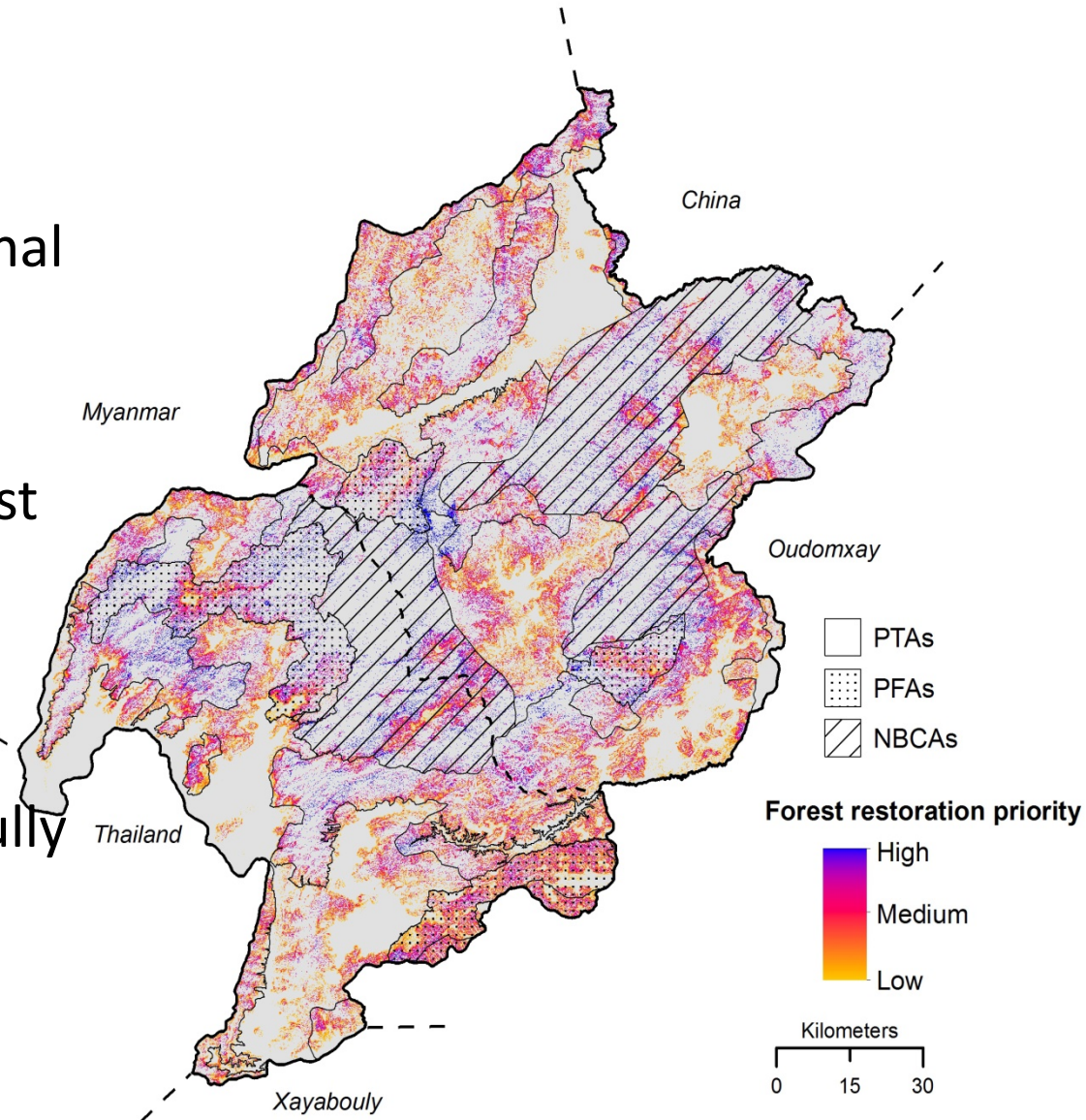


# Forest restoration priority

Areas with high priority:

- fallow land
- within corridors or National Protected Areas (NPAs)
- flat areas
- surrounded by good forest
- far away from villages

