



WWF

REPORT

MM

2017

2017

ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM CHRISTY

Impact is the word to sum up the last 12 months.

The impact we have had so far and the impact we will have as we continue to grow individually, as a team, and as an organisation.

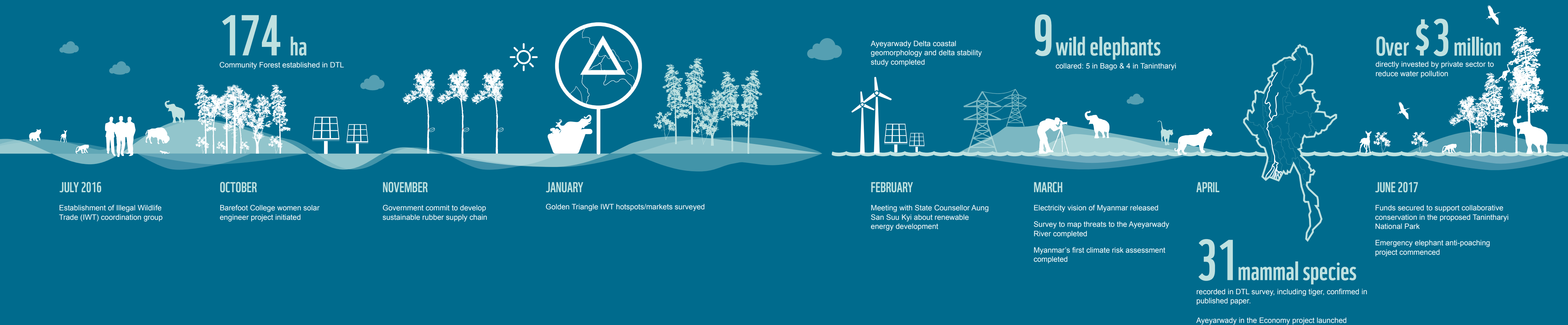
As I walk in to the office each morning the eagerness & ambition is palpable, every one of us believing we can make a difference. Highlights of the year are many but include our meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who asked WWF to make rangers the heroes of Myanmar, to save the country's wildlife and to show solar power can and must work. Our first large scale public Earth Hour at the Shwedagon was an unprecedented success where we established our brand as a trusted entity in Myanmar, and the rallying of support by the WWF network as we faced the worst elephant poaching crisis I have ever encountered.

This report showcases our highlights, but highlights are just that - sunlight shining on a mountain peak. It is the unsung strength of the slopes beneath which counts. Our operations, maintenance and finance teams who work tirelessly to ensure we function each day. Days which can be tough, filled with long hours of work. It is during those days when I see our team continue to strive for excellence no matter how exhausted, that I know this is the right team for the many struggles ahead of us, and that we will win no matter how high the hurdles or how unsolvable the problems seem. This is what makes me truly proud and this is why I know we will succeed.

