



**Republic of the Union of Myanmar**  
**Ministry of Environmental Conservation**  
**and Forestry**  
**Forest Department**

**Myanmar's Vision for Participatory**  
**Management of Protected Areas**

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# GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO MYANMAR



## Physical Profile

Area - 676,577 km<sup>2</sup>

## Demography

Total population - 59.78 million (2010)

Population growth rate - 1.1%

## Climate

Temperature

25° - 33° C (Rainy Season)

10° - 25° C (Cold Season)

32° - 43° C (Hot Season)


Rainfall

Minimum < 800 mm

Maximum > 5000 mm

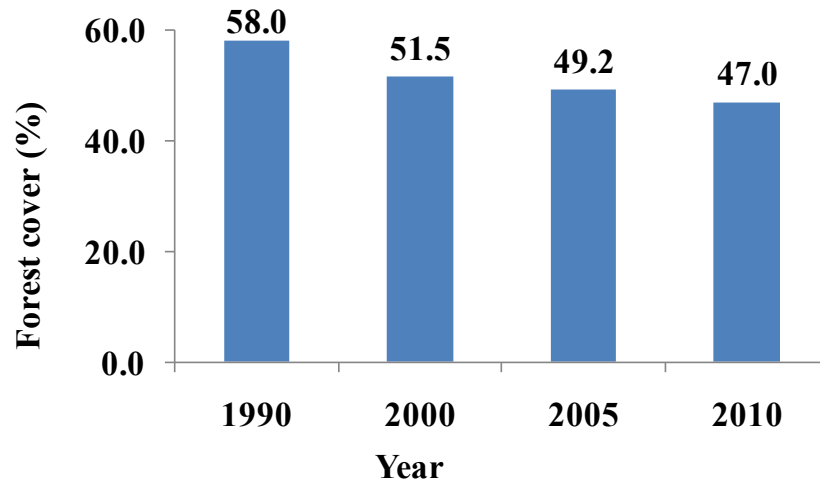
# Vegetation types of Myanmar

Source: *A Checklist of the Trees, Shrubs, Herbs, and Climbers of Myanmar*. Contributions from the United States National Herbarium. Volume 45: 1-590



# Forest Covers in Myanmar

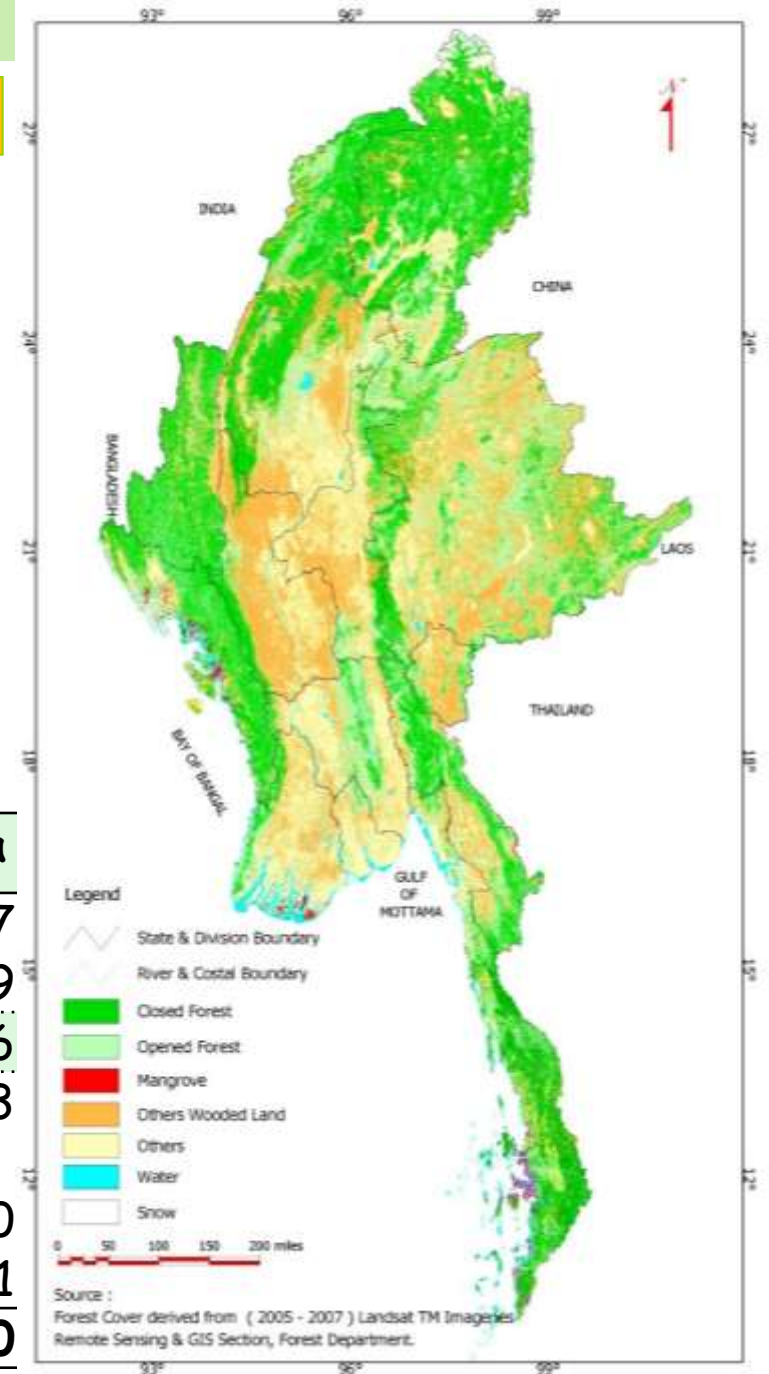
## Forest Covers of Myanmar between 1990 and 2010



