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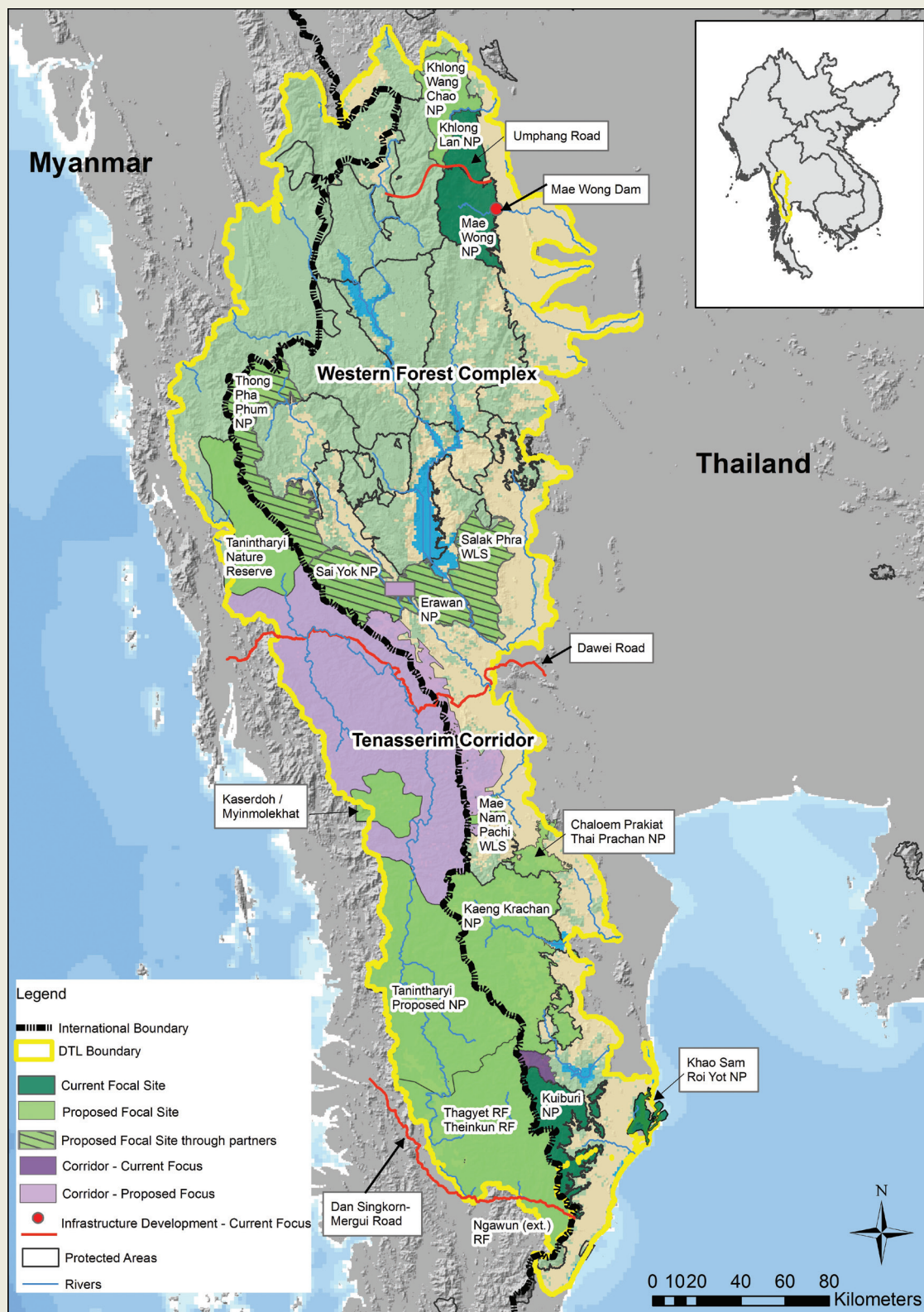
2014

WWF-Greater Mekong

# DAWNA TENASSERIM LANDSCAPE



The landscape includes 30,539km<sup>2</sup> of protected areas and nearly 50,000km<sup>2</sup> of wilderness area, providing shelter to over 150 mammals and nearly 570 bird species.



# DAWNA TENASSERIM LANDSCAPE

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WWF is conserving the Dawna Tenasserim Landscape as an intact ecosystem with protected and connected habitats for wildlife, and safeguarding its valuable ecosystem services for local communities and the nations of Myanmar and Thailand.

The Dawna Tenasserim Landscape, which covers 63,239 km<sup>2</sup> of Thailand and Myanmar, is defined by the Dawna and Tenasserim mountain ranges. These mountains are the source for the region's major rivers and watershed systems: the Tenasserim, in the Taninthayi Region of Myanmar, and the Mae Khlong, Chao Phraya, Phetchaburi, and Lower Western watershed systems in Thailand. Ancient human civilizations have risen and fallen in this landscape, and the area is home to diverse ethnic groups who have thrived there for centuries.

