

Avoiding the Unthinkable

What will it cost to prevent Tigers from becoming extinct in the wild?



Task

How much will it cost to save the Tiger?

- Need to define what it means to save the Tiger
- How to avoid 'shopping lists'

Factors to consider:

- Will it result in an increase in Tigers?
- How will success be measured?
- Who pays?

Methods

From the ground up

- 172 contributors from every range state
- 28 organisations
- 82 sites

Multiple sources

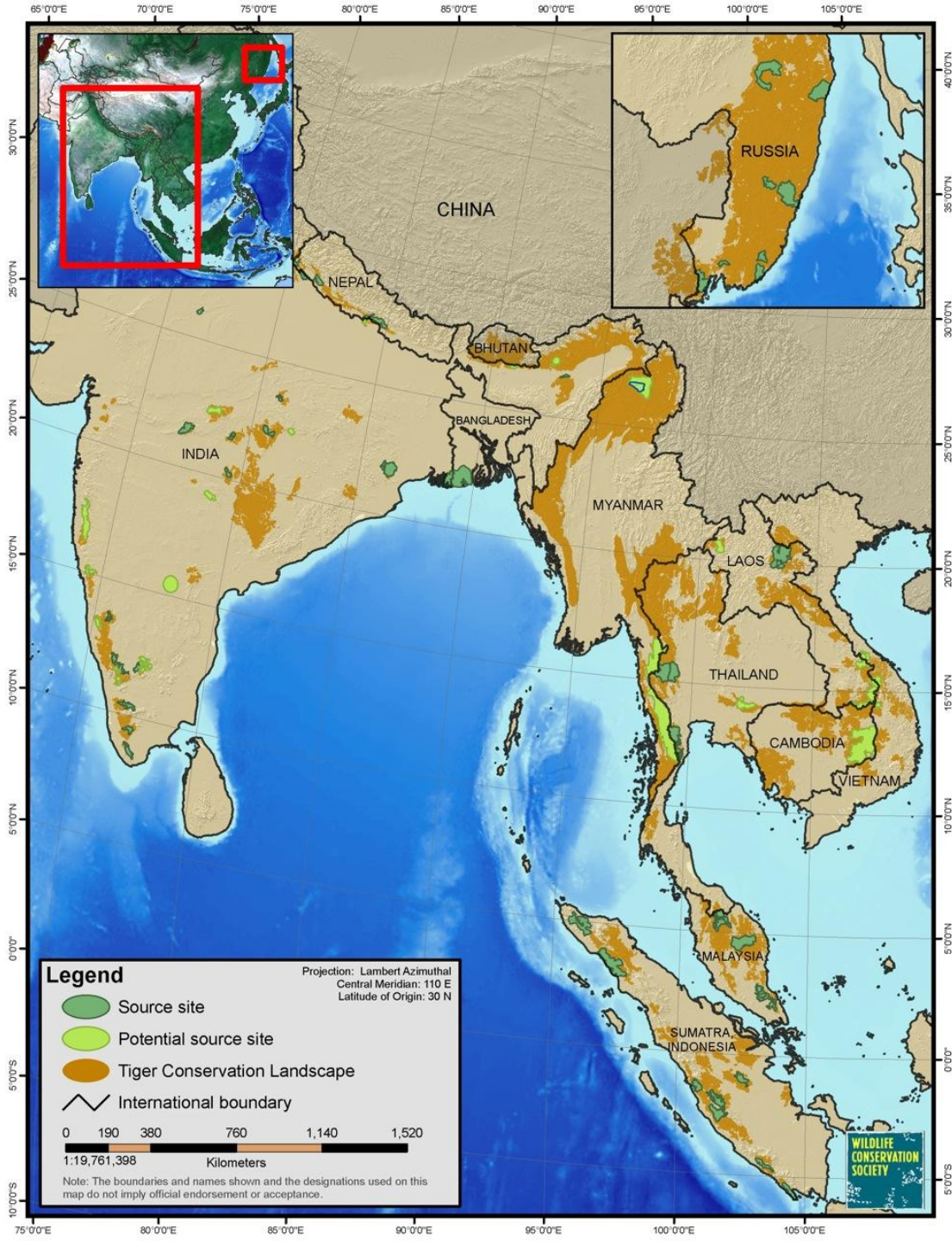
- Peer-reviewed data, published/unpublished reports, expert opinions
- Economists, land-use planners, and political analysts

