

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Home Affairs, Myanmar Police Force
Forest Security Police



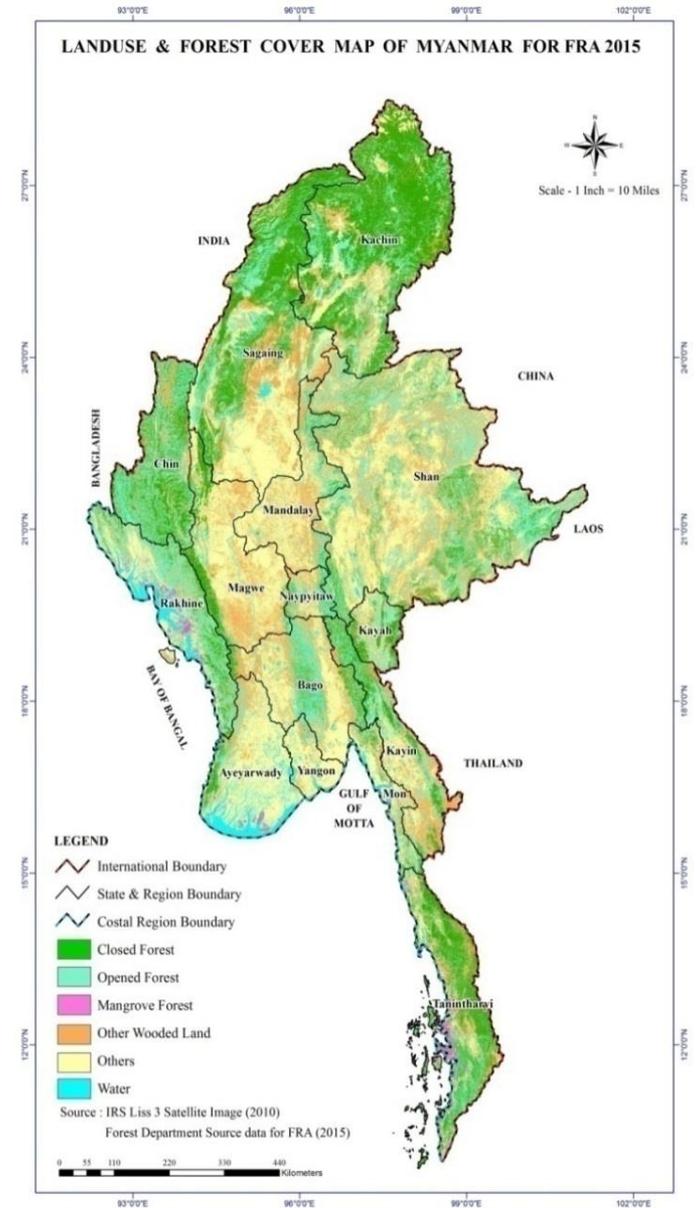
Forest Crimes Subject in Myanmar

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❖ Workshop on Regional Cooperation to Control Illegal Timber Forest Products Movement and Addressing Transboundary Displacement will be held the Interpol and UNODC on 14-11-2018 to 17-11-2018 at the Hanoi, Vietnam.

- The following themes will be discussed in the conference;
- Illegal logging which are non-compliance with environmental rules and regulations
 - Cooperation with national, regional and international to combat forestry crimes
 - Type of forestry crimes
 - Use of technology to address forestry crimes
 - Election of members for INTERPOL Forestry Crime Working Group