## Forest Cover of Myanmar (derived from 2005-2007 Landsat Images).

Particular	Area (,000 ha)	% of country area
Closed forest	13,445	19.87
Open forest	18,329	27.09
<b>Total forest</b>	<b>31,773</b>	<b>46.96</b>
Other wooded land	20,113	29.73
Others	13,869	20.50
Water body	1,903	2.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,658</b>	<b>100</b>

Forest Cover Status Map of Myanmar (FRA 2010)



# Organization of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry

Union Ministry office

Deputy Union Ministry office

Deputy Union Ministry office

Forest Department (FD)

*Responsible for protection, conservation and sustainable management of forest resources*

Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE)

*Responsible for timber harvesting, processing and marketing*

Dry Zone Greening Department (DZGD)

*Responsible for reforestation in the central dry zone of Myanmar*

Planning and Statistics Department (PSD)

*Responsible for coordinating and facilitating the tasks of FD, MTE and DZGD*

Environmental Conservation Department (ECD)

*Responsible for environmental conservation regulation*

Survey Department (SD)

*Responsible for survey and map production*



# Biodiversity Richness in Myanmar

■ Varied forest types are home of numerous flora and fauna

Category	No. of Species
Plants	11,800
Mammals	258
Birds	1,056
Reptiles	297
Amphibian	82
Fresh Water Fish	310
Marine Water Fish	465
Sharks	20
Marine Turtle	5
Coral	52



# Biodiversity Richness in Myanmar

❖ Myanmar has recorded several endemic species.



Black Orchid



Star Tortoise

Taxonomic group	No. endemic species
Mammals	1
Birds	6
Reptiles	21
Amphibians	3
Plants	8