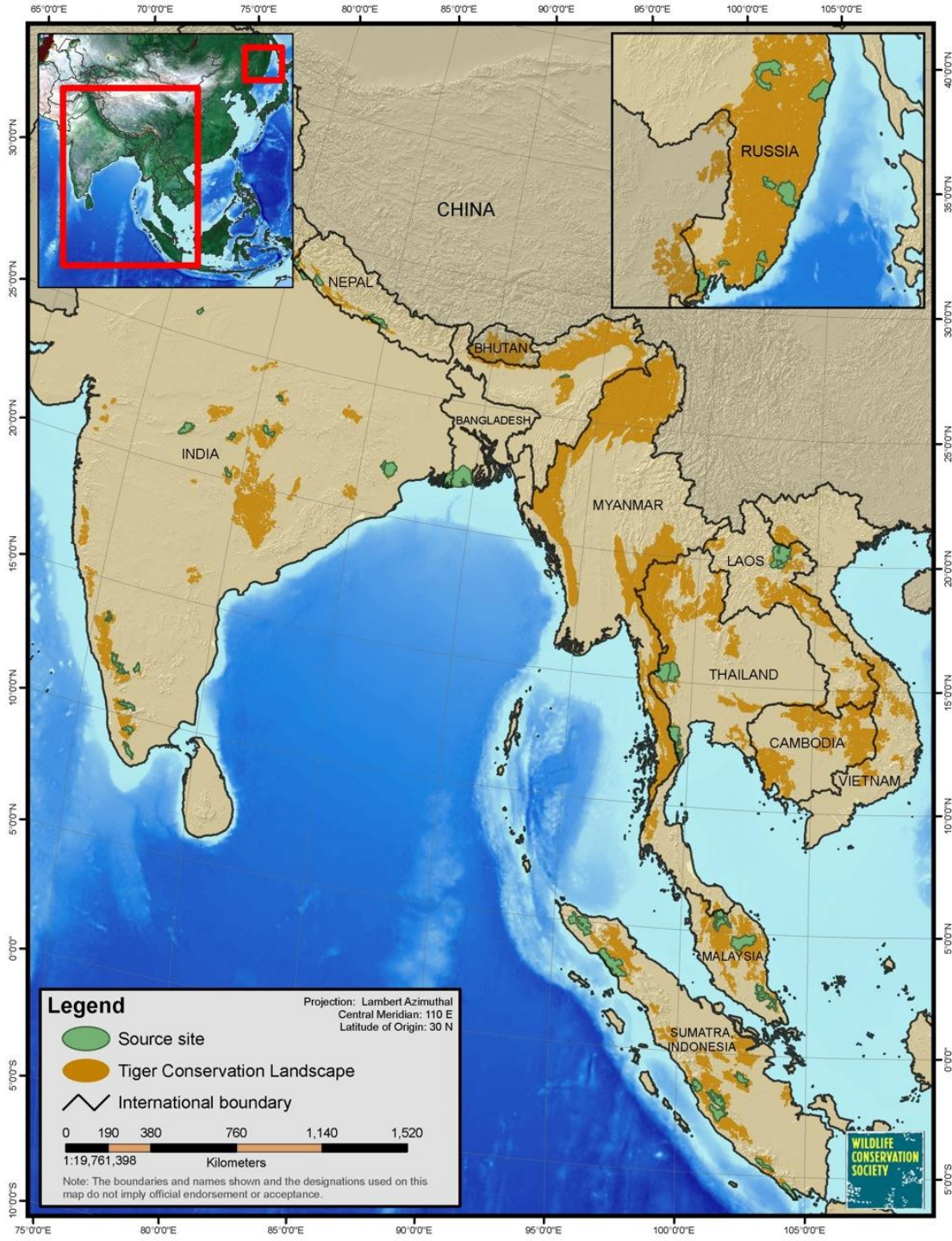
Results

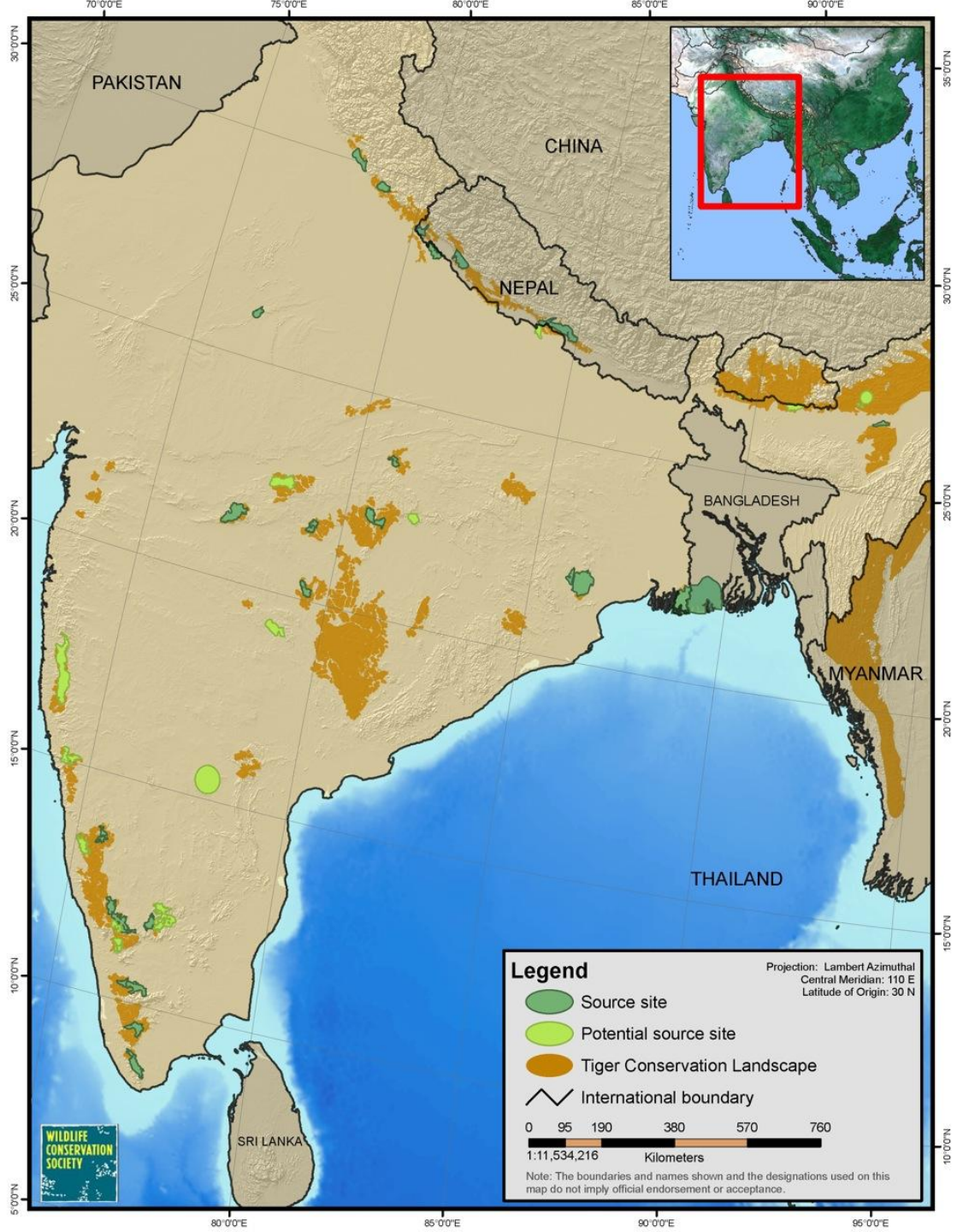
42 source sites across the Tiger's range.

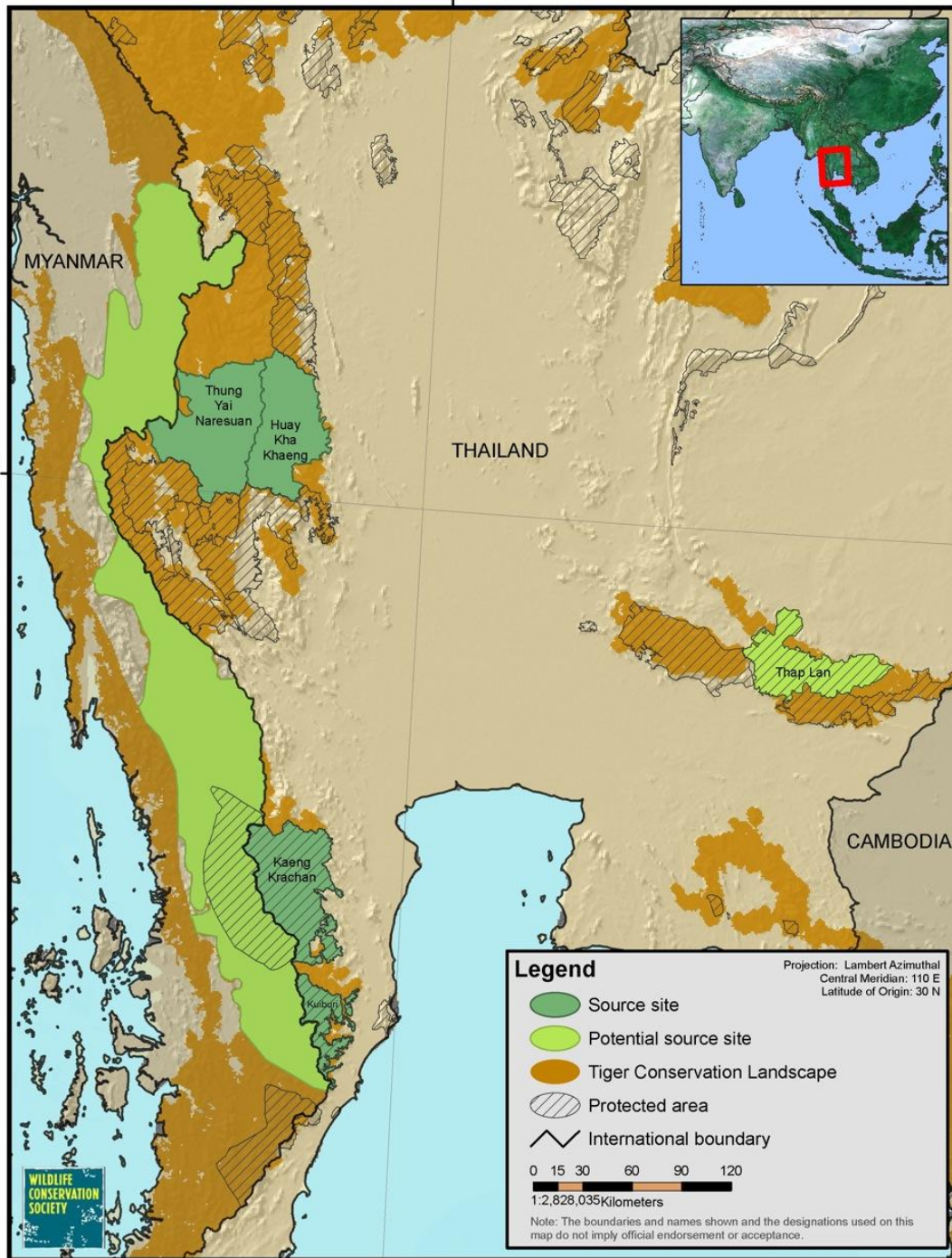
- 18 in India
- 8 in Sumatra, Indonesia
- 6 in Russian Far East
- 3 in Malaysia
- 3 in Nepal
- 2 in Thailand
- 1 in Bangladesh
- 1 in Lao PDR