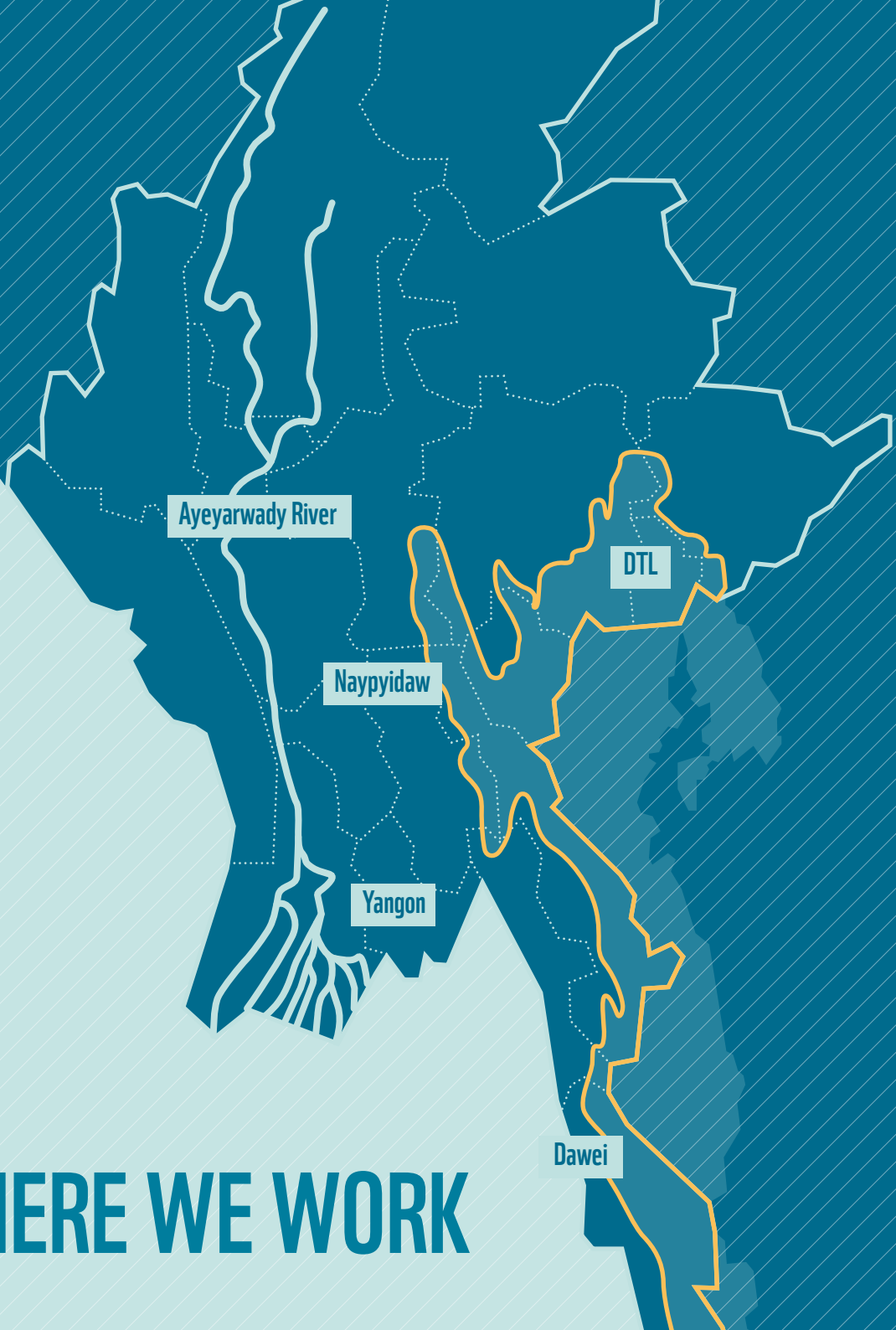
To every one of our staff I say *thank you*. To every one of our supporters I say *thank you*. To everyone else I say *join us* - we are making history here, come be a part of it.

A. Christy Williams

OUR YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



MYANMAR



CLICK TO EXPLORE WHERE WE WORK

CONTENTS

CLICK TO EXPLORE OUR WORK

THE DAWNA TENASSERIM LANDSCAPE	07	THE GREEN ECONOMY APPROACH	36
WILDLIFE	08	GREENING THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE	38
COLLARING NOBLE GIANTS	10	CLIMATE AND ENERGY	41
FINDING MYANMAR'S TIGERS	12	EMPOWERING WOMEN & VILLAGES IN RURAL MYANMAR	43
FORESTS	15	SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS	46
FROM HUNTERS TO FARMERS	17	THE QUEST FOR SUSTAINABLE RUBBER	48
ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE	20	EARTH HOUR 2017	50
SOUTHEAST ASIA'S WILDLIFE SUPERMARKET	22	YANGON TEAM PHOTO	52
MYANMAR'S HEROES	25	DAWEI TEAM PHOTO	53
MYANMAR'S ELEPHANT CAMPAIGN	28	FINANCIALS	54
THE AYEYARWADY RIVER	29	PRACTICES	55
FRESHWATER	30	NETWORK CHAMPIONS	56
THE RIVER THAT FEEDS A NATION	32		
AYEYARWADY IN THE ECONOMY	34		

THE DAWNA TENASSERIM LANDSCAPE

The Dawna Tenasserim Landscape (DTL) is a forested wilderness home to abundant mammals and birds, endemic plants and trees, and a diverse population of people from many cultures. However, due to its wealth of natural resources and strategic location, the DTL is experiencing tremendous development pressures, threatening its ecosystems and all life that depends on it.

In partnership with the Government and Karen Forest Department, we are working to create a balance between economic development and conservation of essential ecosystems by protecting and monitoring wildlife, reducing deforestation, and mitigating infrastructure threats across this unique landscape.



