

**PRESENTATION GIVEN AT TRANSLinks REDD WORKSHOP**

**JUNE 22, 2009**

**BRONX, NEW YORK, USA**

**HOSTED BY**

**THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY**



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# Carbon credits from avoided deforestation a pilot project in the Seima Biodiversity Conservation Area, Cambodia

**Forestry Administration, Cambodia**

**Wildlife Conservation Society – Cambodia Program**

**WCS REDD Meeting**

**June 22, 2009**

**Presented by Tom Clements**





# Cambodia

- One of the poorest countries in SE Asia
- High forest cover (2006: 58.9%)
- High recent rates of forest loss (2002-2006: 3%, or 379,485 hectares)
- Low endemism, moderate species richness but high numbers of globally threatened species
- Large numbers of remote forest-dependent communities

# Location of Project Site

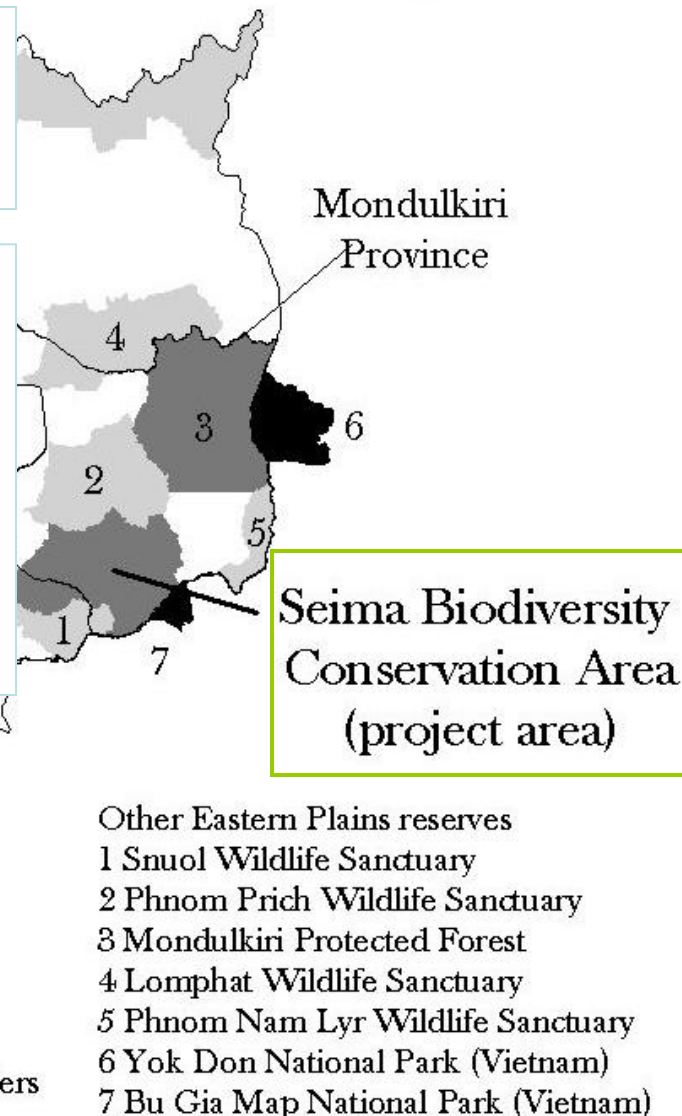
This is Cambodia's second REDD pilot site for the voluntary market and the first in a conservation area  
The carbon is owned by the Government of Cambodia

- The site was a logging concession ,now suspended
- Seima Biodiversity Conservation Area created 2002
- 305,000ha site (REDD within 180,000 ha Core Area)
- REDD project will be certified under VCS and CCBA

WCS has a long-term collaboration with the Forestry Administration covering all aspects of site management

## Advantages of the pilot site

1. Large area of forest with high carbon stocks
2. Existing government/NGO partnership
3. Positive results from feasibility study
4. Many similarities to other forests in Cambodia
5. Good community and biodiversity co-benefits







### **Unique community of birds:**

**4 Critically Endangered,  
8 Endangered or Vulnerable, and  
8 Near-threatened species**

**Including:**

Vultures; Large waterbirds: Giant & White-shouldered Ibis, Adjutants, Sarus Crane, Black-necked Stork; Orange-necked Partridge; Green Peafowl