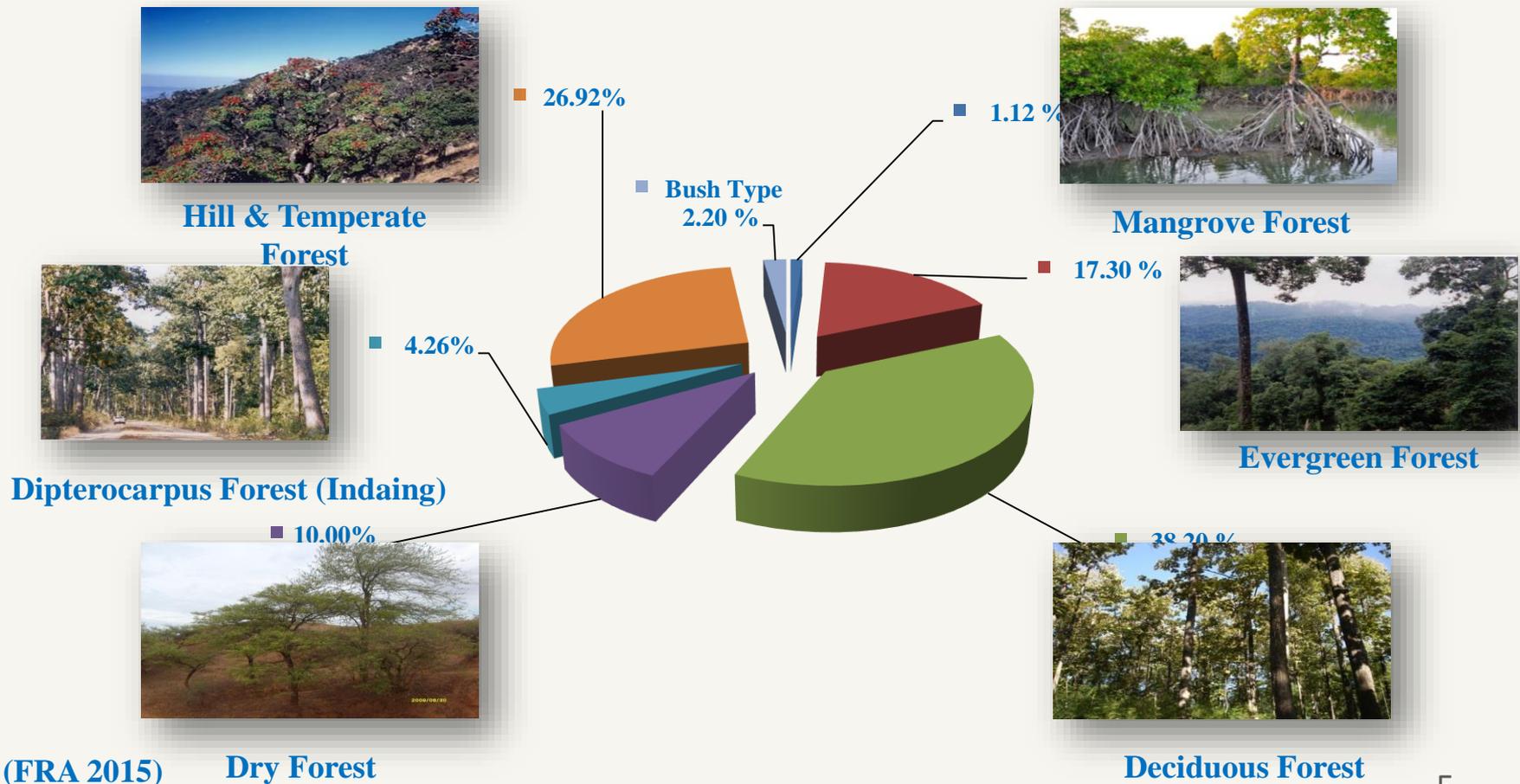
❖ Myanmar is the third highest country in South-east Asia in terms of forest cover and the forest area is 29 million hectares. It is located in Indo-Myanmar protection zone and rich in biodiversity. Eventhough, it is addressing with deforestation and forest degradation as other developing countries. Illegal logging and wildlife trade is one of the main reasons for deforestation and biodiversity loss.



- ❖ The forest cover in Myanmar is 42.92 percentage of the total land area.

Area Forest type	Area (,000 ha)	% of total country area
Closed forest	14585.00	21.56
Open forest	14456.00	21.36
Total	29041.00	42.92
Degraded forest	15080.	22.29
Other land	21634.00	31.98
Water	1903.00	2.81
Total	67659.38	100.00

❖ Major Forest types in Myanmar are Evergreen Forest, Deciduous Forest, Dry Forest, Indaing (Dipterocarp) Forest, Hill and Temperate Forest, Mangrove forest and Scrub Land. Most of valuable trees are observed in Mix Deciduous forest. The Permanent Forest Estate (PFE) is 30.72 percentage of the total land area.



❑ In Myanmar, deforestation is 435,000 ha per years between 1990 and 2000, 309000 ha per years between 2001 and 2010 and 546000 ha per years between 2010 and 2015. In 1990, the area of forest cover is about 57.97%, in 2000 and 42.92 % in 2015 respectively. Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Myanmar are as follow:

- Direct drivers: Excessive timber extraction, illegal logging, over cutting of fuelwood, land-encroachment for agriculture, shifting cultivation, mining, dam construction, infrastructure construction for urban development, expansion of ponds for breeding of fishes and prawns in mangrove forests, natural disaster (forest fire, storm, floods, pest, diseases, landslides).
- Indirect drivers: Corruption, poverty, limited job opportunity, high demand of forest products, lack of land use policy, weak monitoring and evaluation limited budget, weak law enforcement, population pressure, poor stakeholders engagement, weak political support.