The Myanmar portion of this landscape receives heavy rainfall and supports some of the largest areas of lowland evergreen forest remaining in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot. The Thai side is dryer and is covered by a mosaic of evergreen and deciduous forests. The Dawna Tenasserim Landscape also contains one of the largest protected area networks in Southeast Asia, formed by the contiguous Western Forest Complex and Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex in Thailand. Additional protected areas are proposed for the forests in Myanmar as well.

THE DAWNA TENASSERIM  
LANDSCAPE CONTAINS  
ONE OF THE LARGEST  
PROTECTED AREA  
NETWORKS IN  
SOUTHEAST ASIA

## Flagship Species

From the tiny endemic Kitt's hog-nosed bat (also known as the bumblebee bat), contender for the title of smallest mammal in the world, to the Asian elephant, the Dawna Tenasserim is home to a remarkable diversity of animals. It has the largest population of tiger, *Panthera tigris*, in the Greater Mekong region and is home to the critically endangered Siamese crocodile and other rare endemics like Gurney's Pitta and Fea's muntjac.

## Under Pressure

The forests of the Dawna Tenasserim are under pressure from deforestation due to agricultural expansion and logging, forest fragmentation, subsistence poaching, commercial poaching for the illegal wildlife trade, unsustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products and wild meat, and major infrastructure development such as roads, pipelines and dams.

## WHAT WE ARE DOING

**Supporting Protected Area management, improved enforcement, habitat improvement, and community outreach to conserve the forests and wildlife of the Dawna Tenasserim Landscape, with special focus on tigers and elephants.**

Our project teams support the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation of Thailand and other stakeholders to:

- Train rangers in SMART patrolling that deters poaching, monitors threats, and informs adaptive protected area management
- Coordinate the co-management of national parks, by involving local government agencies, military, and police
- Support additional funding for rangers and coordinate with military and border police to collaborate on SMART patrols for effective outcomes
- Improve habitats for wildlife by creating grasslands, mineral licks and water sources
- Secure critical wildlife habitat through policy work and advocacy
- Create partnerships with communities – including local leaders, farmers, and schools – to counter wildlife poaching and protect forests
- Mitigate human-elephant conflict through habitat improvement and establishing rapid-response teams and helplines for when elephants move outside protected areas
- Ensure robust scientific monitoring of populations and status of flagship species

**Maintaining and improving landscape integrity and connectivity.**

WWF facilitates landscape level conservation by helping to:

- Conduct ecosystem services assessments using scenario modeling tools and GIS to guide decision making on infrastructure like roads and dams
- Link protected areas by safeguarding and managing corridors that allow for wildlife movement

**200**  
**THE DAWNA TENASSERIM**  
**LANDSCAPE HARBOURS**  
**ABOUT 200 OF THE**  
**ESTIMATED 250 TIGERS**  
**LEFT IN THE WILD IN THE**  
**GREATER MEKONG REGION,**  
**MAKING IT THE MOST**  
**IMPORTANT LANDSCAPE**  
**FOR TIGER CONSERVATION IN**  
**THE REGION**

Tiger captured on camera trap at  
Mae Wong National Park



© WWF-Thailand





Wild elephants at Kuiburi National Park

### **Conducting informed interventions for conservation and monitoring outcomes.**

Our conservation actions are informed by intensive field research on tigers, tiger prey species, and elephants. Our research and monitoring activities include:

- Monitoring forest cover
- Estimating numbers of tigers using camera-traps
- Determining distribution of tigers and their prey using occupancy surveys.
- Monitoring population recovery and habitat use of ungulates
- Exploring mechanisms of coexistence between tigers and their competitors – leopards and dholes
- Estimating elephant populations through photo identification and proposed faecal DNA analysis
- Monitoring evidence of elephants' incursion into non-protected areas

### **Advocating policy changes for effective conservation.**

WWF lobbies governments and raises public awareness to:

- Improve welfare for park rangers
- Secure protected areas and surrounding forest areas
- Reduce poaching of wildlife and demand for wild meat
- Promote policies that support landscape connectivity and extension of protected areas
- Integrate Green Economy and Natural Capital principles for sustainable natural resource management and payment for ecosystem services

**OUR CONSERVATION ACTIONS ARE INFORMED BY INTENSIVE FIELD RESEARCH AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS USING CAMERA-TRAPS TO ESTIMATE TIGER POPULATIONS**

WWF has used information from our projects to help mobilize public support for conservation and oppose or modify infrastructure that will harm wilderness areas and the wildlife we are working to protect, such as the proposed Mae Wong dam and trans-boundary Dawei road. Similar activities are planned for the Myanmar side of the Dawna Tenasserim Landscape with the WWF-Myanmar program beginning this year.

# Myanmar and Thailand in numbers

2,500

Thailand is home to an estimated 2,500 wild elephants

45%

Forests still cover close to half of Myanmar's land area, but rapid loss is expected if current deforestation rates persist

20%

Approximately 20% of Thailand's total area is under protected area status; this includes over 200 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries

200

The Dawna Tenasserim Landscape of Myanmar and Thailand harbours about 200 of the estimated 250 tigers left in the wild in the Greater Mekong region



#### Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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