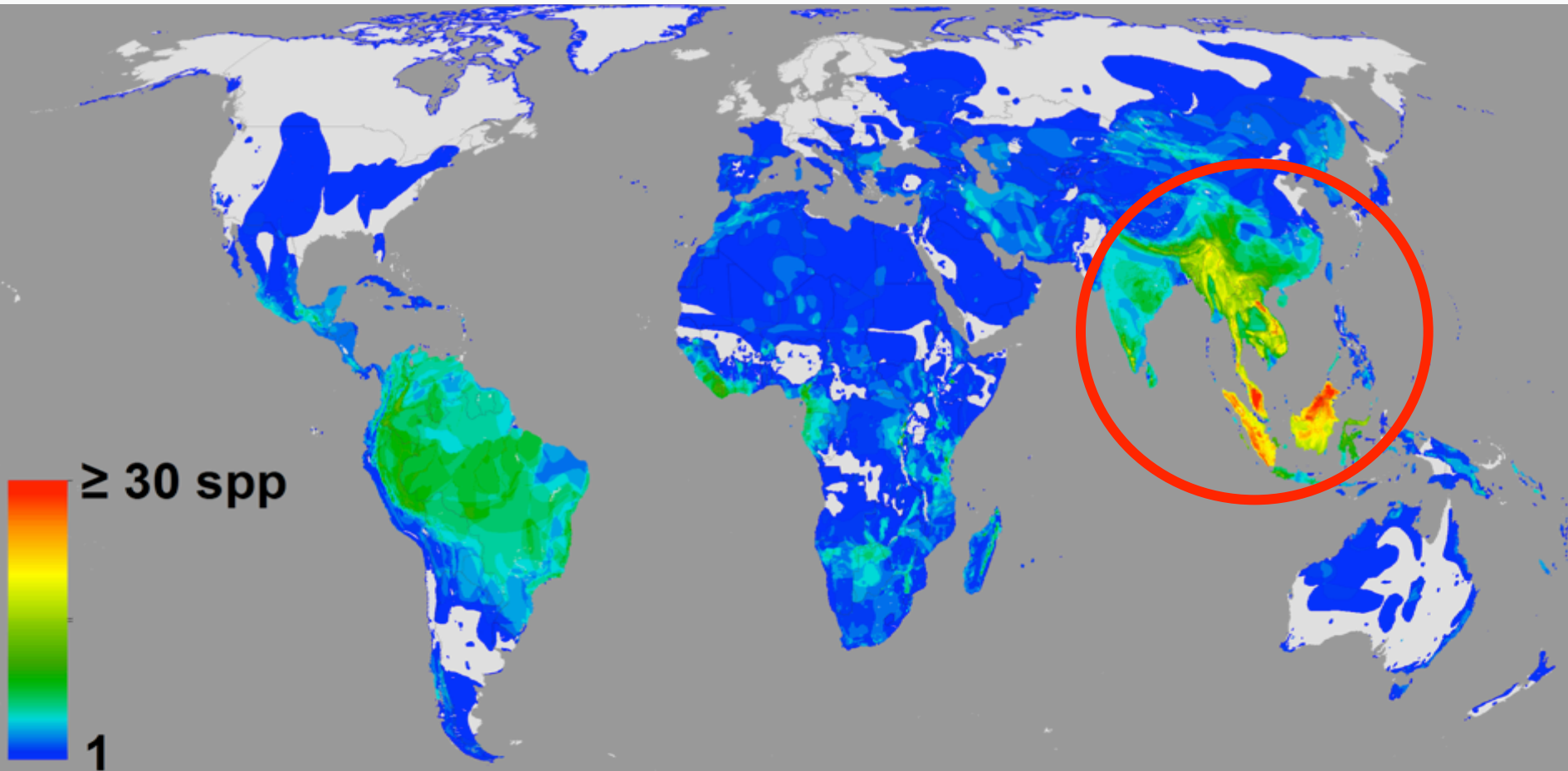


# LARGER THAN TIGERS: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION STRATEGIC APPROACH FOR ASIA

Implemented by Wildlife  
Conservation Society; AGRER,  
B&S Europe

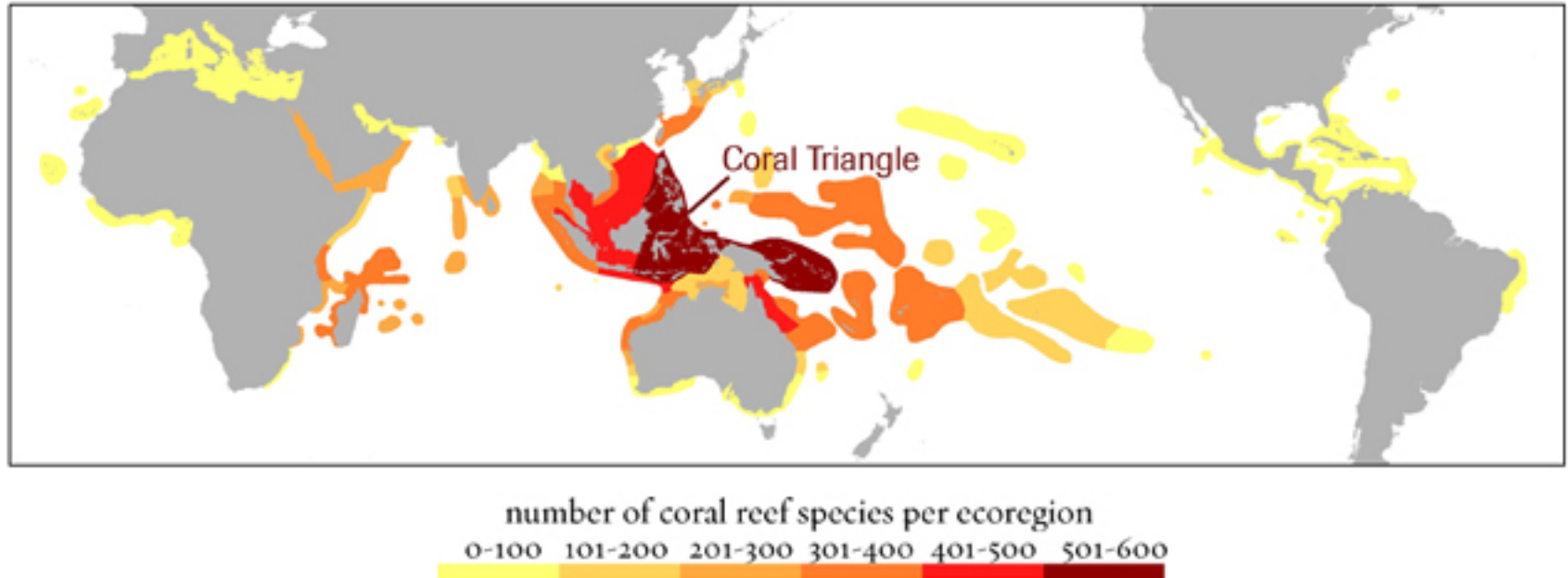


# Asia has the highest concentration of terrestrial globally threatened species



- Map: distribution of threatened mammal species [credit: Jenkins et al. 2013]
- Southeast Asia: highest concentration of Critically Endangered vertebrates globally
- Many have little or no conservation attention

# and the greatest marine diversity



Compiled from global distribution data of all coral species by Charlie Veron, Lyndon DeVantier and Emre Turak.  
Production by Stuart Kininmonth. A product of Coral Geographic, November, 2007.



