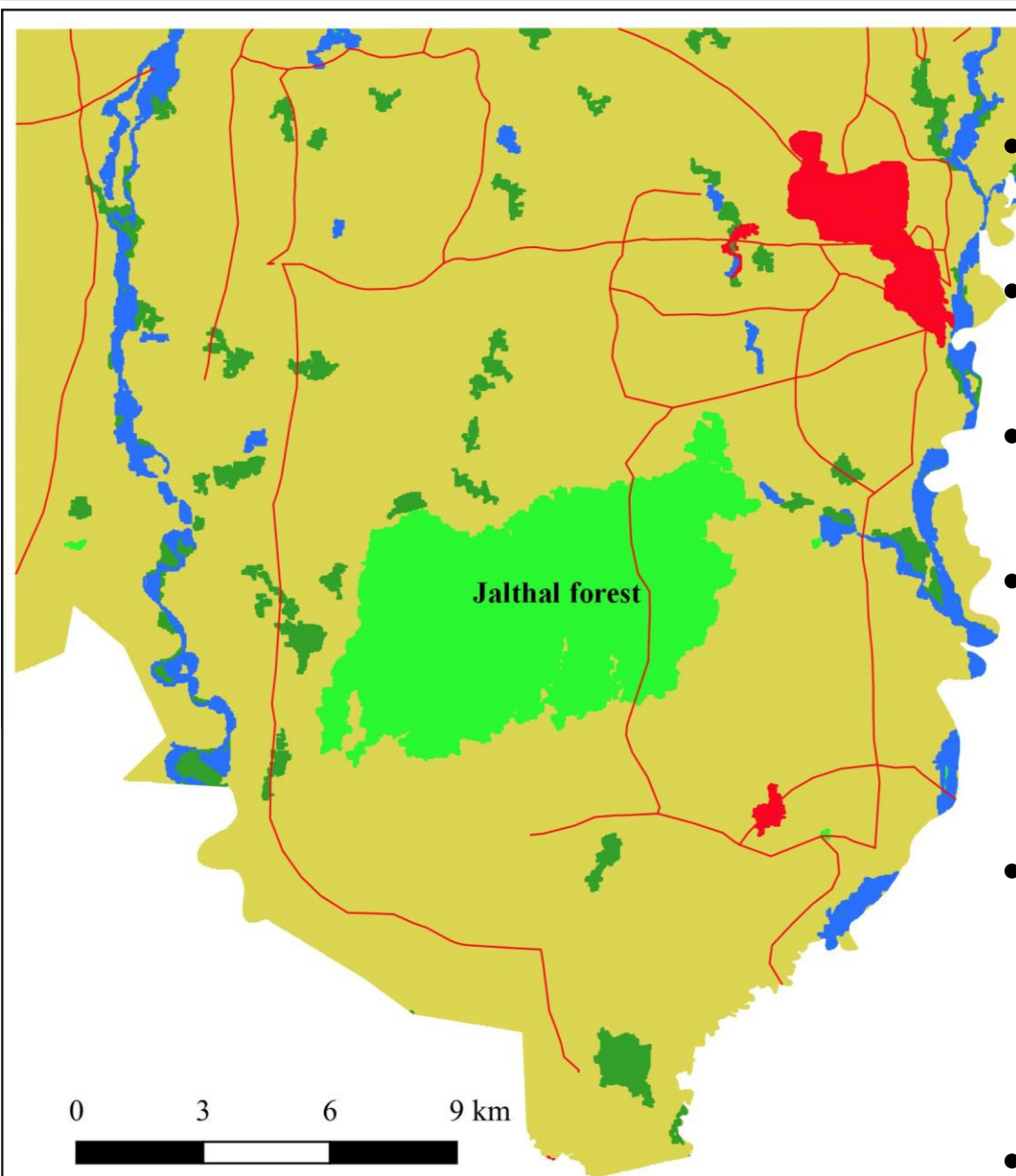


A framework for ecologically informed invasive species management and forest restoration

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Jalthal forest

- A 6000 ha remanant forested island
- Biodiversity rich but equally degraded
- Invasive species *Mikania micrantha* is a major burden
- Tree regeneration compromised, wildlife habitat destroyed, forest products declined
- In addition, hunting, timber focused management exacerbate threat to biodiversity
- Over 80,000 people living around the forest use it for different products