Natural Disaster (Forest Fire in Myanmar)

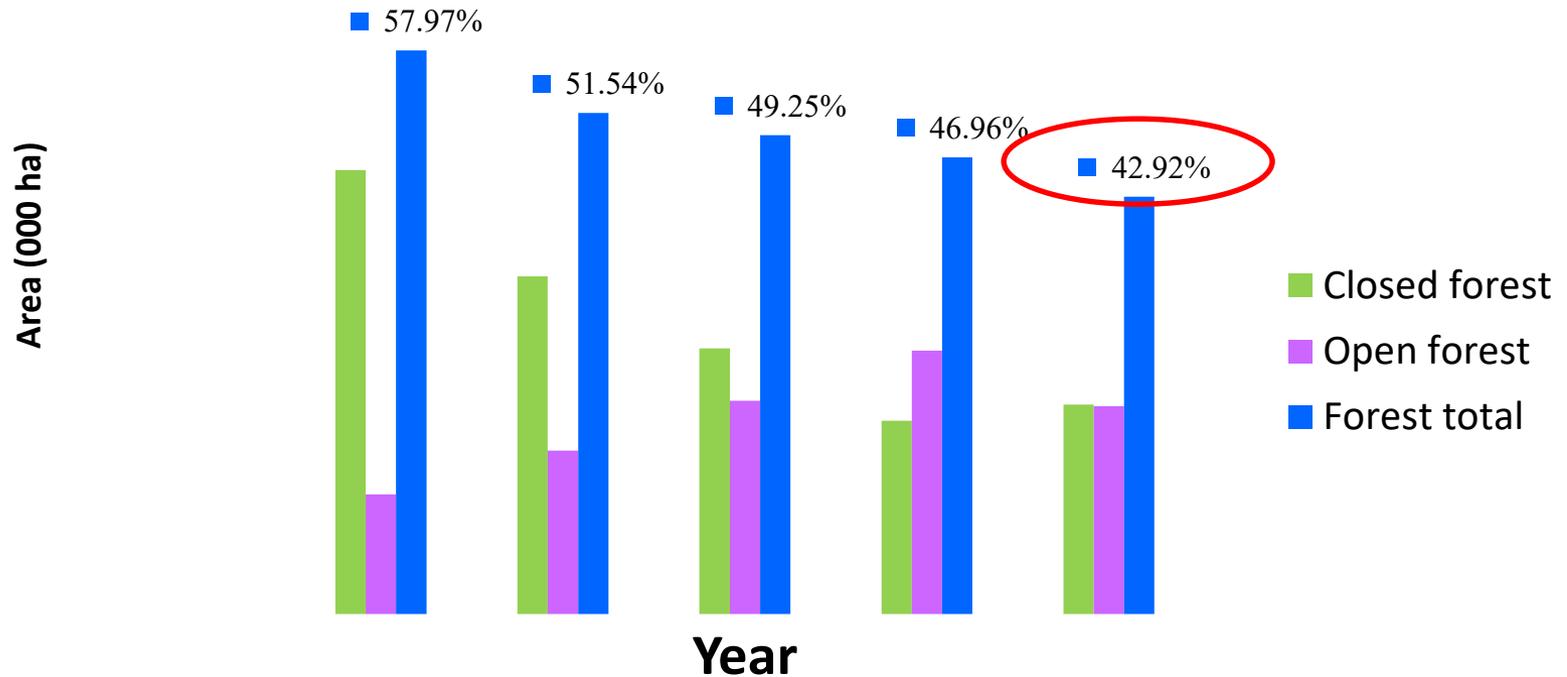


Excessive timber extraction



❖ In Myanmar, before 2015, teak, hardwood and others wood export had be carried by legal timber extraction companies. There were totally 55 companies; 33 for teak only and 22 for teak and others. However, As from 2016, it has been stopped and carried out by Government itself while considering the sustainability of forests and reduction of forest degradation. During the fical year 2017- 2018, Myanmar exported 28470 tons of teak, 13604 tons of hardwood and 98832 tons of other wood.