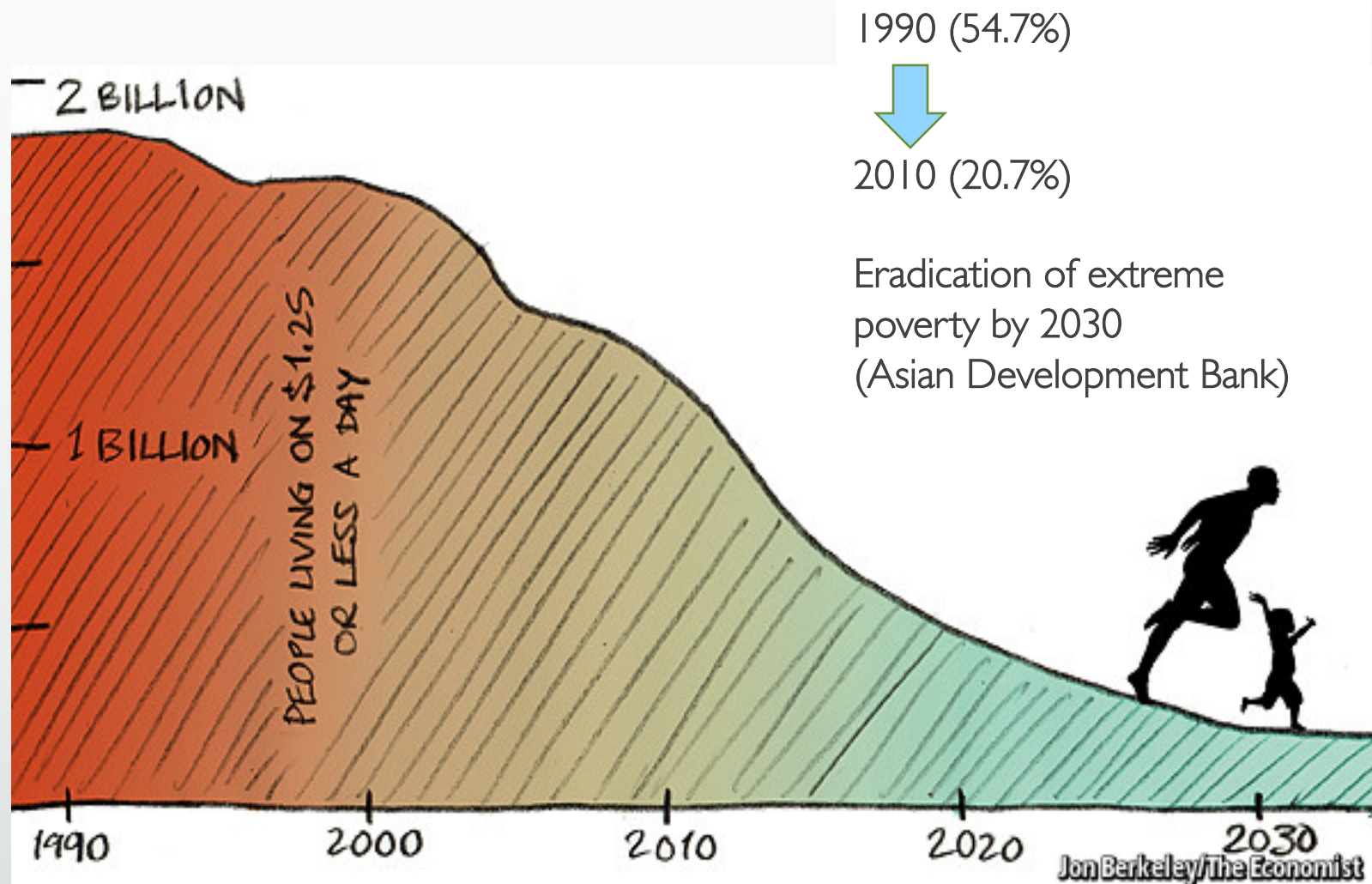




**There are more people living inside  
this circle than outside of it.**

3.4 billion people; 1/2 the world's  
population in about 1/5 of its land area

# And is a global centre of economic growth





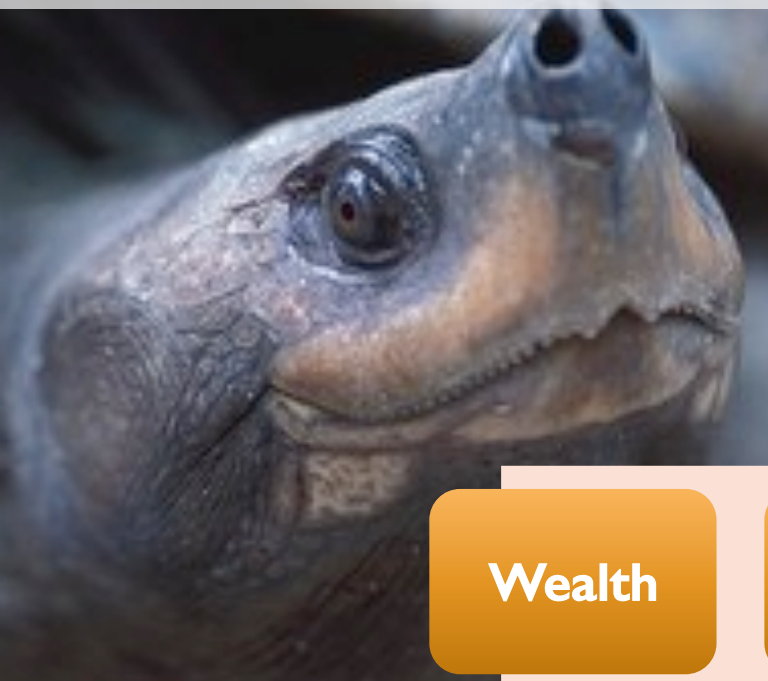
# Economic growth is linked to the exploitation of natural resources



**CHINA SHIPPING LINE**



# Economic growth..... Higher consumption of endangered species



**Wealth**

**Demand**

**Wildlife  
trafficking**



# Study Objectives

---

- Identify at the continental scale:
  - the **principal threats** to biodiversity in the selected Asian regions
  - the **most appropriate contribution** that the EU can make to enhancing biodiversity conservation in the region
- Propose a **coherent strategic approach** outlining a suite of interventions
- So that the EU (and others) can engage in **effective, well-articulated and complementary interventions** for biodiversity conservation



# The Africa Report

- Published 2015
- Supports programming of EU's European Development Fund and the Global Public Goods and Challenges funding instruments for sub-Saharan Africa up to 2020
- Some bilateral donors are also referring to the documents to guide their strategy development
- Parallel process for Latin America



# Geographic Scope: 25 countries

## Synthesis report

### Central Asia:

Afghanistan  
Iran  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Tajikistan  
Turkmenistan  
Uzbekistan

### South Asia:

Bangladesh  
Bhutan  
India  
Nepal  
Pakistan  
Sri Lanka

**Island South-East Asia + New Guinea:**  
Indonesia; Malaysia; Papua New Guinea;  
Philippines; Timor-Leste

### East Asia:

China; Mongolia  
