African Lands: How International Development Efforts Apply GT in Support of Property Rights in Post-Conflict Countries

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Introduction

- Statutory versus Customary Rights
- Geospatial tools are only enabling technologies
- Philosophy of Land ownership is distinct
- All following activities are funded by USAID

Projects to be discussed

- Customary Land Tenure Project – Sudan, 2006 thru 2009

- Liberia Rural Community Forestry Program – Liberia, 2007 thru 2010

- PAGE - Sierra Leone, 2009 thru 2011

Sudan –
Customary Land Tenure Project

Location: Blue Nile, South Kordofan (and Abyei)

Ceasefire 2004, peace agreement 2005

4 Million IDPs

Natural Resources involved oil and water

Project components;

1. Identifying Customary Boundaries

2. Working on Land Legislation

Post-Conflict Challenges in Sudan

Boundary Demarcation Project Stages

1. Community Sensitization
2. Formation of Boundary Committees
3. Training Field Workers
4. Collection/Transfer and Mgmt of data
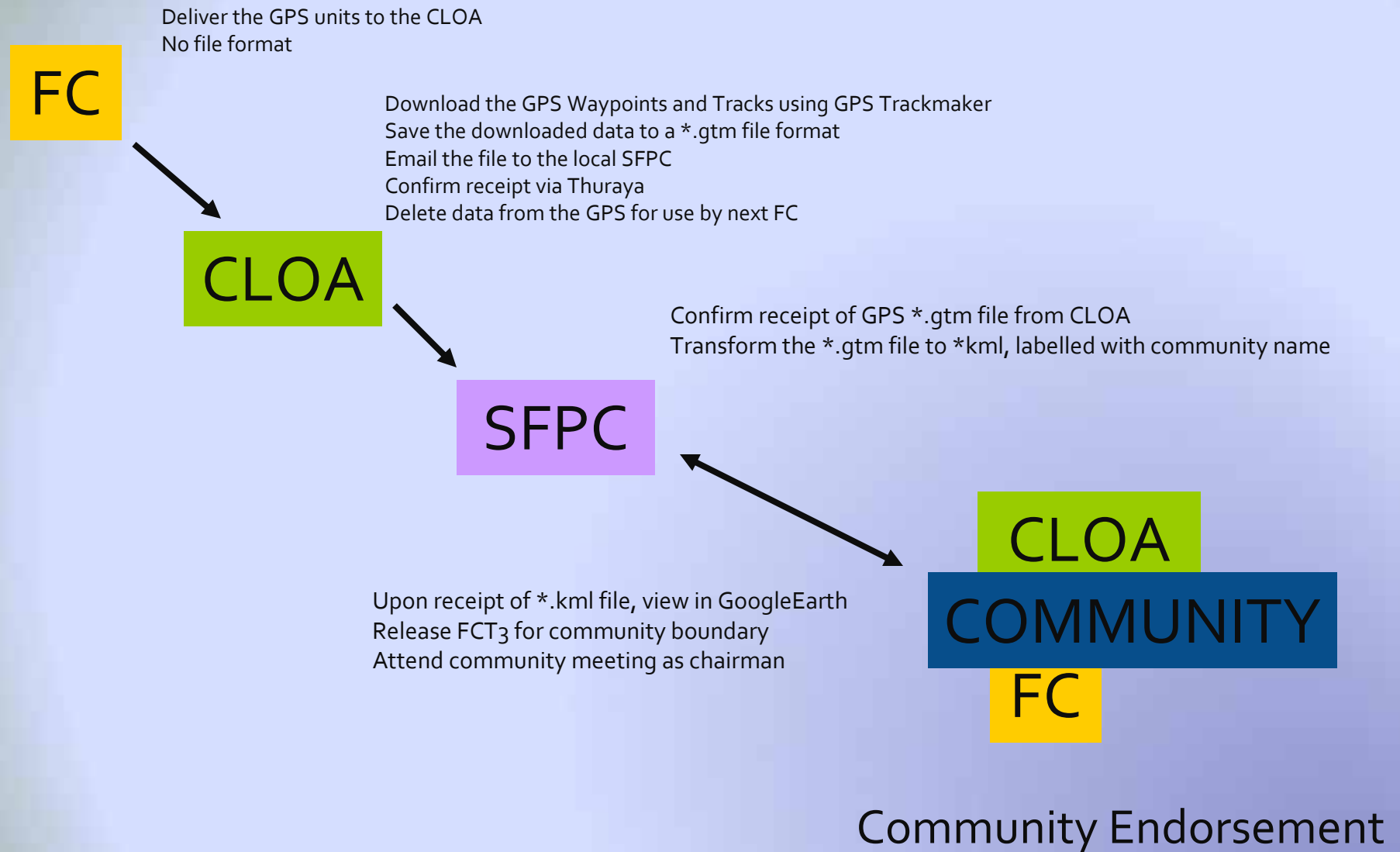5. Community Endorsement