White-browed Nuthatch



Chin hill lizard



Myanmar spitting cobra



Golden Deer/ thamin

# Protected areas in Myanmar

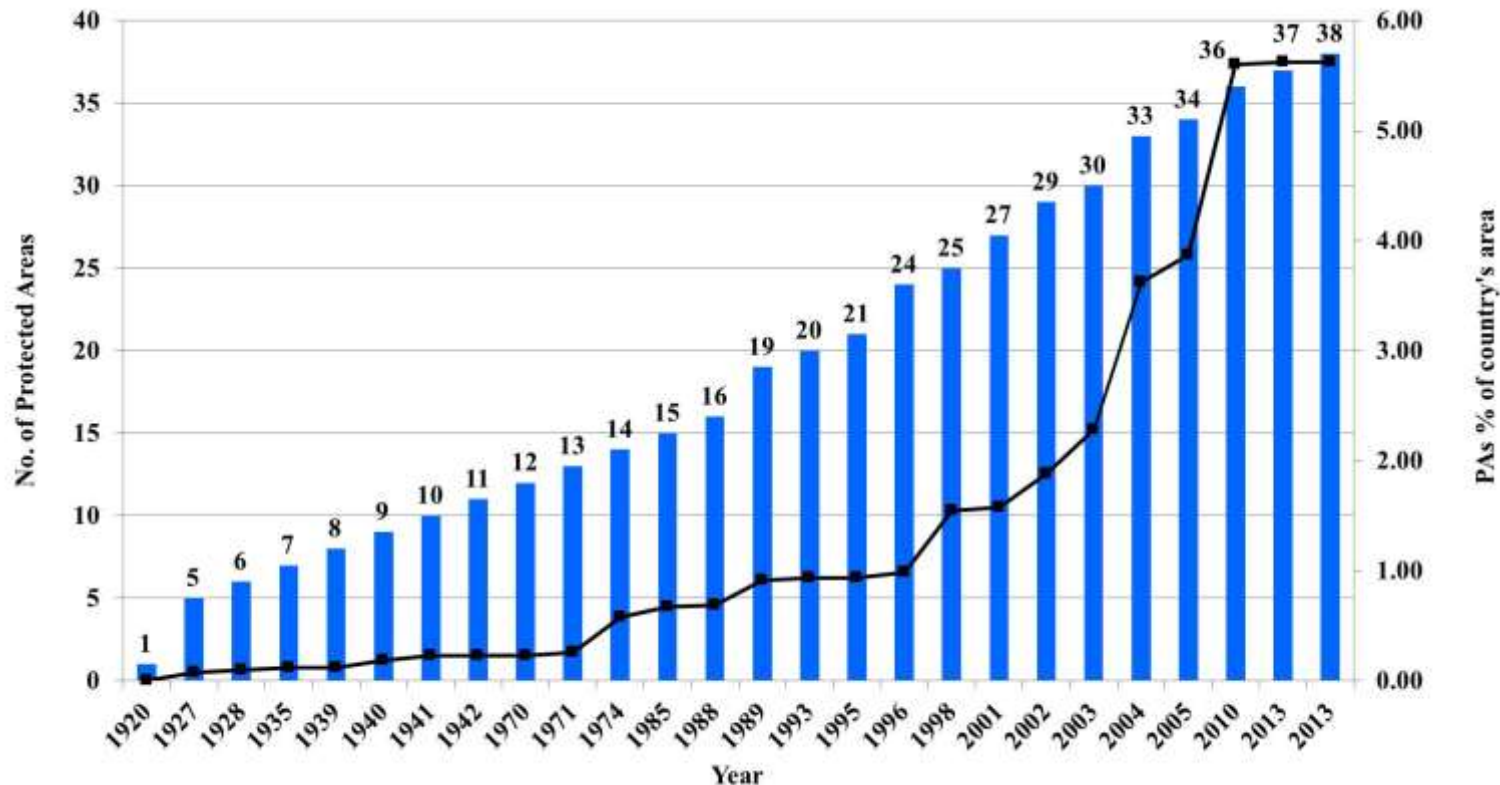
- Recognizing the role of protected areas (PAs) in biodiversity conservation, Myanmar has established PAs across the country, particularly since 1920.
- In early 1980s, Nature Conservation National Park Project was launched under the joint implementation of UNDP and Forest Department, and then modern conservation have rooted.
- Myanmar Forest Policy (1995) mandates an increase in protected areas (PAs) to 5 % of the country's total land.
- Later, this target was adjusted to 10% by 30-year National Forestry Master Plan of Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry.
- Currently, Myanmar has 38,027 km<sup>2</sup> in 38 PAs representing diverse ecosystems, which cover 5.62% of the total area.
- In addition, another seven areas that occupy 1.19 % of the country total land have been proposed to be established as PAs.



