

# ***Investor Disclosure and Spatial Transparency: Bridging the Accountability Gap?***



Mike Dwyer  
Forest Trends meeting, Phuket  
23 July 2014



Who is (or was or will be) doing what, where? And how do we know?  
What should be the public's role in this process?

## SPATIAL TRANSPARENCY

What data do **governments** give the **public** about who is investing in what, where?

## DISCLOSURE TO INVESTORS

What data do **companies** give their **investors** about where and how they are spending their money?

## SPATIAL TRANSPARENCY

What data do **governments** give the **public** about who is investing in what, where?

- Online spatial databases
- Other online data with spatial reference information

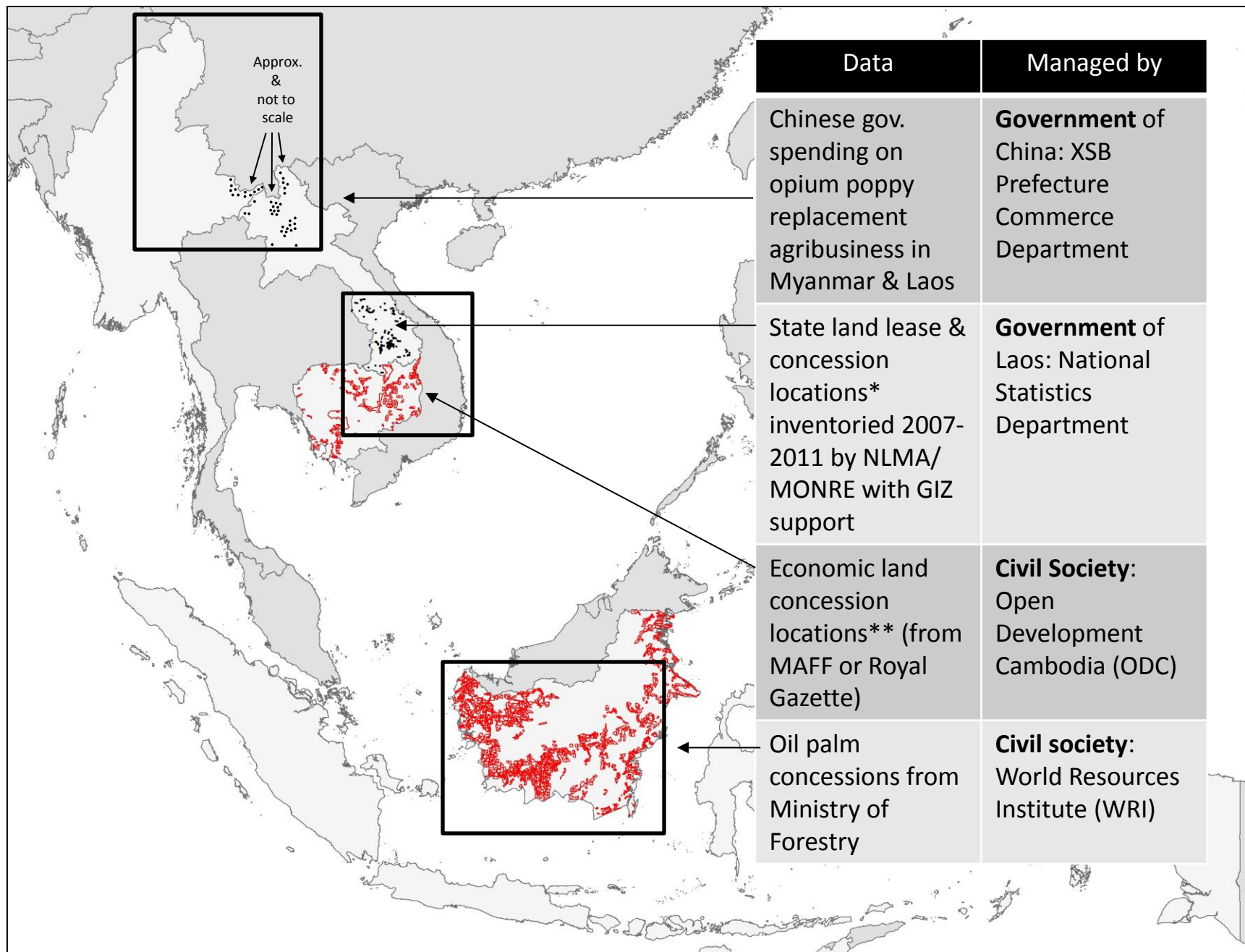
## DISCLOSURE TO INVESTORS

What data do **companies** give their **investors** about where and how they are spending their money?