Restoration sites within Production and Protection Forest Areas were not yet fully identified

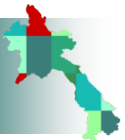


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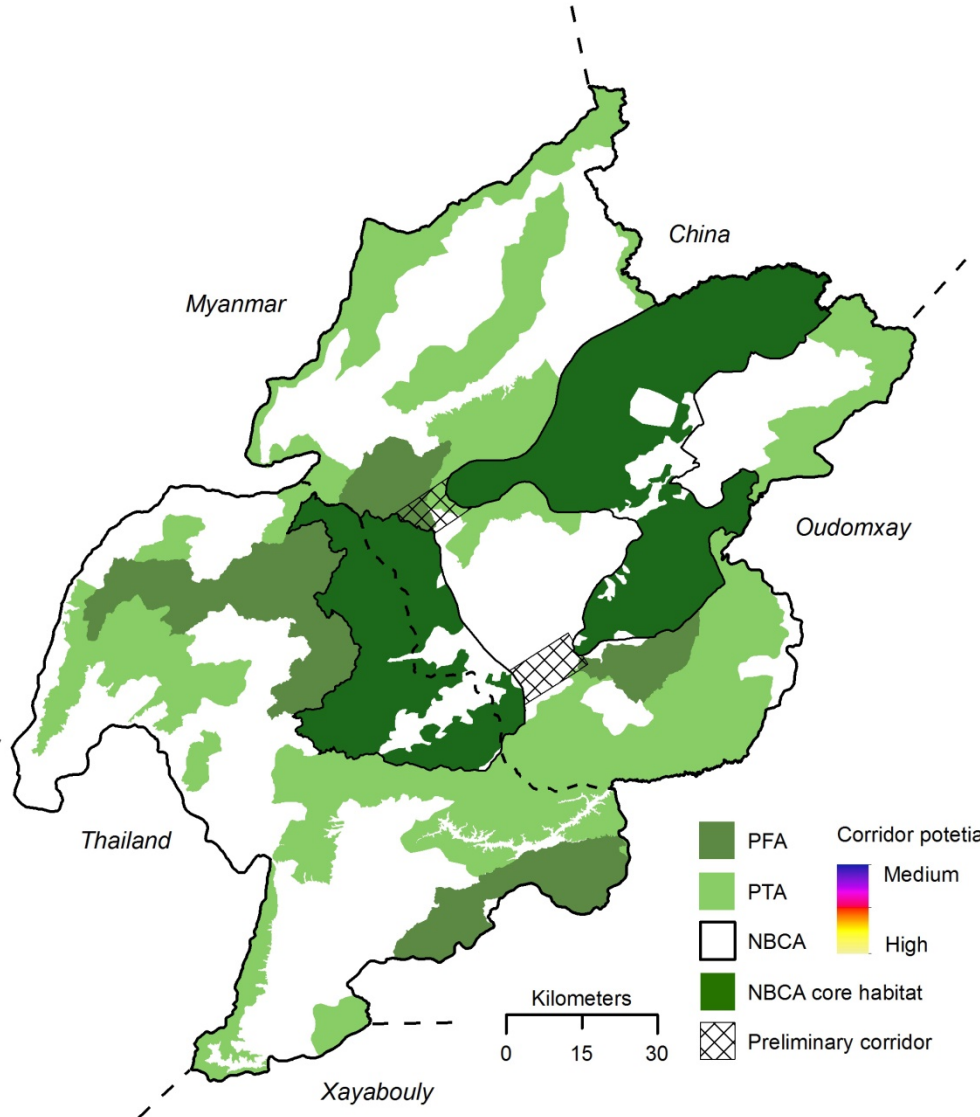
# Special case: Wildlife Corridors

- Wildlife corridors: needed to ensure the survival of large mammals, reduce human-wildlife conflicts and re-introduce lost animal populations to their former habitats
- Two National Protected Areas could be easily connected with wildlife corridors
- Identified routes with no barriers and shortest distances:
  - Scenario 1: **through forest** (easier to implement)
  - Scenario 2: **through forest and fallow**