Russian border regions

### Greater Mekong:

Cambodia; Lao PDR  
Myanmar; Thailand  
Vietnam

**Marine:** Coral triangle; Other large marine ecosystems





# Threats to biodiversity in Asia

---

## **Overexploitation:**

- Wildlife exploitation (hunting, over-fishing)
- Logging and over-harvesting of non-timber forest products and biomass extraction

## **Ecosystem conversion, degradation:**

- Agriculture, forestry expansion (commercial, small-holder)
- Infrastructure (linear, settlement, energy)
- Oil, gas, mining
- Aquaculture
- Dam building and water abstraction/ diversion
- Pollution of freshwater and marine systems
- Climate change

# Drivers of Threats

---

- **Emphasis on Economic Development** to the exclusion of long-term sustainability
- **Population pressure on resources**; demand for energy, wildlife products
- **Corruption and misuse of power**
- **Civil unrest, conflict, insurgency**
- **Tenure insecurity and land resource conflict**
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**





## KEY FINDINGS: GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITIES



# Key Landscapes for Conservation (KLCs)

---

## Why identify priority areas?

- These are the most critical areas to focus site-based conservation funding
- These are the areas where mainstreaming biodiversity into other funding streams is necessary

## **‘Global’ level: Priority Regions for Conservation**

- based on published global analyses: hotspots, G200 ecoregions, endemic bird areas, wilderness areas

## **‘Landscape’ level: Key Landscapes for Conservation**

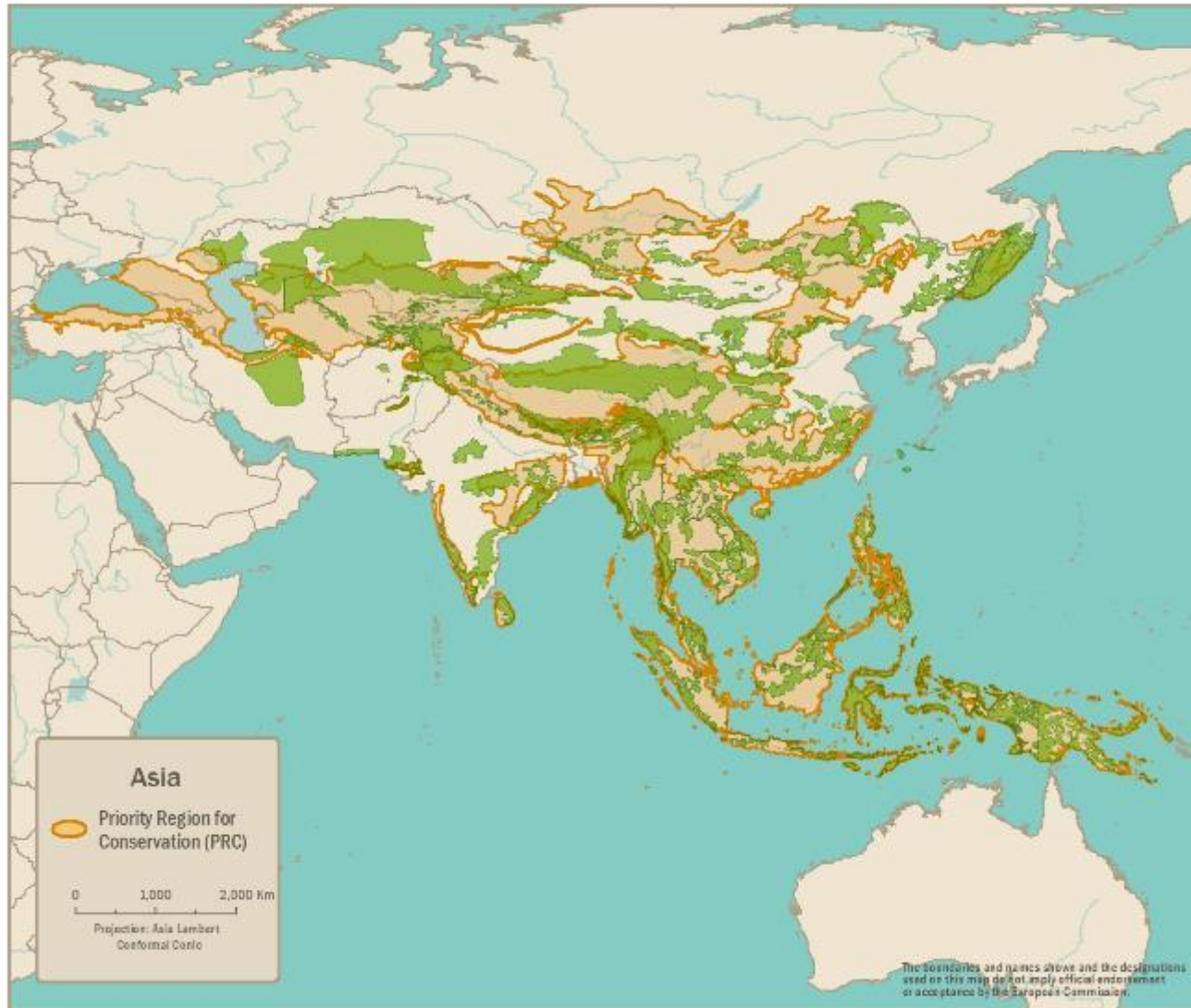
- Identified at national, regional level or for specific species (mostly) larger than individual sites