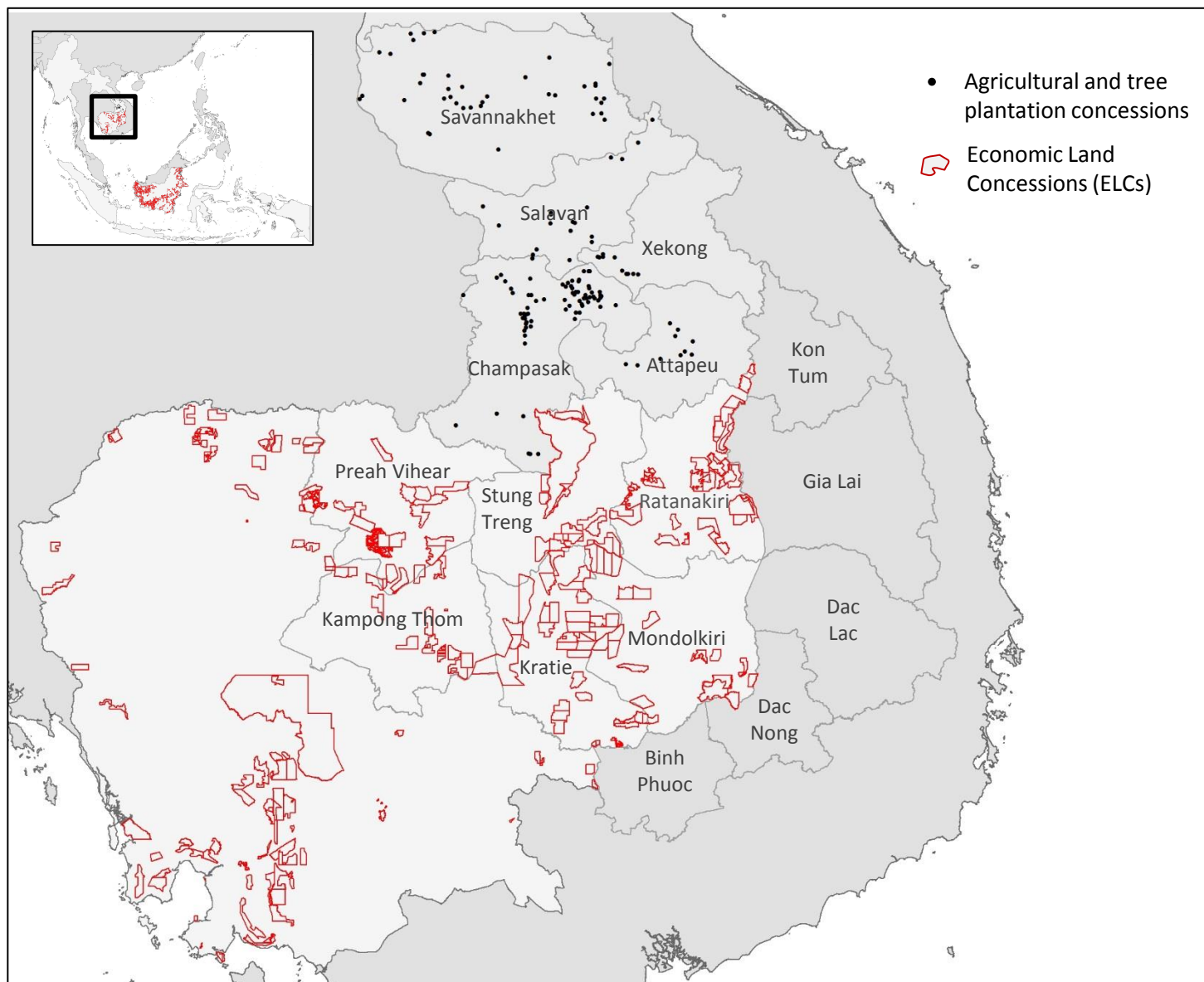
- Public companies' annual reports
- Financial databases (e.g., Bloomberg, ThomsonOne)