# Protected areas in Myanmar

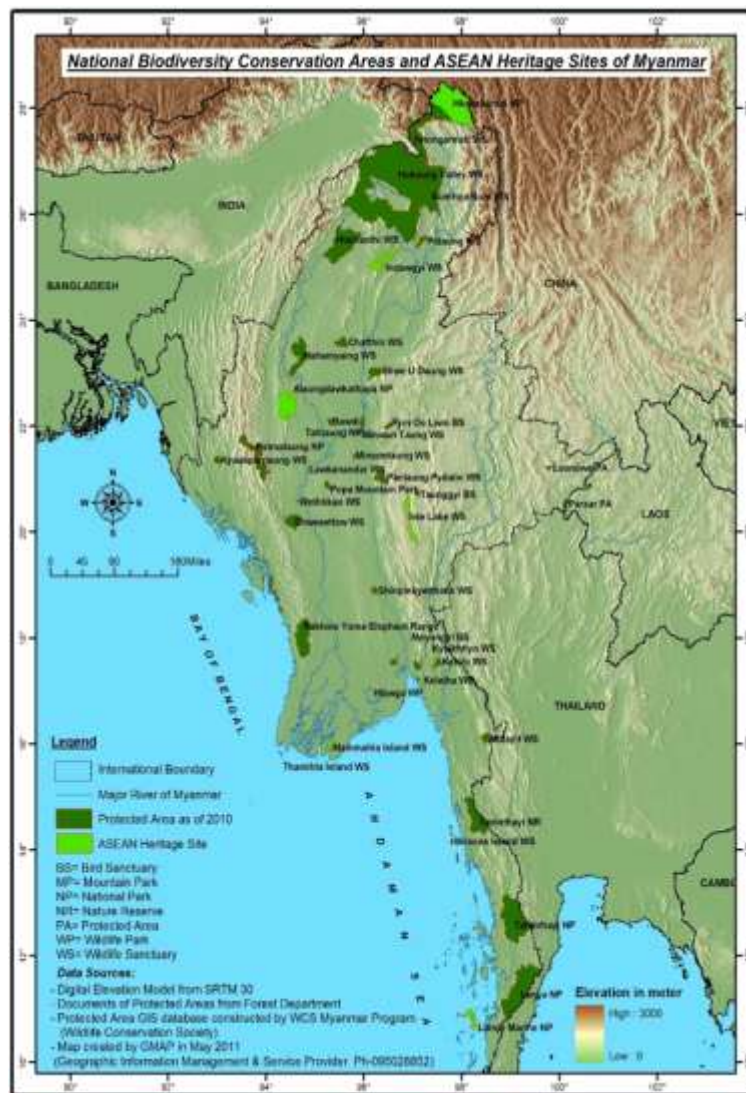
- Up to 1996, PAs constituted < 1 % of the total land with individuals ranging in size from 0.47 km<sup>2</sup> to 2150 km<sup>2</sup>.
- Designation of PAs shifted from protection of certain species or habitat to protection of entire landscapes or ecosystems.

Cumulative of protected areas between 1920 and 2013 (october)



# Protected areas in Myanmar

- Myanmar's PAs cover marine ecosystem to sub-alpine forest ecosystem.
- Seven of 38 Myanmar's PAs are enlisted as ASEAN Heritage Park.
- Moeyongyi Wildlife Sanctuary is designated as Ramsar site since 2004



# Protected area management

- Under the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division (NWCD) of Forest Department, Park Warden Offices have been set up at the 20 protected areas, and patrolling is conducted to prevent from hunting of wild animals.
- Environmental education is also conducted for the local communities surrounding the protected areas to get the local people's participation in conservation.
- In addition, the conservation activities are being conducted for the long-term existence of ecosystems and their associated biodiversity.



# Protected area management

- Effective management is very crucial for the sustainable biodiversity conservation by PAs.
- The sustainability of biodiversity conservation requires much more than efforts on conservation activities alone.
- As the main targets of the establishment of the PAs are conserving forest and biodiversity, PAs management is mainly focused on conservation inside the Park.
- Generally, the traditional “fines and fences” method is the very common approach in PAs’ management in Myanmar, which mainly focuses on the biological effectiveness and ignores social effectiveness such as local people’s needs and aspirations.
- Indeed, the nature conservation or PAs management is a combination of multiple aspects embracing ecology, environment, economics, and livelihoods of the local communities.

