



Towards a green economy approach in Myanmar: Mapping natural capital in Myanmar

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Context

- Relatively intact forests, undammed river systems, rich biodiversity
- Rapid changes and great development needs
- Complex politics around land
- Official forest cover is 46% but likely much less
- Forests depleting fast –shifting cultivation, illegal logging, infrastructure development and concessions



WWF is working with government, civil society and private sector actors in Myanmar to:



- Conduct natural capital assessments
- Support development of a national green economy plan
- Support integration of green economy principles into key policies and sectors
- Mobilize green investments
- Promote integrated spatial planning and management
- Encourage public sector partners and government to jointly implement development strategies framed by green economy principles

InVEST assessments – both at landscape and national scale

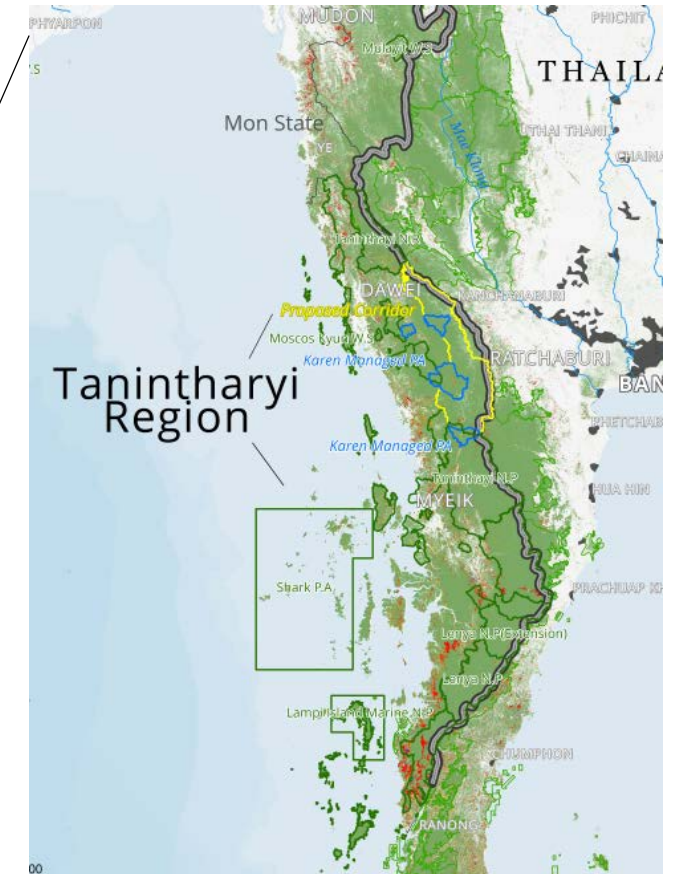
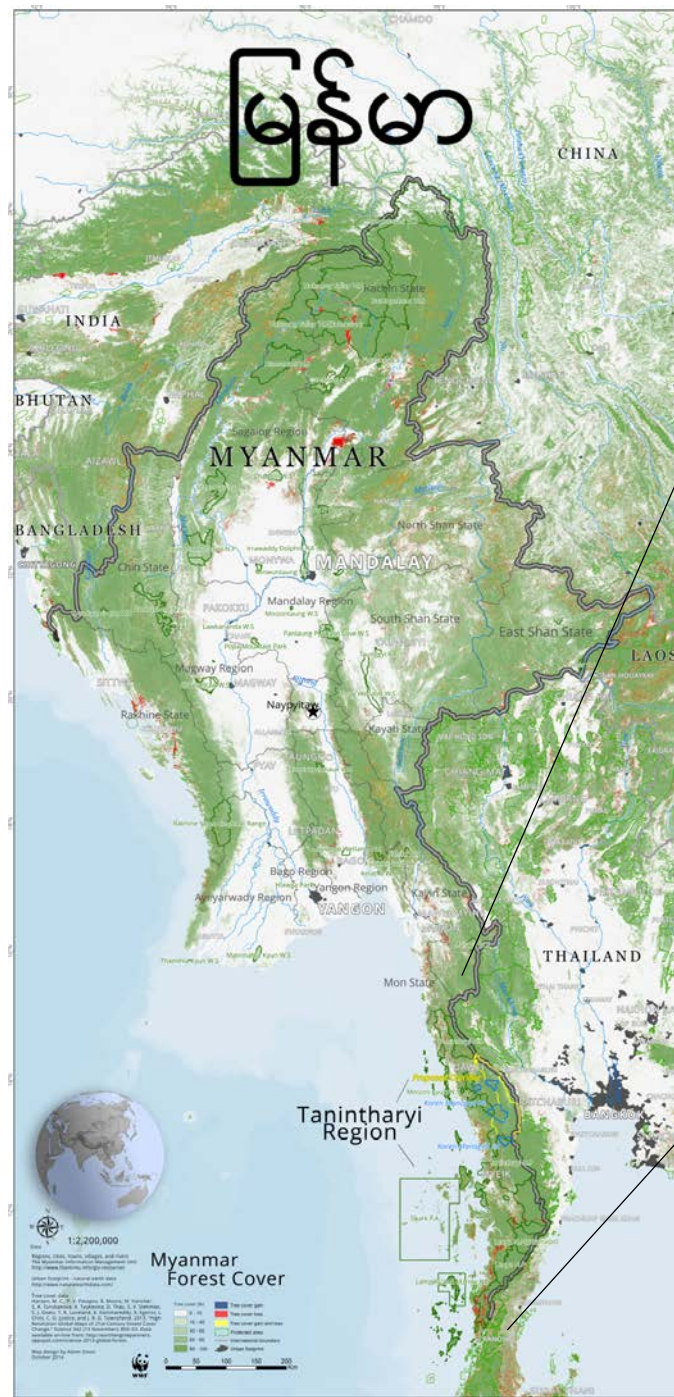
- Tanintharyi region – initial focus
- H.E. U Thein Sein (Myanmar's president) requested WWF to expedite national assessment of natural capital