WILDLIFE



Two of our priority flagship species inhabit the Dawna Tenasserim Landscape: tigers & Asian elephants. But with poaching rates at critical levels and road development & forest clearing providing easier access, protecting these species is incredibly challenging.



This year alone, elephant poaching has increased dramatically in Myanmar with whole herds being found skinned. For tigers, Myanmar is at a cross roads – in the next five years it has the potential to be a leading tiger range recovery country, or it could lose its tigers forever. We are working with the government to establish a wildlife ranger college to train those on the front lines of wildlife conservation, and to end the open sale of illegal wildlife products in Myanmar – essential steps if the country is to avoid the mistakes of its neighbours and keep its natural heritage for future generations.

9 elephants collared



January



April

31 mammal species

recorded in DTL survey, including tiger, confirmed in published paper.



May

Survey of Protected Area ranger's capacity initiated



June

Emergency elephant anti-poaching campaign launched

WILDLIFE

the next steps



2017 Launch Myanmar elephant / IWT awareness campaign

2017/8 Collar elephants to mitigate human elephant conflict and prevent poaching

2018/9 Establish wildlife ranger college

Train rangers in DTL and other regions

Protect elephants outside the DTL in poaching hotspots (ongoing)

Join us in taking these next steps
We can't do it alone



WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

Critical corridors are connected, protected areas are secured, and there is zero poaching of tigers and elephants.



COLLARING NOBLE GIANTS

The team sit quietly or doze in the shade on the edge of a bamboo forest. It's 4pm on a hot April afternoon and the trackers have been out since dawn. Suddenly a walkie-talkie crackles and instantly everyone is up. A large bull elephant has been darted 250meters away.

WWF and the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) are working in partnership with the Myanmar Government to put GPS collars on wild elephants to understand their movement patterns, so we can reduce human elephant conflict and better protect elephants from poaching.

'GO, GO, GO!'



The vet shouts leading the way into the thick bamboo forest. He is responsible for the elephant's welfare and must get to him as quickly as possible.

The pace is fast and we crash through thick bamboo until finally emerging into a clearing. There is a magnificent bull elephant, lying still, eyes open but sleepy, ears occasionally wafting back and forth.

The vet checks its vitals and the team assess its height and approximate age. Then they work quickly to fit the collar. It is critical that the bull is back on his feet as fast as possible and the team aim for the whole process to take less than an hour.

The GPS collars will send hourly updates so we can track the elephants' movements, essential as deforestation destroys their home and drives them closer to villages.

Most communities have constructed tree houses as a refuge when wild elephants pass through, but a tree house won't their livelihoods. An Asian elephant can eat up to 300lbs of food in one day, so it takes no time for a herd to work its way through the crops of an entire village.

By charting the elephants' movements, we can work to put in place safeguards that will help humans and elephants coexist. The GPS collar will also flag any sudden changes in movement patterns that might indicate the elephant is being tracked by poachers or has been darted. A ranger team can then be dispatched to the area.

Soon the collar is attached and we leave as the vet administers an antidote. With an unprecedented number of elephants killed this year a solid and peaceful relationship between humans and elephants is more critical than ever if Myanmar is to keep these giant, noble, national treasures.



FINDING MYANMAR'S TIGERS

Somewhere under the dense forest canopy is Paing Soe. He's a WWF biologist whose job it is to find evidence of one of Myanmar's most iconic and elusive species - tigers.

The Dawna Tenasserim Landscape is one of Southeast Asia's last remaining wildernesses, spanning the Myanmar-Thailand border. Paing Soe is working with local partners to survey the wildlife of the region.



“We don’t know how many tigers live in this forest, but if they are here we need evidence so that we can protect them, their prey, and their habitat.”

A couple of weeks later and the results are in. There are tigers still roaming the Dawna Tenasserim Landscape. And it’s not just tigers.

“Through these camera trapping surveys, we now have proof that all of Myanmar’s iconic species live in this area. Now that’s exciting!”