# Protected area management

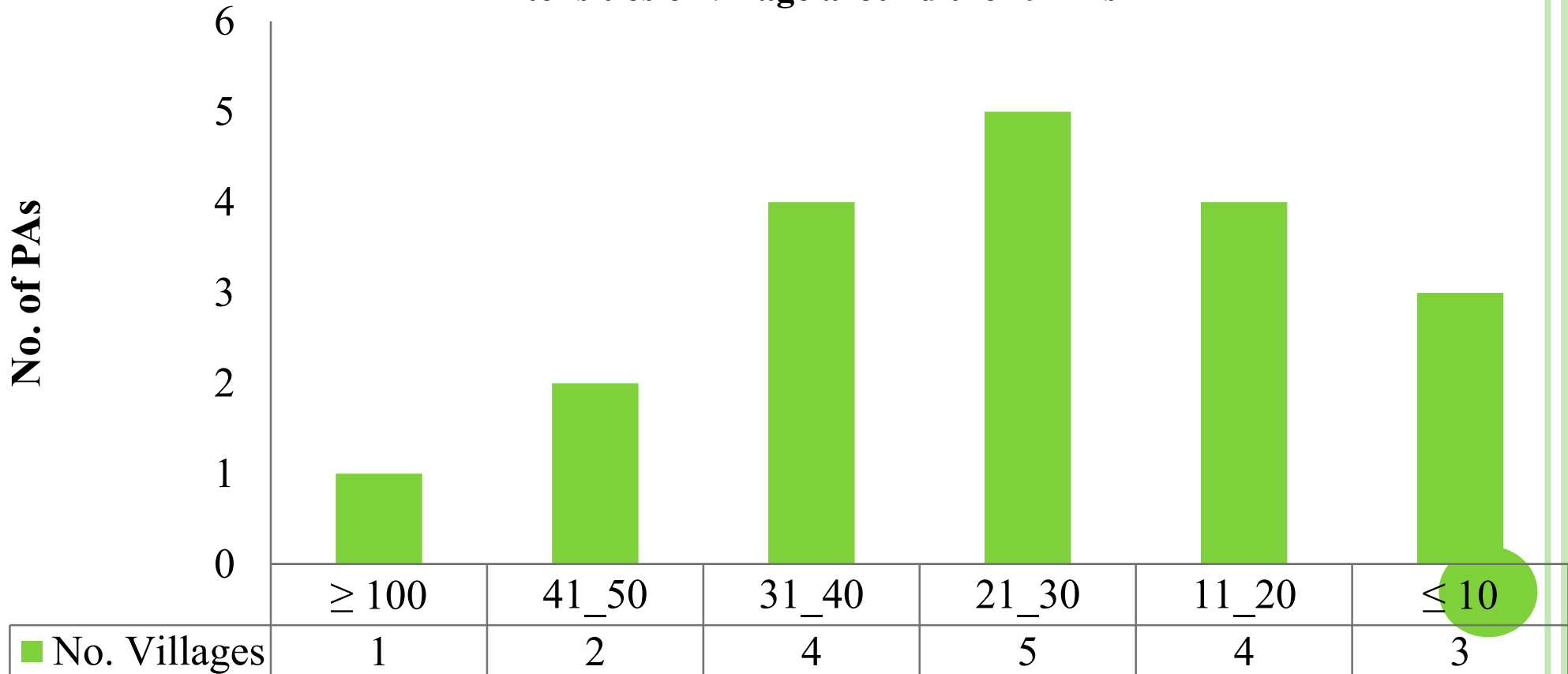
- Recently, Myanmar has formulated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAB) with the multi-consultation process.
- NBSAP is a comprehensive framework for biodiversity conservation, management and utilization in a sustainable manner, as well as to ensure to support the National Sustainable Development Strategy.
- The development of NBSAP has given opportunity for practising the alternative PAs management that favours not only biodiversity, but also livelihood development.
- However, it is still needed to address the technical and financial insufficiency for implementing the NBSAP, particularly for strengthening PAs management in Myanmar.