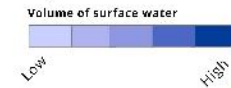
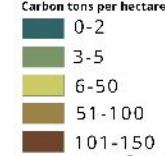
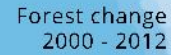
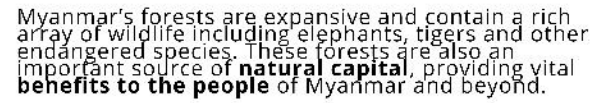
<http://www.president-office.gov.mm/en/?q=briefing-room/news/2014/11/04/id-4357>

President U Thein Sein receives President and CEO of World Wildlife Fund

Mapping forest cover in Myanmar



for the benefit of people and wildlife

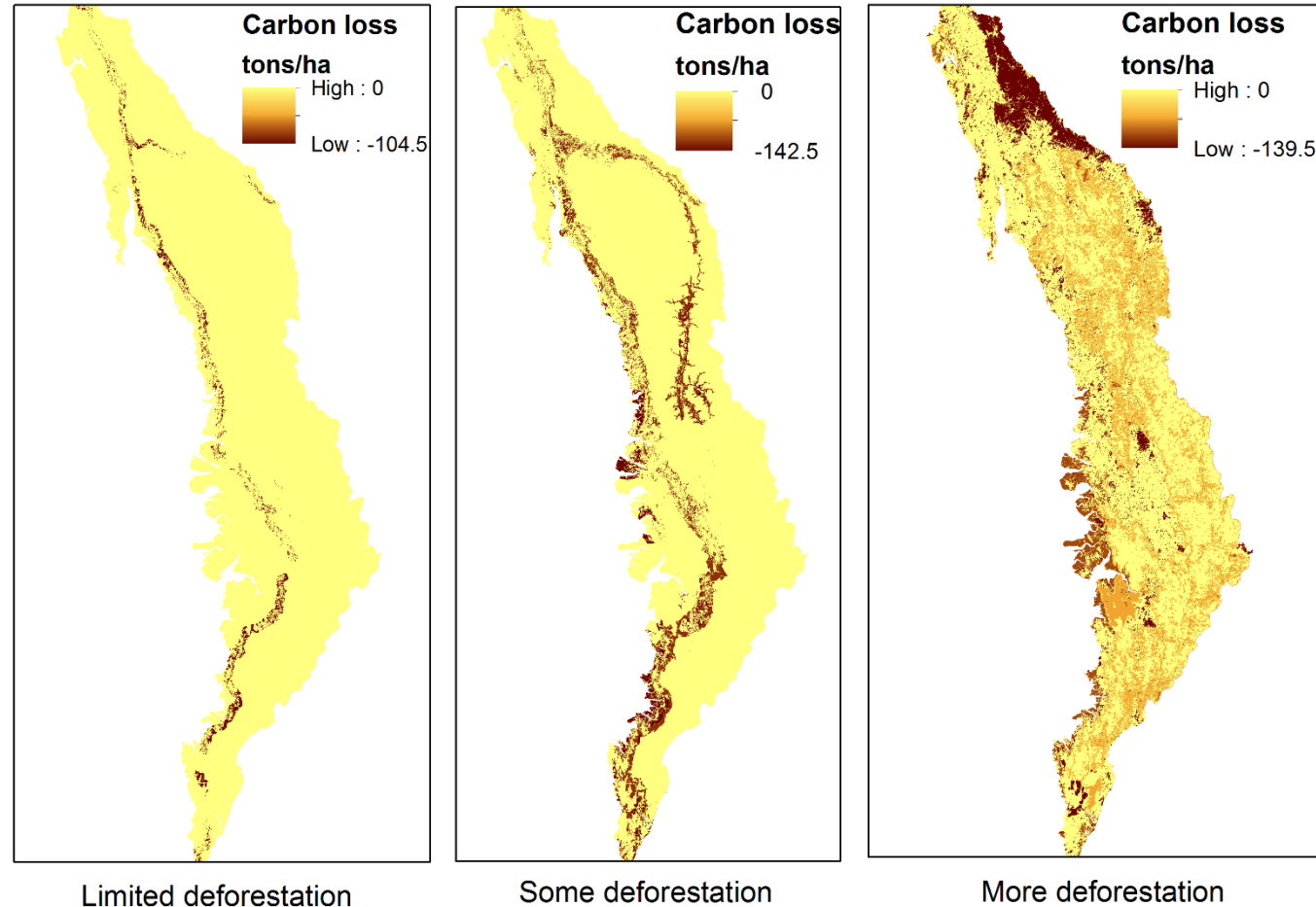


Forests across Myanmar store carbon that otherwise would contribute to climate change. In 2009, Myanmar ranked 14th in the world for land-use change based greenhouse gas emissions (2009 GLC emissions: 59 million tons CO₂e), well ahead of 15 other Mekong region countries. Myanmar's forests can be attributed in part to high rates of deforestation. Myanmar joined the UN REDD programme in 2011, setting the stage for the possible influx of REDD+ financing to help stem deforestation and carbon emissions.