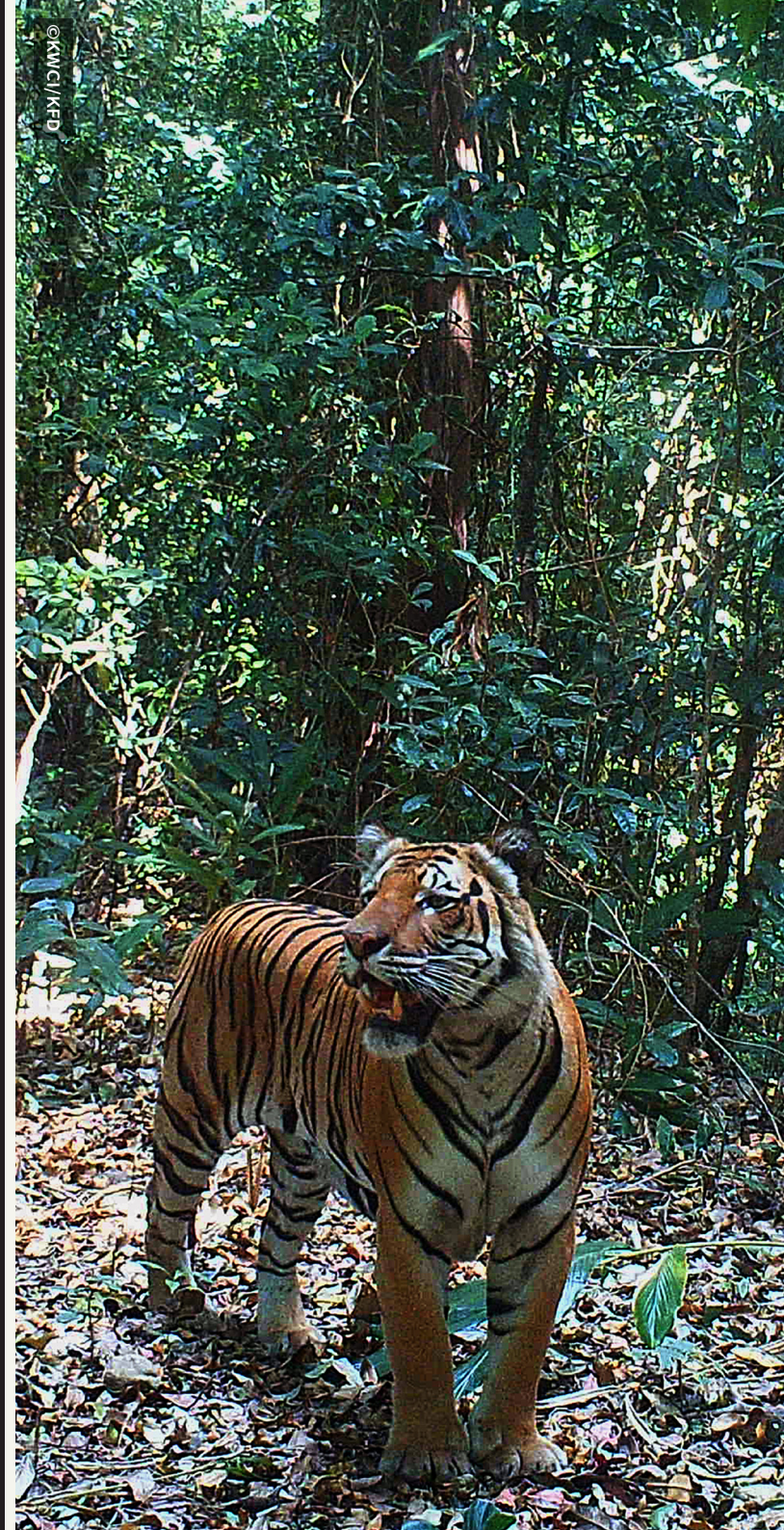
From tigers to elephants and gibbons to langurs, the biodiversity here is extraordinary. But their future hangs in the balance as the region faces large-scale deforestation, infrastructure development, mining, and increased poaching.

“The conservation world is working to double the wild tiger population and Myanmar is still a tiger range country, but for how long will depend on whether we protect them. If we don’t, Myanmar could lose tigers in a matter of years.” Ashley Brooks, WWF Tigers Alive Initiative.

We are working with the government and partners to develop a National Tiger Action Plan, a critical component of which is these baseline studies.

Tigers are an umbrella species, meaning that by protecting them, the forest is protected too – along with all the other species that call that habitat home. This is why tigers are one of our priority species, but ask Paing Soe why they need safeguarding, and his eyes narrow as if the answer is obvious:

“Because who would want to live in a world without them?”



