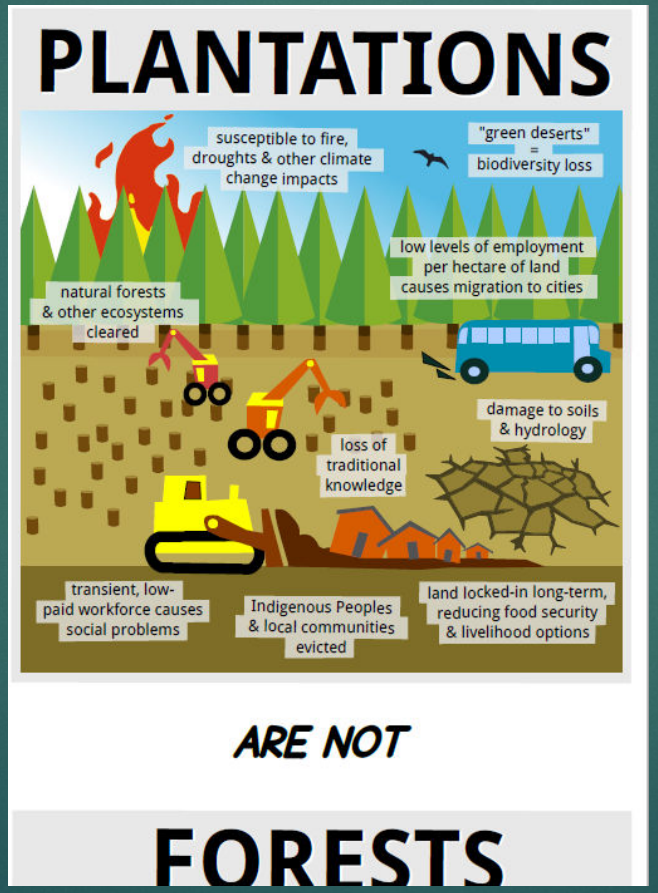
The Indian Situation…..



The Initiation…

Monoculture plantations initiated in Malabar in southern India by the British in early 19th century for commercial use.

Teak (tectona grandis) species was used

Forests as State Property to Earn Revenue

- In 1865 the Colonial State took over Indian forests
- Mixed plantations of teak and Saal (Shorea robusta) in central India, plantations in Duars along eastern Himalayas converting grasslands, pines in the Himalayas introduced, mainly to use timber for infrastructure such as sleepers for railways…

Working plan to log Natural forests…

Post 1980s: various afforestation programmes

- National afforestation plan
- Compensatory afforestation

  Implementation through
- Forest departments
- Eco-Development Committees in Protected Areas
- Joint Forest Management Committees in other forest areas
- Since 2011, through Green India Mission
- Under various other funds like JICA, GIZ and KfW

Species planted…

Eucalyptus, Acacia, Tectona grandis, Shorea robusta

Pines, Prosopis juliflora, jatropha

Extent of Plantations…

- In terms of area, second only to China
- Largest in teak plantation (44% of world)