# Priority Regions for Conservation in the five sub-regions which make up the study area

| Sub-region          | Total area of Priority Regions for Conservation in the sub-region (Km <sup>2</sup> ) | PRC as % of total land area in the sub-region |
|---------------------|--|---|
| South Asia          | 1,780,673  | 48  |
| Greater Mekong      | 2,365,175  | 100   |
| Island SE Asia + NG | 3,023,096  | 100   |
| East Asia           | 6,352,902  | 57  |
| Central Asia        | 2,212,594  | 31  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>15,734,440</b>  | <b>58</b>                                     |

# Priority regions and KLCs in Asia



**Priority regions**  
(orange):

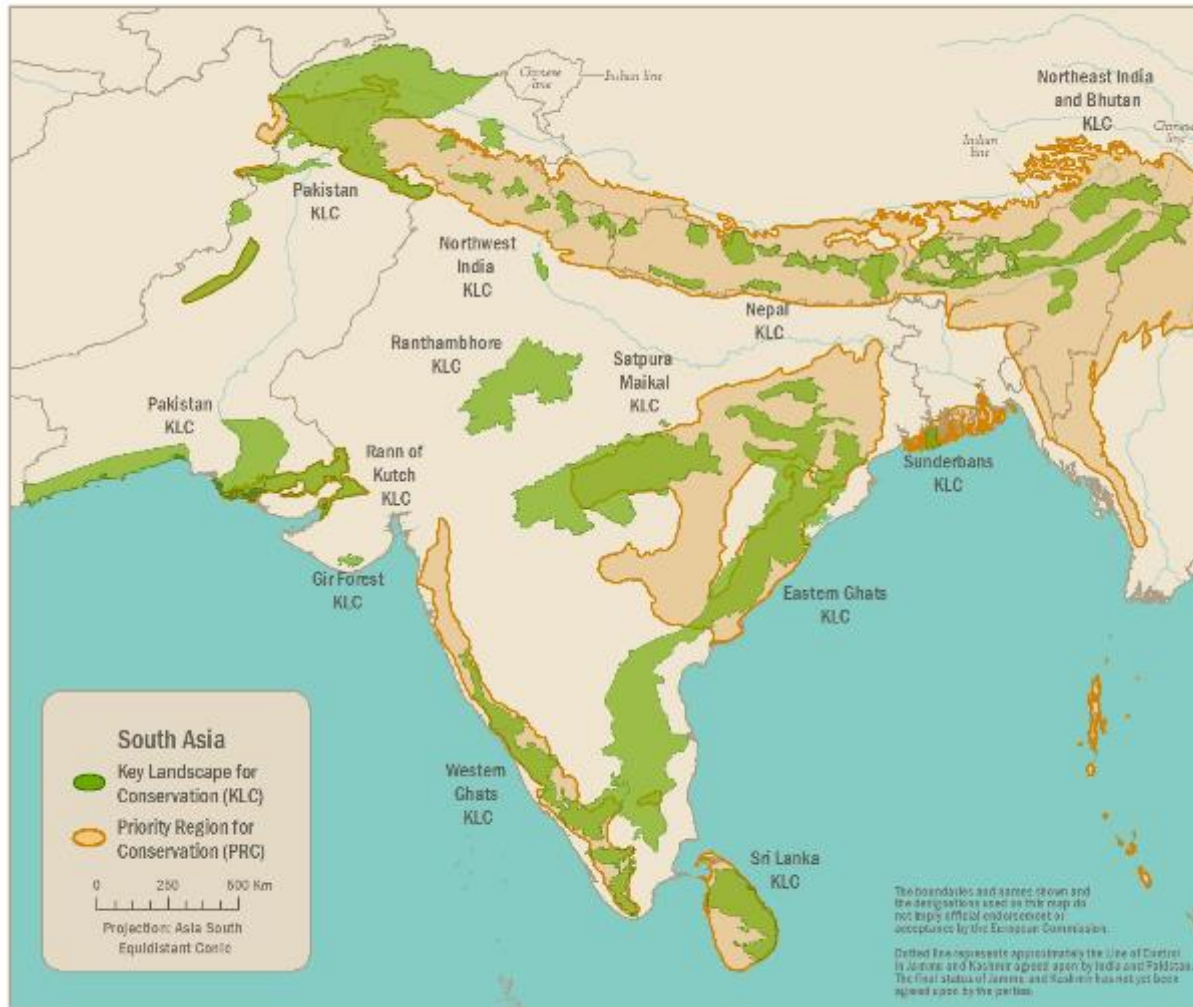
±60% land area

**Key Landscapes  
for conservation**  
(green):

±25% of land area



# South Asia KLCs



KLCs defined by:

- Key biodiversity area corridors
- Landscape scale (>1,500 km<sup>2</sup>) KBAs/ IBAs
- Tiger landscapes
- Tiger source sites
- Elephant range
- G200 (Rann of Kutch only)
- IBA (Gir forest only)