Bhutan has not yet been evaluated.









Results

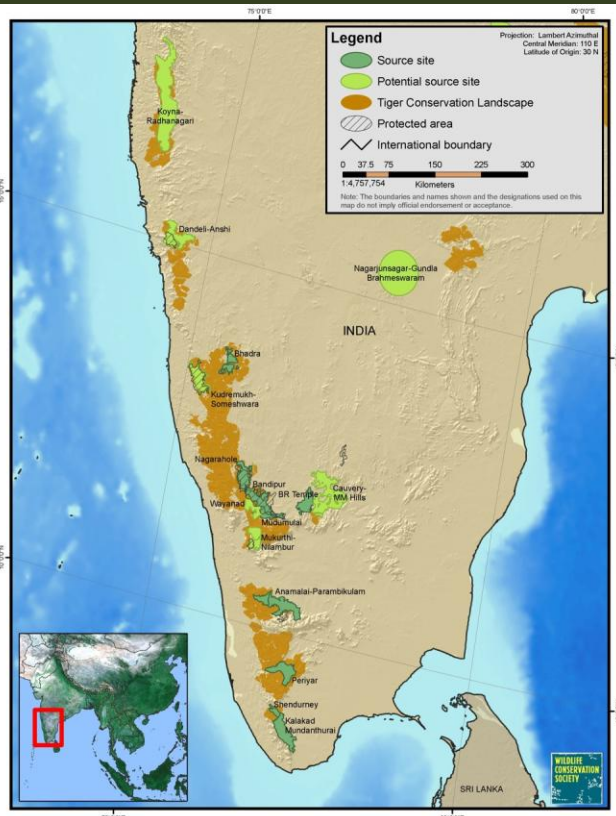
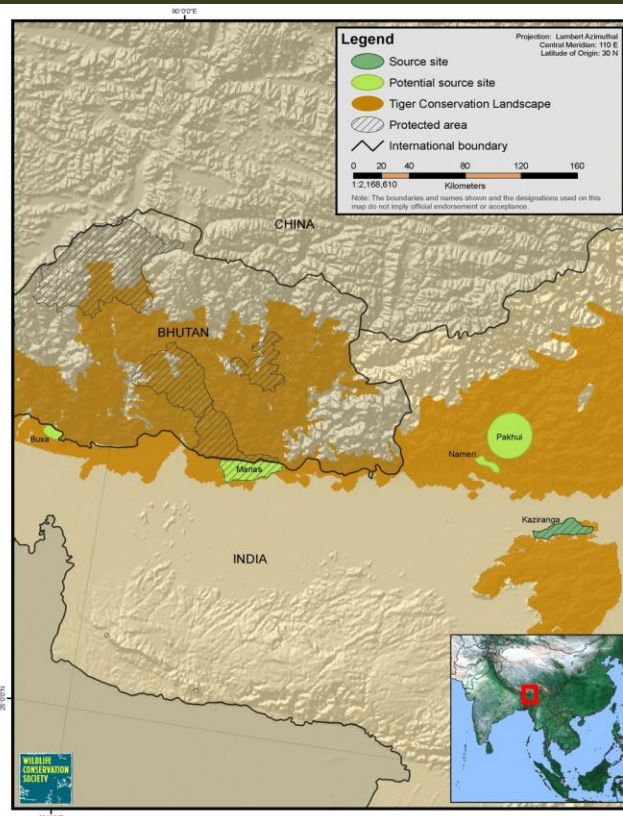
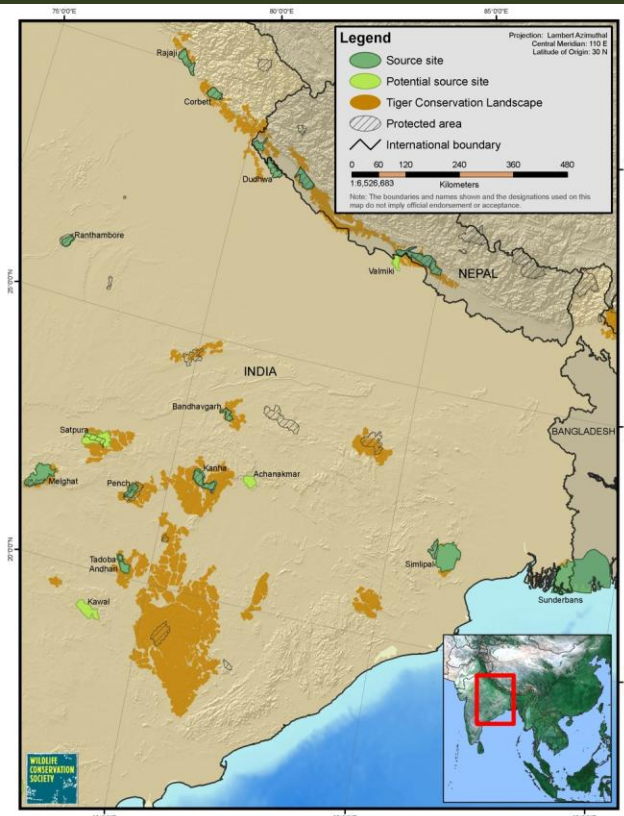
Collectively they cover 90,000km² (only 50,000km² is outside India and Russia)

Source sites contain about 2,200 Tigers (current world estimate = c. 3,200)

Thus, about 70% of the total world's wild Tigers survive within less than 8% of TCL area and less than 0.7% of their historical range

Results

Just under half of these 2,200 Tigers are in India



Full of Tigers?