## **Globally Threatened Mammals:**

**5 Endangered**

**12 Vulnerable or Data Deficient, and**

**5 Near-threatened species**

**Including:**

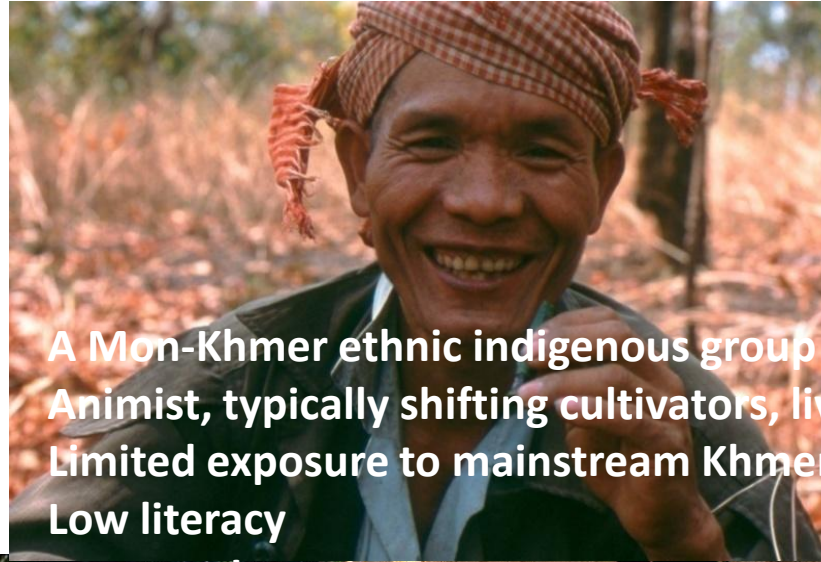
Tiger, Leopard, Asian Elephant, Eld's Deer  
Dhole, Gaur, Banteng, Fishing Cat, Golden  
Cat, Langurs, Gibbons





# Forest inhabited by the Bunong minority

A Mon-Khmer ethnic indigenous group  
Animist, typically shifting cultivators, live in small forest settlements  
Limited exposure to mainstream Khmer culture until recently  
Low literacy  
Low numbers  
Politically weak



