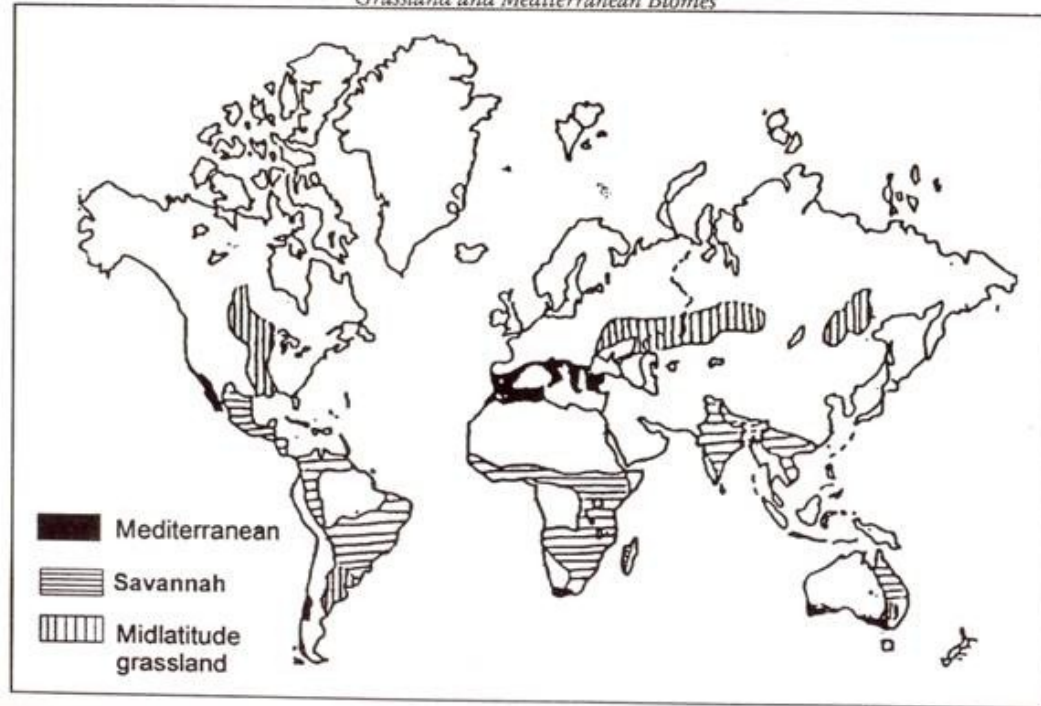


Grasslands

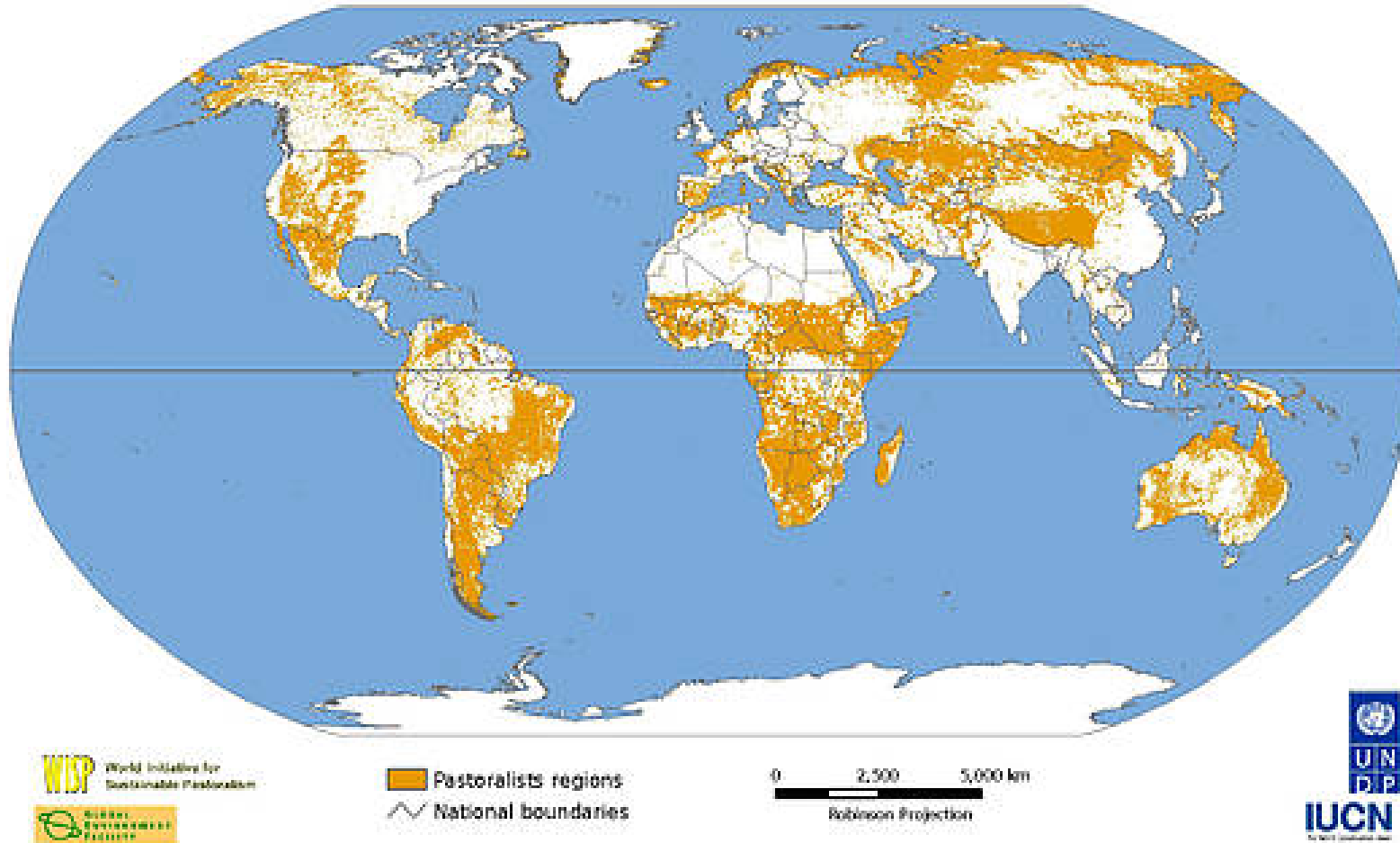
Figure 2.12

Grassland and Mediterranean Biomes



- Grasslands occupy nearly 30 million sq km or **23 per cent of the earth's land surface** and are mainly distributed in areas of low and erratic rainfall which support nearly **30-43 million** pastoralists, dependent on livestock and grasslands for their livelihood and are seldom used for growing crops, production of fuel wood, recreation and tourism.
- In India, grasslands constitute about 5, 48,850 sq km or **16.6 per cent** of India's geographical area

