

An aerial photograph showing a wide river flowing through a vast, dense forest. The river is dark and calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The forest is thick and covers the entire landscape, with some small clearings or islands visible in the water. The sky is a pale blue, and the overall scene is serene and natural.

# Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in Lao PDR

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Mr Bill Maynard TA**

# The Structure

**The presentation is divided into parts**

- **The context and situation in Laos**
- **How the problems are being addressed**

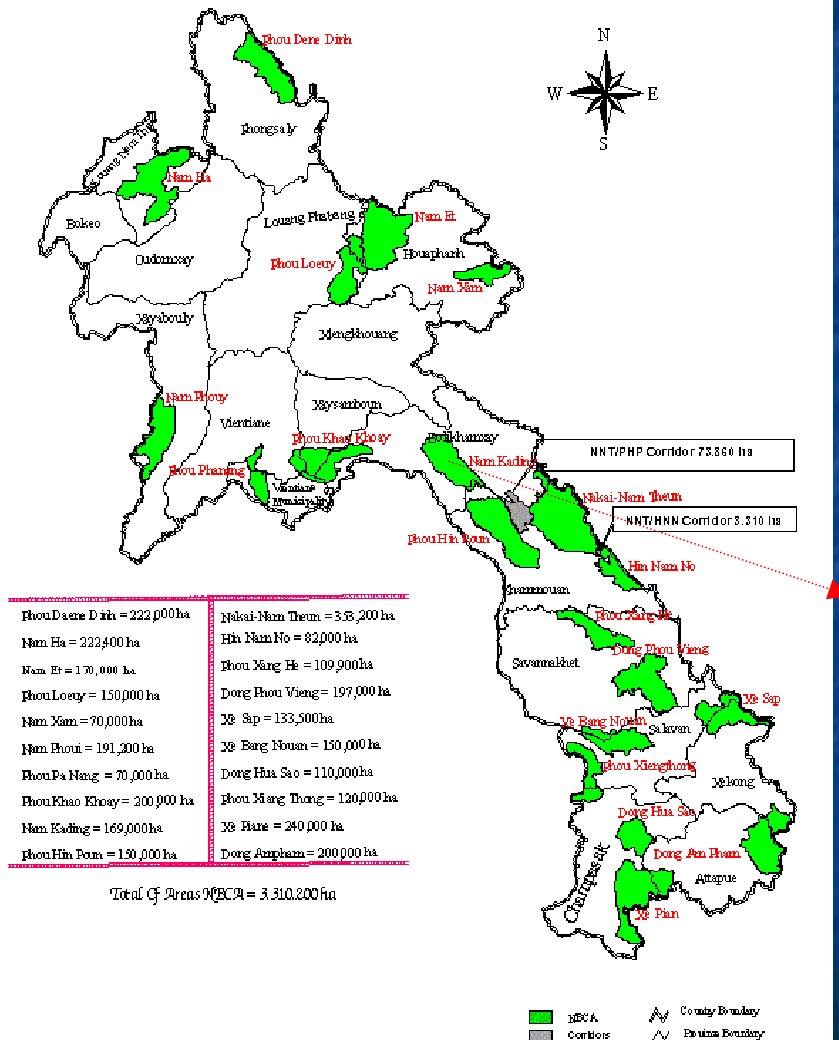
# The Context

- **Landlocked country**
- 236,800 km<sup>2</sup> area
- 5,5 million people
- Density 22/sq Km  
(22 persons / km<sup>2</sup>)
- Total forest area is 11.6 million ha
- Share borders with five countries





