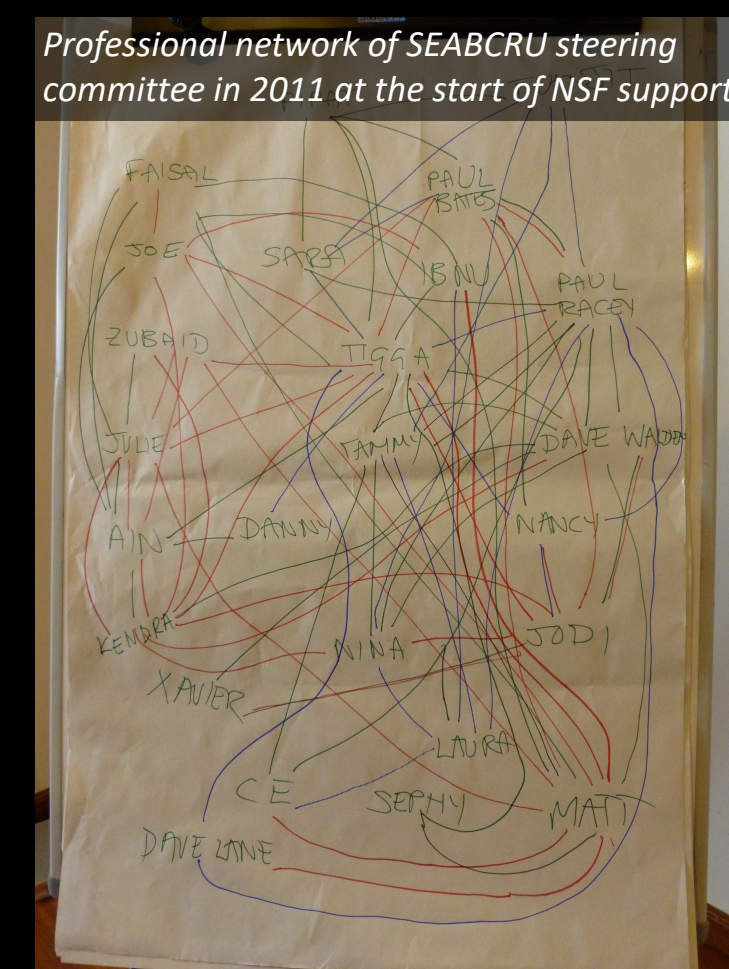


# What is the SEABCRU?



A network of researchers committed to the conservation of SE Asia's diverse but threatened bat fauna through research, capacity building and outreach. Founded in 2007 and received NSF (USA) support 2011-2019.

Sustainable networks are founded by well-connected actors. SEABCRU network structure (1) promotes cooperation and collaboration, (2) Accelerates knowledge transfer, (3) Fills capacity gaps, (4) Enables prioritization of effort.



# What are SEABCRU priorities?



Flying fox conservation



Cave- and forest-dependent bat conservation



Research Priorities 2007-2015



Taxonomy and systematics

## Cross-Cutting Research Priorities 2015 --



Environmental change and monitoring



Ecosystem services



Human-bat interactions

# What do we do?

- Build research capacity through training workshops, share findings and network through international conference series

