



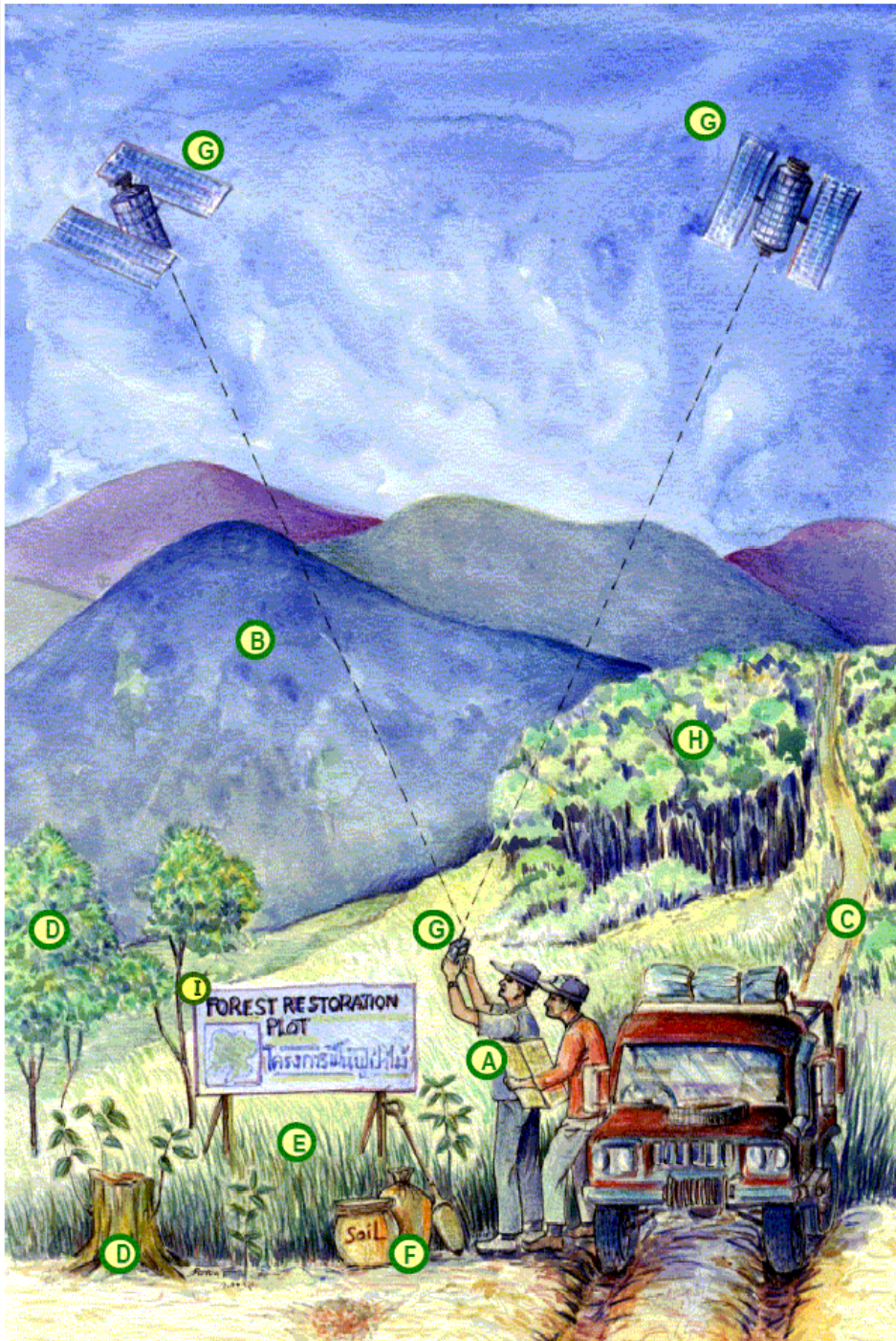
# SURVEYING POTENTIAL PLANTING SITES

All stakeholders in a forest restoration project should help to survey the proposed planting site. Stakeholders can discuss a wide range of issues that may affect project planning and implementation, agree on the aims of the tree planting and commit to the program.

## Materials needed:

- topographic map, showing forest cover
- compass
- camera
- borrowed geographical positioning system device (GPS)

1. Look at the map contours (A) to determine the **site elevation**.
2. Check **elevation ranges of framework tree species** to ensure they can grow at the site.
3. Use contours and the map scale to determine the average site steepness, to **assess the risk of soil erosion** (B) and ease of working on the site.
4. Consider **site access** (C) - roads or tracks. How far will materials have to be carried? Can transport access the site in the rainy season?



13. Erect a **sign board** (I) with a plot map and contact details of the project organizers.
12. **Locate the nearest patch of natural forest** (H) at a similar elevation. Identify the forest tree species present, and use it to give stakeholders a clear picture of the goal of forest restoration.
11. Use a **GPS** (G) to record the corners of the plot and mark with concrete or metal poles. Use string to create a temporary boundary.
10. Take “before” **photos** to compare the growth later on.
9. Look for signs of **cattle** and discuss exclusion options.
8. Look for evidence of **fire** and work out fire-prevention measures.

5. Look for **natural forest regeneration** (D). Estimate the number of naturally established trees, saplings or sprouting stumps and minus that number from the planting density of 500 trees per rai (3,000 per ha). Collect and identify specimens, using scientific names. Remove these species from the planting list.

6. If **weed cover** (E) is sparse, plot preparation labour is low. Control short weeds by a single application of the non-residual herbicide, glyphosate (Round-up). Taller weeds must be slashed first, then apply herbicide a few weeks later after they re-sprout.

7. **Compacted soil** requires more labour to dig planting holes, and mulching. If possible, send soil samples (F) to your local agricultural college or agricultural extension facility for analysis, to help determine how much fertilizer is required.