## National Biodiversity Conservation Areas

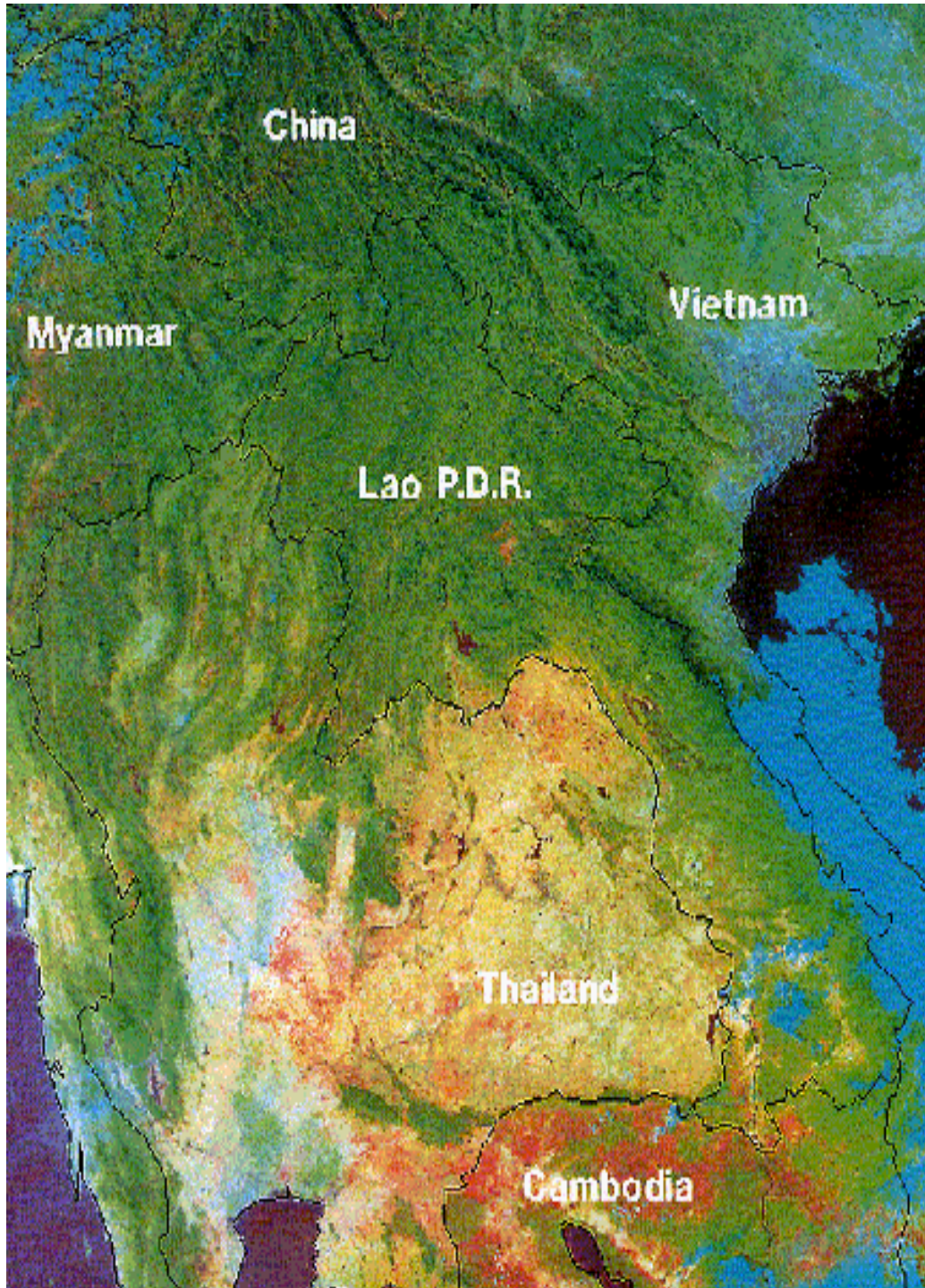


# The Challenge

- Surrounded by 3 of world's largest timber importers
- Weak governance structure
- Rapid increase in physical infrastructure







## What We Think We know

- Very varying statistics on volumes of illegal timber
- High volumes of bush meat and wildlife
- 
- No hard data on levels of land encroachment