Only five source sites (12%), all in India, have existing Tiger populations close (>85%) to their estimated potential carrying capacity

Tiger densities in 60% of all other source sites were less than half their potential

If all source sites reach their potential carrying capacity, their collective Tiger population would more than double

Range-wide impact

This alone would not only reverse the global decline but raise the world's Tiger population by 75%

Furthermore, landscape efforts can ensure that Tigers emanating from these sources raise the global population further and reach the Tx2 target

If you want to stop the decline in Tigers and to double the world's populations, this is where to start

Too little?

Protection of source sites would be a far more pragmatic and achievable goal for conservationists than some current proposals:

Source sites already:

- have breeding Tigers
- are of a scale that is practical to effectively protect
- have existing conservation infrastructure
- have a legal mandate for protection
- the potential to repopulate larger landscapes

Costs

The total overall cost of managing, protecting and intensively monitoring these sites is US\$90 million a year

More than half that is already being committed by range-state governments and, to a far lesser extent, donors and NGOs

Improving efficiency of the funds being committed by governments and donors is critical. There are currently major disparities in how effective existing resources are being used

Costs

On average, the amount required is US\$900/km² (US\$9/ha) per year

US\$500/km² (US\$5/ha) per year is already being spent

When India is excluded from the analysis, the average current commitment drops to US\$365/km² (US\$3.6/ha) per year

Costs

US\$35 million a year is needed to help ensure the survival and recovery of Tigers outside India

8% of TCL area contains almost 70% of the world's Tigers

They are the most efficient and effective sites for increasing the world's wild Tiger population

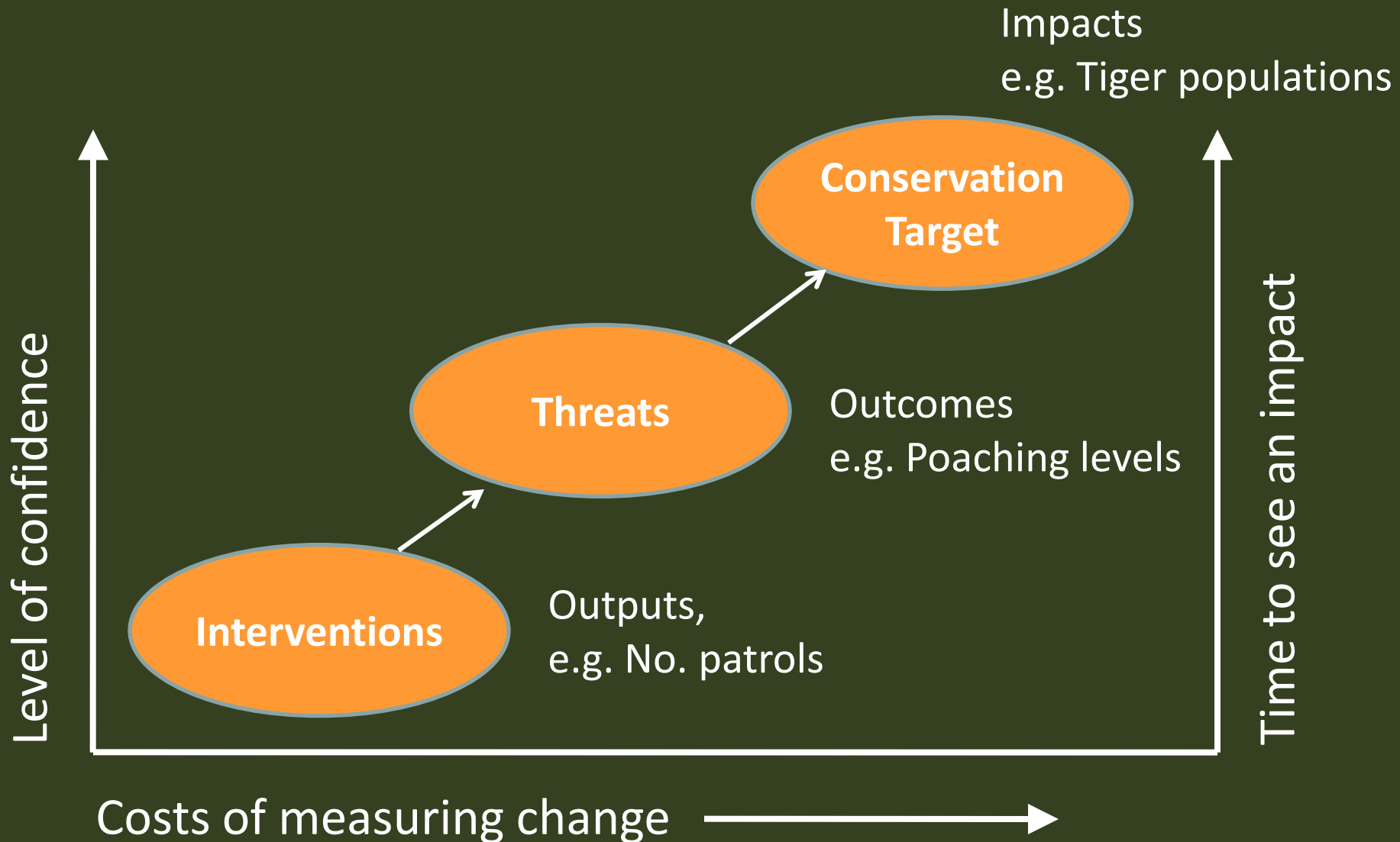
They allow broader landscape strategies to be successful

Spent on what?

We know how to save Tigers:

- Protect them
- Protect their prey
- Give them enough space and water
- Monitor, monitor, monitor

What do we measure?



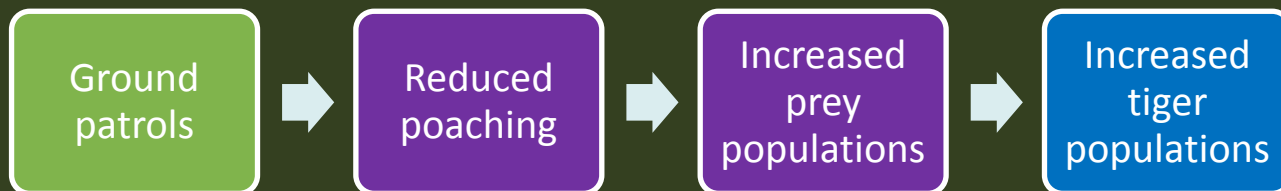
What do we measure?