People and Boundaries

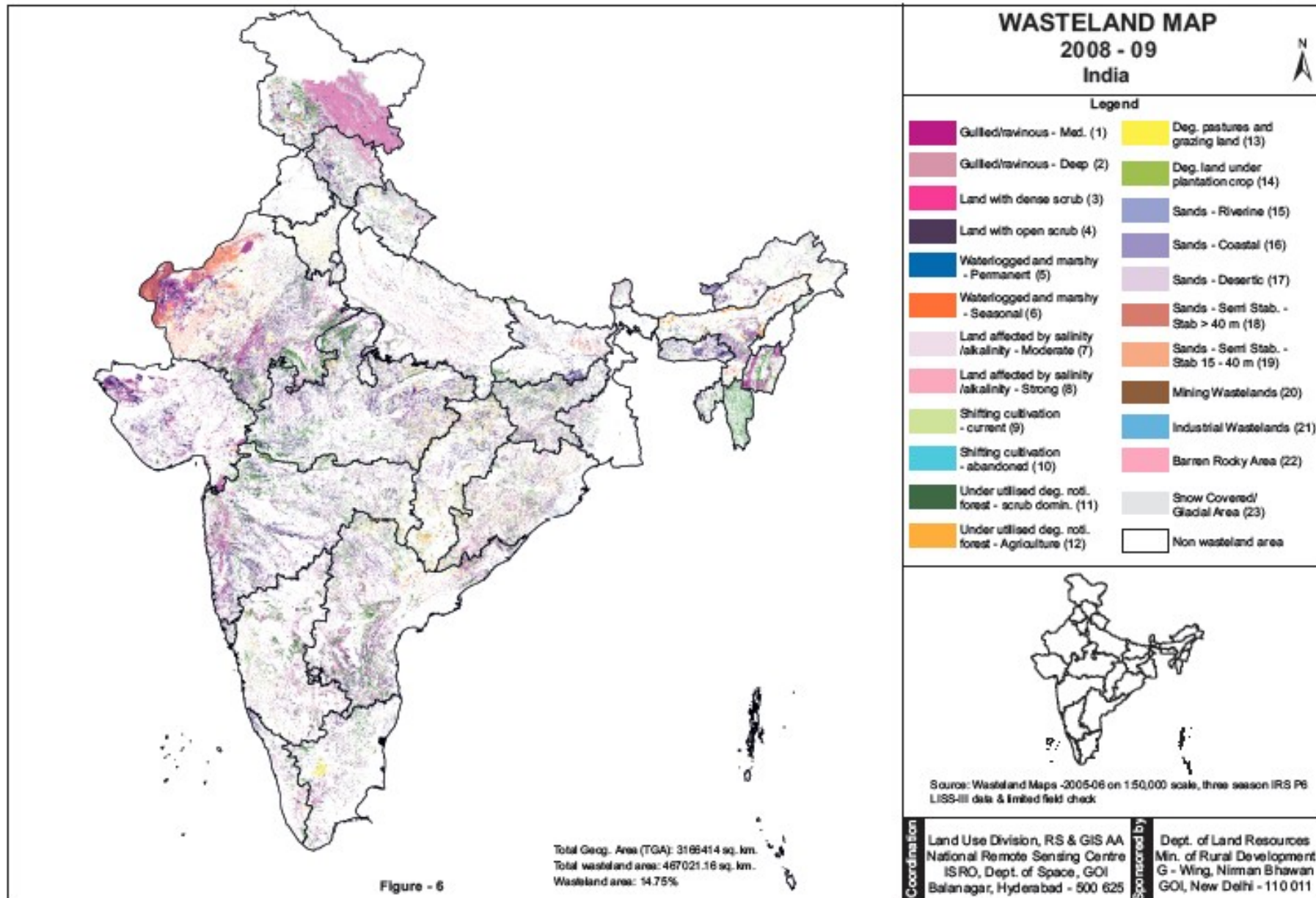


Marginalisation

- Forest-centric perspective for management, science, conservation, policy
- Savannas are not commonly recognised as ecosystems
- Open woodlands, thorn forests and grasslands considered “degraded or wastelands”
- Colonial landscape categorisation based on John Locke’s idea of wasteland as opposed to value producing land (Whitehead 2010)



Wasteland atlas of India



Interventions

- Savanna grasslands converted to:
 - Forestry plantations- including invasive species
 - Agriculture
 - Industry
 - Enclosures for pasture improvement
 - Alternative “green” energy (solar, wind, biofuels)