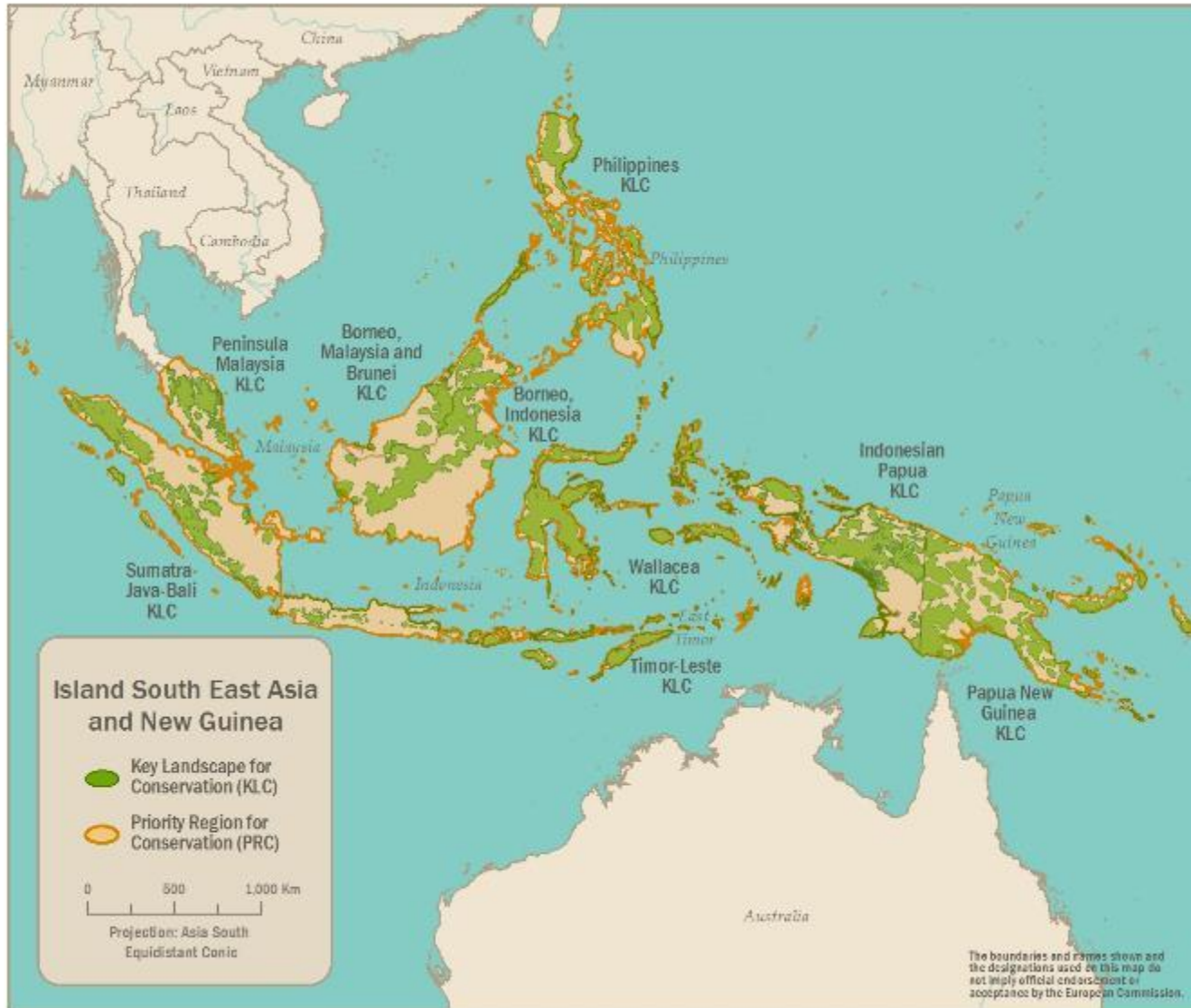
# Greater Mekong KLCs



KLCs defined by:

- Key biodiversity area corridors

# Island south-east Asia and New Guinea KLCs



KLCs defined by:

- Key biodiversity area corridors (Philippines and Wallacea)
- Mammal distribution (Borneo)
- Tiger source sites
- Elephant range
- Sumatran Orangutan range
- EBA
- Individual IBAs
- KBAs (Papua)
- Alcorn+Beehler (PNG)