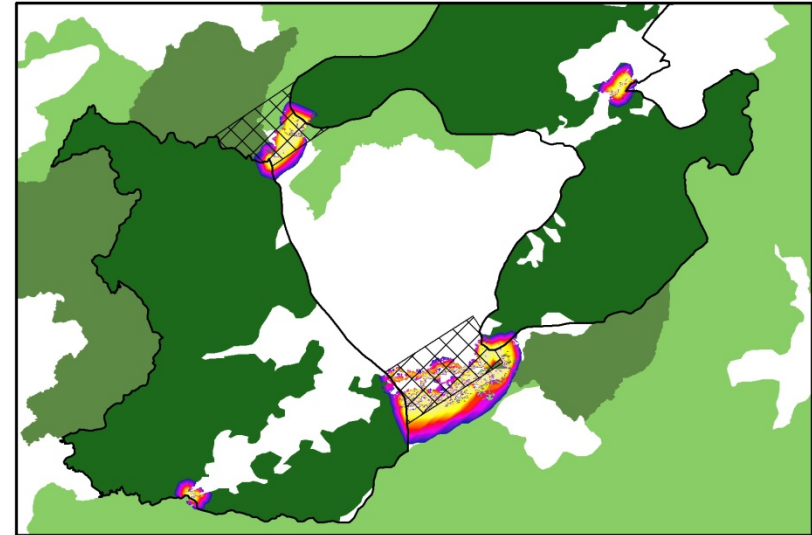




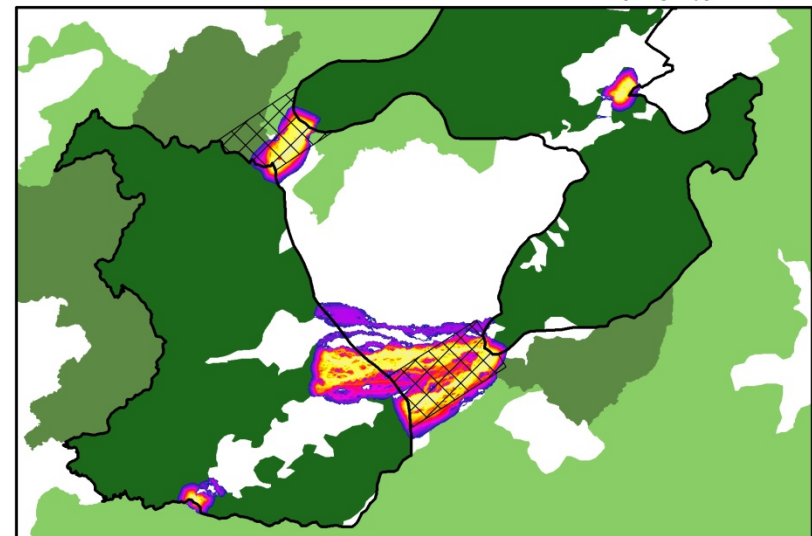
# Corridor analysis



Scenario 1



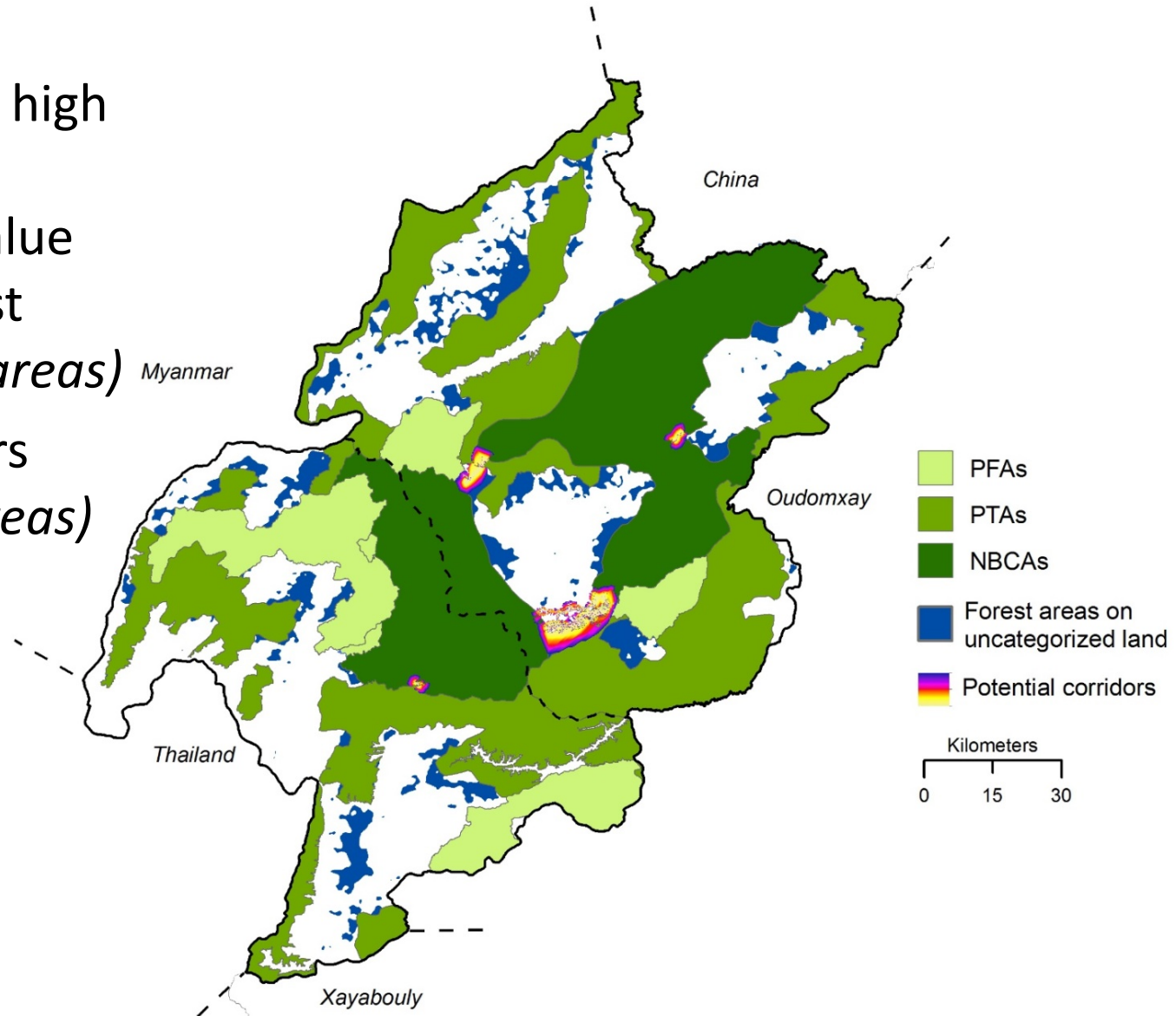
Scenario 2





# Map 1. Potential Sites for Expanding Forest Protection

- Forest areas with high biodiversity and environmental value outside of 3 forest categories (*blue areas*)
- Potential corridors (*rainbow color areas*)