Conservation targets – tigers and their prey

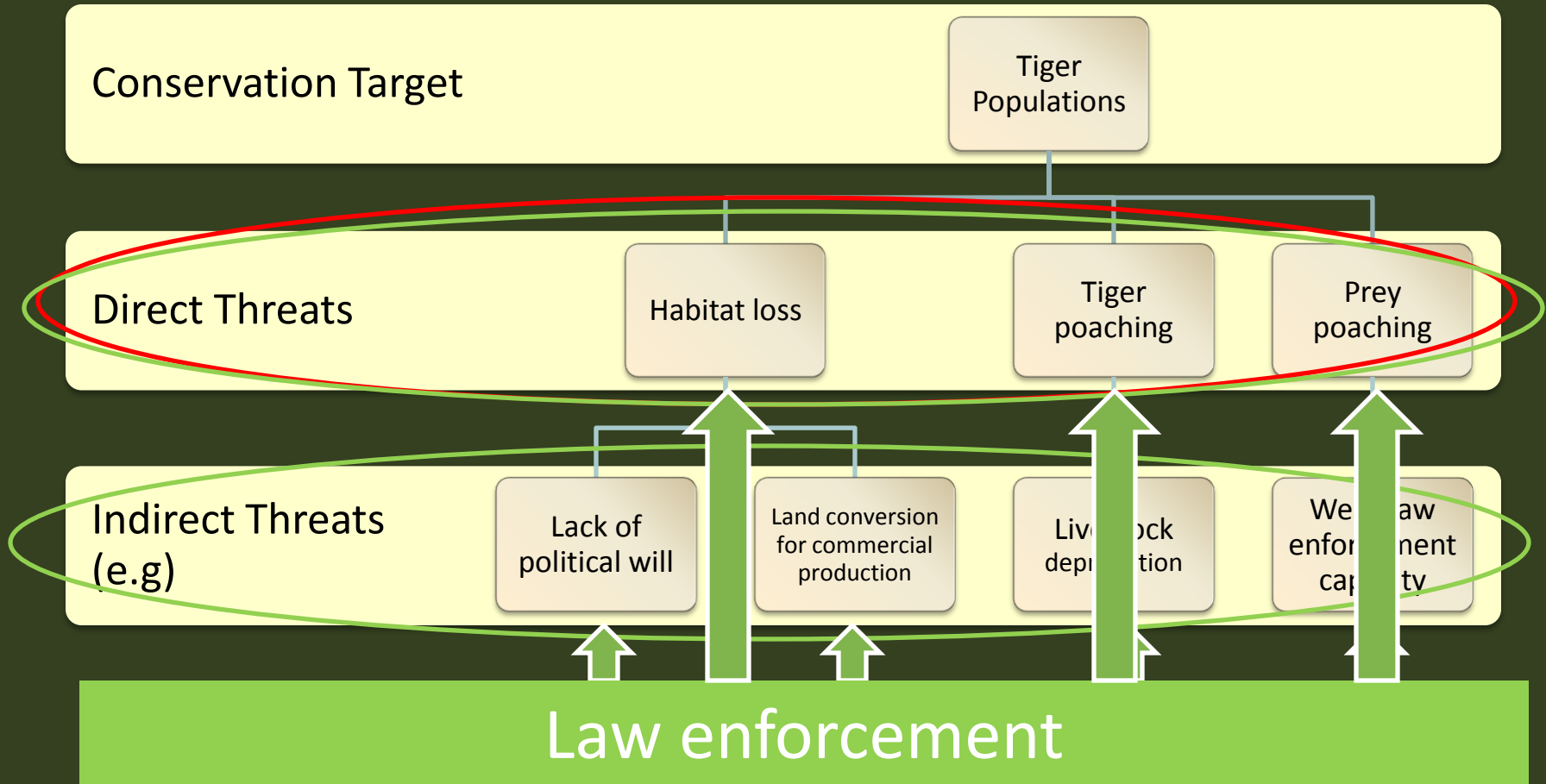
Threats – poaching of tigers and their prey

Interventions – law enforcement, mitigating human-tiger conflict, land-use planning etc

IDEALLY NEED TO MONITOR AT ALL THREE LEVELS TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR CONSERVATION INVESTMENTS