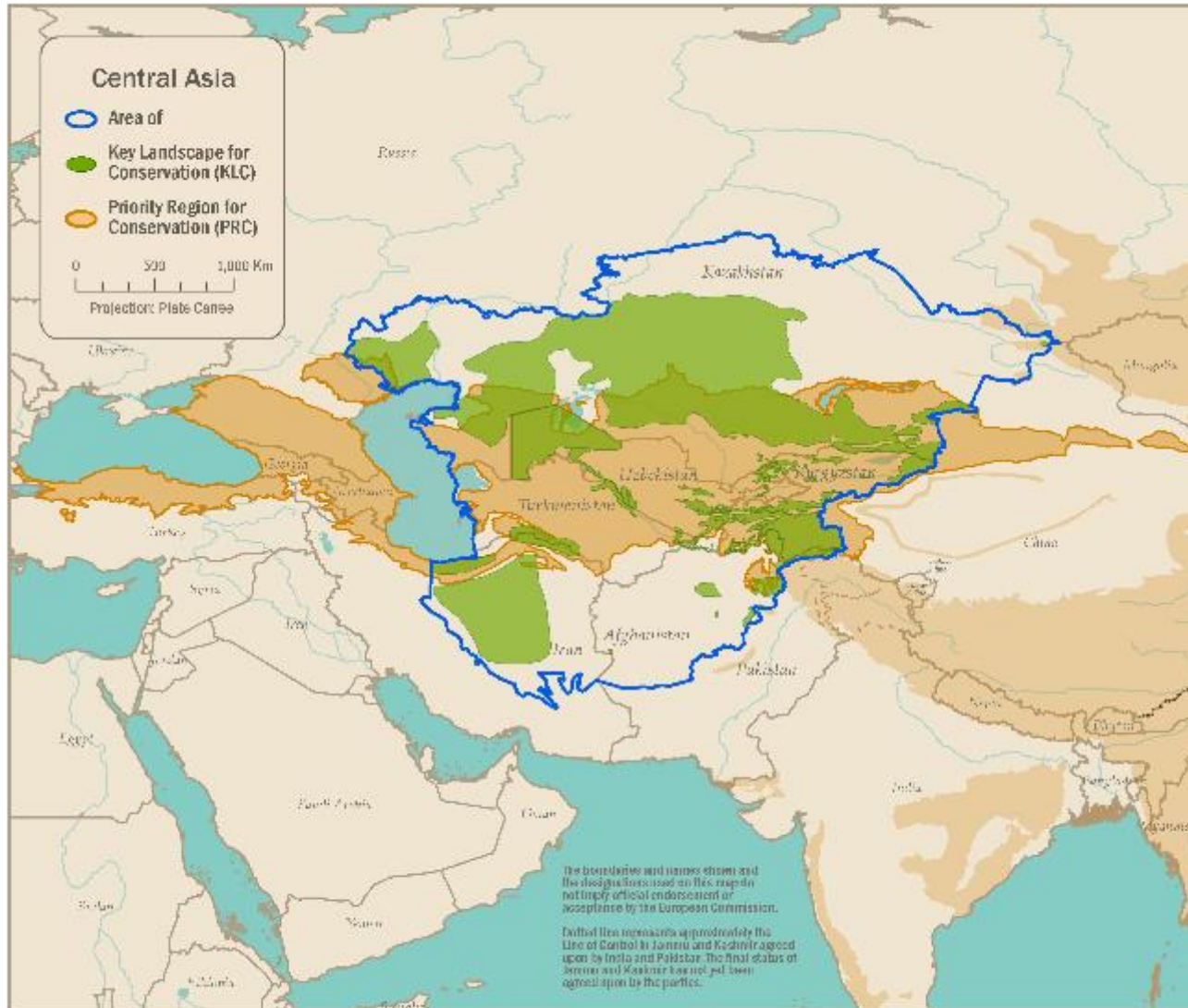
# East Asia KLCs



KLCs defined by:

- Govt. of China/  
TNC blueprint for  
conservation  
(China)
- Simplification of  
PAs + priorities  
from WWF et al  
(2010)

# Central Asia KLCs



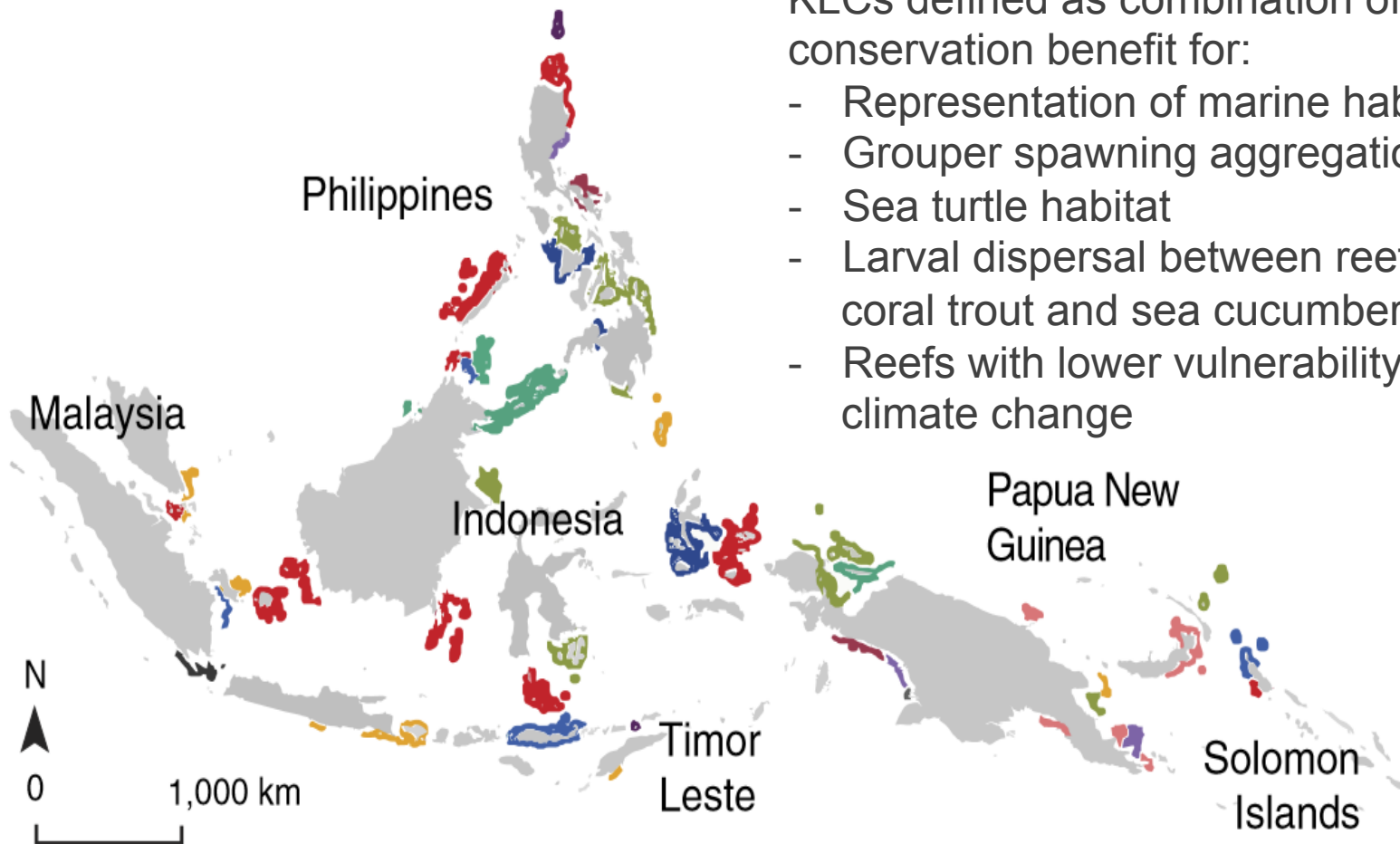
KLCs defined by:

- Draft priority KBAs (CEPF)
- GSLEP Snow Leopard Landscapes
- Snow Leopard Conservation Units

# Marine priorities

KLCs defined as combination of highest conservation benefit for:

- Representation of marine habitats
- Grouper spawning aggregation
- Sea turtle habitat
- Larval dispersal between reefs for coral trout and sea cucumbers
- Reefs with lower vulnerability to climate change



Source: Beger, M. *et al.* 2015 Integrating regional conservation priorities for multiple objectives into national policy. *Nature communications*, DOI: 10.1038/ncomms9208





## KEY FINDINGS:

## STRATEGIC APPROACHES



# Strategic Approaches to addressing main pressures on biodiversity and ecosystems

---

Three core approaches

- PROTECTED AREAS
- LANDSCAPE/SEASCAPE APPROACHES
- WILDLIFE CRIME AND UNSUSTAINABLE USE

# Protected Areas: Rationale and core issues

- Are the most important approach for conservation (7000 terrestrial PAs, >3 million km<sup>2</sup>, 2000 marine PAs, 0.2 million km<sup>2</sup>)
- National PA networks have gaps in coverage of ecosystems:
  - 9/25 countries >17%
  - Only 30 – 80% of key biodiversity areas protected
- PAs failing to protect biodiversity because of legal and illegal damage:
  - Weak institutional and staff capacity
  - Non-conducive political and policy environment
  - Institutions that are isolated or marginalised and under-resourced



# Protected Areas: Strategic Approaches #1

---

**Short term priority – improving the management effectiveness of existing priority protected areas**

- Better use of existing resources - expanded use of SMART
- Continued or increased investment: PA budgets, staffing and staff capacity

# Protected Areas: Strategic Approaches #2

---

## Medium Term Priority: institutionalize improved management, secure funding

- Enhanced strategic and management planning for PAs
- Clarify community land and resource rights within PAs
- Capacity: good practice sharing; competence standards for PA staff; improved training in existing institutions.
- Security of funding: align existing Government and donor funding; scale up alternative funding mechanisms (e.g. ecotourism, PES)

# Protected Areas: Strategic Approaches #3

## Medium and Longer-term: improved PA networks, more supportive policy and political environment

- Analysis of gaps and opportunities (update and expand KBA inventories, include conservation management by communities, private sector, local Government)
- Raise profile of PAs amongst public and decision makers, e.g. scale-up initiatives on the valuation of natural capital in PAs.
- Strengthen the legal and policy basis of PAs, and address weaknesses in planning laws and regulations in other sectors (e.g. energy, agriculture, fisheries, extractive industries, EIA).



# Landscapes and Seascapes: Rationale and core issues

- Central to maintaining connectivity and maintaining high-biodiversity sites outside formal protected areas (e.g. logged-over forest, small-holder agricultural mosaics, freshwater ecosystems and coastal ecosystems, near-shore marine ecosystems)
- Opportunities to make the link to prosperity and peace agendas
- Selection of priority landscapes should consider maintaining connectivity for biodiversity, opportunities for enhancing values for livelihoods, wider economic significance of ecosystem services (e.g. river flow, DRR)
- Core approach is enabling multiple stakeholder and interests to negotiate compatible, sustainable outcomes

# Landscapes and Seascapes: Strategic approaches #1

---

## Short term: low-hanging fruit and pilots

- Collate lessons from existing initiatives
- Identify high priority, feasible landscapes for further support

# Landscapes and Seascapes: Strategic approaches #2

- **Medium term: Embed landscape and seascape approaches into institutions and policies**
  - Enabling policies (inc. EIA, SEA) and removal of blockages to landscape and seascape approaches
  - Existing instruments for community/NGO management of land with landscape approaches (e.g. Community Conservation Areas, Ecologically Sensitive/Critical Areas, Protected Forests, Special Conservation Sites and Locally Managed Marine Areas)
  - Corporate sector commitments (e.g. for oil palm, pulp-paper, coffee etc)
  - Existing funding for environmental schemes (reforestation, ecosystem services)



# Wildlife Crime: Rationale and core issues

---

- Illegal and unsustainable exploitation of wildlife is a major, growing threat to biodiversity which undermines progress with protected areas and landscapes/seascapes
- Significant international collaboration already takes place, but there are opportunities for increasing its impact
- The issue can be tackled as a trade Governance issue, applying laws on trade, tax, quarantine etc., and as an international criminal issue (similar to people and arms smuggling)
- Enforcement is complicated in some cases because of 'farming' of wildlife, subsistence hunting rights

# Wildlife Crime: Strategic approach #1

---

## Short term

- Ramp-up enforcement efforts, engagement of specialist NGOs and civil society in enforcement.
- Reinforce existing mechanisms for trans-boundary cooperation
- Increase the impact of prosecution under current regulations on wildlife trade [increased sanctions, awareness in enforcement and judicial agencies]
- Increase political priority of wildlife crime through international multilateral and bilateral fora, to secure or reinforce commitments to action on wildlife crime from national leaders and other influential figures.

# Wildlife Crime: Strategic Approach #2

## Medium – Long Term

- Support strengthening of policies and laws on protected species, wildlife trade, and implementation of CITES obligations
- Capacity-building for decision makers, Govt. agencies and CSOs involved in action on wildlife crime and unsustainable exploitation
- Support demand reduction campaigns to change purchasing behaviour and strengthen support for action against wildlife crime.
- Wildlife Farming: Eliminate illegal farming, tighten scrutiny of licensed farms, prevent expansion of the industry
- New sources of funding for action against wildlife crime, e.g. 'restitution funds'



# Cross-cutting Issues

---

- Enhance the role of civil society
- Increase private sector engagement
- Improve knowledge, data and information management

# SDGs and Biodiversity Conservation

---

## *The 'biodiversity' SDGs:*

- ***SDG 14 Life below water*** *conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources*
- ***SDG 15. Life on Land.*** *Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss*
- ***SDG 13. Climate action.*** *Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