Wasteland Atlas

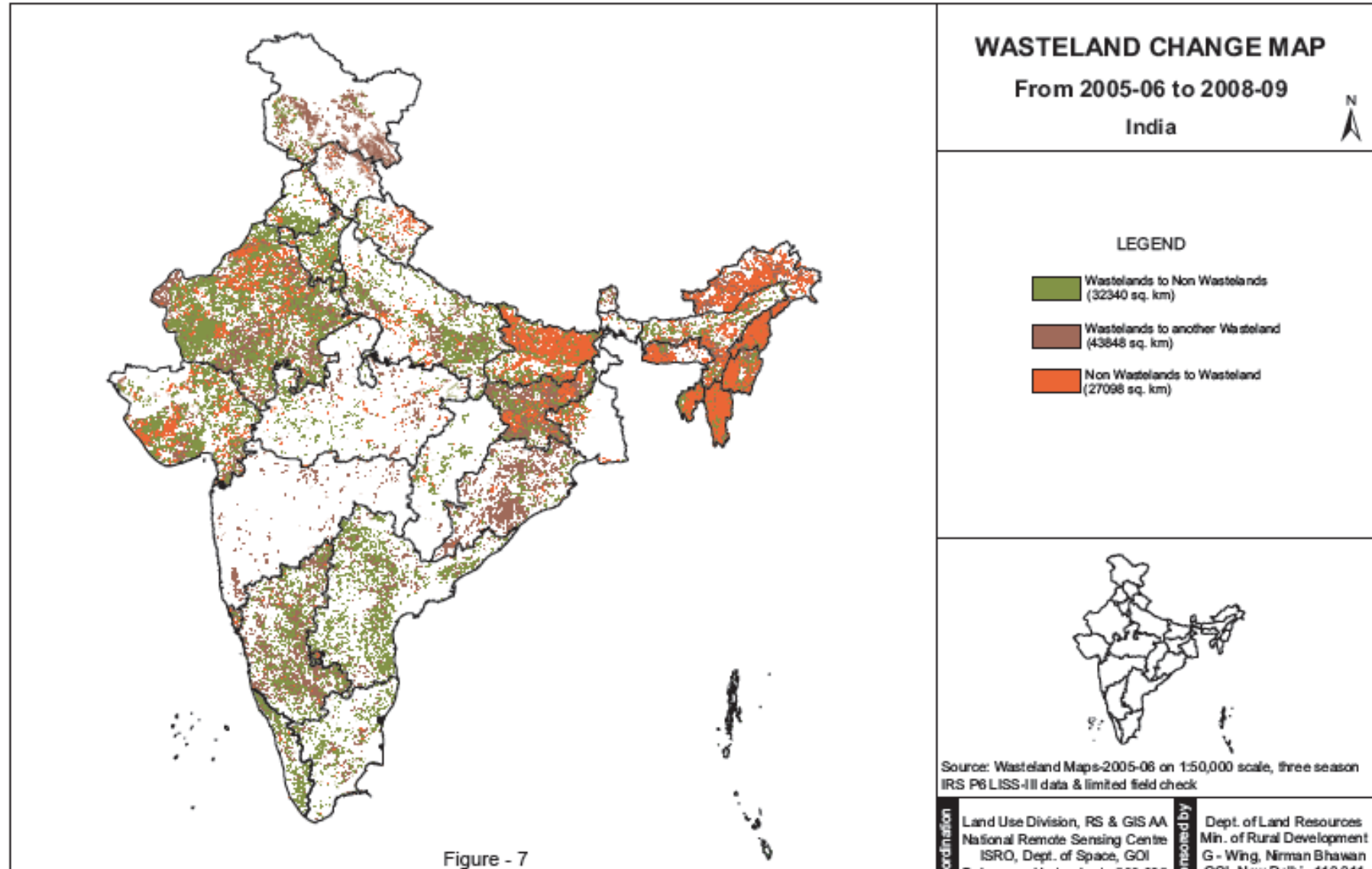


Figure - 7

Banni Location Map - Kachchh District



Historical View of Banni and Legal dispute

During Princely rule

- Banni was Consider as Mahal Status
- Allow Pastoralist to Graze cattle, but strictly prohibited Cultivation.

1955

- Banni Notified as Protected Forest under section 29 of Forest Conservation Act 1927
- Survey settlement had not been done, Administrative control continue with Revenue Department.