Forest Cover Changes in Myanmar



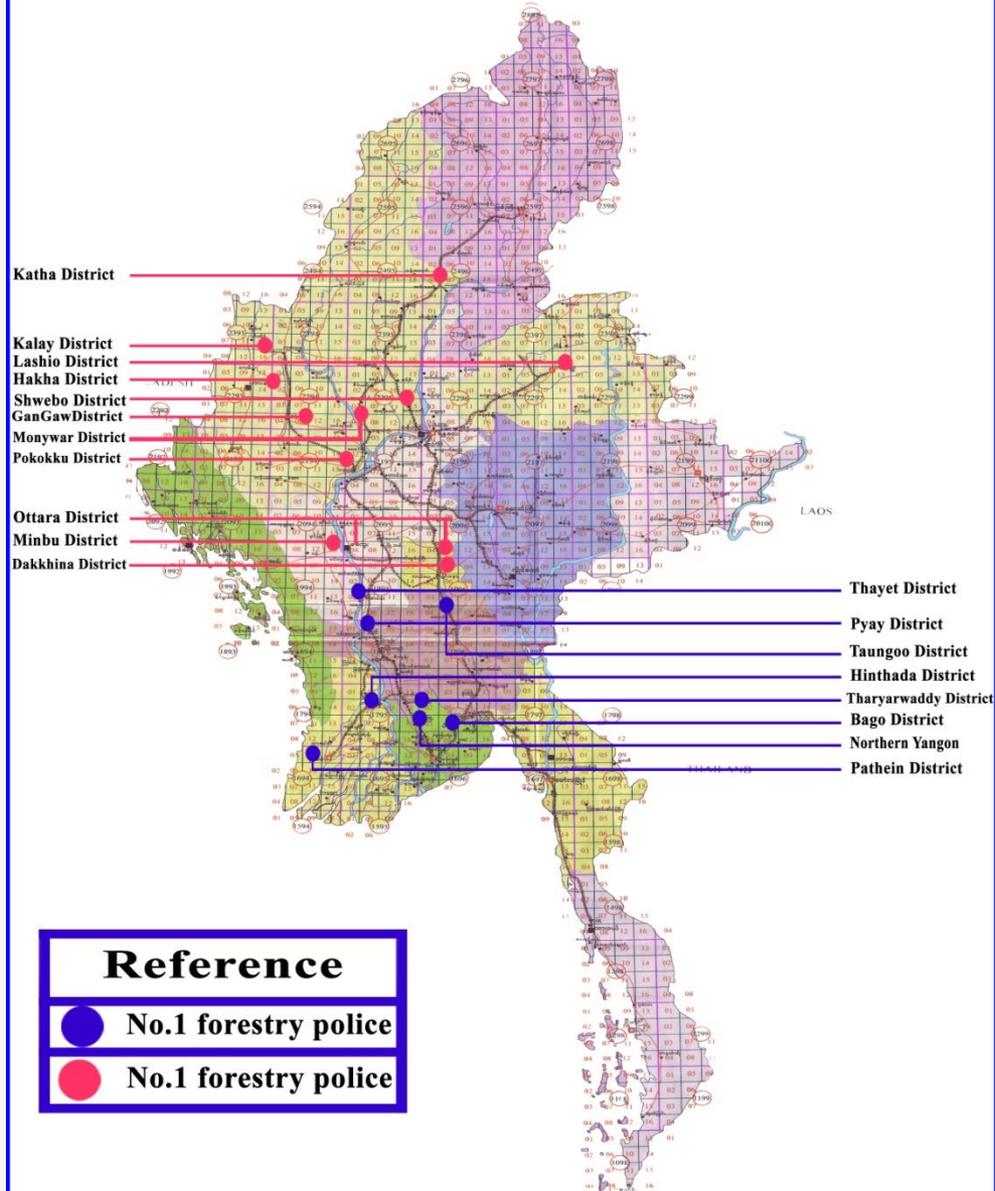
Source: FRA, 2015

Deforestation rate from 1990 to 2000 = 1.2 % (435,000 ha/yr)
Deforestation rate from 2000 to 2010 = 0.9 % (309,000 ha/yr)
Deforestation rate from 2010 to 2015 = 1.8 % (546,000 ha /yr)

❖ The Forest Department, MONREC takes the responsibility to combat the forestry crimes in the country with cooperatin of Forest Security Police, Myanmar Police Force. Furthermore, all police departments under Myanmar Police Force through the country also have been cooperating. Moreover, the related departments such as General Administration Department, Myanmar Police Force, Customs Department, and Supreme Court of Myanmar, Attorney office, Financial Investigate Unit and Department of anti-corruption also have been cooperating with Forest Department.

Forest Police

Collaboration With The Forest Department Staff is also spread by district



❖ In order to combat forestry crimes together with all ASEAN countries, the countries build networks to connect each other. Furthermore, Myanmar organized workshops and trainings on the combatation of forestry crimes, establishment of border liaison offices in border area, establishment of BorderGuard Police office and NCB office to share information. Myanmar has been cooperating with INTERPOL, WCF, WWF, CITES, UNODC and other related organizations by signing MOU.

❖ The names of INTERPOL Operations in Myanmar are Operation LEAD, Operation Thunderbird Operation Thunderstone **Operation Thunderbird** was operated from 30th January to 19th February 2017 and could seize illegal timber 330.6722 tons and exchange these information to other member countries.

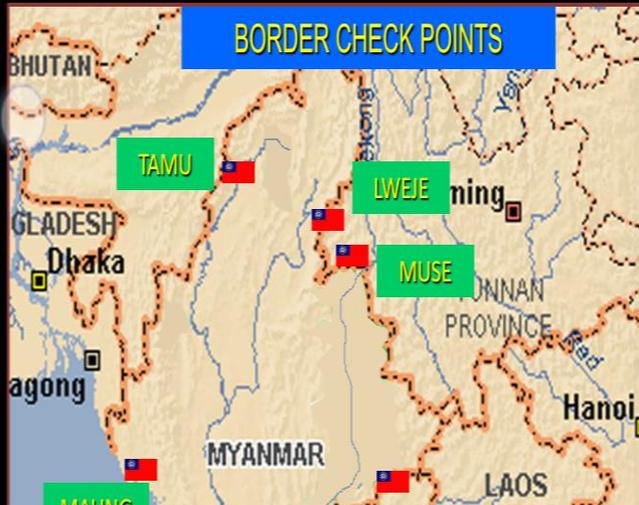
- ❖ **Operation LEAD I** was operated from 2 May to 30 June in 2017 and could seize 1070.8202 tons, arrest 179 offenders and 155 related machines during the operation and could exchange information to other member countries.
- ❖ **Operation Thunderstone** was operated from 1 to 30 May in 2018 and could seize 627.1733 tons, arrested 3 Wildlife cases during the operation and could exchange information to other member countries.