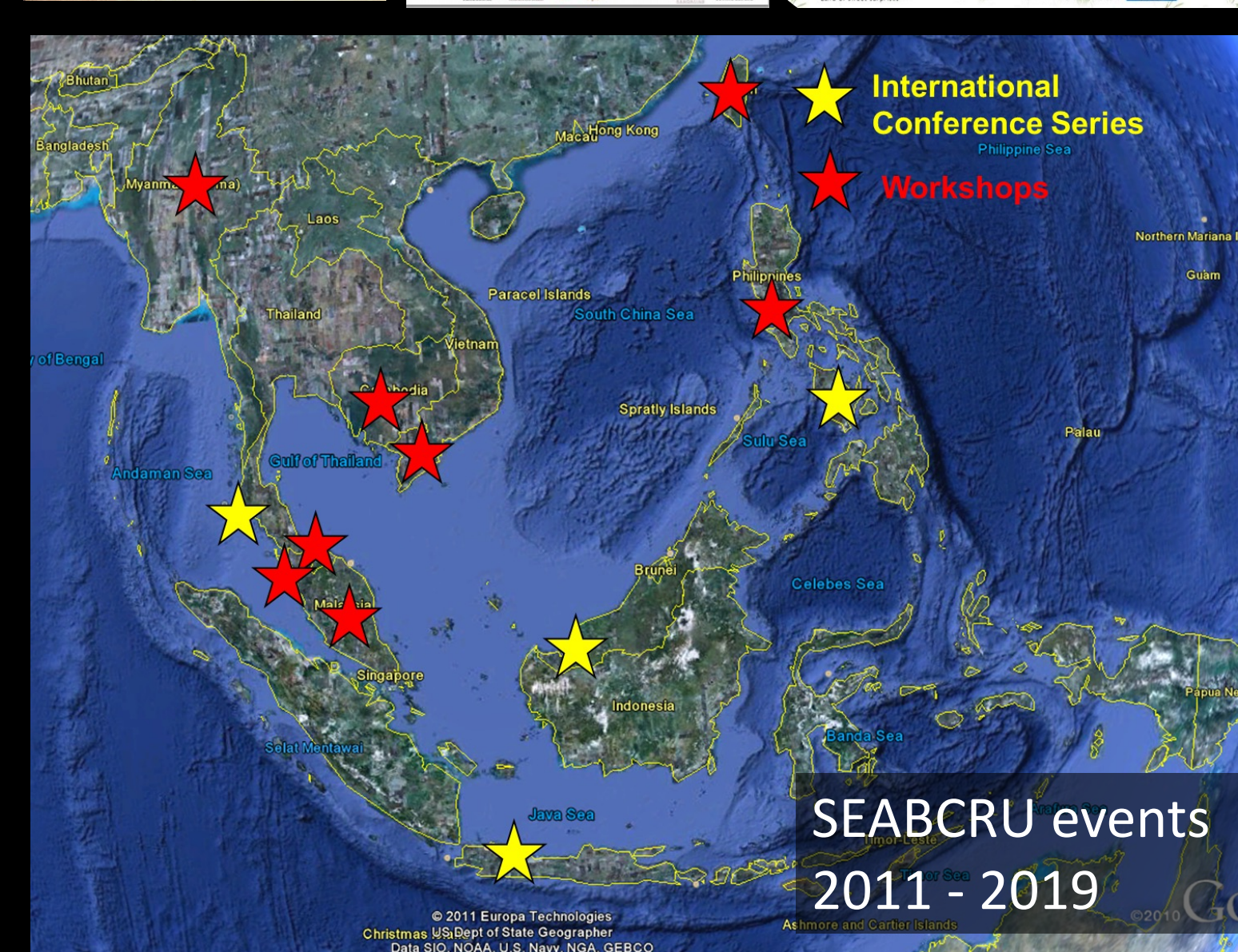


2014 Workshop in Vietnam – fieldwork ends with a song



- Develop and disseminate research protocols (e.g., flying fox monitoring, cave surveys, PPE for bat work).

- Develop and populate a database of bat occurrence data in DarwinCore format holding ~40,000 records



SEABCRU events 2011 - 2019

- Develop and disseminate outreach materials



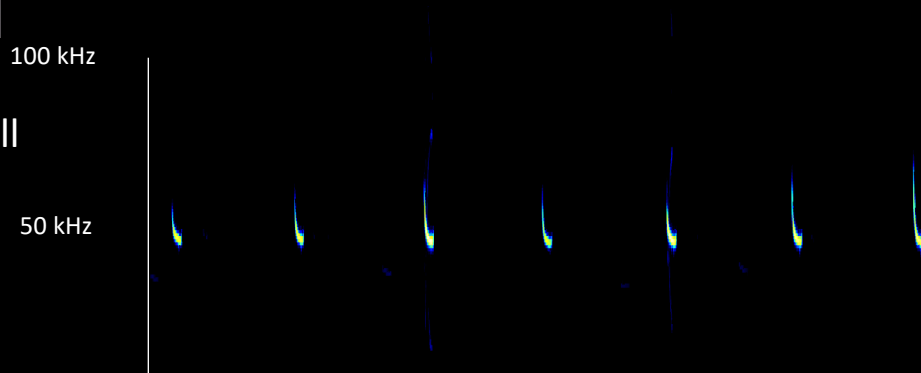
- Lever network to secure funding for multinational research in SEABCRU priority areas