1998

- State Govt. Decided to Transfer Administrative Control to Forest Department.
- Again lacking of survey settlement of living villages, FD did not took over the control.

2010

- Forest Department Has Develop and Initiate Banni Working Plan

2013-2014

- State Initiate Implementation of FRA-2006, 54 FRCs Formed
- 48 Claim Filed submitted to DLC

Context

The Banni is grazed by 24 pastoralist communities with a population of close to 40,000 people.

Today around 80,000 animals, mostly Banni buffalo and Kankrej cattle, graze in the Banni and about 100,000 litres of milk are produced in the Banni every day.

The region also serves as a breeding ground for the Banni buffalo and the Kankrej Cattle, both sourced from here, for sale in many others parts of the country.



Home to endangered species

- Great Indian Bustard
- Lesser Florican
- Indian Wolf
- Blackbuck
- 18 endemic species



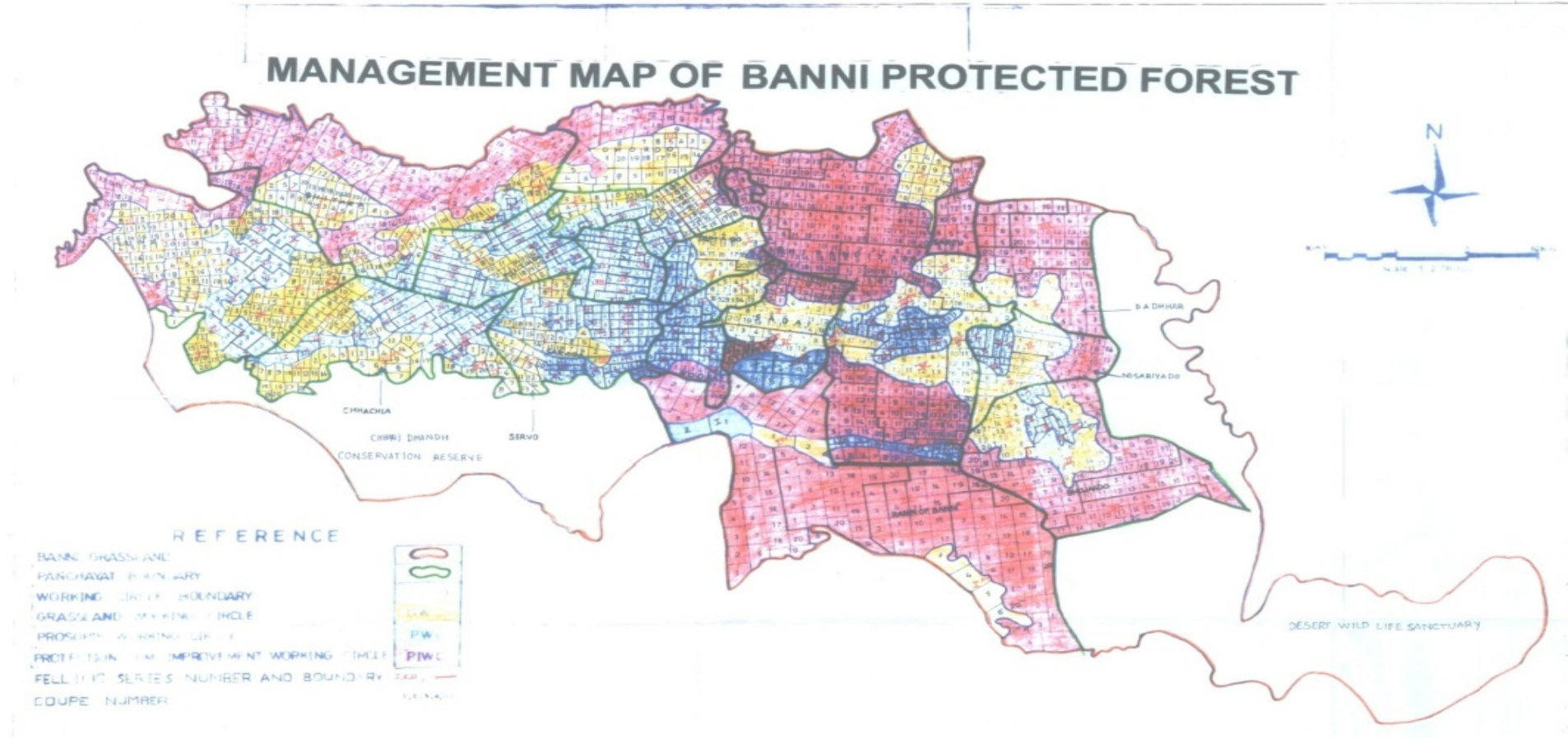
Disruptive interventions in Banni


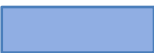

- Prosopis Juliflora
- Restriction on mobility- sedentarisation
- Perverse incentive from cold chain dairies- undermines pastoralism which has been a historically a resilient livelihood strategy.
- 2009 Forest Working Plan

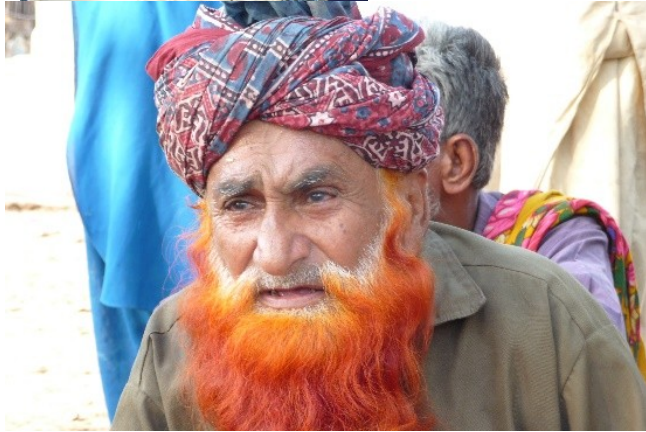


Widespread invasion by *Prosopis juliflora*

Banni working plan 2009



	Grassland Working Circle	673 km ²
	Prosopis Working Circle	411 km ²
	Protection & Improvement Working Circle	<u>802</u> km ²
Total		1883 km²





Formation of Breeders Association

Registered in 2009 with
more than 1000
members

CCRI consultations



Communities

- **There are 24 Communities, we focused 3 communities**
- Jatmaldharis
- Haleptoramaldharis
- Mutwamaldharis

Process and Methods

- Focused on Women and Youth