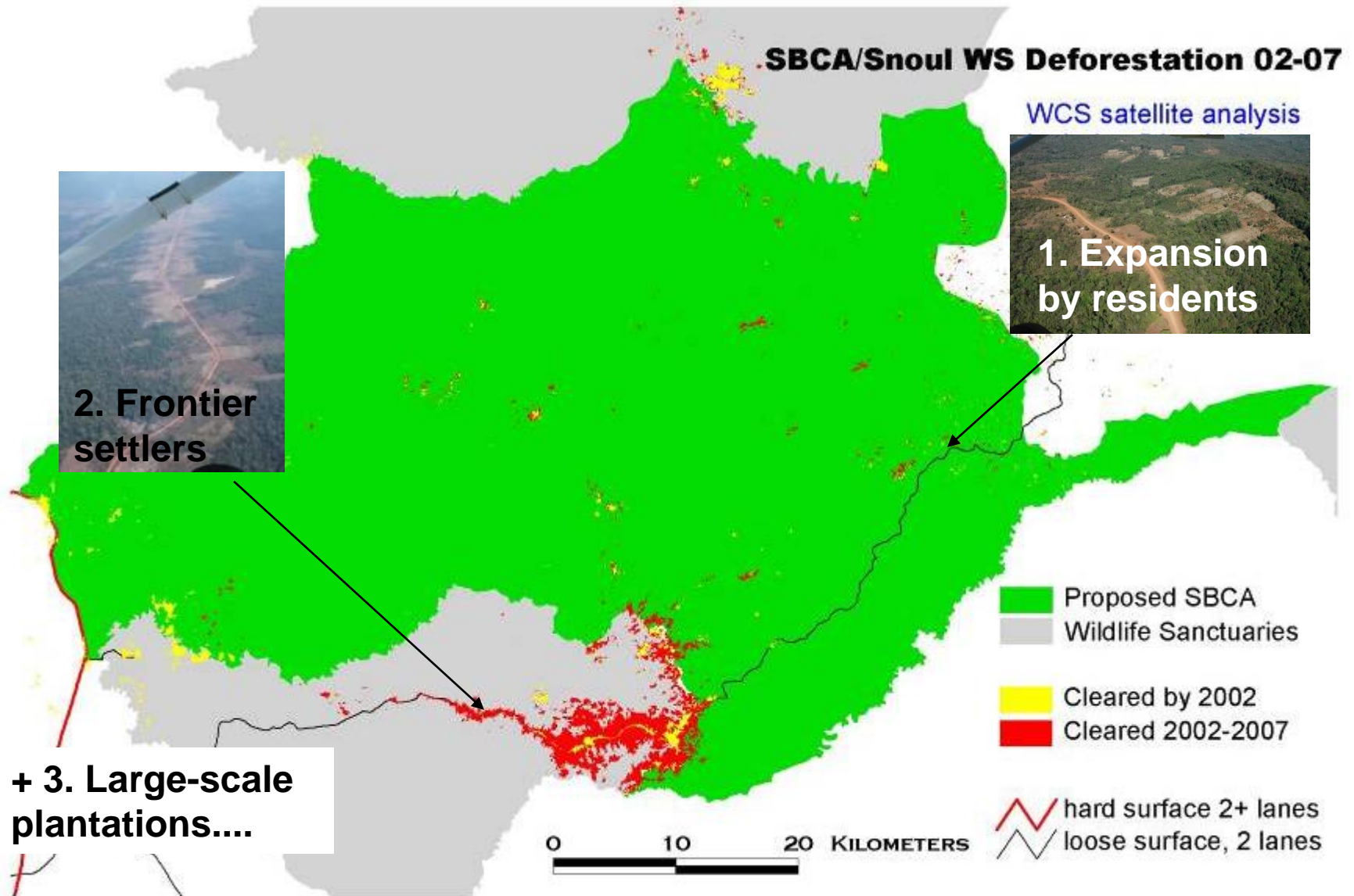


# Conservation Program

- Samling withdrew in 2002 – power vacuum – significant increase in threats (mainly land clearance)
  - Conservation program initiated: WCS/Government
- Includes:
  - Support to law enforcement (absolutely crucial element)
  - Community land-use planning, land titling & resource tenure
  - Economic incentives – Community Commercial Forestry, REDD
  - Monitoring
- Multiple donors: USFWS, MacArthur, Private, ADB, DFID, Danida, etc...

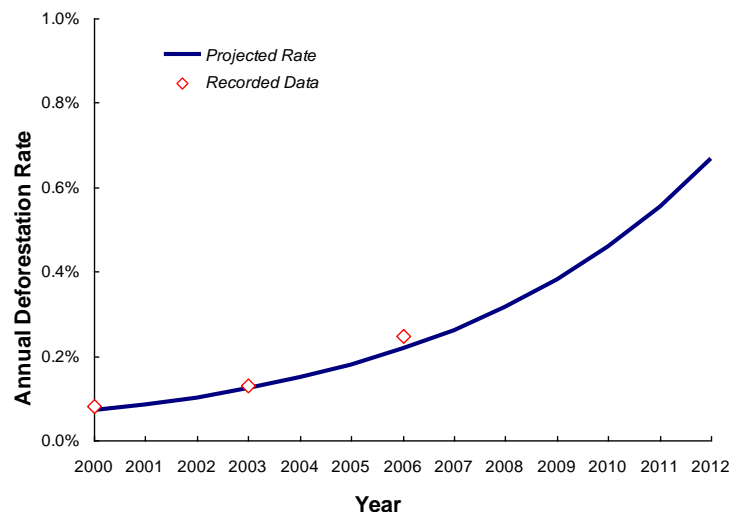


# Three drivers of deforestation





# Winrock Feasibility Assessment (2008)



Baseline deforestation rates are increasing

## Feasibility study:

Estimates 1,566,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e saved in first 5 years

Conservative estimate \$5.4 m revenue

(@\$5/t and 30%\* buffer)

