

Presentation given at the Southeast Asia Katoomba meeting

Katoomba XVII

Taking the Lead: Payments for Ecosystem Services in Southeast Asia

June 23-24, 2010

Hanoi, Vietnam

Hosted by:

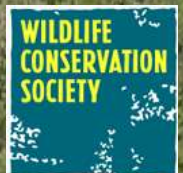
Forest Trends, the Katoomba Group, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Winrock International



This workshop was generously supported by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), under the terms of the TransLinks Cooperative Agreement No.EPP-A-00-06-00014-00 to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). TransLinks is a partnership of WCS, The Earth Institute, Enterprise Works/VITA, Forest Trends and the Land Tenure Center. The contents are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

Villages and REDD+: Issues of Local People

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New Guinea

- North of Australia
- Largest & highest tropical island
- High diversity & endemism (eg 341 mammals with 74% endemic)



Papua New Guinea (PNG)

- Eastern half New Guinea
- Large = 463,000 km²
- 8% of Global species
- Democracy - 6.7 million
- Free press
- Independent judiciary
- 149th HDI
- 154th Corruption rank



Customary Land Tenure



Papa Graun = "father of the ground" = landowner

- >97% land in customary ownership
- Landowners are the managers
- Landowning groups are families, extended families & clans
- No purchasing of land
- No network of large parks
- Landowners decide

PNG forests

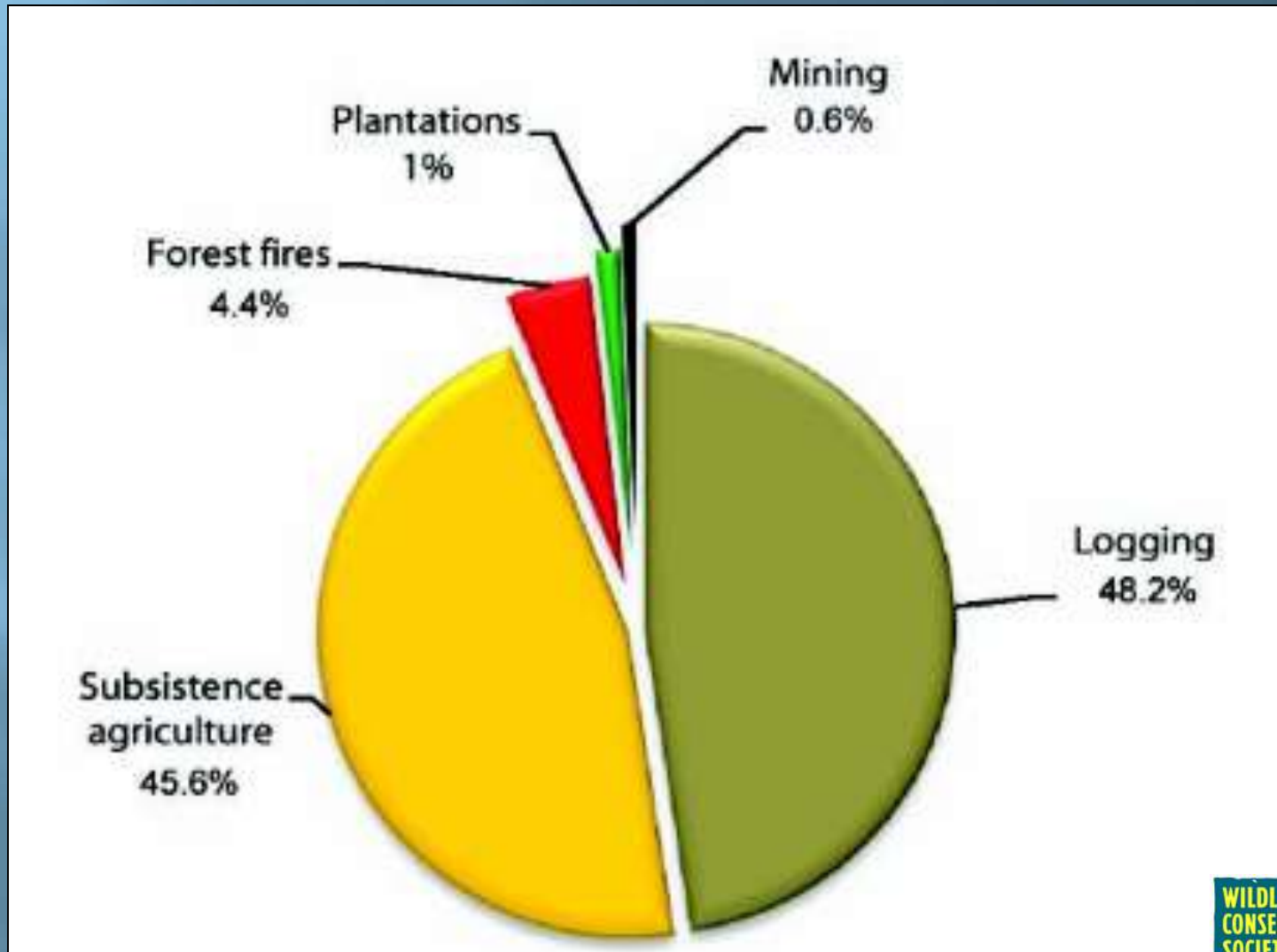
Vegetation Type	Area (Million ha)	PNG % SE Asia
TOTAL Forest	33	21%
Rainforest	28.2	20%
(Montane)	(9.6)	(37%) ←
Mangrove Forest	0.56	14%
Swamp Forest	4.4	37% ←

