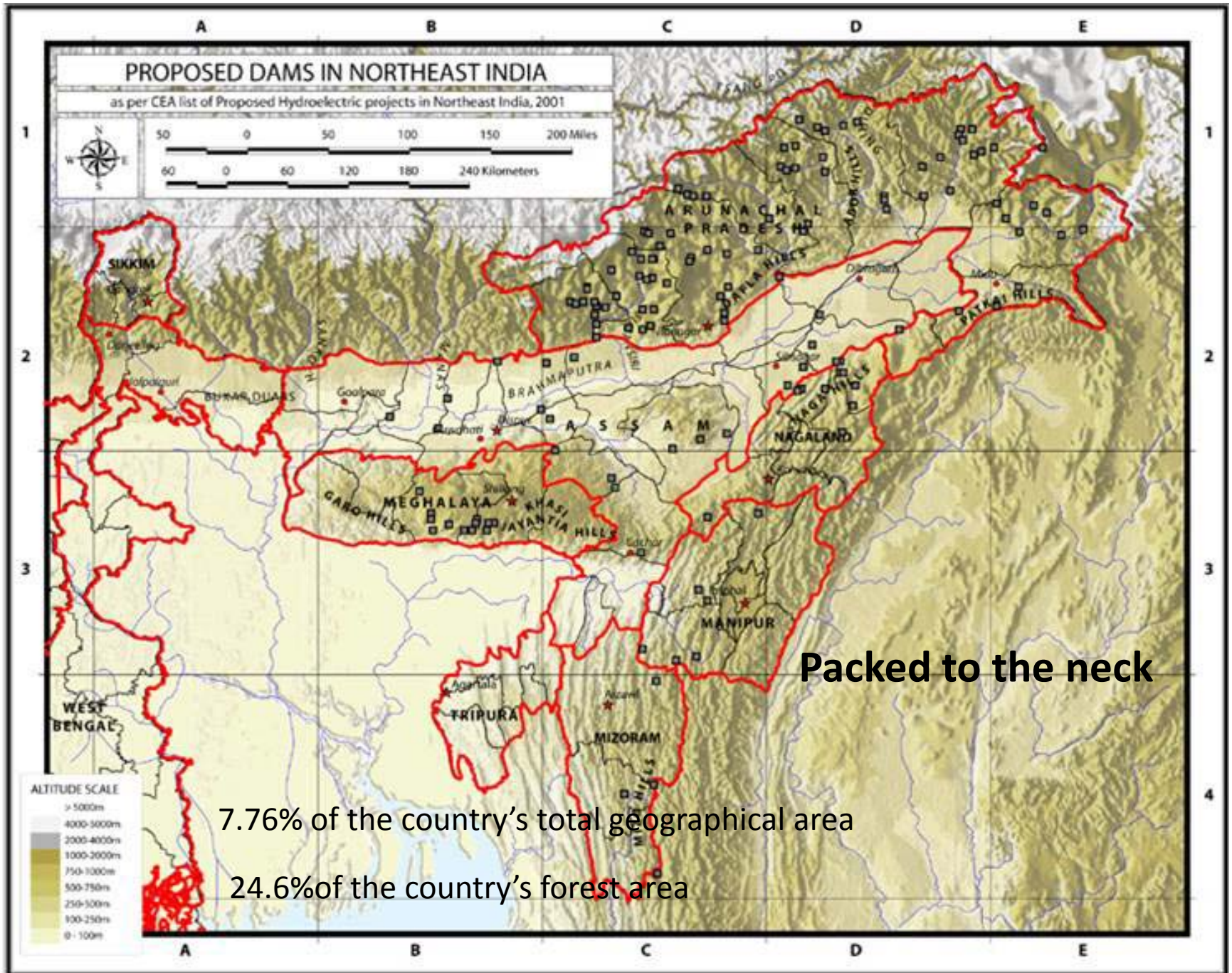


Green clearance to hydroelectric projects in northeast India: Issues and concerns

Partha J Das
Aaranyak(Guwahati, Assam)
Email: partha@aaranyak.org
www.aaranyak.org



Green clearance in NE India: Recent Status

- 168 large sites identified for large HEPs in NEI
- 147 MoUs signed as on July 2011 in Arunachal Pradesh
- 55 projects have obtained scoping clearance(site study, preparation of Detailed Project Reports & EIA)
- 12 projects have received final Environment Clearance(EC)
- Number of projects in major rivers: Siang (20), Lohit (11), Dibang (17) and the Subansiri (22)= Total 70 projects on 4 rivers

Projects with final EC

- LSHEP(2000 MW)- Subansiri
- Ranganadi-I(405 MW)-Ranganadi
- Kameng(600 MW)-Kameng
- Siyom /Middle Siang(1000 MW)-Siyom
- Demwe Lowe(1750MW)-Lohit
- Tawang-I(750 MW)-Tawang
- Tawang-II(750 MW)-Tawang
- Pare(110 MW)-Pare/Dikrong
- Tato-II(700 MW)-Siang
- Khuitam (66 MW)-Gang/Bishom/Kameng
- Gongri(90 MW)-Kameng

Green clearance: Issues and concerns

- EIAs (and EMPs) based on which clearances are given are erroneous, shoddy and misleading
- Cumulative Impact Assessment(CIA) not done inspite of the fact that the catchments of each major river will have multiple projects
- Different environmental and basin studies being delinked from clearance (Demwe, Bishom)
- Recommendation of post clearance impact study is a farce(Dibang, Demwe)