# State of communities around the PAs

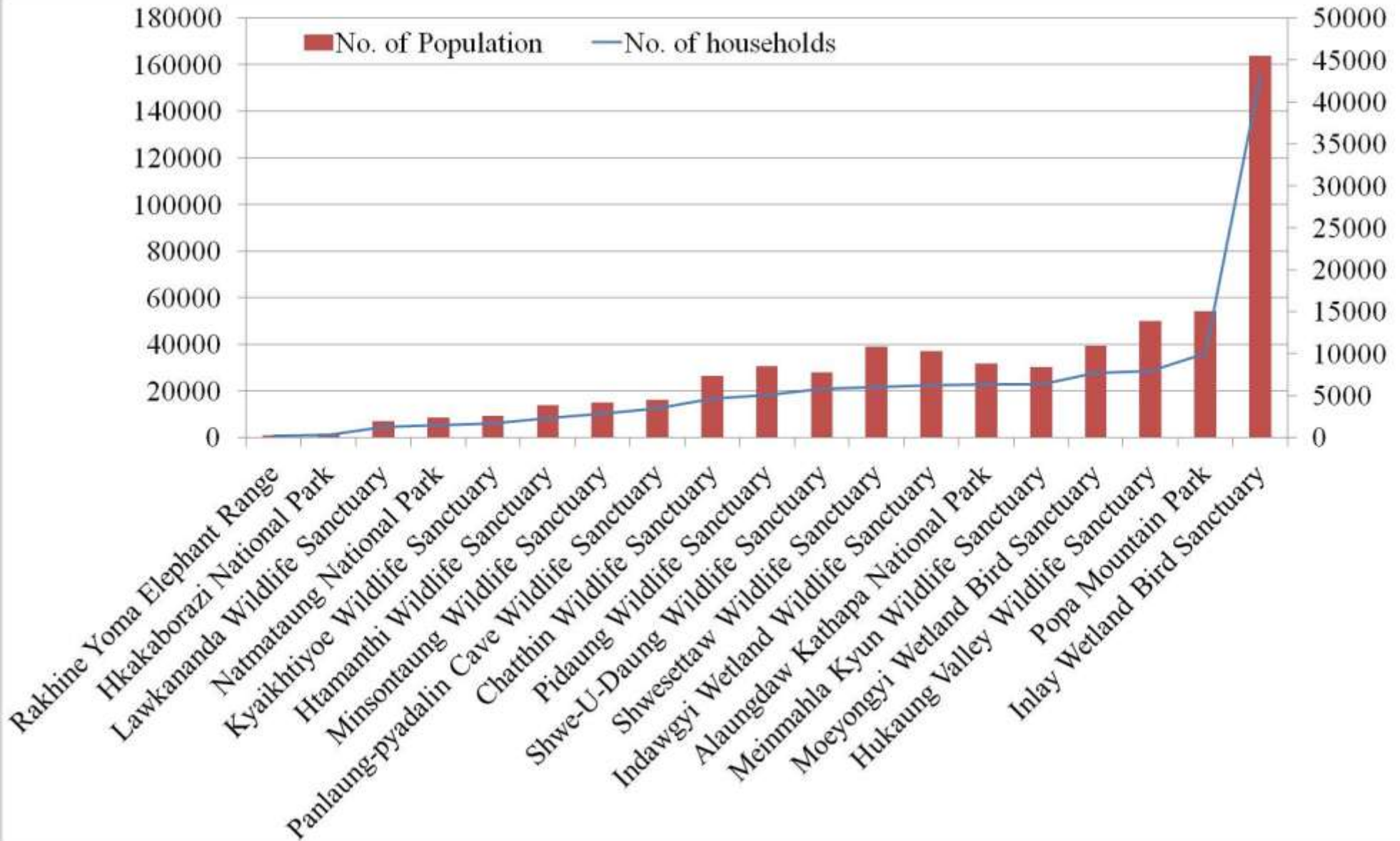
- According to the data collected from 19 PAs, there are 828 villages around the PAs with the total households of 122,599 and total population of 601,596 in 2012.