# Checkpoints

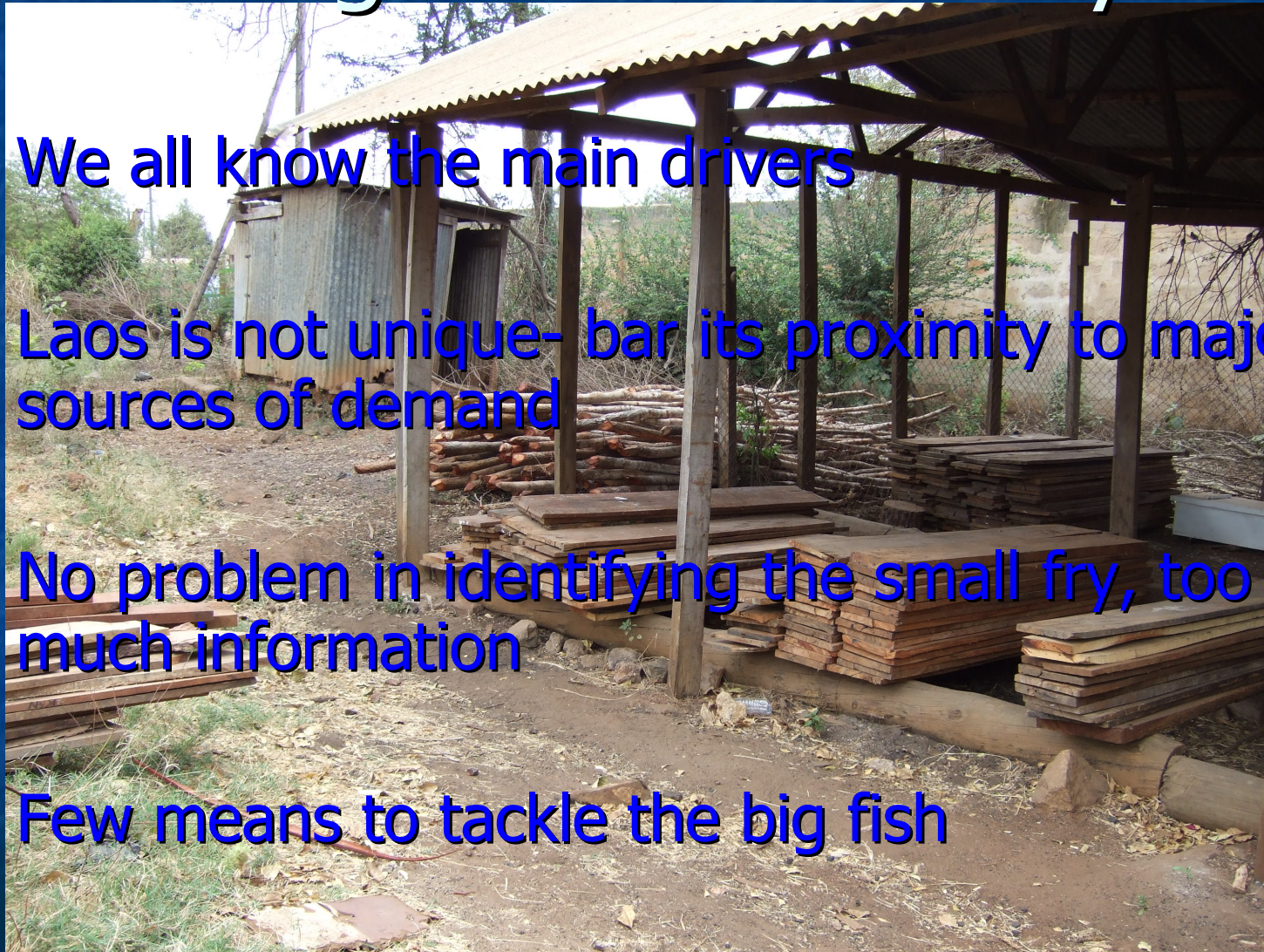
- Over 40 International  
Border crossing
- 3 or 4 internal  
Check points in  
each Province  
Total over 60