Entry into Southern Sudan in 2007

Training - a mix of lectures and practical exercises

Project Office in Kauda, Blue Nile State

Data movement and management between various actors in the CLTP Community Boundary Endorsement process.

FC

Deliver the GPS units to the CLOA
No file format

CLOA

Download the GPS Waypoints and Tracks using GPS Trackmaker
Save the downloaded data to a *.gtm file format
Email the file to the local SFPC
Confirm receipt via Thuraya
Delete data from the GPS for use by next FC

SFPC

Confirm receipt of GPS *.gtm file from CLOA
Transform the *.gtm file to *kml, labelled with community name

Upon receipt of *.kml file, view in GoogleEarth
Release FCT3 for community boundary
Attend community meeting as chairman

CLOA

COMMUNITY

FC

Community Endorsement

Endorsement Meeting Technology

Process involved ;

    - Verbal 'Talk Through' of boundary description based upon field notes

    - Subsequent 'Walk Through' of boundaries using Google Earth

    - Agreement by Community Elders resulted in Endorsement

  The project created a new 'mobile mapping' approach
  due to the lack of any infrastructure

Local Community

Geospatial Results of CLTP Sudan

- 27 Communities mapped and agreed their contiguous borders

- 18 Field staff were trained in simple field data collection using GPS

- Communities now have a paper and digital copies (CDs) of collected boundary data

Kauda Project Team – training course attendees

Land Rights and Community Forestry Project - Liberia

Community Forestry

- Why is it important?