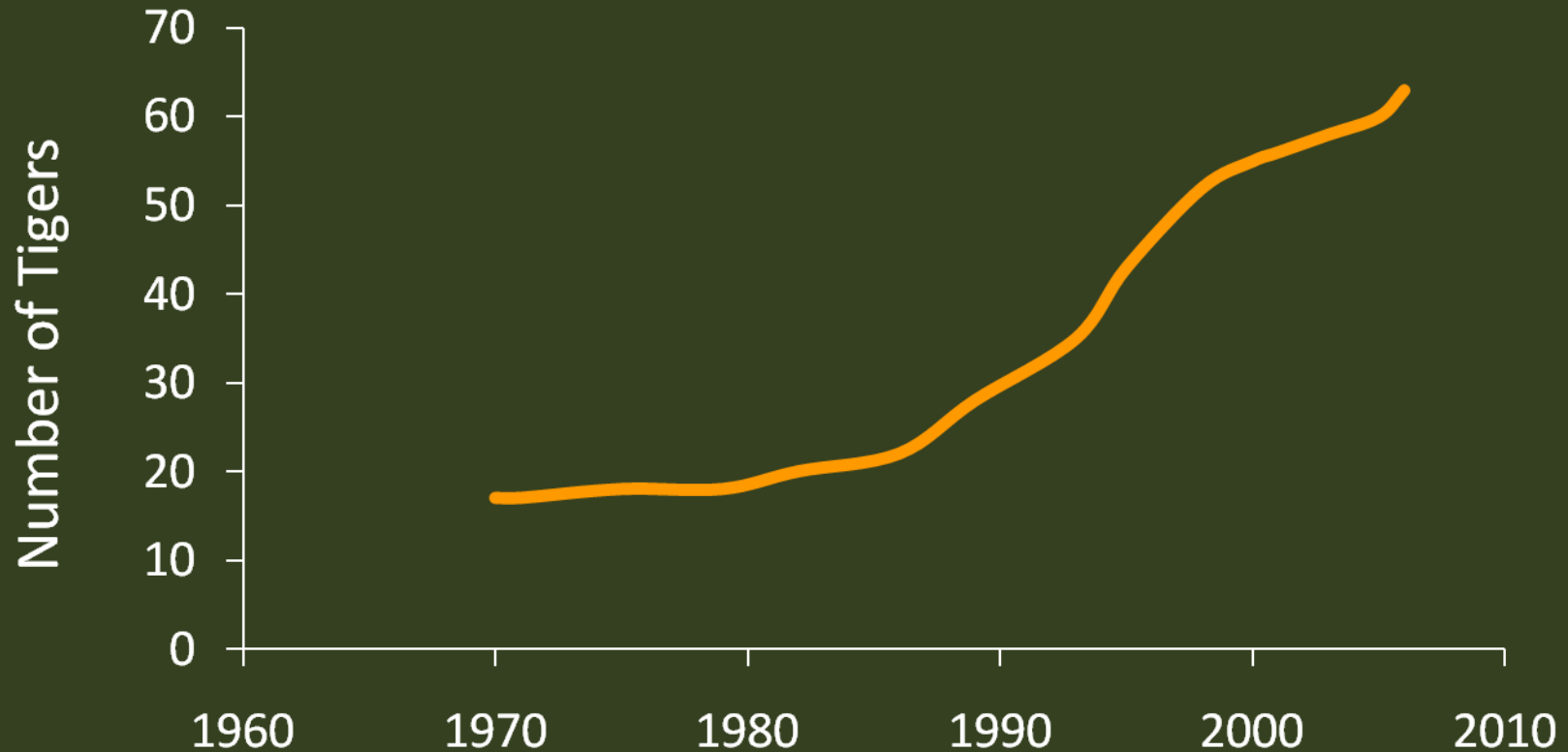


Measuring effectiveness of Tigers Forever



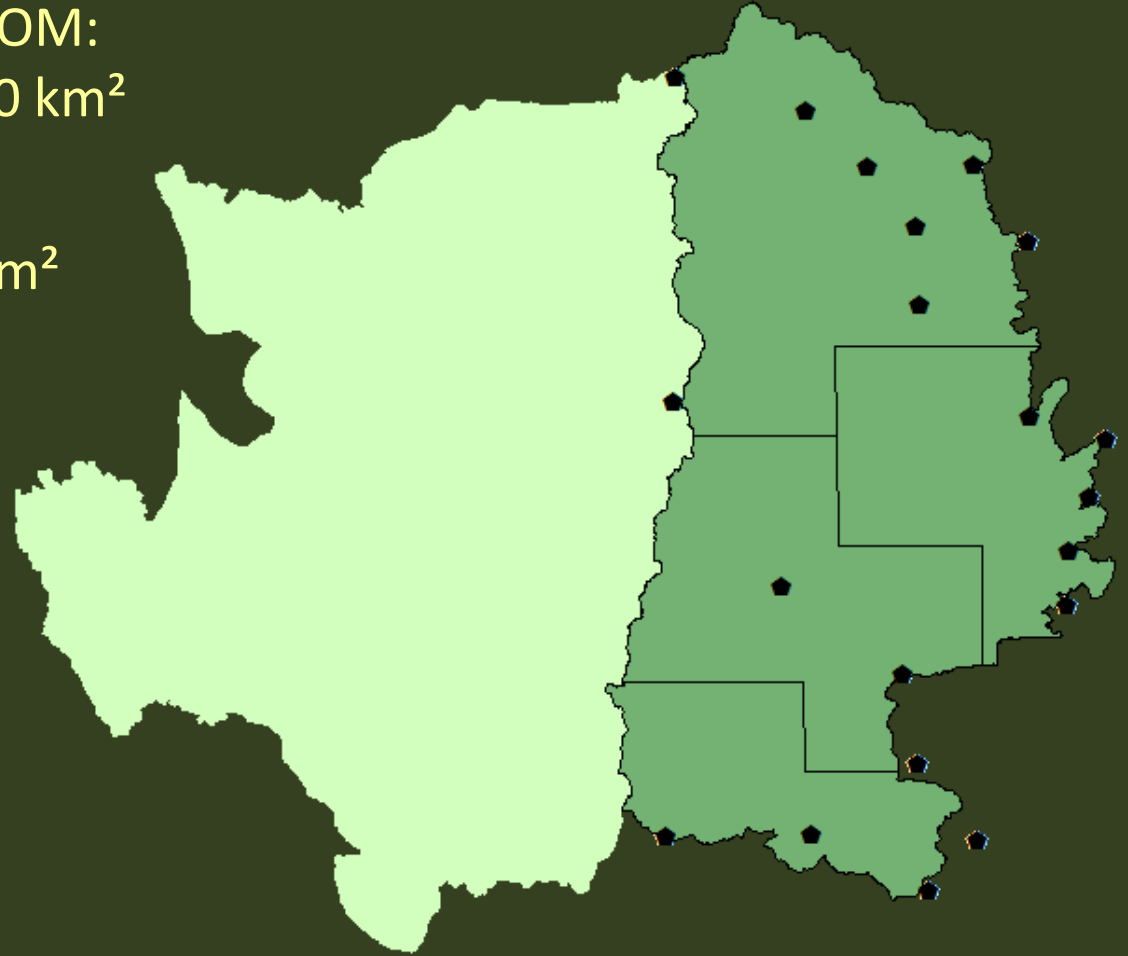
The basics work when done properly

400% increase in tiger populations over a 20 year period of good management



Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary, Thailand

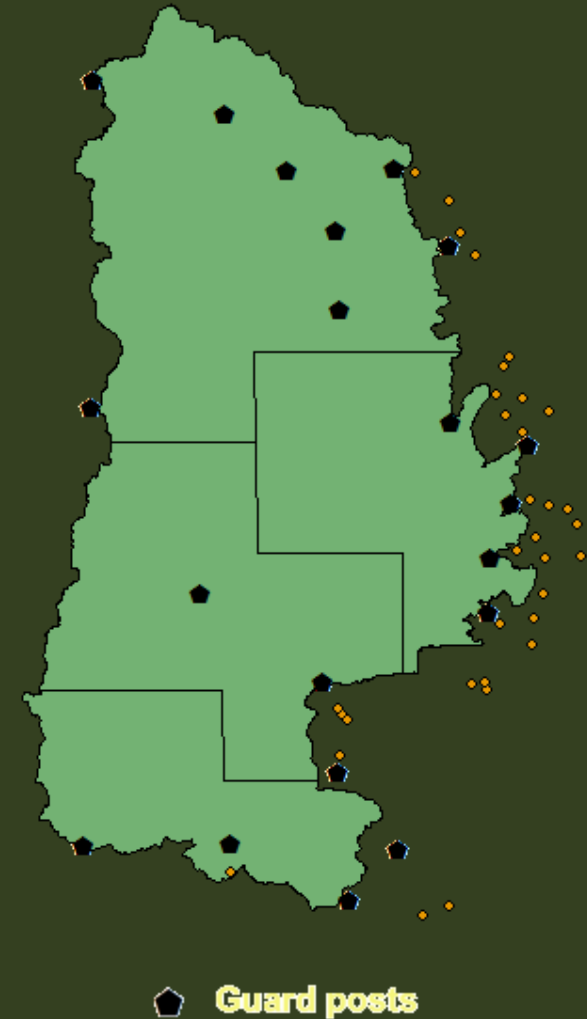
- WEFCOM:
18,000 km²
- HKK:
2,800 km²



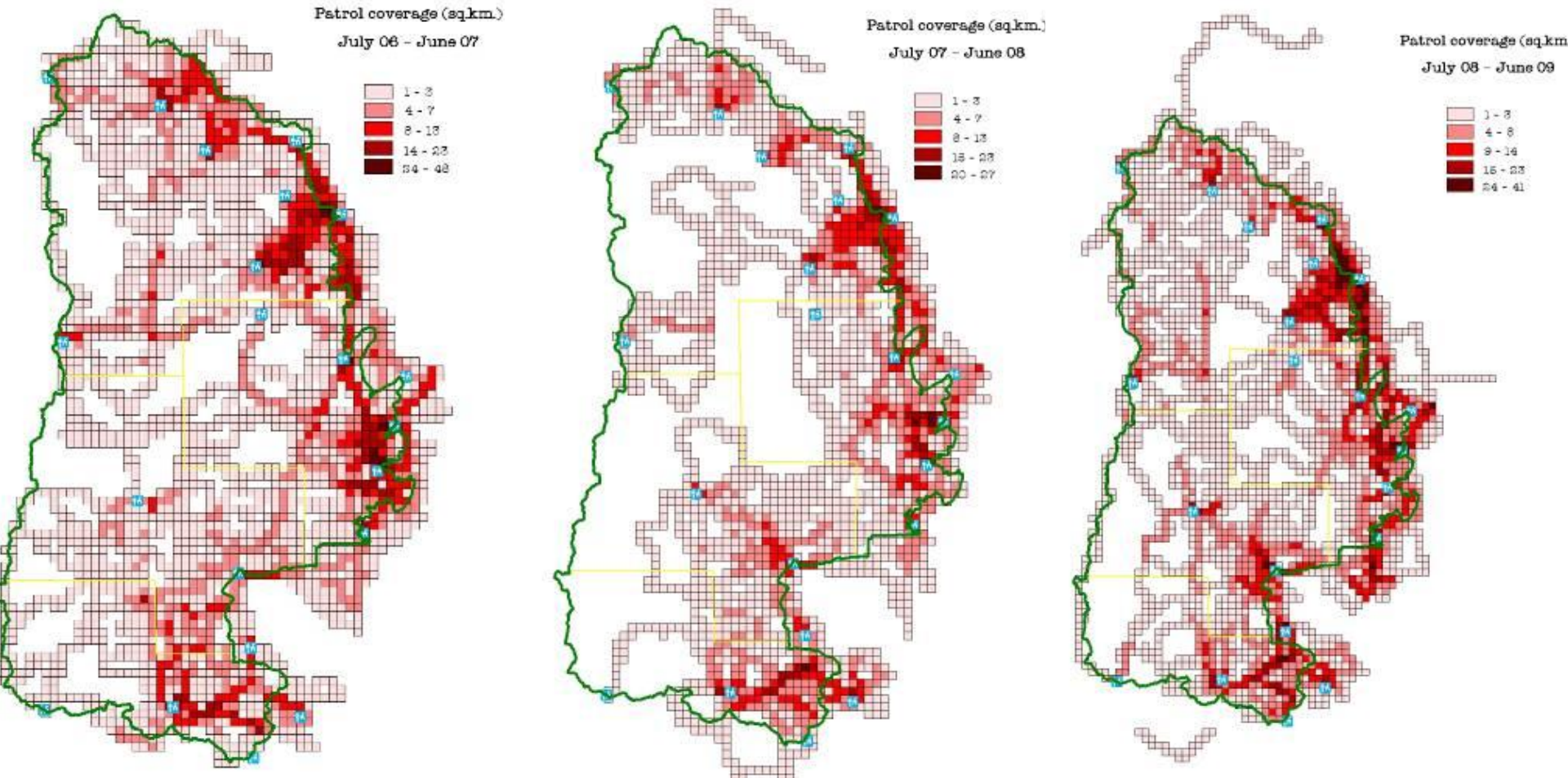