Targets

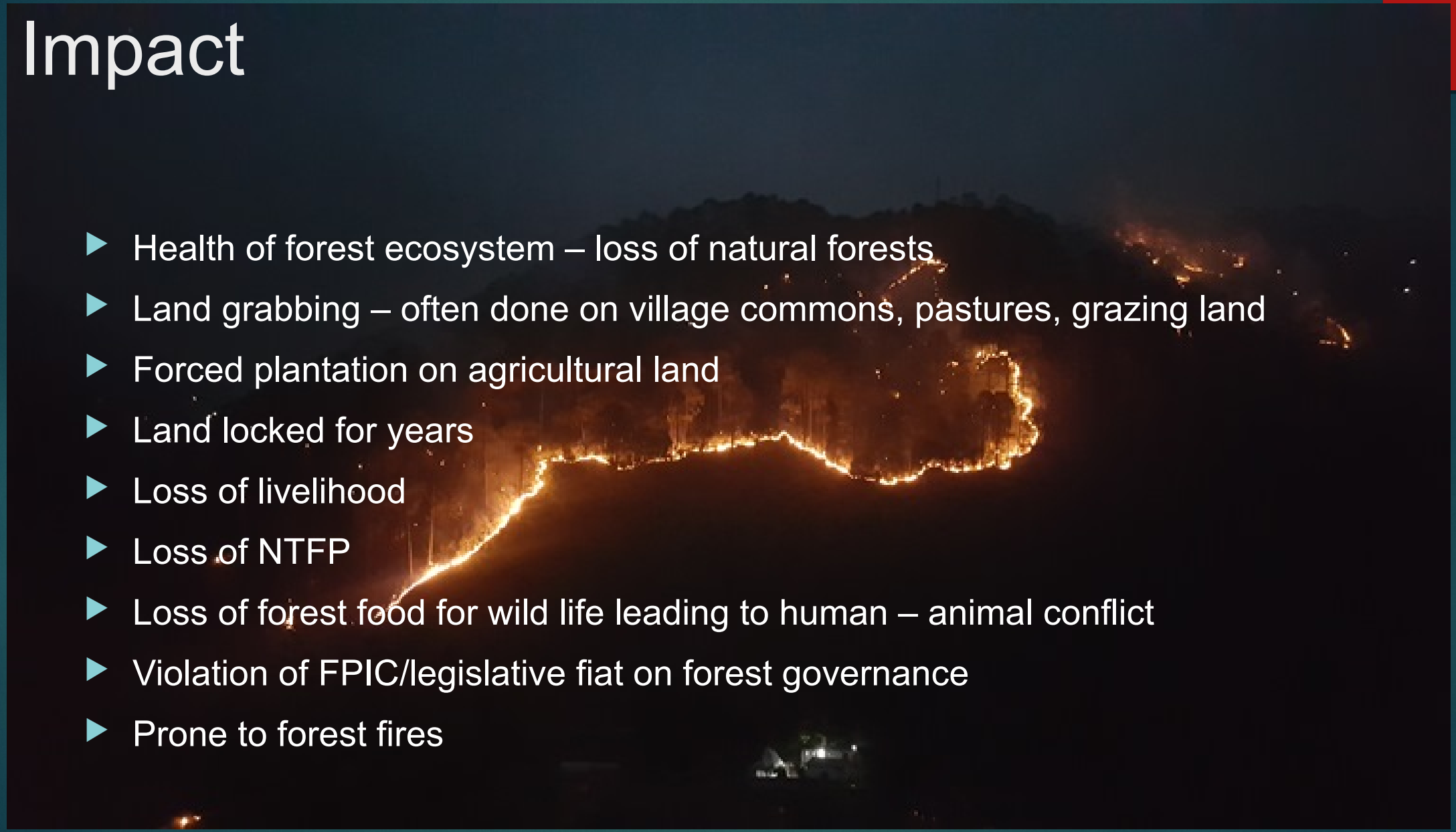
From 28 million ha to estimates of 35 million ha

New draft forest policy recommends PPP in plantations on degraded forest land

FPIC

No role of communities in decision making/governance/FPIC of working plans and implementation of plantation programmes

Impact



- Health of forest ecosystem – loss of natural forests
- Land grabbing – often done on village commons, pastures, grazing land
- Forced plantation on agricultural land
- Land locked for years
- Loss of livelihood
- Loss of NTFP
- Loss of forest food for wild life leading to human – animal conflict
- Violation of FPIC/legislative fiat on forest governance
- Prone to forest fires

CCRI Actions

- Stopping coupe cutting of natural forests
- Stopping plantation programmes
- Demanding seeking of consent of the Village Councils for any plans and programmes related to plantations
- Initiating own restoration programmes
- Seeking support for such restoration programmes