"Implementation of acoustics to fill the gaps of bat biodiversity information for Southeast Asia" funded by GBIF 2019 – 2020



"Identifying and addressing factors contributing to flying fox trafficking in Southeast Asia" funded by USFWS 2017 – 2019.



# Why is it needed?

Southeast Asia is a bat diversity hotspot - home to ~400 bat species--~30% of the world's bat fauna. Bats play critical ecological and economic roles as pollinators, seed dispersers and agents of pest suppression.



Cave nectar bat taking nectar from a durian flower. Bats are the only effective pollinators of durian - a USD 17 billion dollar global market. Photo: CC Merlijn Tuttle



Insectivorous bats eat tons of plant-hopper rice pests (below). Bats are critical for food security in the "rice bowl" of SE Asia. Photo: Hafiz M aka Jebat Jr



But extensive land-use change, widespread hunting and destruction of roosts threaten ~ 24% of species and the conservation status and population trends for many species are unknown.

# Networking scientists accelerates regional bat conservation research: The Southeast Asian Bat Conservation Research Union (SEABCRU)

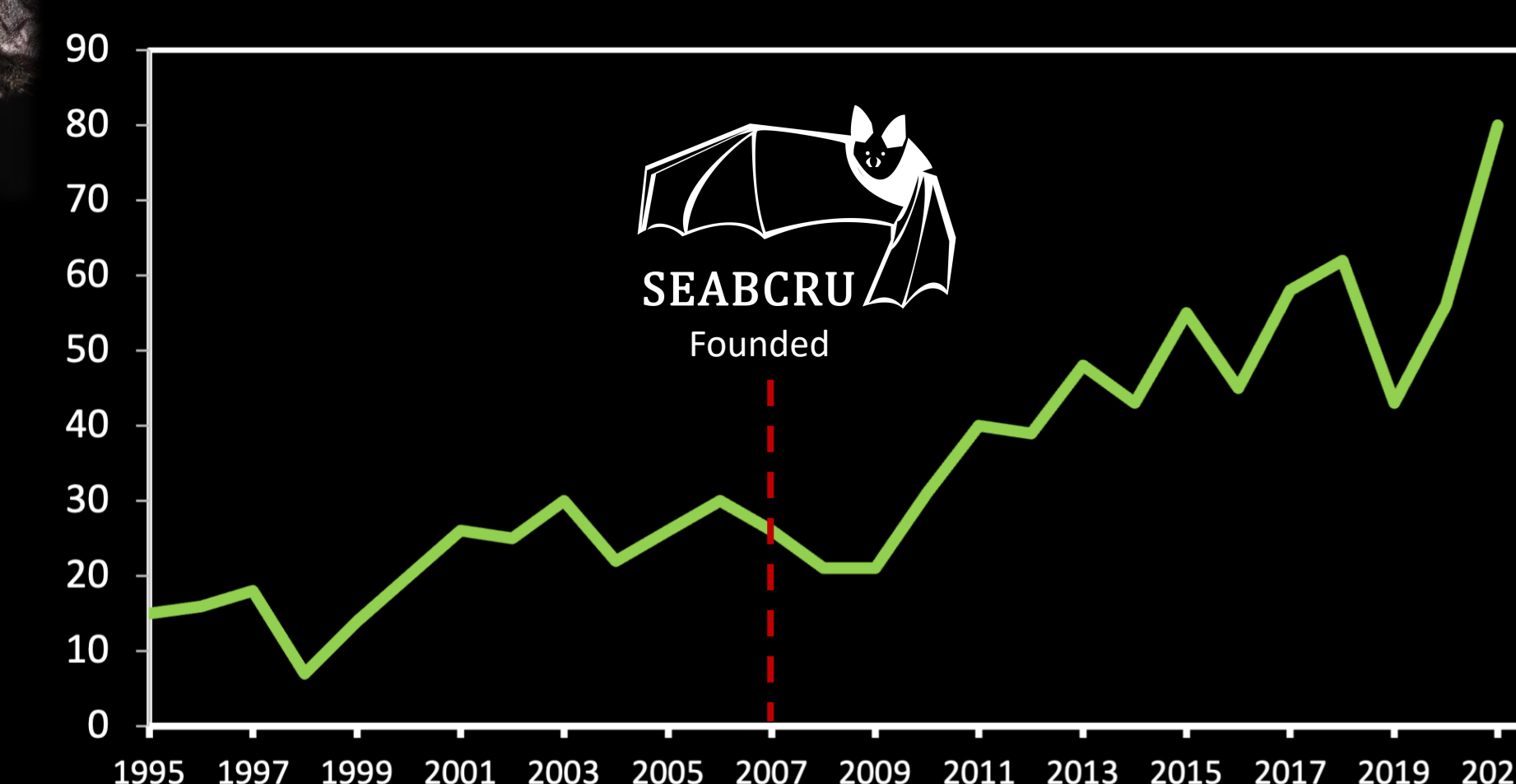
Tigga Kingston & The SEABCRU Steering Committee\*