A man with dark hair, wearing a blue raincoat and dark pants, is crouching in a lush green forest. He is looking down at his hands, which are positioned near his face. To his left, a camera trap is mounted on a tree trunk. The background is filled with dense foliage and trees.

“Through these camera trapping surveys we now have proof that all of Myanmar’s iconic species live in this area. Now that’s exciting.”

[◀ RETURN TO CONTENTS](#)

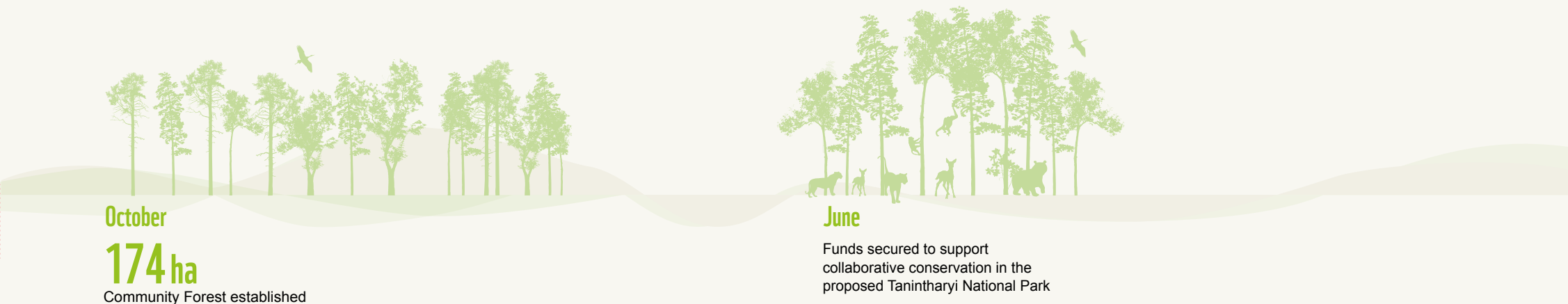
[READ ABOUT FORESTS ▶](#)



FORESTS

Myanmar has one of the highest deforestation rates in the world. This fact is even more concerning given that Myanmar is the second most vulnerable country to climate change. It makes the protection from extreme weather events afforded to communities by forests and mangroves invaluable.

We are working to reduce deforestation rates in the Dawna Tenasserim Landscape through partnerships with the local government, private sector, communities and civil society organisations. To date, 174 ha of community forest has been established and a sustainable rubber supply chain project has been launched to separate rubber production from deforestation.



FORESTS

the next steps

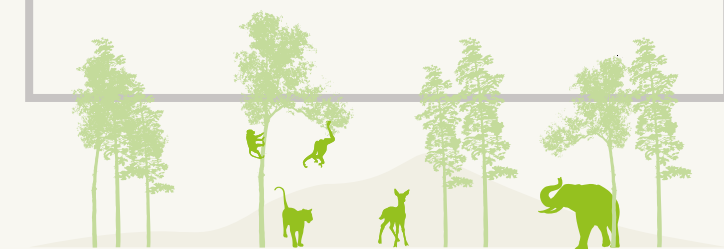
- 2018 Integrate land use planning and map high conservation value (HCV) areas
- 2018 Agree shared landscape vision with key partners
- 2020 Delineate and recognise locally conserved areas
- 2020 Secure (or apply for) land tenures in at least 15 communities

Join us in taking these next steps
We can't do it alone



WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

Zero deforestation in intact forests.



FROM HUNTERS TO FARMERS

Cardamom seeds grow best at a 50-degree angle. The slope isn't much of a problem for Saw Demo, but it's the rainy season and WWF staff aren't quite as nimble on the slippery terrain.

Saw Demo (which literally translates as Mr Democracy) is head of the Kyeik Pi Lan Village in the Banchuang region of Myanmar. He wears a warm grin and a Manchester United t-shirt.

Today, Saw's out with the group of people who form the village's new Community Forestry Committee. They're en route to plant a batch of cardamom seedlings.

Where once the men wielded snares and crossbows for hunting, the small lush trees balanced atop their shoulders symbolise a positive new path for both the village and its homeland. The tone of the day is light and humorous, mostly at the expense of the visiting WWF team.



As we patrol the perimeter of the land newly designated for agroforestry, Saw and the gang move with such ease – feet rooted, fingers trailing across the thick trunks of century-old teak trees. It's a poignant reminder of the age-old dependence rural communities like this have had on the ancient forest. For years, nature has provided them with food, shelter and a means of income. But in recent decades, the consequences of over-exploitation have hit close to home, urging locals into a new way of thinking.