# Big Fish – Small Fry

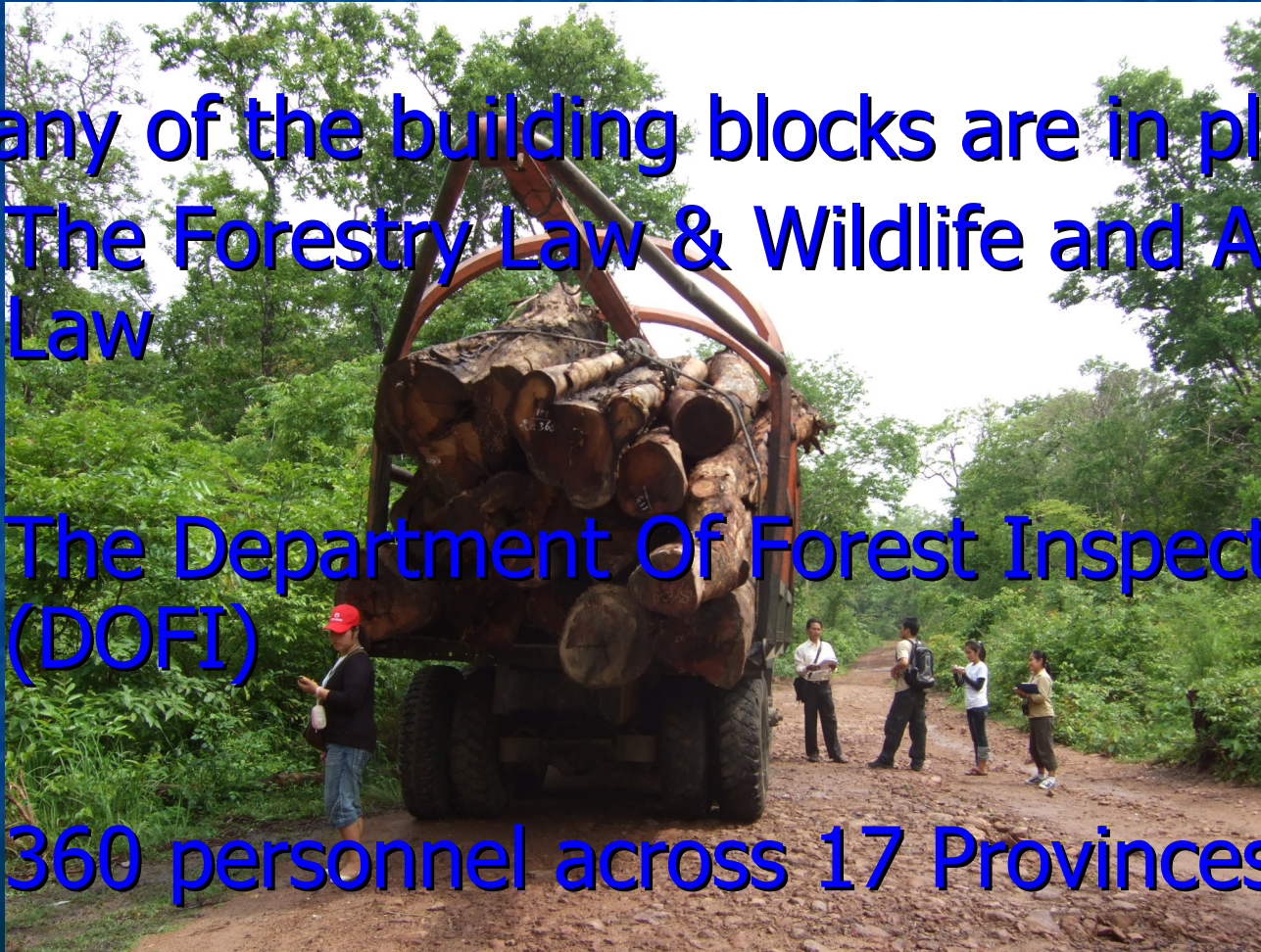
- We all know the main drivers
- Laos is not unique- bar its proximity to major sources of demand
- No problem in identifying the small fry, too much information
- Few means to tackle the big fish





# What Can Be Done

- Many of the building blocks are in place:
  - The Forestry Law & Wildlife and Aquatic Law
  - The Department Of Forest Inspection (DOFI)
  - 360 personnel across 17 Provinces