Importance of Forests - Co-benefits

- >75 % people live in rural areas
- 85 % people use wildlife & forest for food
- Forests provide building materials, fire wood, medicine
- REDD+ Activity = food security for forest dependant communities



Threats to forests

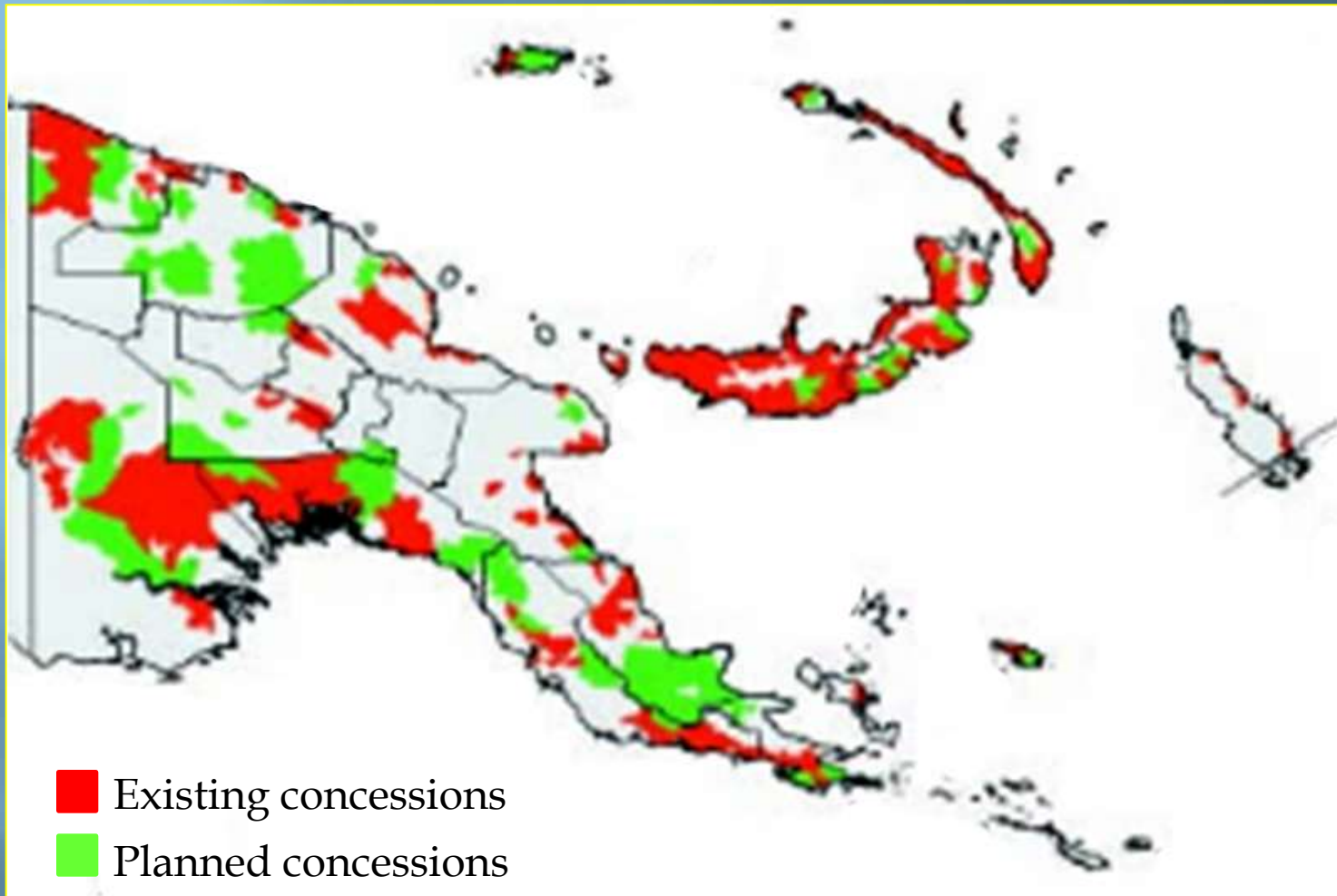


Drivers forest 1972-2002