“Worrying about losing their forests and wildlife, the villagers around this area became interested in conserving their forests. They requested support from WWF and we are collaborating to establish community forests and wildlife sanctuaries,” says Saw Wah Htue, WWF Awareness Assistant.


This community forestry project has been in action since 2016, and the committee has been occupied trimming, fireproofing, and planting their way to a sustainable future.

The fruits of their labour will be more predictable yields and the promise of an income generated by the export of products like these cardamom seeds to neighbouring countries. We have set up links with a host of traders so the committee can travel into town at harvesting time to negotiate prices – with the bargaining power firmly in their hands.

Where once the rich biodiversity of the forest surrounding the village was disappearing at an alarming rate, now lies the hope for a symbiosis where agroforestry promises prosperity, while allowing nature to regenerate and thrive.

Kyeik Pi Lan have set the precedent with their enthusiasm and dedication to this project. They are playing their part in the global goal of restoring and protecting our planet's forests, but this is just the first to be set up in the Banchuang area. We are eager to enable more projects like this – to guide and build capacity where we can, but most importantly to put the future of the landscape back into the hands of the people who depend upon its survival.



A woman with a white headwrap and a patterned top is smiling and covering her mouth with her hand in a forest setting. A semi-transparent grey box on the right contains a quote.

**“Our aim is to manage
a forest for the benefit
of future generations.**

**This forest means
everything for us,
it is our livelihood.”**

[**< RETURN TO CONTENTS**](#)

[**READ ABOUT ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE >**](#)



ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

Myanmar is a global illegal wildlife trade (IWT) hub with a significant amount of wildlife products passing through the country en route to the notorious Golden Triangle region. As well as a transit country, its remaining wilderness and abundant wildlife makes it a prime source country.

We are working with the government and partners to end the open sale of illegal wildlife products in Myanmar within two years, and then to close the Golden Triangle markets - essential if we are to save the planet's most iconic wild species.



ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

the next steps

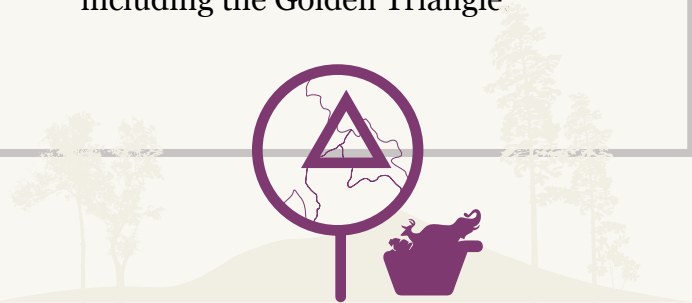
- 2018/9 Support the government in ending the open sale of illegal wildlife products in government-held territory
- 2018/9 Build capacity of Illegal Wildlife Trade task force members
- 2020 Support the establishment of a regional IWT body to end the sale of illegal wildlife products in the Golden Triangle

Join us in taking these next steps
We can't do it alone



WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

There is no open sale of illegal wildlife products in Myanmar, including the Golden Triangle



SOUTHEAST ASIA'S WILDLIFE SUPERMARKET

This is Mong La, an uncontrolled border town between Myanmar's Shan State and China, where elephant skin is sold by the kilo. It is the largest of several illegal wildlife trade markets in the Golden Triangle, a region spanning the lawless border areas of Myanmar, Laos, Thailand and China. It is one of the world's most notorious hotbeds for illegal wildlife trade, human trafficking, drugs, and gambling

Our illegal wildlife trade expert visits this region to carry out market surveys that establish the type and volume of animals and parts being sold.



These images captured on her iPhone reveal traders openly displaying semi putrefied tiger paws, sacks of pangolin scales, bears' gall bladders, muntjac antlers, and the skins and skulls of clouded leopards. Here, slow loris paws are turned into key rings, and wild kites are tethered to rusty cages. Most of these animals are poached from Myanmar and other border countries but some, like the African ivory, lion, and saiga antelope parts, have been transported across continents to end up here.

Q: Why did you go to Mong La?

Mong La is just one of the area's illegal wildlife trade markets, but we think it's the biggest. Since my last trip in 2015, the volume has increased, as has the awareness of the traders. Mong La has become famous via the internet and the traders are wary. You can't get away with taking photos anymore.