- Project Areas
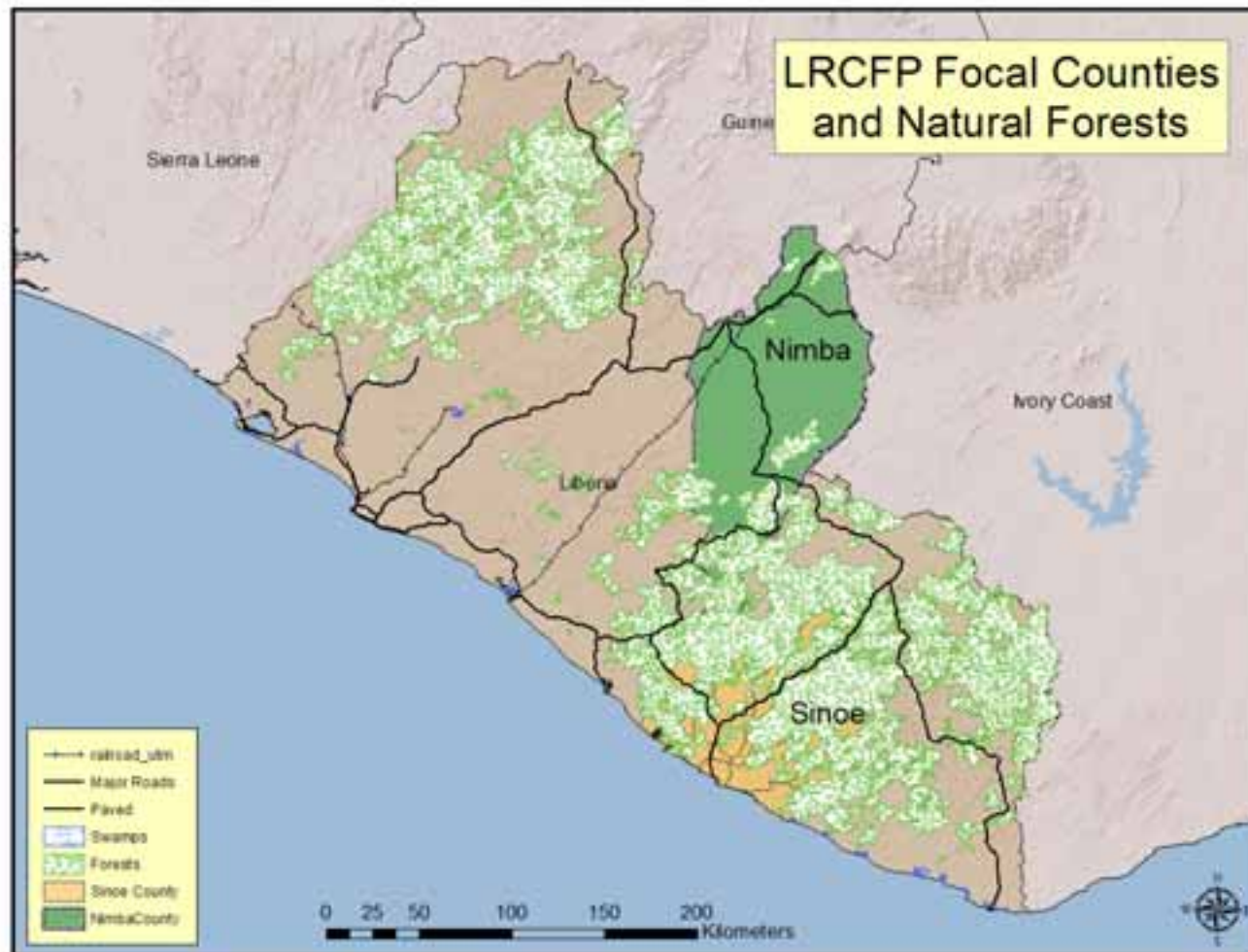
Post-Conflict Infrastructure in Liberia – Sinoe County

Community based Forest Co-Management Project Stages

1. Community Sensitization - PRA
2. Training Community Members
3. Collection/Transfer and Mgmt of data
4. Information is fed into land use planning activities

Moving from PRA Maps to the 'Real World'
- Integrating GPS and Satellite Imagery

Pluses - cheap, simple, tough
Minuses – mgmt of data flow, training, setup, accuracy

Training followed by Activity is key

Increased Integration of GPS and Imagery

- Main Benefits
  - Increased efficiency/immediate results
  - Less abstract for community members
  - Reduces data transfer hiccups