- ❖ The major means of seizure of forestry crimes are as follows which are carried out in compliance with forest law enforcement to combat forestry crimes;
 - Search and seize at major routes where illegal timber trades were occurred,
 - Search and seize according to reported information of local people,
 - Search and seize by cooperating with related departments and organizations(national, regional, international),
 - search and seize monthly by township, district, division forest offices by drawing action plans and
 - search and seize the possible routes where illegal timber trade can be occurred.

Inland Check Points and Border Check Points in Myanmar for Illegal Timber and Wildlife Trade

Illegal Trade (cont.)

7 border check points to control International trade.



Illegal Trade (cont.)

4 inland check points to control local trade.



❖ In Myanmar, the tons of teak(70389.5087), the tons of hard wood (7650.5319)and tons of other wood (114840.016)were seized(192880.0566) and arrested offenders(38255) including foreigners(229), vehicles (14902) within five years (2013-2018).



❖ Forest department cooperated with the related department/ institutions such as-

➤ General Administration Department

➤ Myanmar Police Force,

➤ Customs Department

➤ Forest Police Force.

➤ They inspect suspected vehicles through sudden action sometimes and the possible places smuggled timber can be hidden and the places of transit and destinations. Offenders will be taken action in accordance with Forest law.

❖ The illegal logging and smuggling are taken action in compliance with the Forest law (2018). According to the law, offender shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend from a minimum of 2 years to a maximum of 7 years and may also be liable to a fine (from 300000 ks to 1000000 ks). Moreover, offender shall be punished with the Public Property Protection Act (1947) as well(minimum-6 month, maximum -7 years).

❖ The forestry crimes which happened currently are searching and seizing of illegal logging in the forests where many commercial trees are growing well, searching and seizing while transporting the illegal logs (transit) and searching and seizing while storing the illegal logs for the purpose of sale in local or abroad (Destination).

Investigate and seize while carrying out conceal and transport after avert the government inspection gates by express vehicles, oil boxer vehicles, luxury vehicles, commercial vehicles, vehicles without licence and motor boats. Sometimes, illegal cutting of trees by chainsaw and sawmills were also seized. Sometimes illegal timber were seized in the buildings and containers not far from the jetty for the purpose of sale to abroad.

❖ Sometimes, combating illegal trade is a kind of scarify. They are

➤ Occupational hazard

➤ Insufficient staff

➤ Limited facility and budget

➤ Inaccessibility

➤ Limited cross sector collaboration and access to insurgent area.