# SDGs and Biodiversity Conservation

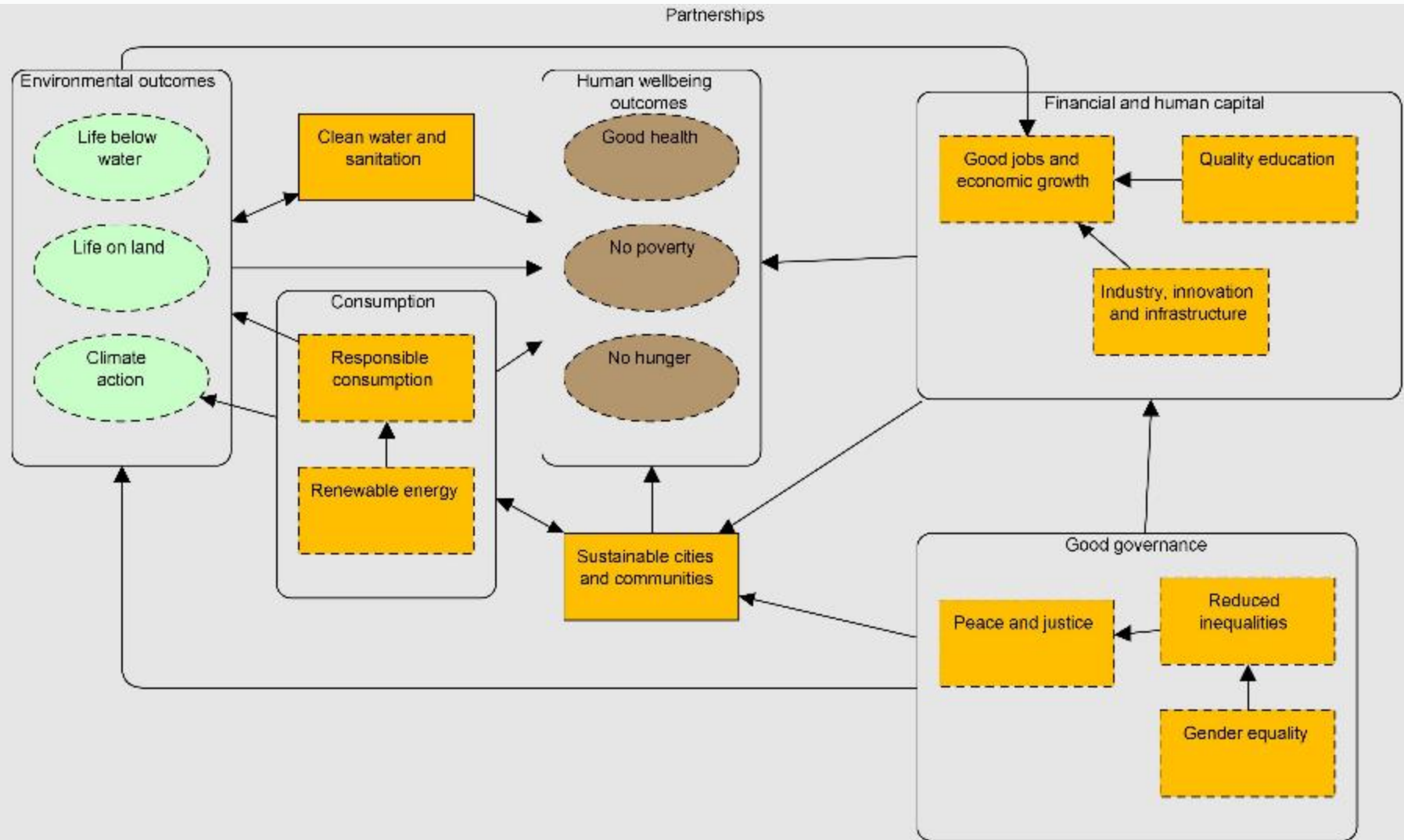
## *Other relevant SDGs..*

- ***SDG 1 No poverty.*** *End poverty in all its forms everywhere*
- ***SDG 2. Zero Hunger.*** *End hunger, achieve food security, and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*
- ***SDG 3. Good health and wellbeing.*** *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*
- ***SDG 6. Clean Water and Sanitation.*** *Ensure access to water and sanitation to all*
- ***SDG 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions.*** *Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies*

*Any many more...*



# Linkages between SDGs



# Key Issues for Discussion

---

- Today's discussion: how can these reports be a useful working tool for you?
- Some ways in to the discussion:
- General issues on mainstreaming biodiversity
  - linkages with investments in infrastructure development (capacity development, transfer of technical expertise for EIA, safeguards, consideration of KLCs?)
  - Green development policies: infrastructure, energy
  - Offsets, PES, certification: Private sector investment in biodiversity rich landscapes
  - Poverty alleviation: land titling, access to resources, formalization of land use types that benefit local communities (direct payment mechanisms, institutional strengthening for

# Key Issues for Discussion

---

EU as a bilateral aid donor:

- 2014-2020 funding cycle: RIPs and NIPs – mid-term reviews
- Multi-annual financial framework post 2020 – making wildlife a priority
- Civil society budget lines

Other financial mechanisms?



# Key Issues for Discussion

---

EU as a strategic partner (not just a donor):

- Mainstreaming biodiversity into the peace and security agenda
- Action plan on wildlife trafficking – links to targets and the pillars?
- CITES implementation
- Mainstreaming biodiversity into the SDGs agenda
- Mainstreaming biodiversity into infrastructure, energy, rural development and agriculture
- Capacity building as cross-cutting

# Key Issues for Discussion

---

EU as a market, EU footprint:

- FLEGT, expansion to other products?
- EU as a consumer and transit hub for wildlife products, other commodities?
- Policy coherence (biofuel standards and palm oil)
- Free Trade Agreements – Vietnam as a model?

# Key questions

---

How can EU delegations take these documents forward?

How can we encourage national governments to give higher priority to conservation activities? What arguments can we use?

What funding sources can we access? What other mechanisms are there (e.g. trust funds?)

How can we encourage member states and other donors to buy-in to these approaches?

How can we make sure the reports support this?

# Breakout groups

---

[if needed – to be finalized]

- Protected areas
- Landscapes
- Wildlife Crime
  - Intersection with Development Cooperation (how is the EU Development Cooperation structured? Using that we can assign the breakout groups; Anti-corruption measures++)
  - Intersection with infrastructure (linear)
  - Intersection with poverty alleviation
  - Intersection with energy





Thank you