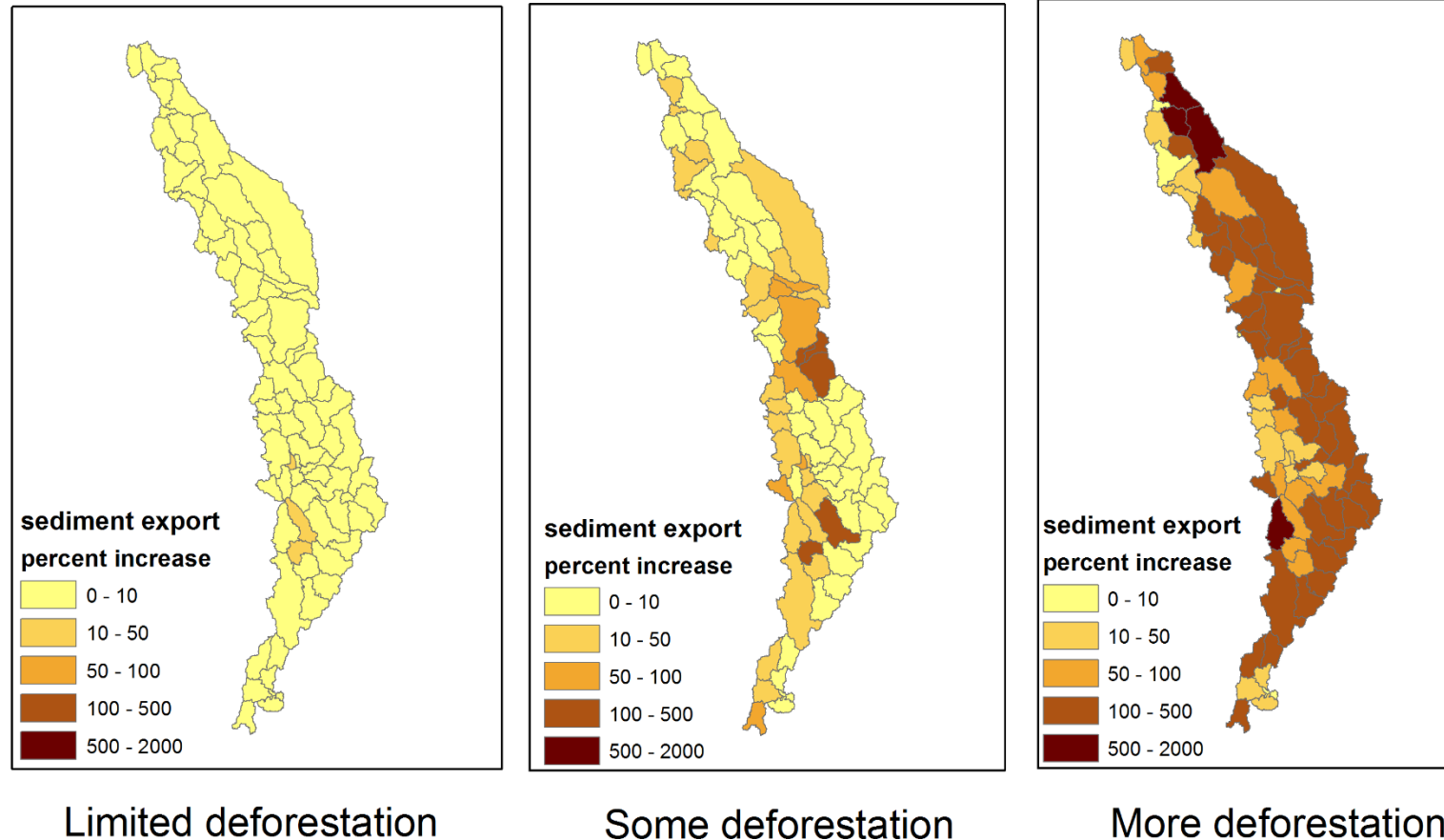
Areas with high water yield are particularly important for sustaining agriculture, drinking water supply, hydropower and other human needs. Myanmar has abundant freshwater resources, with glacier runoff in the north flowing through the Irrawaddy river basin in the south, and significant water features in the peninsular region. The Asian Development Bank estimates that only 16% of the total water resources available are currently utilized, with 90% of that being used for irrigation. Land cover and precipitation are large contributors to the availability of water resources across the country.



Assessing changes to natural capital under scenarios: Carbon emissions due to deforestation



Assessing changes to natural capital under scenarios: Increase in soil erosion with deforestation



How do we address protection and restoration?

- Community based natural resource management – protected areas are difficult to establish
- Raising awareness about forest ecosystem benefits
- Addressing illegal logging





THANK YOU