Law enforcement strategy



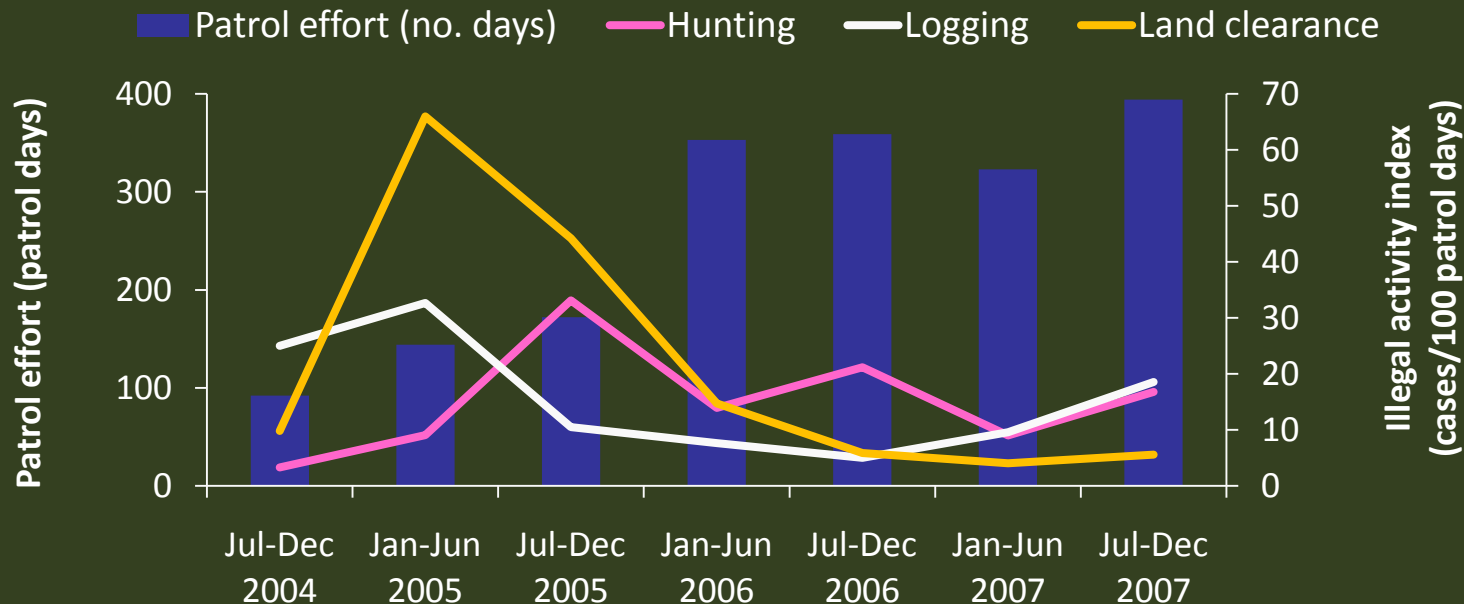
- SMART patrolling system initiated in 2006
- Focus on stopping poaching of prey
- Considerable government investment in patrolling
 - 19 guard posts
 - 150 rangers
- MIST implemented in January 2008



Law enforcement strategy

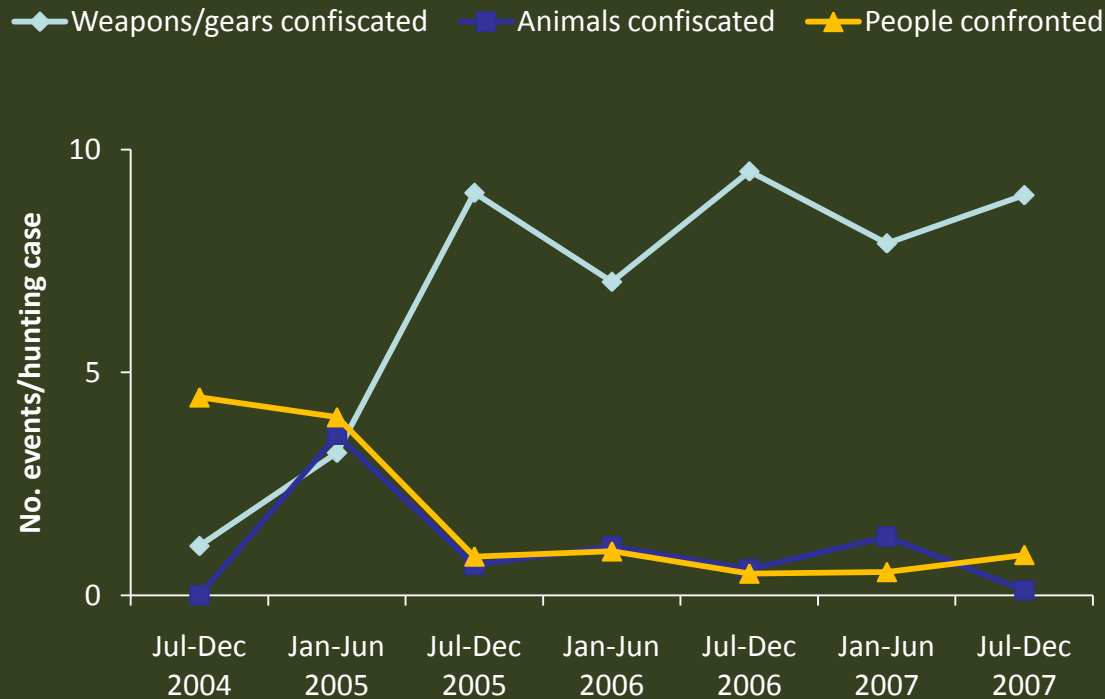


What impact have law enforcement efforts had in reducing threats?