Sherman et al. (2008)



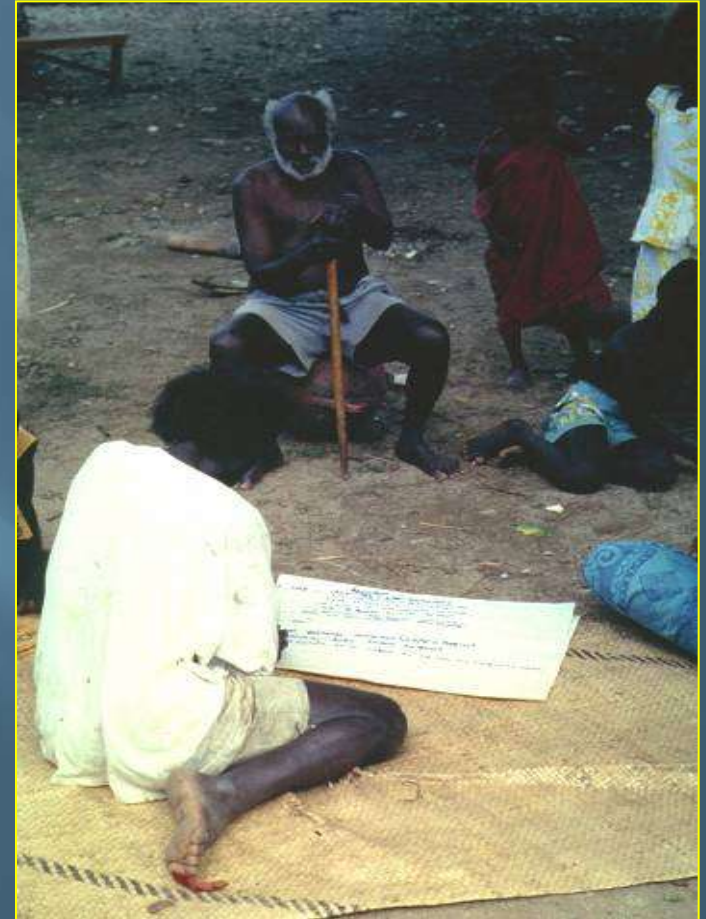
Industrial logging and oil palm



- 80% remaining 11 m ha accessible forests for logging

Information informing the approach

- Developed REDD+ concept
- Data from two provinces but applicable
- Discussions with almost 600 (incl. 500 locals villages)
- 20+ years experience in PNG