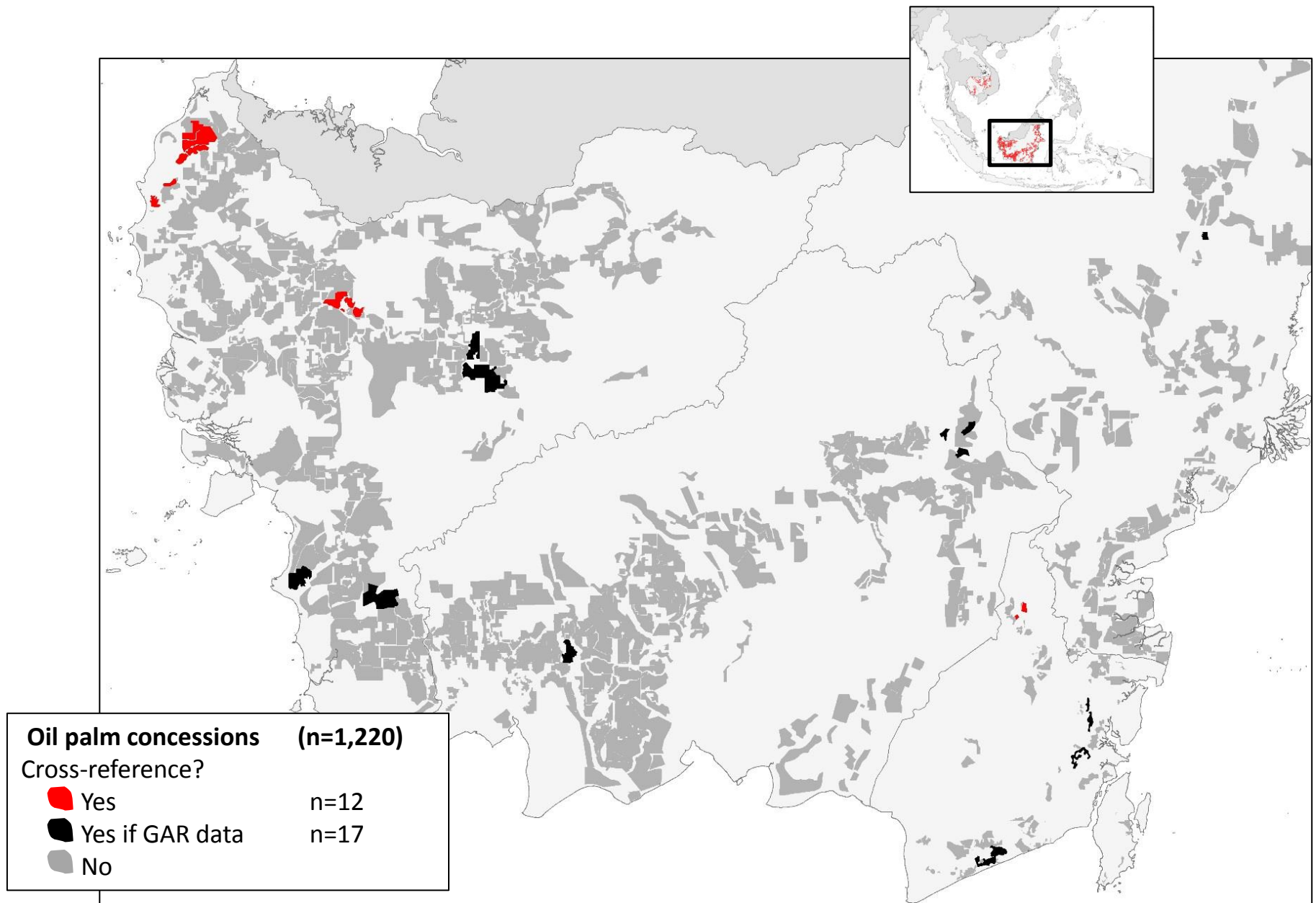
*Is it possible to cross reference concession inventory systems (as reported online) with companies annual reports?*