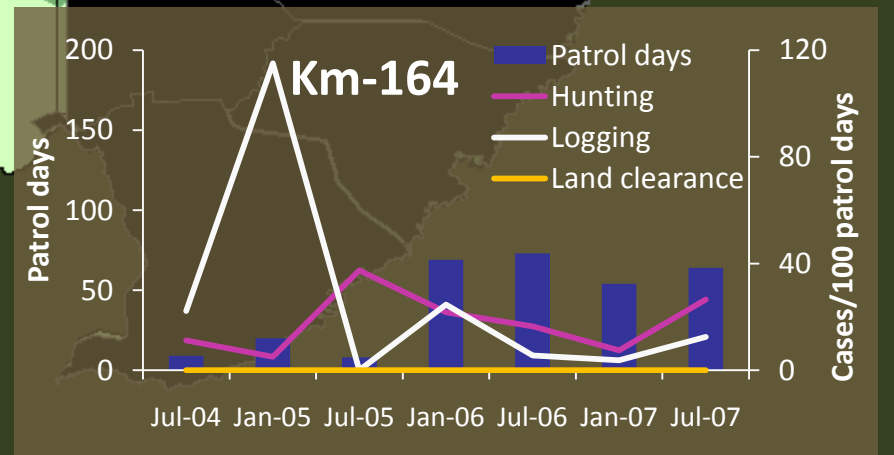
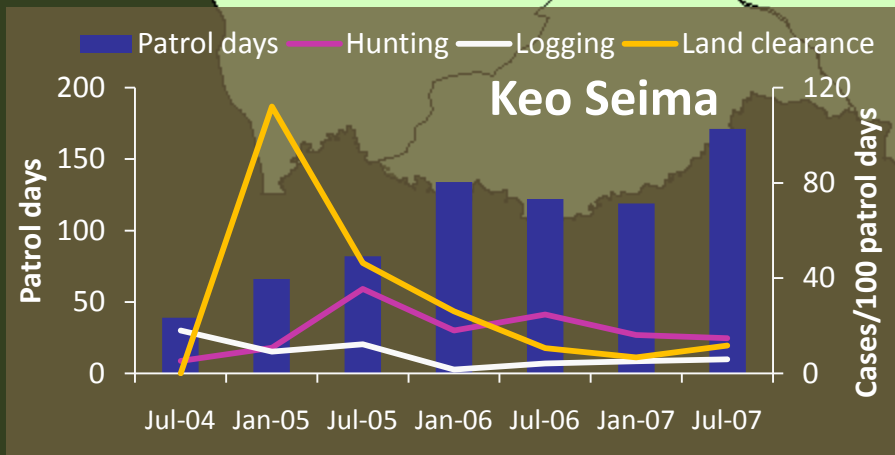
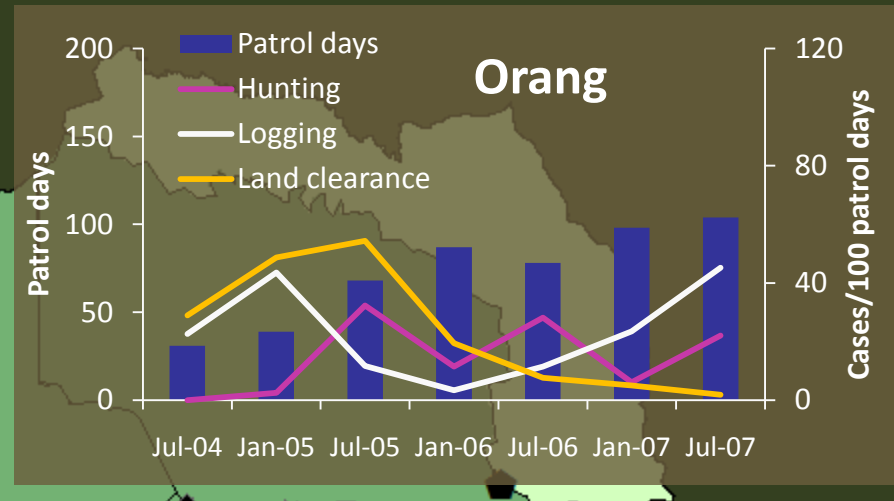
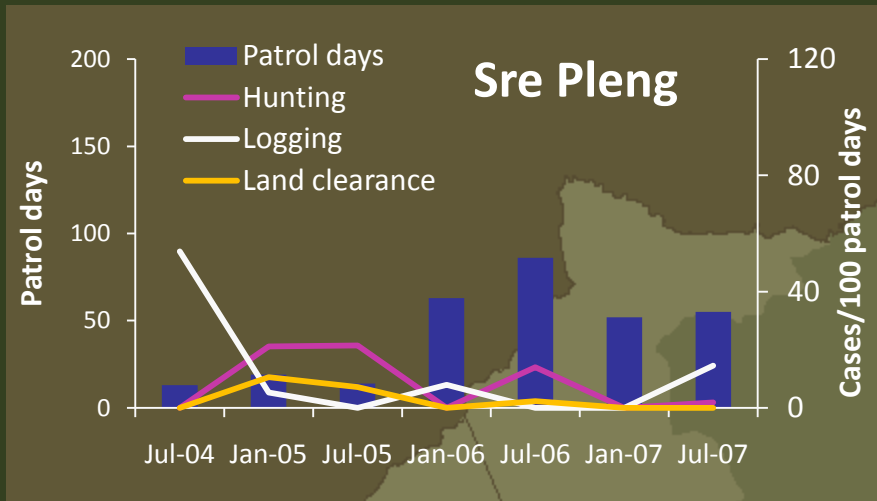
- Illegal land clearance declined rapidly and remained low
- Hunting stabilized after spatial expansion of effort
- Logging initially decreased but recently seen an increase within the core zone

How have law enforcement teams responded to threats and has the nature of threat changed?



Reduction in direct encounters and confiscation of wildlife, and increase in confiscations of illegal weapons and gears

How are different ranger stations performing?



Summary Recommendation

For all range states to implement **standardised monitoring of threats and conservation interventions** across all Source Sites.

To implement **similar standards for monitoring Tigers and their prey**



Conclusions

Source sites deserve disproportionate attention

Immediate and sustained efforts to reinforce and intensify protection and monitoring of these sites is critical

US\$35 million a year is a small price to pay to bring about the world's first reversal of the decline in Tigers

Targets for Tiger recoveries should be ambitious, but rational, and specific (Tx2 everywhere?)

Standards on monitoring (both LEM and Tigers/Tiger prey) need to be adopted range-wide



Thank You