# What Else

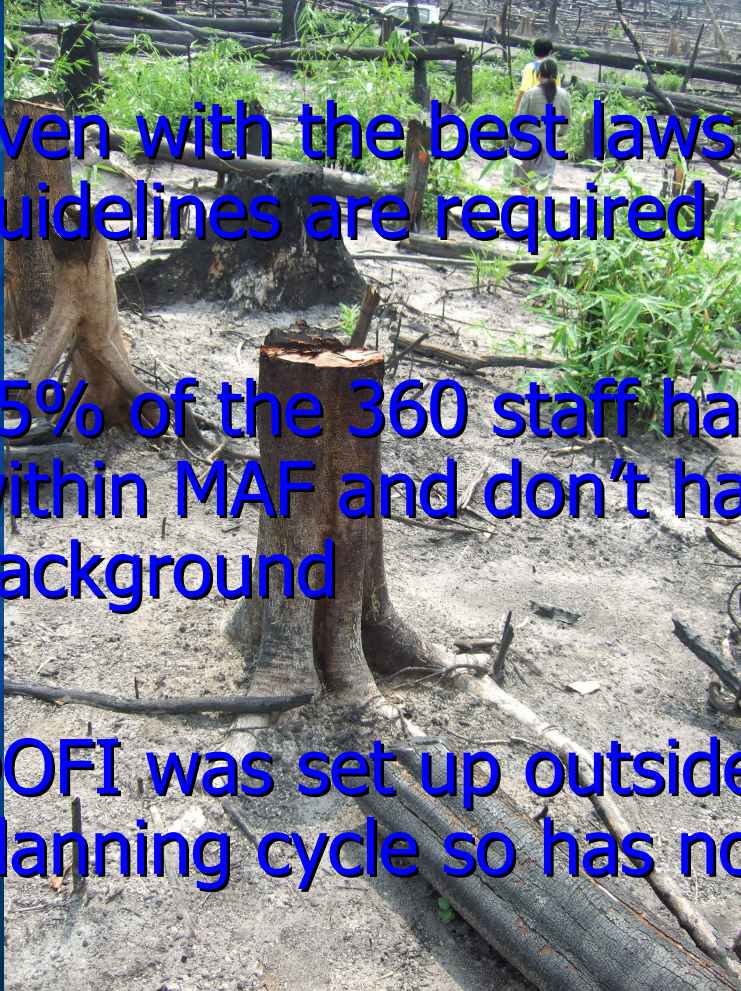
- There is a large network of information gathering
- There are interagency agreements in place
- There is vertical reporting from POFI to DOFI to MAF to avoid interference





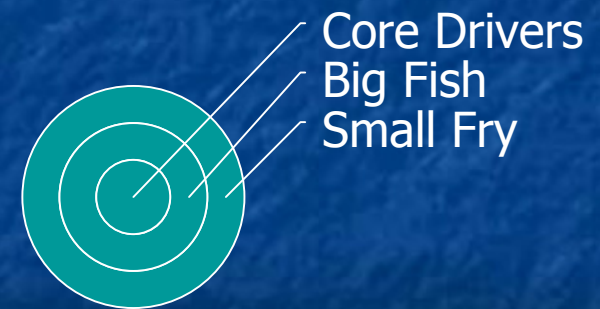
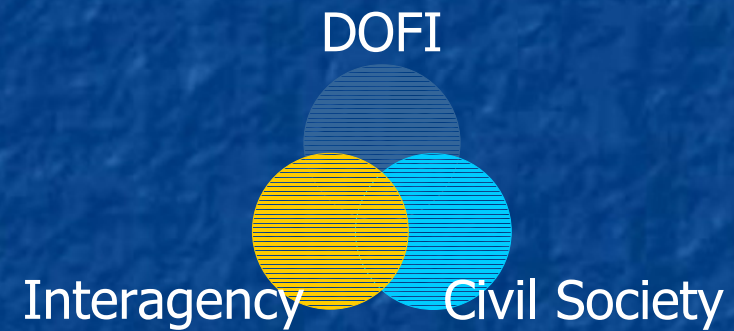
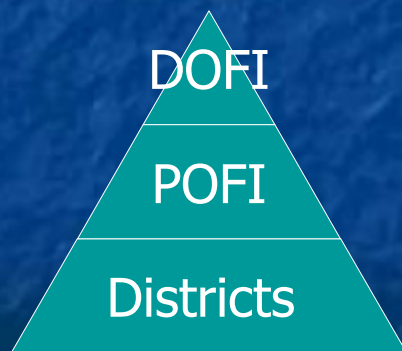
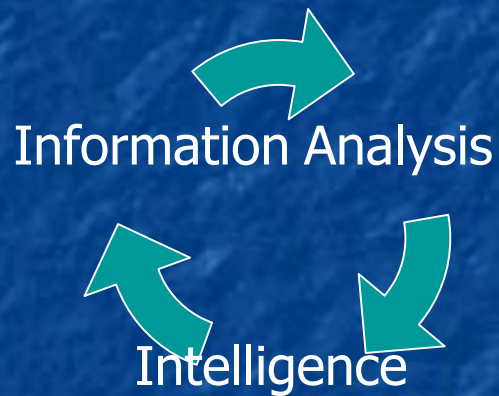
# But