What people want from development

- Concern that resources are declining
- Have seen & heard about damages done by extractive industries
- Want low-impact forest development:
 - Small-scale logging
 - Small-scale agricultural like cocoa
 - Forest left alone
- Development priorities are consistent with REDD+

What people want from development

- >90% people interviewed want REDD+ activity because;
 - The environment will not be affected/destroyed
 - Will generate improved infrastructure and service
 - Will generate monetary income



Conditions for successful REDD+ activity

- Awareness raising needed:
 - Climate Change
 - REDD+ Activity
 - Incorporated Land Group
 - Customary Land Registrations
 - Financial benefits
 - Issues of Permanence



Conditions for successful REDD+ activity

Relationship between local people, their leaders & government agencies poor:

- Lack of proper communication
- Government agencies officers visit villages rarely
- when they do they spent less time in the village



Benefits from REDD+ Activity

- Personal Benefits:
 - Housing (85%)
 - Increased cash income (35%)
 - School fees



Benefits from REDD+ Activity

- Community Benefits
 - School (58%)
 - Health Facilities (47%)
 - Transport infrastructures
 - Increased cash income
- Overall, local people want better services & infrastructure from REDD+; cash is not top priority



Community Organisation

- Trusted people to distribute benefits are clan leader through individual clan/family
- Trusted group to represent interest in REDD+ activity are family/clan groups
- Community Leaders they need;
 - Funding (39%)
 - Training (33%)
 - Improve communications (17%)