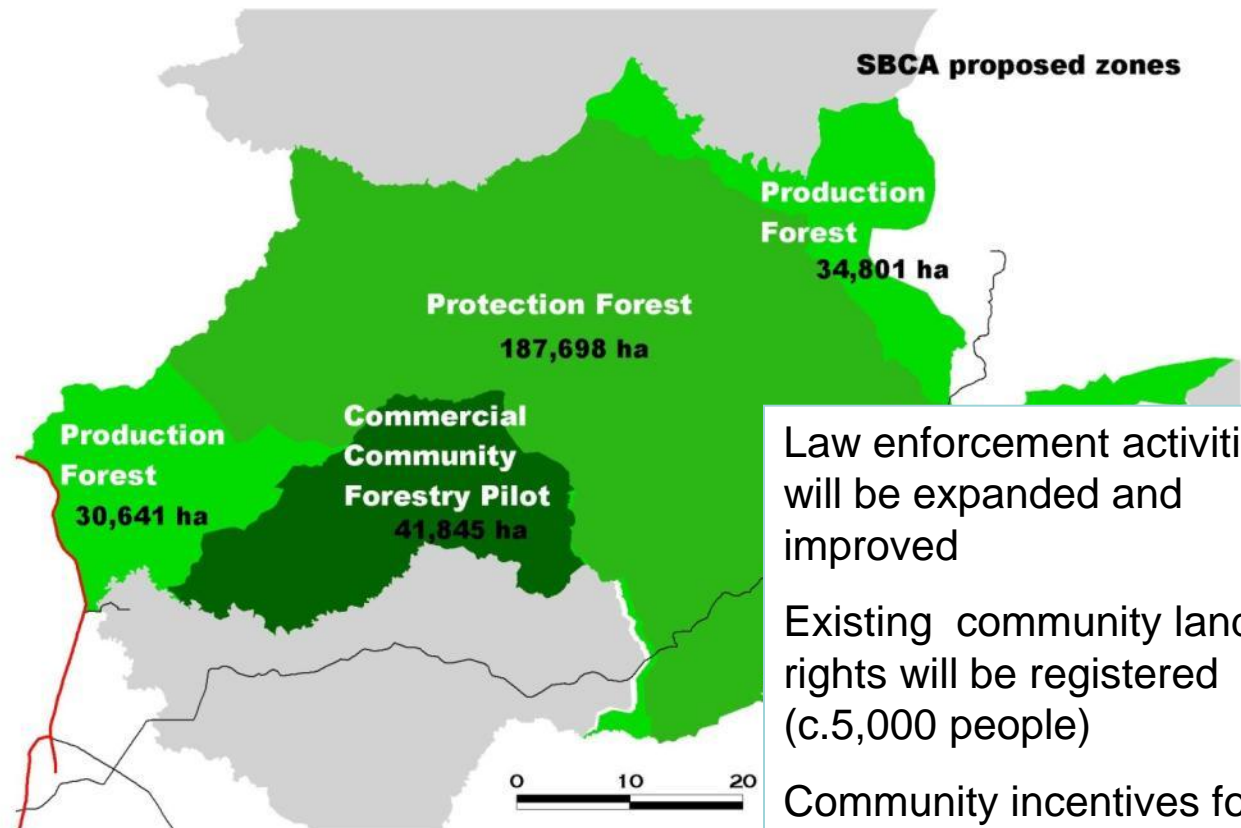
\* The Voluntary Carbon Standard sets aside 0-40% of a project's credits as an insurance against possible later failure. If the project lasts many of these credits will later be released for sale. The SBCA is likely to be assessed at a 10-30% risk.



# Proposed REDD management system provides strong additionality

A subdecree proposal has been submitted by MAFF to Council of Ministers

- stronger protection and clarified zoning



Law enforcement activities will be expanded and improved

Existing community land rights will be registered (c.5,000 people)