- Even with the best laws regulations and guidelines are required
- 95% of the 360 staff have been transferred within MAF and don't have enforcement background
- DOFI was set up outside the national 5 year planning cycle so has no resources

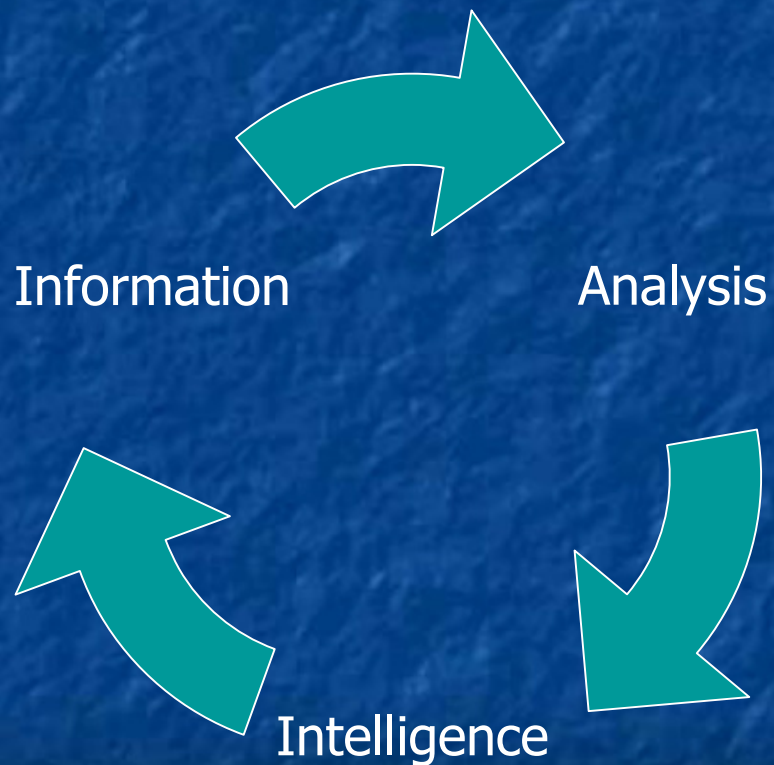




# Squaring The Circle

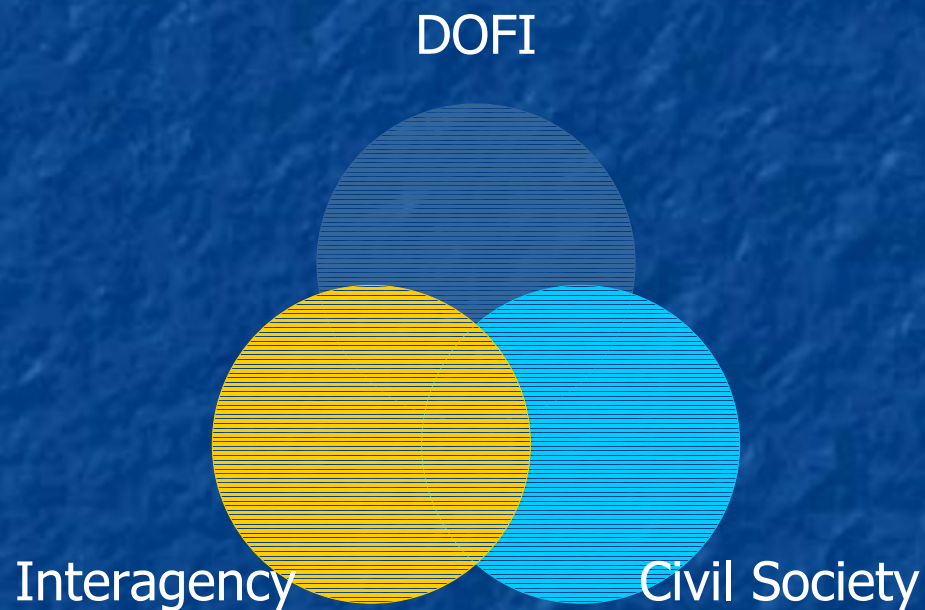


# The Intelligence Cycle



- We do have information
- We don't know how to analyze it
- We don't know where to focus our efforts