# What is our impact?

- Over the last 15 years, more than 500 people have participated in SEABCRU events – four international conferences and eight workshops across seven countries.
- Doubling of bat research publications to > 60 per year
- Accelerated species discovery in SE Asia with > 40 species described in the last 15 years
- In-region scientists transitioned from junior to leadership roles in SEABCRU
- SE Asia now has a vibrant self-sustaining network of bat researchers



4 of the 40+ new species of bats (L to R) *Eudiscoderma thongareae*, *Rhinolophus francisi*, *Murina balaensis*, *Hipposideros* (Photos – P. Soisook, T. Kingston)



Increase in number of publications on bats per year from 1995 – 2021

# Acknowledgements



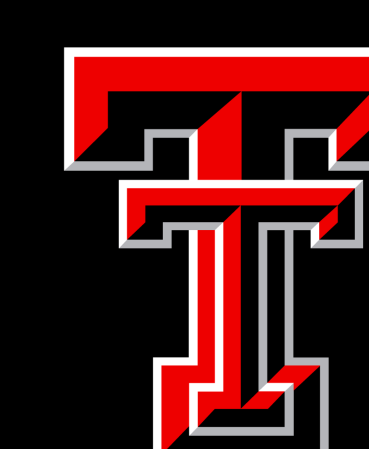
Dr. Tigga Kingston  
Professor, Texas Tech University  
Co-Chair, IUCN SSC Bat Specialist Group  
Founder of SEABCRU



Dr. Pijot Soisook  
Curator of Mammals, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Natural History Museum  
Prince of Songkla University



Dr. Susan Tsang  
Research Associate, American Museum of Natural History  
Research Associate, Philippine National Museum of Natural History



\*SEABCRU Steering Committee: Sheema Abdul Aziz, Faisal Ali Anwarali Khan, Isham Azhar, Paul Bates, Sara Bumrungsri, CE Nuevo Diego, Marites Gatlan-Balbas, Marina Fisher-Phelps, Neil Furey, Joe Chun-Chia Huang, Nina Ingle, David Lane, Benjamin Lee, Ibnu Maryanto, Tammy Mildenstein, CE Nuevo, Kevin Olival, Lisa Marie Paguntalan, Nurul Ain Elias, Kendra Phelps, Paul Racey, Steve Rossiter, Sai Sein Lin Oo, Jodi Sedlock, Juliana Senawi, Sheherazade, Nancy Simmons, Danny Squire, Matthew Struebig, Vu Dinh Thong, Dave Waldien, Merlijn Van Weerd, Sigit Wiantoro, Zubaid Akbar.