Community incentives for forest protection will be provided





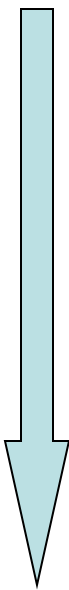
# Timeframe

Formal government go-ahead in October 2008

Fund-raising for implementation is ongoing

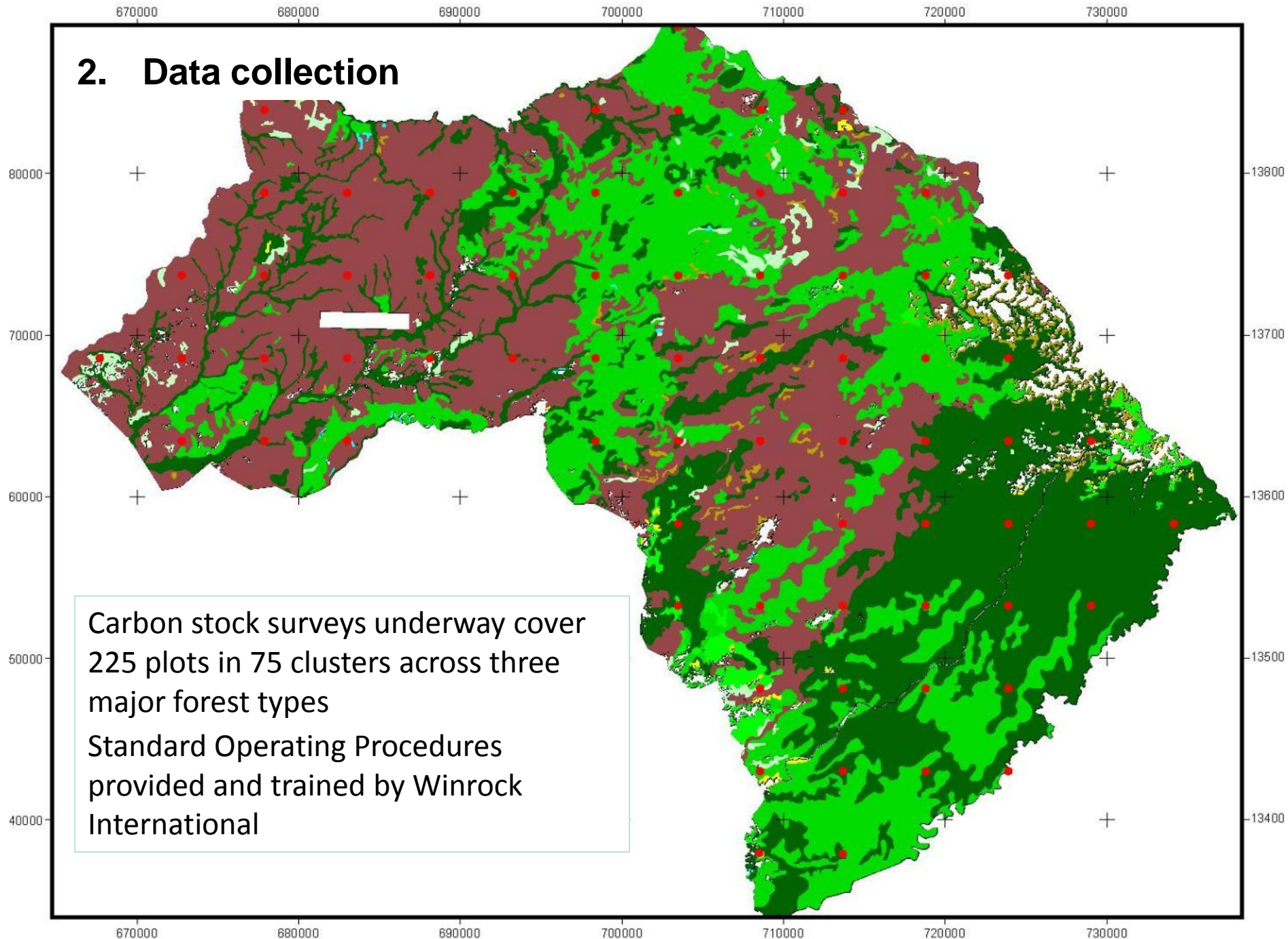
We estimate 6-12 months to bring first credits to market.

Approved methodologies soon to become available.