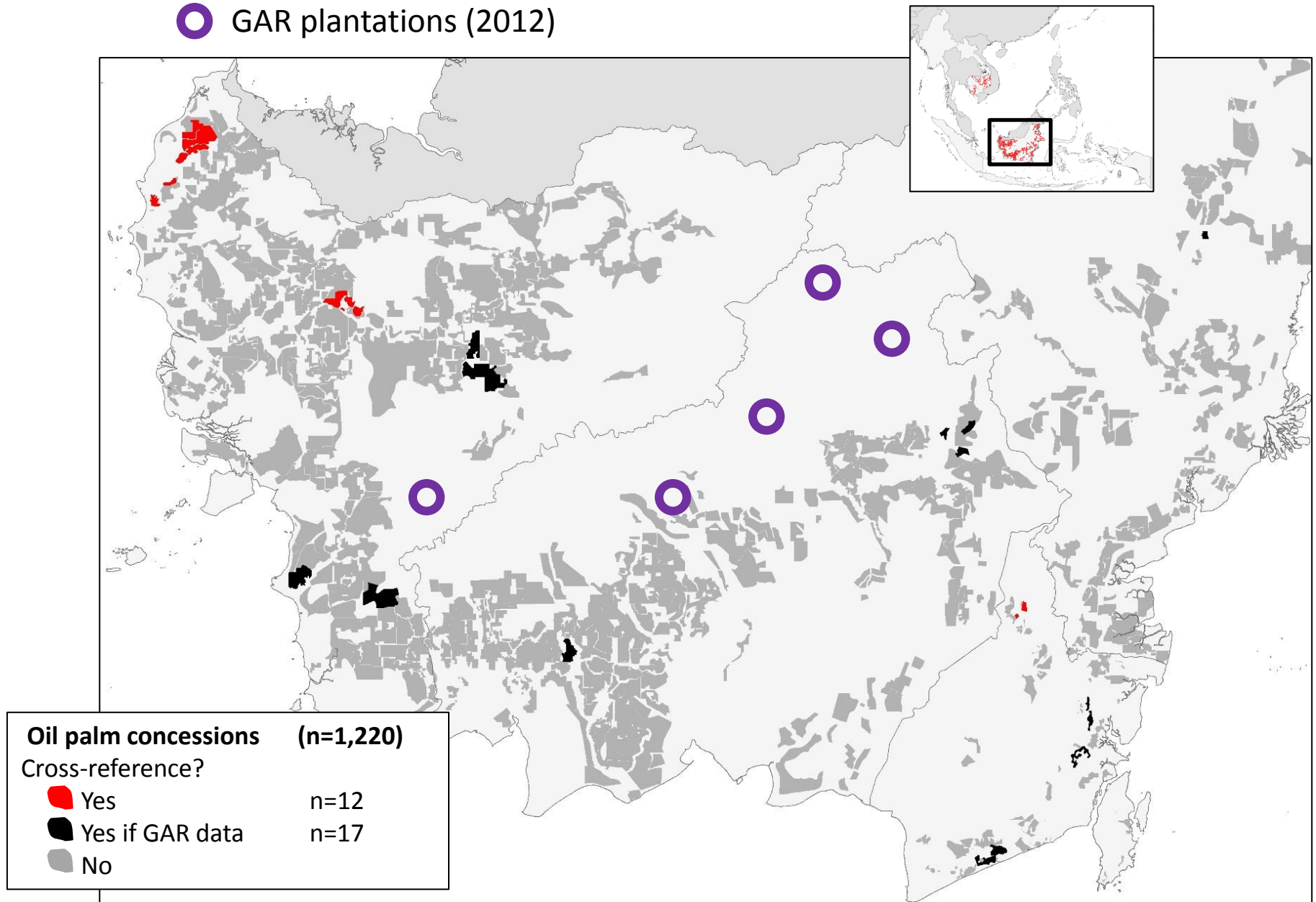


Based on data from Decide-Info Laos (<http://decide.la>) and [OpenDevelopmentCambodia.net](http://OpenDevelopmentCambodia.net)