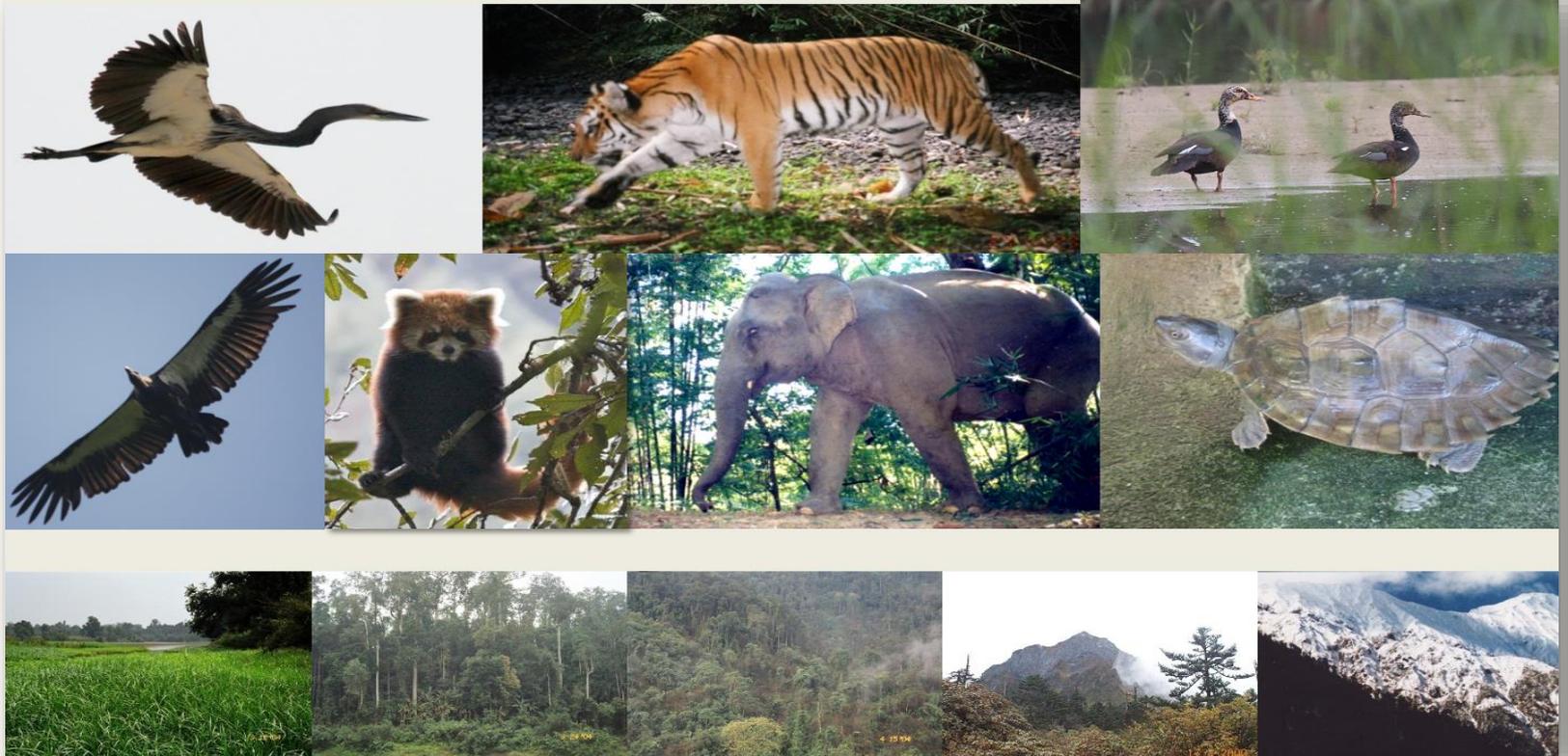
❖ Myanmar has been implementing such as collection of information through patrolling in the reserve forest area to combat forestry crimes(national, regional, international level), focus on the hot spots places, surprise check and seize, use hardcore informants, search specifically at the inspection gate, identify and seize related offenders through their mobile phones, carry out to report information data in time. Myanmar also has been organizing workshops and training courses on inspection of illegal logging for the staff including the staff from related departments and also dispatched to the foreign countries to study high technologies.

- ❖ Myanmar has been implementing the following activities in order to search and seize the illegal trades more effectively;
 - Recuiment of enough staff and support the necessary equipments to the places especially border area,
 - Seizing of illegal forest products and awards for informants who reported about this illegal activity,
 - Revising/amendent of Forest Laws and Rules to control forest crimesand offend effectily,
 - Search and seizing of illegal trades by using the advanced techniques such as CCTV, X-RAY scanner.
 - co-ordination with regional and international organization to investigate trades of trans-border smuggled timber and
 - Seeking the assistances such as trainings and technologies to combat wood smuggling .