Initial Results from Nimba County

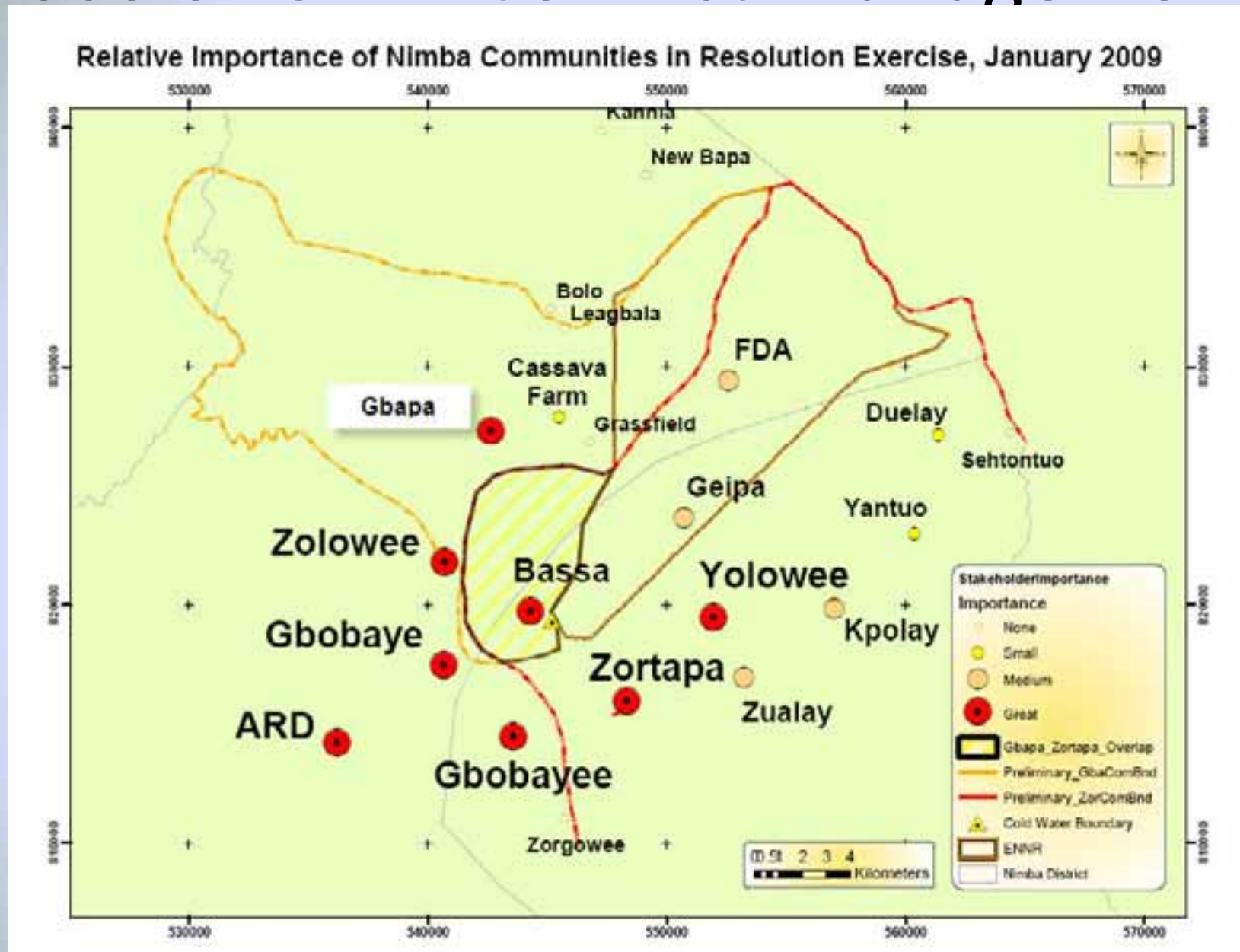The Land Rights and Community Forestry