88°0'0"E

90°0'0"E

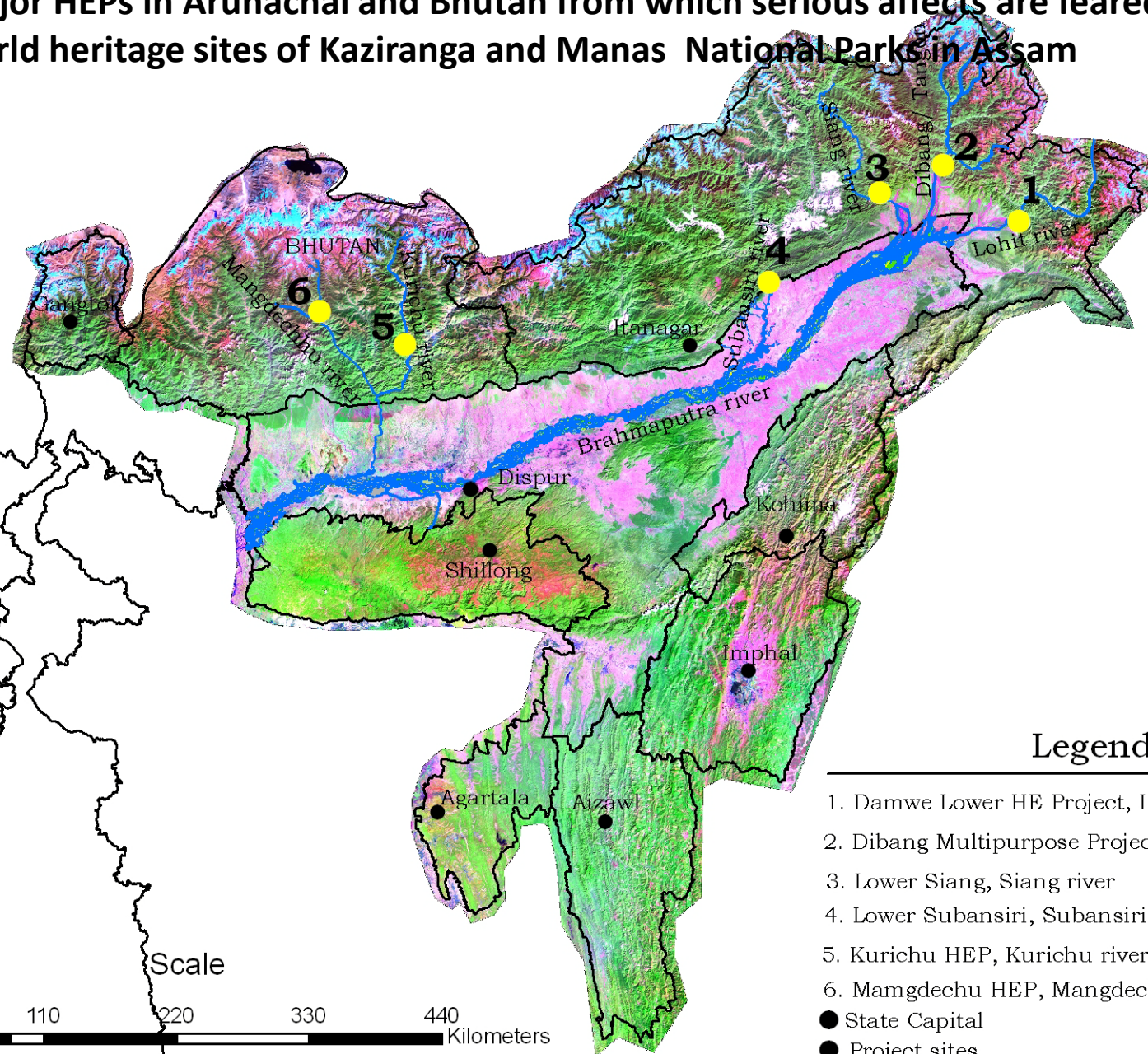
92°0'0"E

94°0'0"E

96°0'0"E

Major HEPs in Arunachal and Bhutan from which serious affects are feared on world heritage sites of Kaziranga and Manas National Parks in Assam

N



Scale

0 55 110 220 330 440 Kilometers

Green clearance: Issues and concerns

- Downstream(DS) impact is the most important issue in Assam: jeopardizing ecosystems, lives and livelihoods
- Assessment of downstream impacts have been consistently neglected inspite of strong social movements in Assam
- In some cases baseline data collection and downstream impact assessment is limited only to 10 Km stretch from project site
- DS studies delinked from clearance process
- No public consultation in downstream area in Assam
- Possible impact on world heritage sites of natural importance in Assam(Kaziranga, Manas national parks)

Green clearance: Issues and concerns

- Inadequate risk assessment (Glacial lake outburst flood, Landslide dam outburst flood, rain-induced flash flood)
- Obligations of the upfront money paid by developer to Arunachal Government make clearance a fait accompli!
- Stage managed public consultations makes a mockery of democratic decision making
- Communities are resisting public hearing (Siang, Dibang)
- No concern for scientific norms, standards and opinion (Subansiri, Demwe)
- No sensitivity to public opinion as a whole

Way ahead....

- Implement governance and policy reforms
- Amend, strengthen EIA notification(2006) and concerned laws
- Make downstream impact assessment mandatory as part of EIA and EC process
- Consider people living in the downstream impact area as project affected person
- Hold public hearing in downstream impact area
- Make CIA and river basin studies compulsory for all multi-project river basins as precondition of the getting clearance

Thank You

Acknowledgement:

Neeraj Vagholikar, Pranjit Sarma & CSE