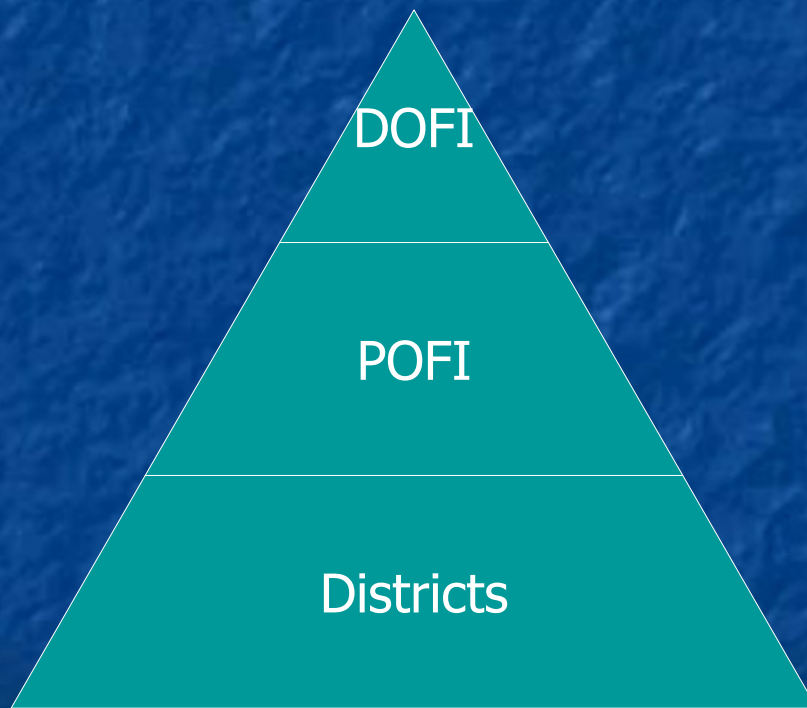
# Cooperation



- Need to identify the right partners
- Need to understand their strengths and weaknesses
- Need to make it happen on the ground
- Need to be clear about responsibilities

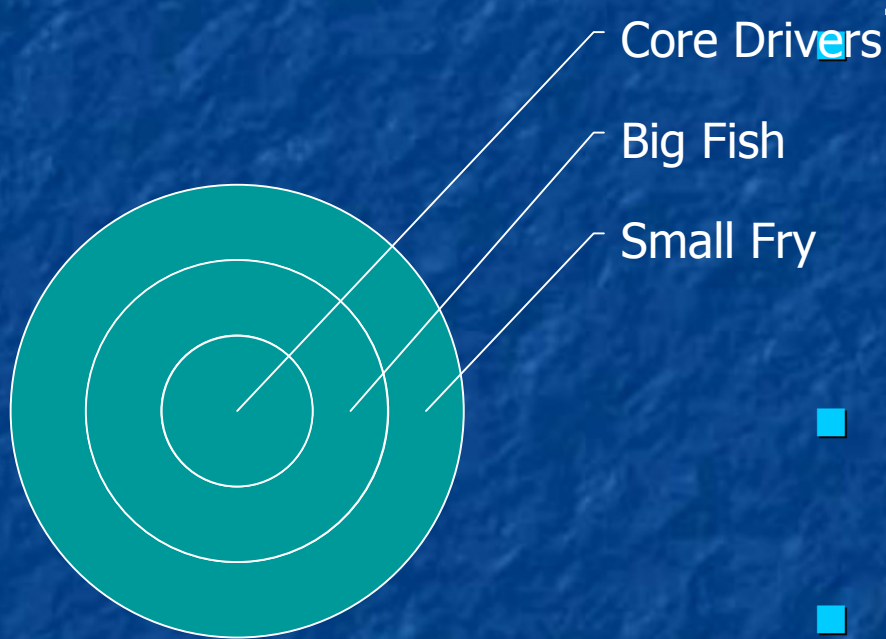


# Managing The Information



- Different levels in DOFI have different functions
- Define the responsibilities at each level
- Only collect information you are likely to use