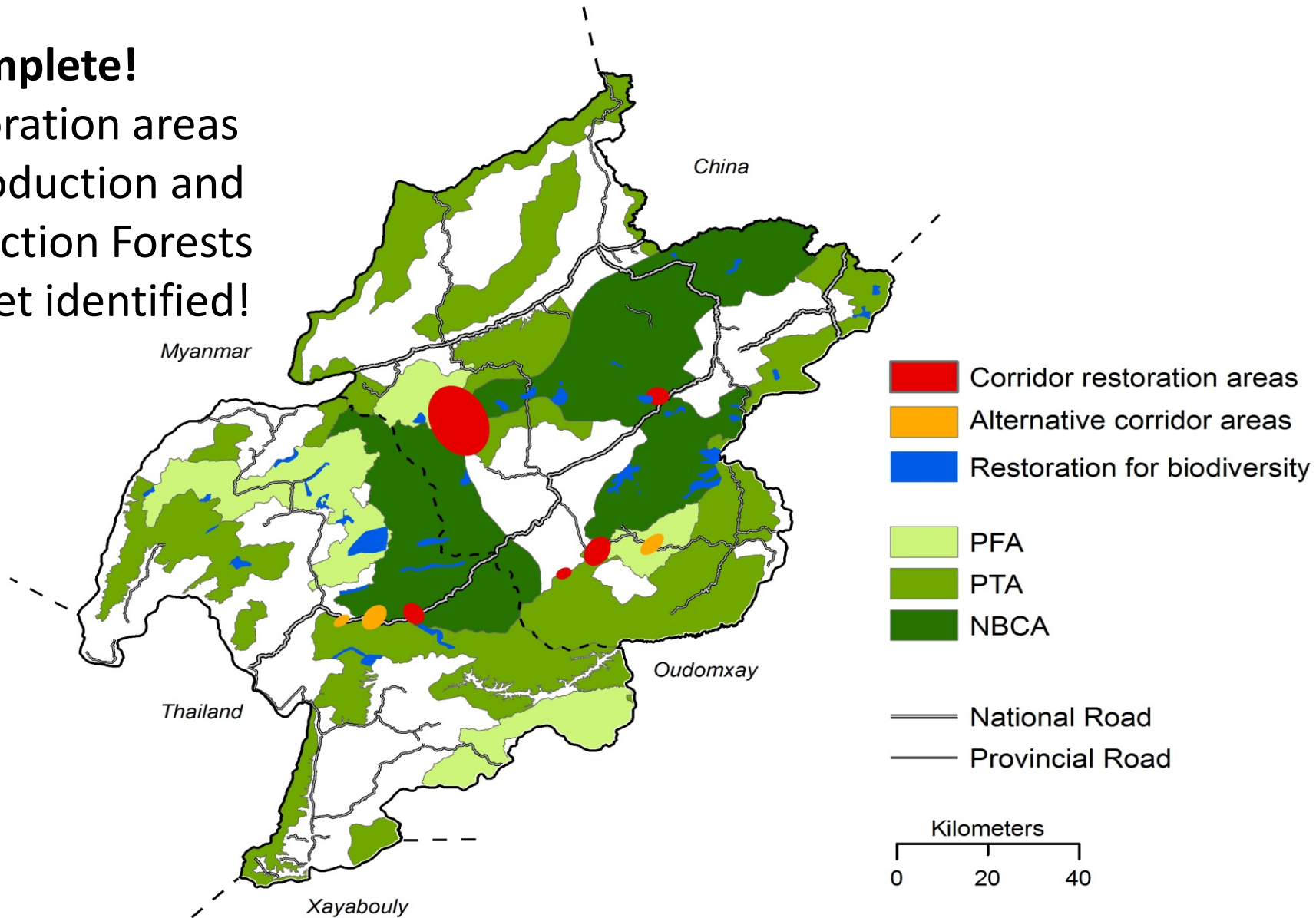
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# Map 2. Potential Forest Restoration Areas