 - Historical resource use of the community
 - Natural resources, especially the wildlife, water bodies, and vegetation, that surround the villages and the villager's dependency on accessing these resources for a livelihood
 - Traditional governance system of common natural resources
 - Culture of the respective communities- their dresses, cuisines, traditional architecture, religious and spiritual beliefs, and rituals
 - The nature of income and livelihood generation activities.
 - **Can these be used as indicators of well-being/resilience?**

Internal/external threats identified

- Internal threats
 - Breeders or Milkmen?
 - Change in the composition of livestock (high risk strategy to invest in buffalos)
 - Changes in power structures leading to encroachments
- external threats
 - Dispute on legal status of Land
 - Customary rights not yet recognized
 - Invasion of Prosopis continues unabated
 - Ingress of salinity
 - Tourism and road infrastructure
 - Political climate

Potential solution-oriented approaches, strategies and policies

- Recognition of Community rights on forest lands
- Reinvigoration of traditional common land management norms
- Dialogue with the pastoral youth to explain the importance of pastoralism
- Development of livelihood opportunities around pastoralism
- Democratization of the breeder's association and inclusion
- Help BBA form an ecological wing and possibly recruit young Maldharis into it
- Engage BBA into discussions to include non-pastoral communities
- Initiate a dialogue with the community on livestock- vegetation balance
- Help the community access rights on forests, parallel progress on instituting norms and educating the communities



We are
happy to
continue
Pastoralism
With Love,
Pasion and
traditional
manners

Thank you