Project: Nimba County Area, Liberia
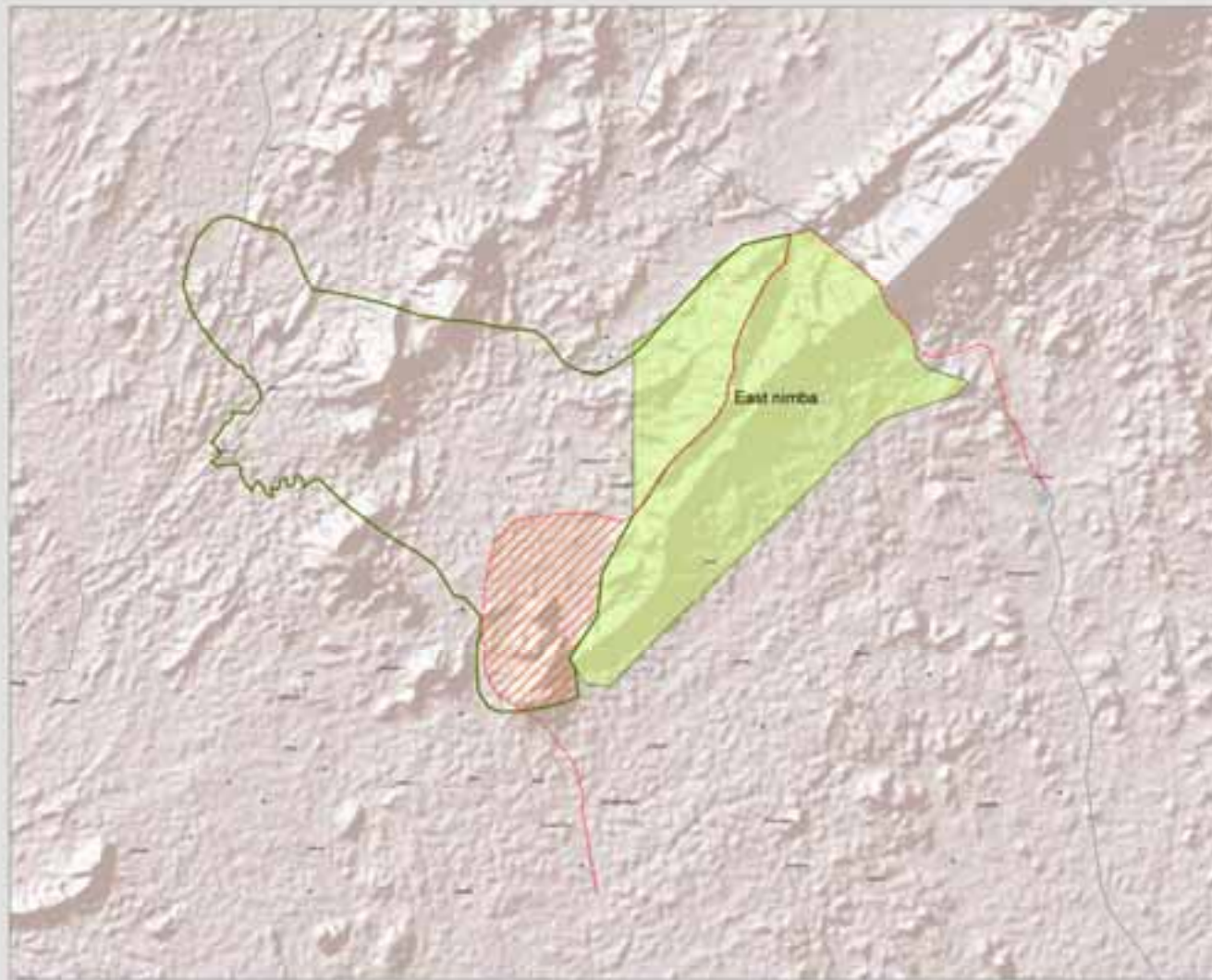
Use of GT in Conflict Management