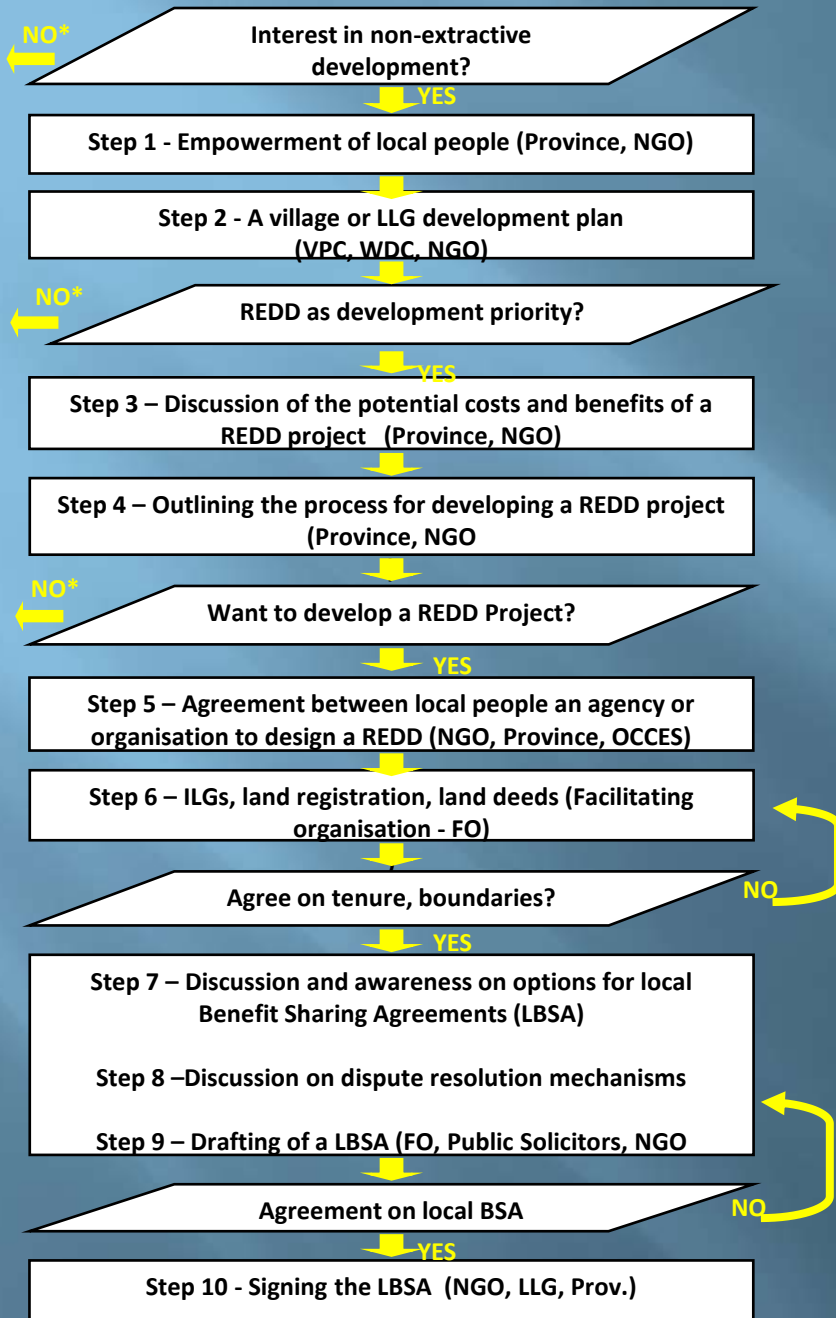
Disputes arising from REDD+ Activity

- Landowner disputes considered major risk (48%)
- Dispute resolution mechanisms are critical
- Customary & village court systems:
 - Use existing & familiar laws
 - mediators locals who understand background to problem