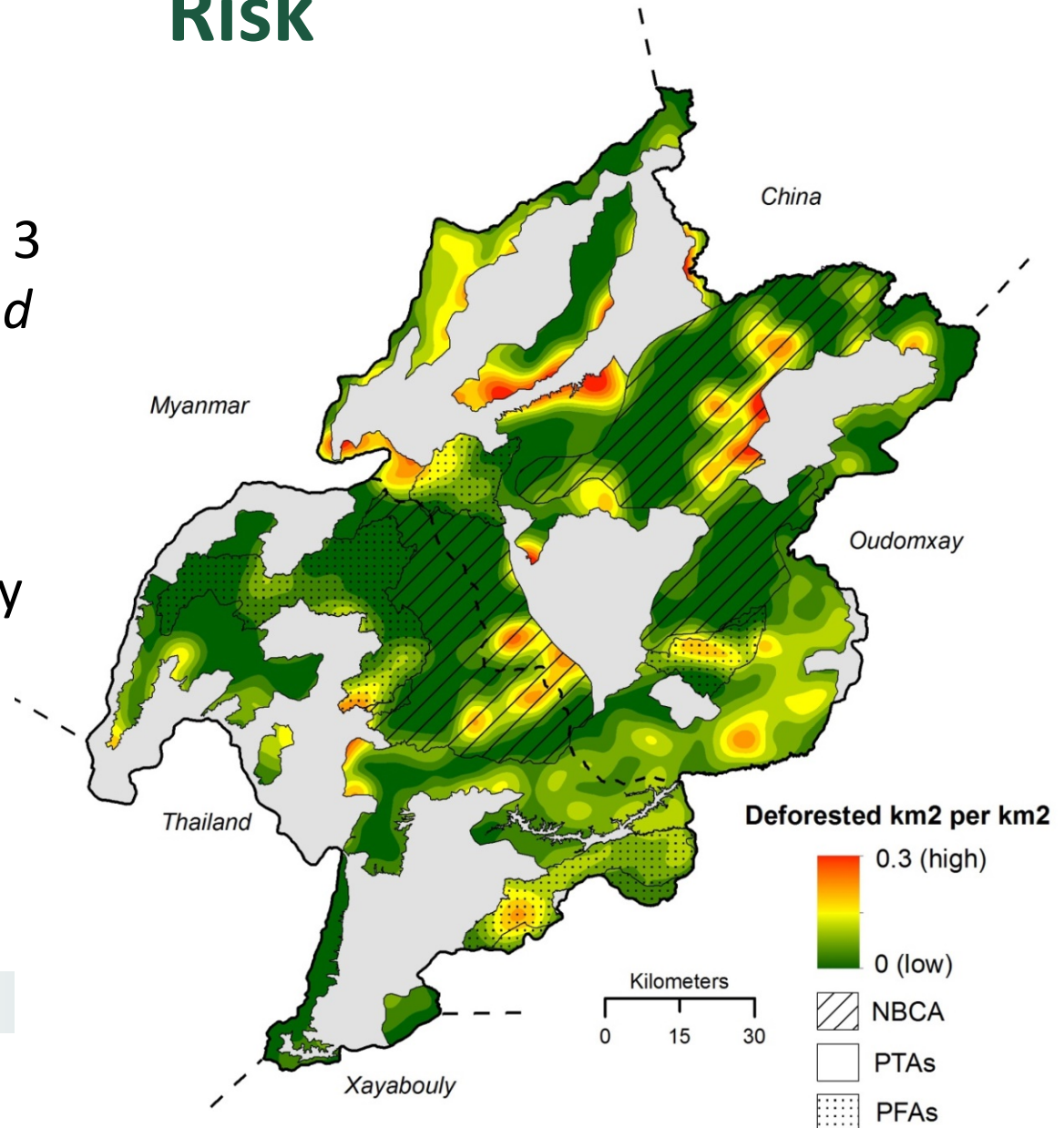
**Incomplete!**

Restoration areas  
in Production and  
Protection Forests  
not yet identified!



# Map 3. Forest Areas with High Change Risk

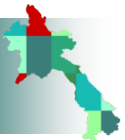
Areas subject to rapid deforestation within the 3 forest categories (*red and yellow areas*) should be reviewed to determine whether they can be restored or whether they should be released for other land uses



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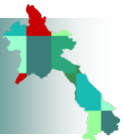
# Finalizing the Management Maps

- The **Draft** Management Maps will be presented to DOF, DFRM and Provincial Stakeholders for their comments and further modification
- The accuracy of proposals for **corridor restoration** sites and forest areas to be protected outside of 3 forest categories needs to be verified in the field
- The proposals from the forest sector should be reviewed together with proposals made by **other sectors** (eg. agriculture, hydropower, transport) to arrive at a common understanding on the priorities



# Potentials of Forest Landscape Management

- Potentially useful way to **address larger drivers of deforestation**, through provincial-level integrated spatial planning, setting forest management priorities, and minimizing negative impacts of other development on forests
- Important contribution to ongoing review and **reclassification of three types of national forests** (production, protection, and conservation), in the context of national development and land use planning
- Potential scale for **emissions reductions** (Lao Carbon Fund idea builds on FLM and provincial work)





ຂອບໃຈ!  
Thank You!