Relative Importance of Nimba Communities in Resolution Exercise, January 2009

Experience gained from Liberia work

- Community members are intimately familiar with their personal geography

- Visualising community information in map form can raise emotional levels

- Training without reinforcement through activity is futile

Promoting Agriculture, Governance and Environment (PAGE) – Sierra Leone

Changes in Technical Approach

- Better integration of imagery
  - USGS Program – SINGER, Gray Tappen, Souix Falls

- Training enhanced to include real field work
  - 2 days of training followed by 4 days of field data collection
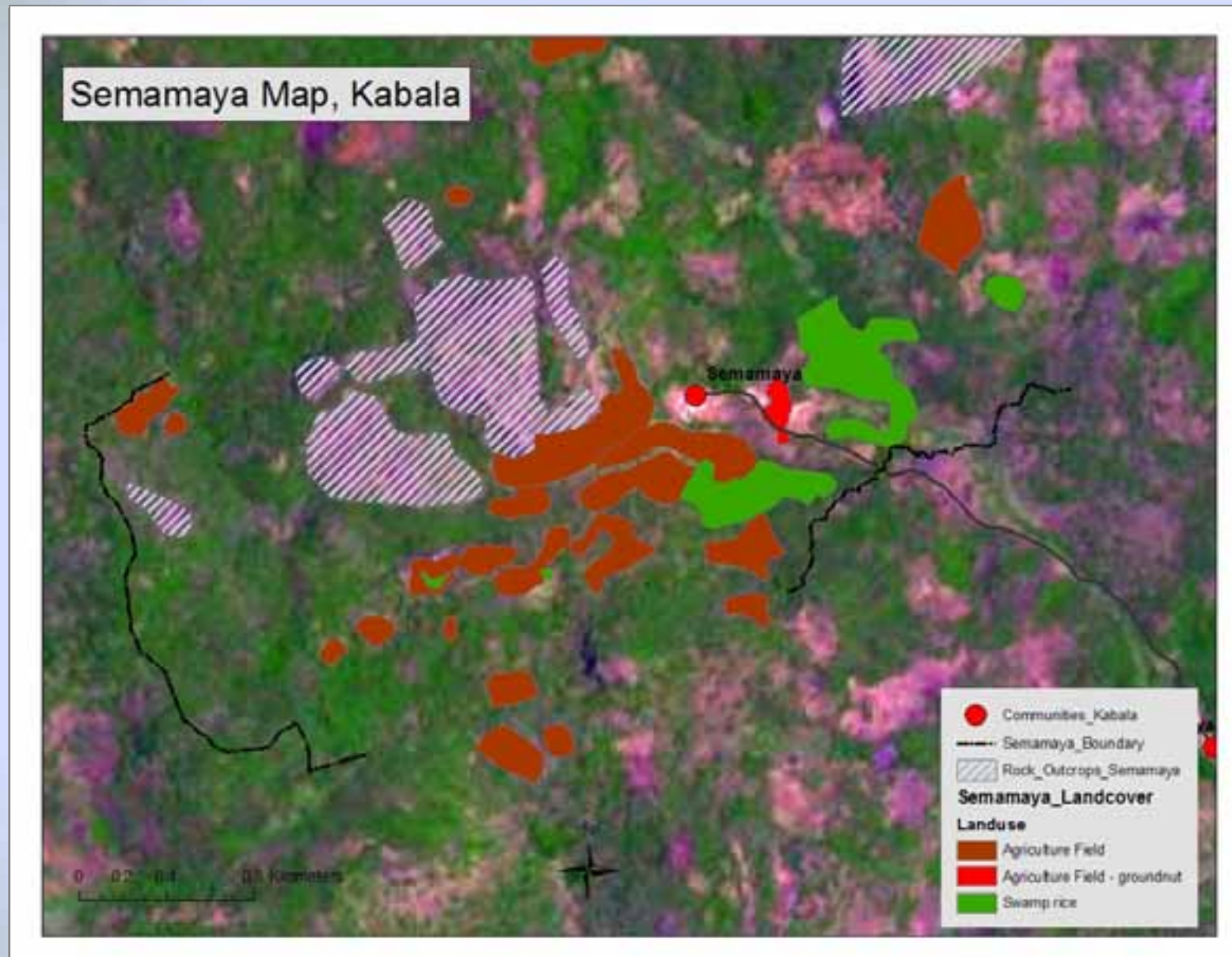
Community
Resources

Engaging with Community Leaders is the First Step

Combining Satellite Imagery and GPS data

Challenges and Lessons from applying GT in post-conflict countries

- Typical Difficulties
  - Lack of local capacity
  - National base data missing, inaccessible and/or poorly managed
  - Infrastructure is minimal
  - Pre-conceptions of Project Management

- Experience Tells Us that;
  - Simple approaches work well
  - Rural peoples are very spatially aware
  - Individual training is not always effective
  - Analysis is secondary, data capture and reporting is key

Questions???

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