- Restoring forest severely degraded by Mikania is a challenge
- Efforts of local people a vain

- There is hope
- Natural regeneration
- Ecologically informed restoration



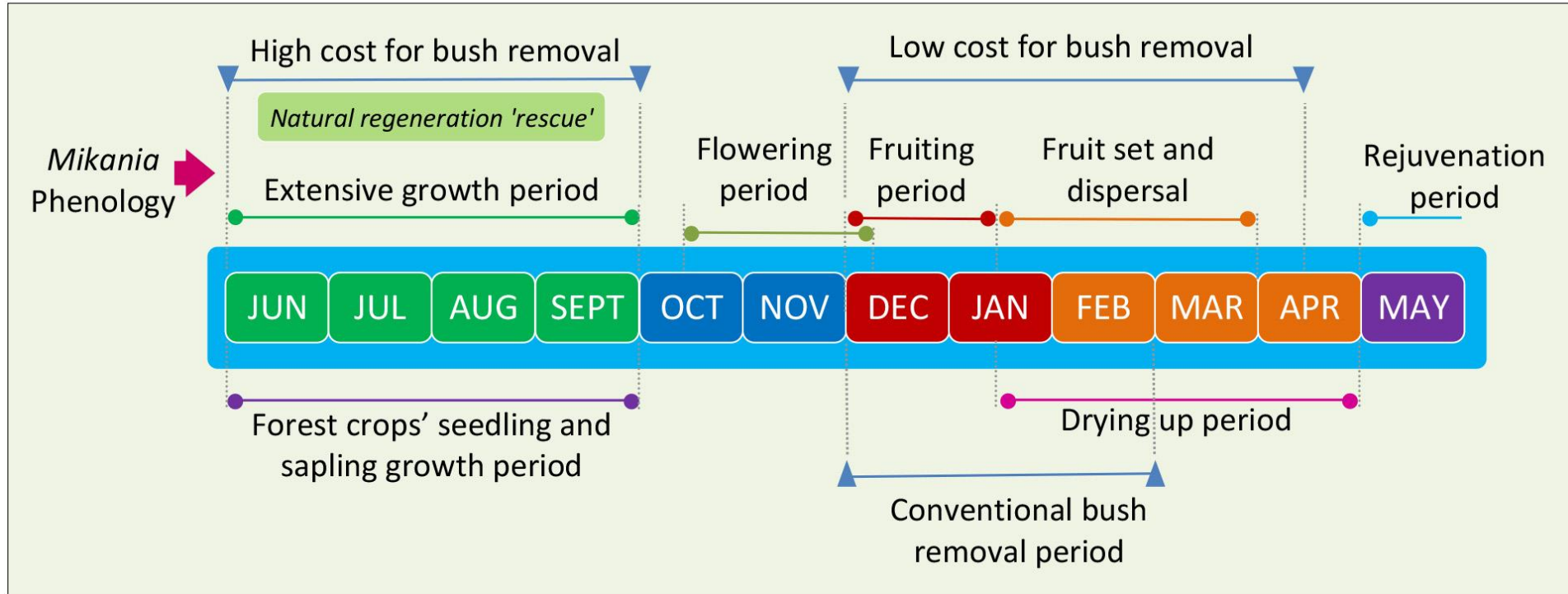
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Rescue of natural regeneration



- **Complete uprooting and slashing whole area is impractical and terribly costly**
- **Plantation costly**
- **Rescuing Natural regeneration is cost effective method**

Frame work for ecologically informed management of Mikania for Forest restoration



Key points to consider

- **Biological calendar and ecological attributes of the invading species**
- **Maximum growth period of native species**
- **Time of bush removal activities**
- **Biomass management**

Conclusion

- Invasive species management is complex, conventional methods are not giving expected outcomes
- Conventional methods not informed by ecological and biological attributes of invading species and native species
- Growing period 'niche' is better utilized by invasive-----Assistance required for native
- Rescue of natural regeneration during monsoon and large scale bush cleaning before fruit set of Mikania is likely to give better results
- Biomass management is an additional incentive to local people
- Current incentive mechanism and priority action is plantation but now time to rethink Natural regeneration promotion through rescue
- Natural regeneration is part of 'natural solution' to Mikania invasion