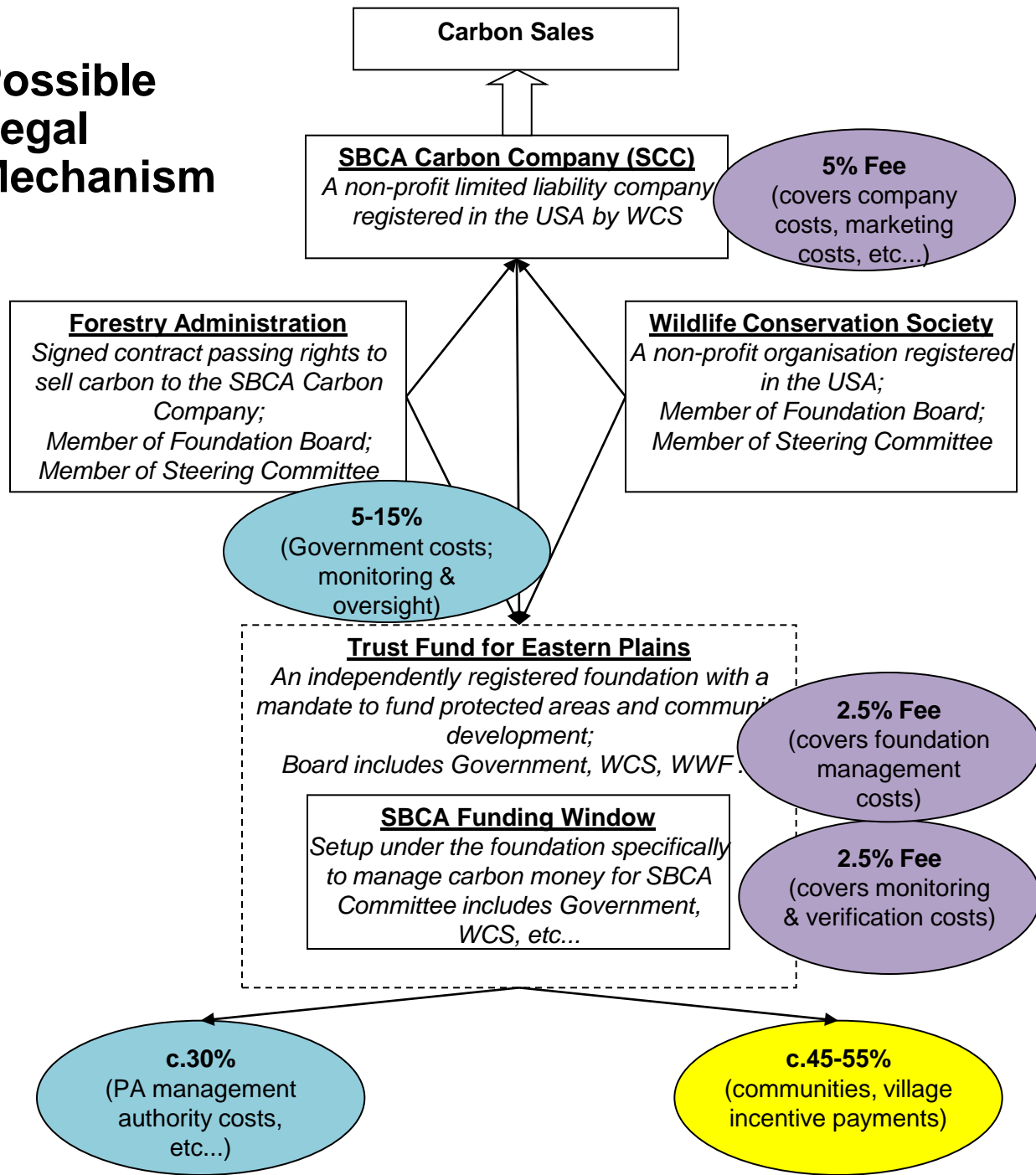
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- A large, light blue downward-pointing arrow is positioned to the left of the numbered list, indicating a sequence or timeline.
1. **Training** of FA/WCS staff (March, funded by TransLinks)
  2. **Data collection** in the field (March-August)
  3. **Baseline analysis** and carbon projections (May-August)
  4. **Setting up legal mechanisms** for carbon ownership and disbursement of carbon funds (ongoing)
  5. **Writing and certification of Project Design Document (PDD)** (ongoing – target late 2009)
  6. **Sales** (marketing has begun; formal sales after PDD)



## 2. Data collection

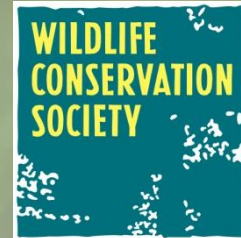


#### 4. Possible Legal Mechanism





# Acknowledgements



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