WCS-PNG Recommends

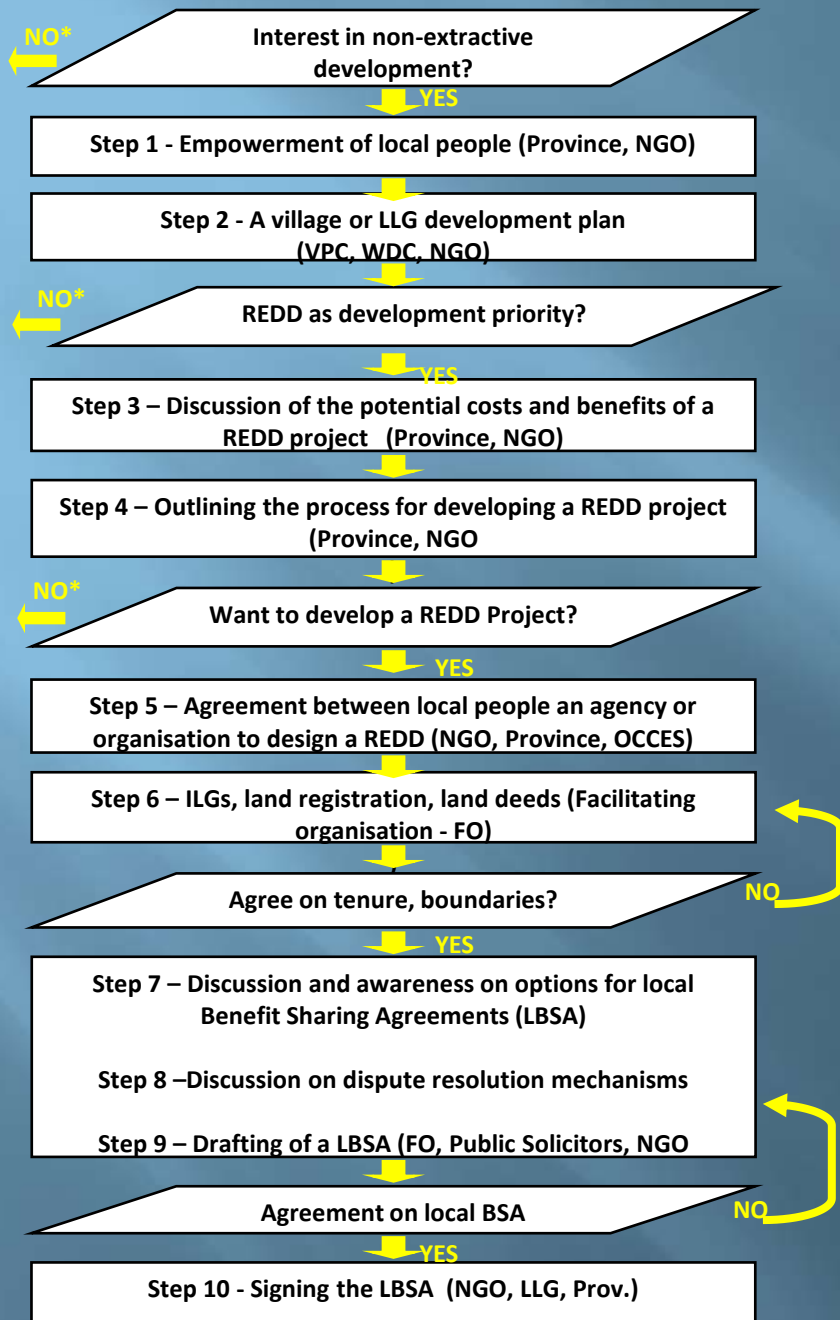
- Awareness on climate change, REDD, legal issues covering land
- 10 step community organisation
- Communication between partners transparent & information flow smoothly
- Local benefits sharing agreements developed slowly, involving all partners