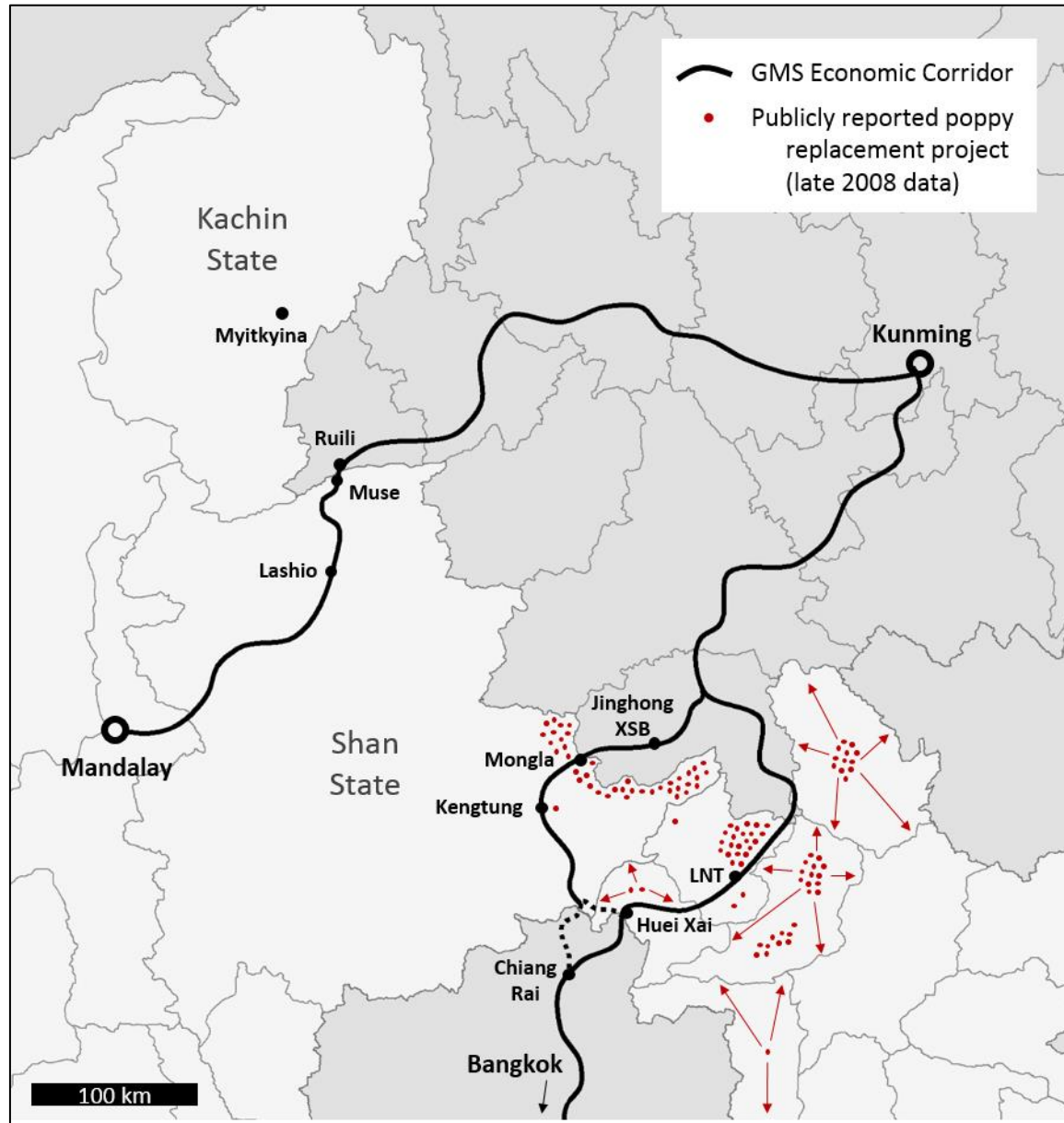
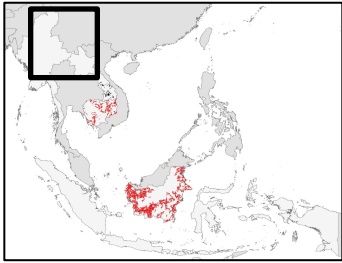
Based on data from WRI Forest Cover Analyzer (now Global Forest Watch)

○ GAR plantations (2012)



Based on data from WRI Forest Cover Analyzer (now Global Forest Watch)





Based on data available at <http://xsbn.mofcom.gov.cn/aarticle/gonggao/200809/20080905777443.html>

# Conclusions

- Investment/development is outpacing regulation: old data, partial data, subsidiaries. Information systems thus tend to reflect opaque systems of governance more than they offer transparency, whether materially or legally.

# Conclusions

- Investment/development is outpacing regulation: old data, partial data, subsidiaries. Information systems thus tend to reflect opaque systems of governance more than they offer transparency, whether materially or legally.
- Information systems nonetheless offer significant forms of partial transparency, and thus represent an important area of engagement/struggle over the public's role in development.

# Conclusions

- Investment/development is outpacing regulation: old data, partial data, subsidiaries. Information systems thus tend to reflect opaque systems of governance more than they offer transparency, whether materially or legally.
- Information systems nonetheless offer significant forms of partial transparency, and thus represent an important area of engagement/struggle over the public's role in development.
- Three concrete proposals
  - Clarify public's legal right to know about who, what, where, when.
  - Gazetting of public resource concessions?
  - Greater spatial disclosure to investors?