**Intensities of village around the 19 PAs**



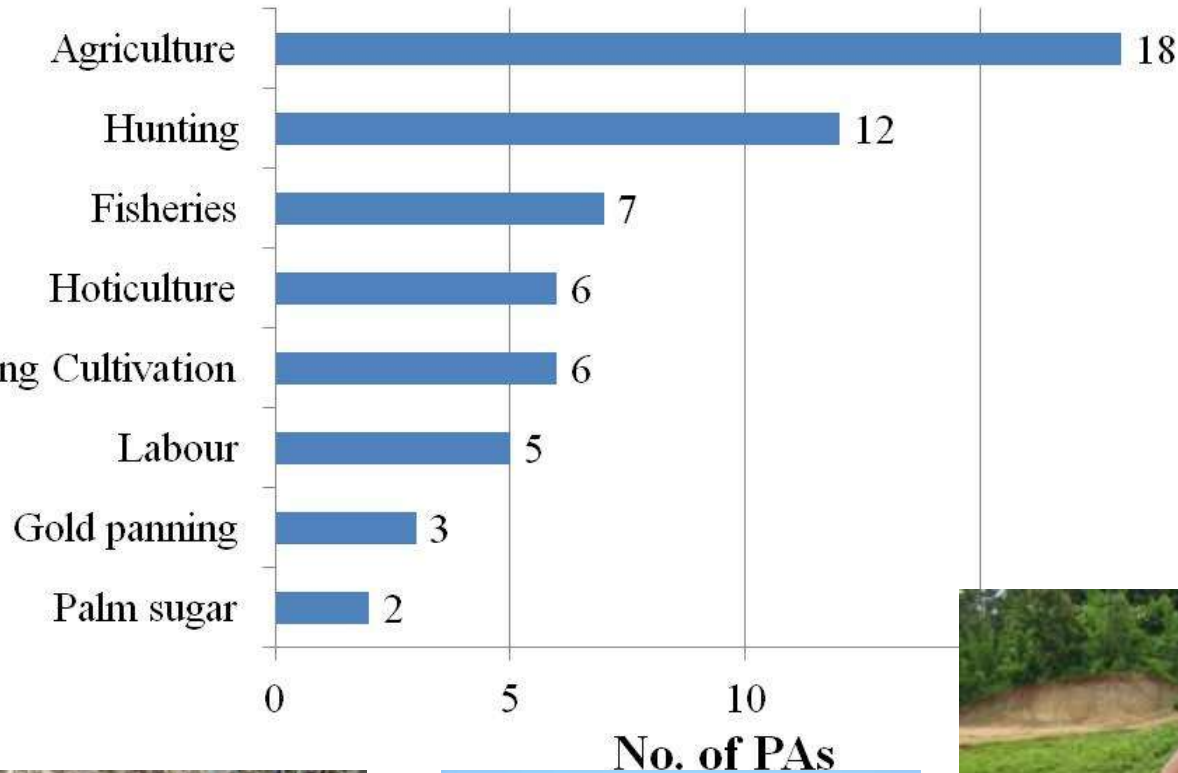
# State of communities around the PAs

## Intensities of households and population around the 19 PAs



# State of communities around the PAs

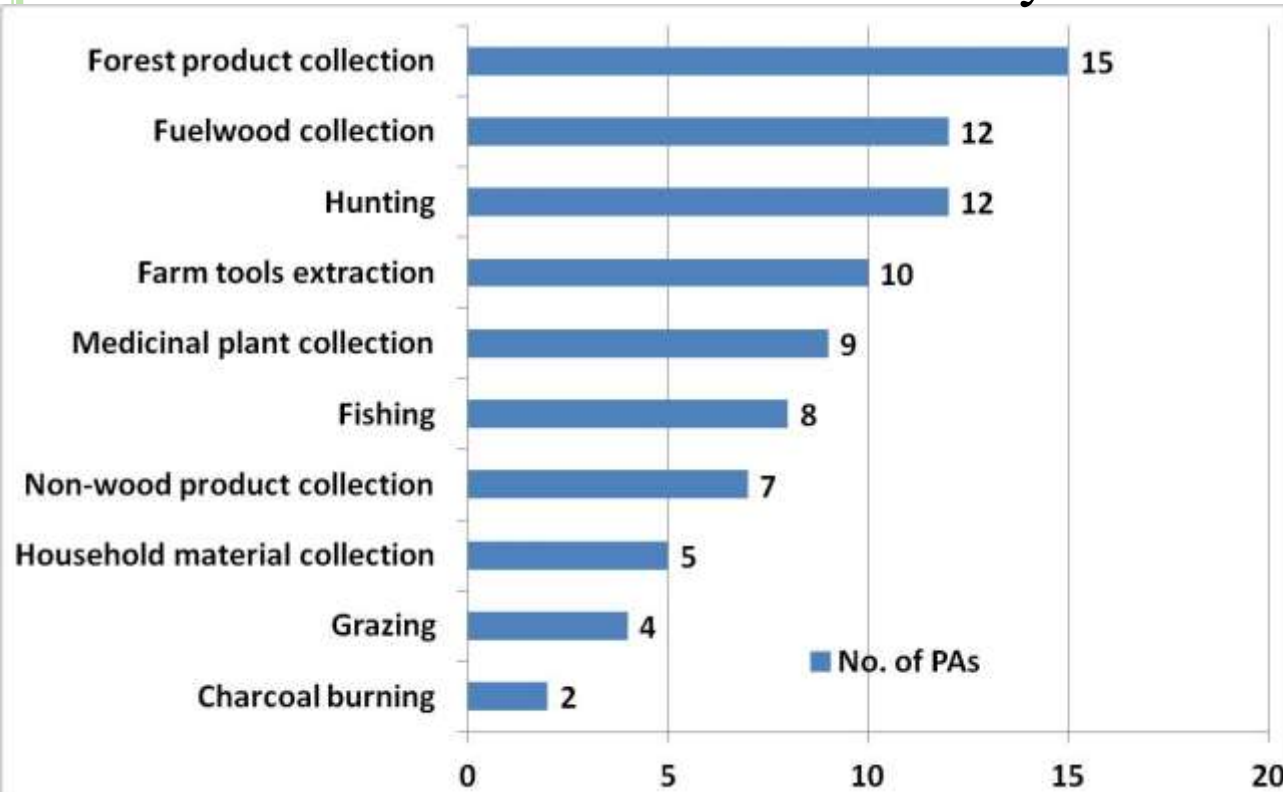
Livelihood of by local communities living around 19 PAs