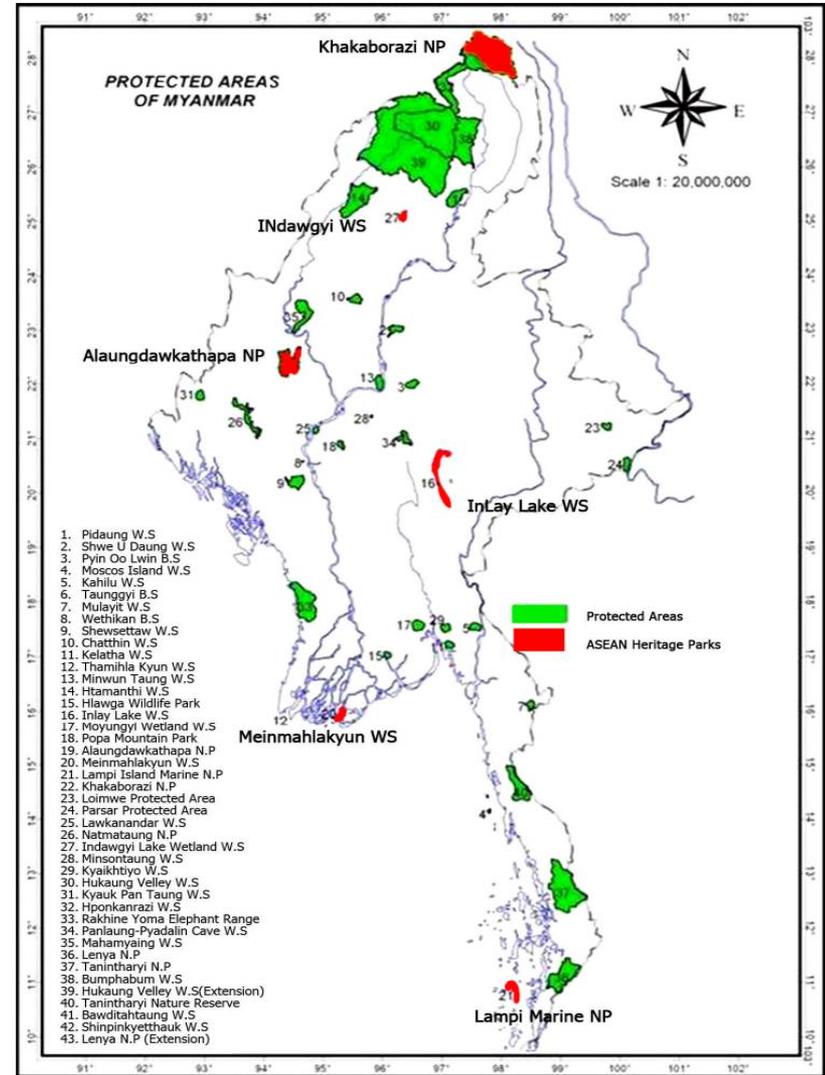
Conclusion

- ❖ Timber smuggling is one of the major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and causes negative impact to the revenue of the country's development program. Moreover, it accelerates global warming and decrease in carbon sequestration. That's why Myanmar is emphasizing fully to eradicate timber smuggling crimes with all possible efforts, willing to participate in the effective collaboration between neighbouring countries regarding the trans-boundary issues and try to get the cooperation of neighbouring country for mutual Socio-economic benefits.

❖ Myanmar is rich in biodiversity which consists of plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fresh and marine water fish, marine turtle and coral reefs. The world's rarest Turtle and butterfly species can be found in my country.



❖ Myanmar has the 41 Protected Areas (9,682,138.42 acres). MONREC has been submitting the Parliament for the permission of another seven Protected Areas. Myanmar is implementing to get 10% of total land area in 2030.



❖ Myanmar has been cooperating with ASEAN-WEN since its launch in 2005. And then, the 5th Annual ASEAN-WEN Meeting was hosted in capital city (Nay Pyi Taw). Meanwhile, Myanmar is also cooperating with INTERPOL and ASEAN-WEN to deal with the international crimes on killing and trading of wildlife as well. Moreover, Myanmar has been participating in the capacity building program of the TRAFFIC. Also Myanmar is joining to the Monitoring Illegal Killing of Wild Elephant (MIKE) program which links CITES. Also, in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), wildlife survey, law enforcement training and smart patrolling training have been conducted since 1993.

❖ Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) and member of National Wildlife Enforcement Task Force were cooperating with UNODC, WCS and WWF to combat illegal killing and trade of wildlife.

Workshop on indentifying wildlife crimes law enforcement in Myanmar leading the UNODC



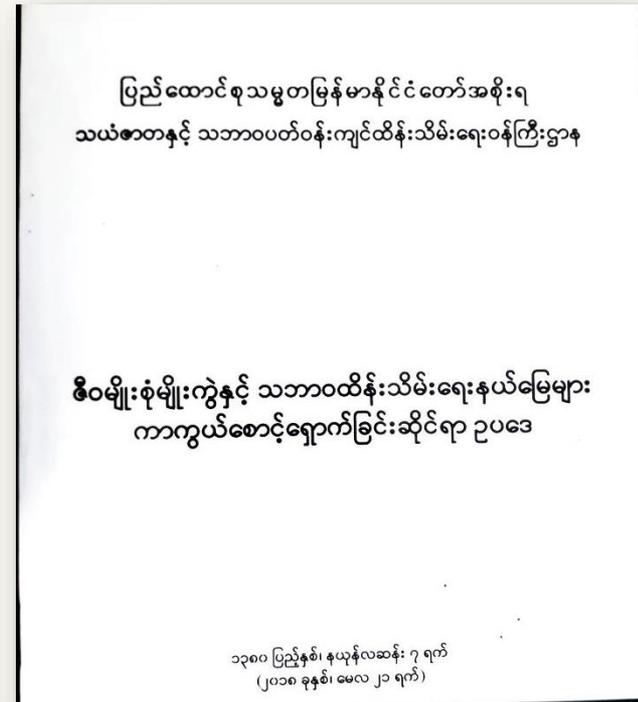
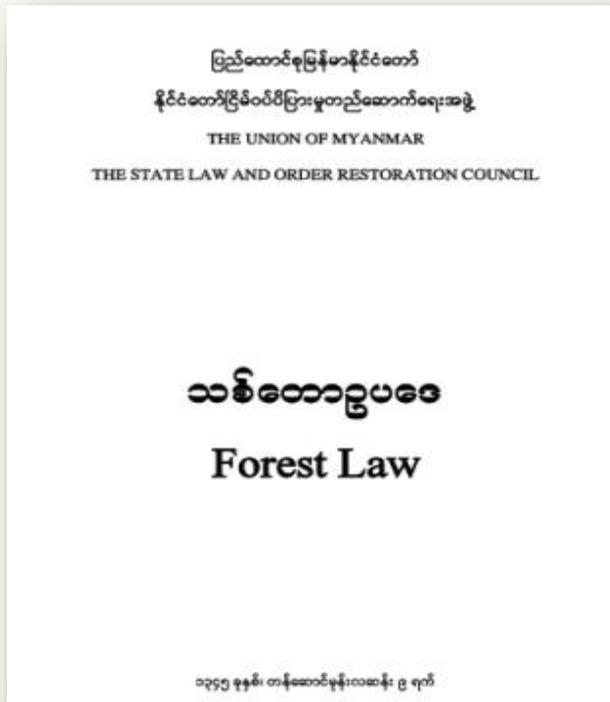
❖ Myanmar is also cooperating with the Smithsonian Institutions (SI) from the United States of America to monitor the wild elephants in Myanmar and also implementing the Human-Elephant conflict reduction plan in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyarwaddy, Mandalay and Tanintharyi regions.

National Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force

- Director General Forest Department Chairmen
- Director Ministry of border affaires Member
- Commender forest security police force Member
- Director General Administrative department Member
- Director Union Attorney General office Member
- Deputy Director Department of Trade Member
- Assistant Director Customs Department Member
- Director National wildlife division conservation secretary
- Deputy Director National wildlife division conservation joint secretary

❖ The existing Laws and Rules of Forest Department are as follows ;

- Forest law (2018)
- The Protection of Biodiversity and Conservation on Protected Areas Law (2018).



❖ Myanmar has already regulated above Laws and Rules to control poaching and trafficking wildlife. The Protection of Biodiversity and Conservation on Protected Areas Law (2018) is more strengthened than previous law. It is most effective and the offenders shall be punished by imprisonment for a term which may extend from a minimum of 3 years to a maximum of 10 years and may also be liable to a fine. On the other hand, we have been imparting knowledge and educating local people to know about the wildlife law (2018) because the offences of the wildlife law (2018) are very high.

❖ Although raising awareness to the local people, the wildlife crimes were still occurred. So Myanmar Police Force newly formed the Task Force to arrest the offenders who killed and traded the wildlife including wild elephants in 2018. Task Force investigated and arrested the 86 offenders who killed the wild elephant including other 19 species of wildlife. We have already charged the offenders according to money laundry law and cooperated with relevant Courts to take actions effectively.

Wildlife Parts Seized in Myanmar within 2018



Offenders of wildlife Crimes Seized within 2018



❖ 46 wild elephants were killed in 2017 and 15 wild elephants were killed in end of October in 2018 . Although wild elephants were killed to get ivory in the past, it was killing now for not only ivory but also hides and all parts of wild elephant because one of the neighbouring country bought illegitimately. That's why Myanmar Police Force has to cooperate with relevant government department and protected the wild elephants in their habitat area since 2016. And now wild elephant cases become reduce.

Wild Elephants were killed by offenders



❖ **While combating the wildlife crimes, there are some constraints such as-**

- occupational hazard,
- insufficient staff,
- limited facility and budget,
- inaccessibility, limited cross sector collaboration and
- access to insurgent area.

- Myanmar fully recognizes that survival of wildlifes and reduction of the negative impacts of climate change plays an important role. But many causes impact wildlife. However, Myanmar has faced with –
 - Deforestation
 - Land conversion
 - Habitat loss
 - Climate change
 - Weakness of law enforcement in border area and
 - Wildlife trafficking.

❖ Ways forward are impose effective law enforcement against encroachment, poaching and effective monitoring of wildlife trade, promote public awareness and education program regarding the illegal wildlife trade, conduct status surveys of priority species, their distribution and link results on conservation management, check loss of biodiversity outside the Protected Area and promote transboundary collaboration with India, China, Thailand and Bangladesh to monitor illegal trade of wildlife and their products along international boundaries.

❖ Illegal wildlife crime and timber trafficking have been threatening-

- The sustainability of ecosystem
- Loss of revenue
- Increase global warming due to loss of carbon sink
and
- Loss of heritage of mankind.

Conclusion

- ❖ Myanmar has been cooperating with local and international organizations and implementing all activities against to illegal logging and wildlife trade. Myanmar has been planning to seize and identify more effectively and penalty based on existing laws and seized cases. Myanmar is addressing the illegal timber smuggling and wildlife trade due to high demand in illicit market as other developing countries. Wildlifes are our heritages and needed for conserve them to hand over one generation to another.

❖ Thus, Myanmar has been cooperating with ASEAN States members as well as with other international organizations to against and combat the illegal timber smuggling and wildlife crimes continuously.



Thank you