10-Step community organisation



*Group pursues other development options

- Empower local people to make transparent & informed decisions
- Each step involves
 - broad participation
 - Full understanding



10-Step community organisation

- Local Benefit Sharing Agreements
 - Benefits towards local development plan
- Consistent with local government development plans & processes

Sub-national Carbon Credit Pool (CCP)

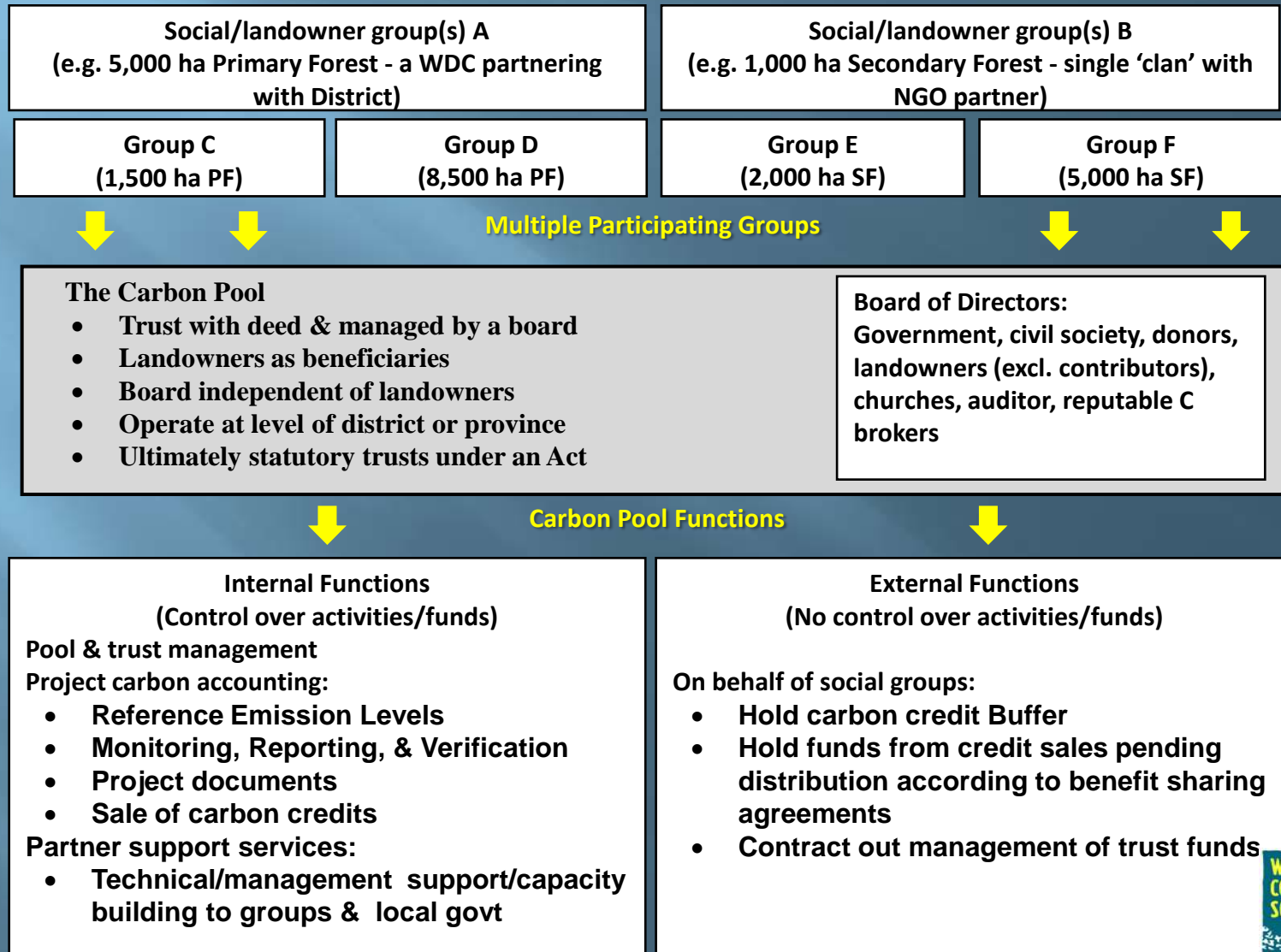
- Bundling of land holdings that on their own would not be commercially viable for a REDD activity:
 - Reduces overhead costs commercialising carbon
 - Reduces risk to potential buyers
- Operates at sub-national scale
- Reduces start-up & operations costs
- Enables many small landowner groups to participate
- Provide economy of scale for technical activities

Carbon Credit Pool (continued)

- Not-for profit & profit models
- A trust (statutory trust model used later)
- Pool Reference Emission (REL) Levels feed into national carbon accounting
- Pool can address sub-national leakage
- Pools could be replicated across PNG



Structure of a carbon pool



Take Home Messages

- Complicated landownership and cultural systems
- Local people:
 - heavily depend on forests
 - want low-impact development for forested lands
 - want services and infrastructure not cash
 - trust their immediate family/social group

Take Home Messages (continued)

- Full engagement of community in planning and design:
 - Local development plan
 - Benefits Sharing Agreements
 - Dispute resolution mechanisms
- Bundling of many social groups into a Carbon Credit Pool
- The world can learn from the people-first forest management in PNG!

Acknowledgements

- WCS-PNG team members & contractors: Almah Tararia, Aileen Sagolo, Arison Arihafa, Bega Daniel, Daniel Charles, Eduard Merger, Elliot Tovaboda, Florence Durney, Gideon Haukani, John Kuange, Kate Holmes, Lisa Ogle, Mellie Samson, Piwan Langarap, Rachael Lahari, Roselyn Kanane, Ross Sinclair, Selarn Kaluwin, Tanya Zeriga-Alone, Tau Morove, Tom Clements & our local assistants