# Targeting



- The Department needs to be ready to tackle the core drivers of forest crime
- It needs to build its capacity and ability
  - When it does move against the main targets



# The Flip Side

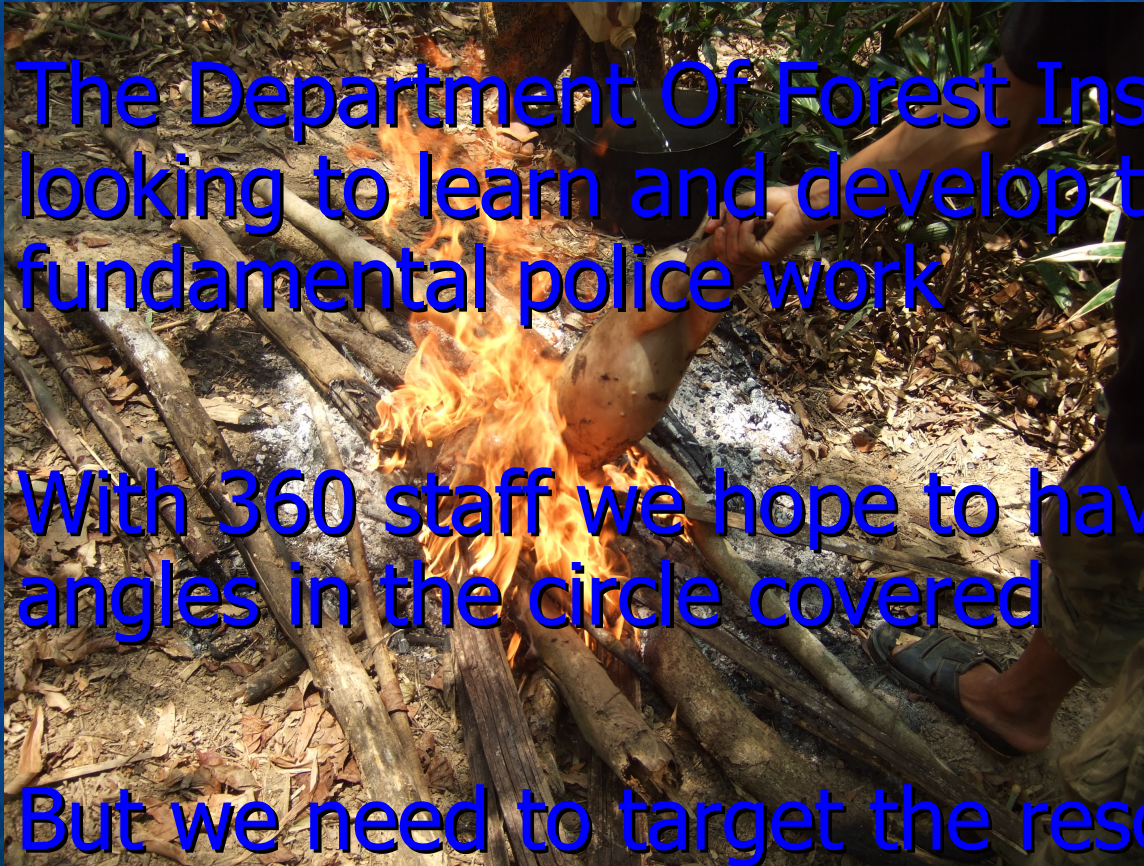
- What is not legal must be illegal
- Guilty until proven innocent, where is the burden of proof
- Matching up the *Enforcement* of the law with *Endorsement* of certification, Chain of Custody and Trade Chain Approach





# Conclusions

- The Department Of Forest Inspection is looking to learn and develop the skills of fundamental police work
- With 360 staff we hope to have all the angles in the circle covered
- But we need to target the resources





# What Is The Operational Budget?





# Answers on a postcard to:

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Thank you