# State of communities around the PAs

## Resource utilization in 19 PAs by local communities living around



# Existing opportunities for people's participation in PAs management in Myanmar

- The Protection of Wildlife and Protected Areas Rules enacted in 2002, given rights for local communities to utilize the natural resources in a sustainable manner by designating the buffer zones within and outside the PAs.
- Also, the Protection of Wildlife and Protected Areas Rules guarantee not to affect the local communities' privileges and traditions after an area is designated as PAs.



# Existing opportunities for people's participation in PAs management in Myanmar

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

## National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan



### *5.2.2. Five-year Action Plan Toward Sustainable Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management*

- Introduce buffer zone management to harmonize the sustainability of biodiversity and sustainable development of local communities.
- Promote sustainable use of biological resources.
- Promote local communities participation in biodiversity conservation.



Considering co-benefits for local people and biodiversity in management .



**Community based natural resource management (CBNRM)** to strike a balance between conflicting goals of conserving biodiversity, promoting economic & social development and maintaining associated cultural values.

# National paradigms on community participation in conservation

- People oriented approach is put in place in national level strategies and action plans such as ASCC blue print and Millennium Development Goals.
- Recently, government of Myanmar has developed National Comprehensive Development plan, and poverty reduction is given priority.
- The government determines to apply the people-centred approach, and to harmonize the sustainable development and ensuring environmental stability.
- Taking opportunity from the recent changes in Myanmar, Forest Department is initiating community based conservation approaches in collaboration with international organizations such as WCS, FFI, IMC etc.

# National paradigms on community participation in conservation

- In addition, Myanmar has submitted the nomination dossier to UNESCO to designate Inlay Lake region as Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB).
- MAB will be a good model to show the a balance between community development and long term conservation, and to develop an alternative approach to replace the ‘Fence and Fine Approach” in PAs management.
- Also MBA will assist to reach the goals of **National Level Strategies** such as **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan** and **National Sustainable Development Strategy**.



# Conclusion

- Myanmar well recognizes the importance of well being for communities in PAs management.
- Urgently need to develop alternative management approach that would harmonize the sustainability of biodiversity, improvement of ecosystem services and sustainable development of local communities.
- Some opportunities are already existing to persuade the participation of local communities in the management and conservation of PAs.
- Need to develop the Park-People co-existing management approach based on the national experiences and international lessons.



A low-angle photograph of a large, mature tree with a thick, dark trunk and numerous branches extending upwards and outwards. The leaves are green and dense, filling most of the frame. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The text "THANK FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION!" is overlaid in the center of the image in a bold, yellow, serif font.

**THANK FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION!**