Q: Is it dangerous?

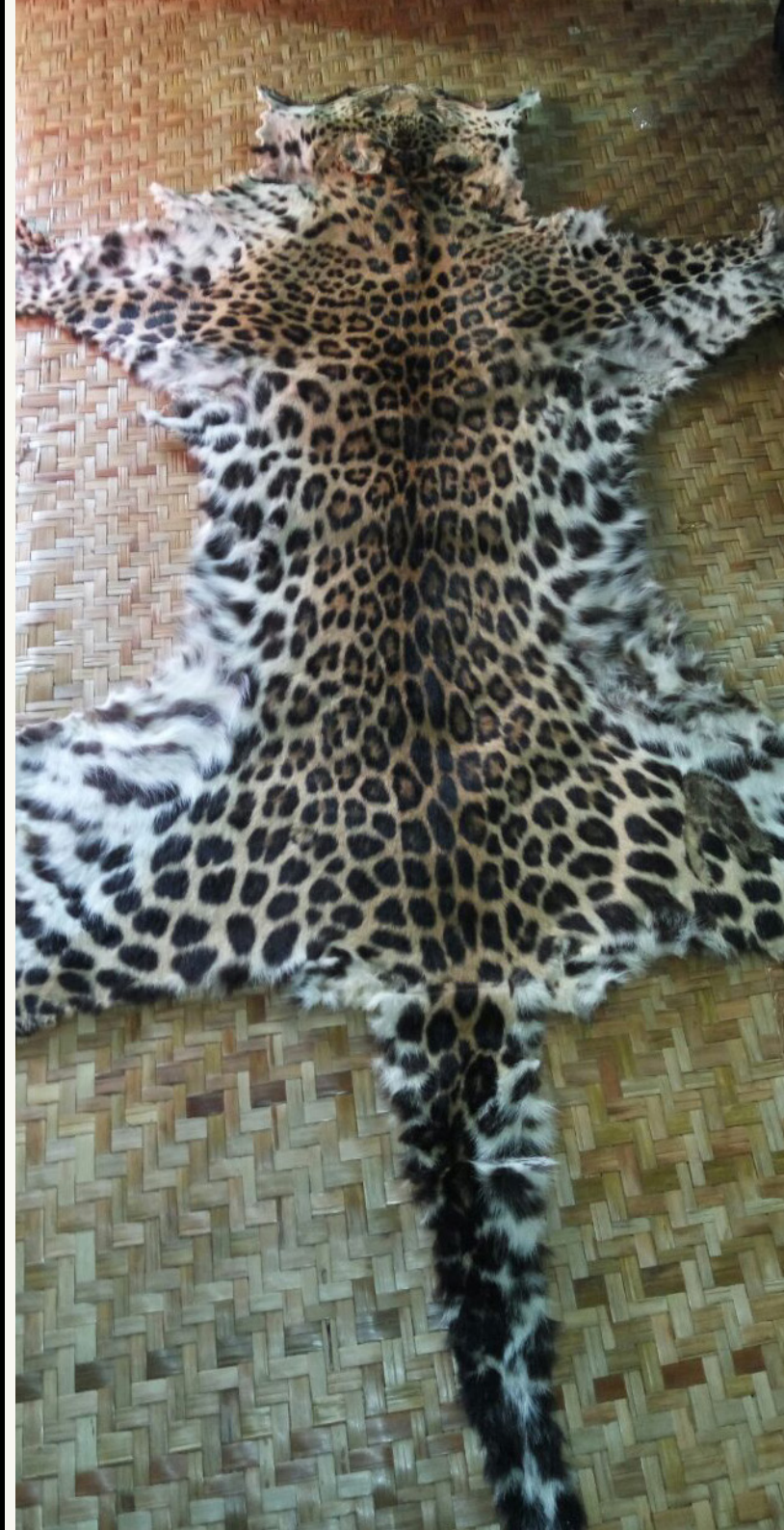
Yes, there's no law enforcement. One day a man came running after me, shouting. He'd seen me taking pictures of his shop. It took about ten minutes for the situation to calm down, but for a minute we didn't know what would happen.

Q: What is the hardest part of your job?

Seeing the sheer variety and scale of the trade in the Golden Triangle. It's staggering. I've been to markets in Myanmar that sell illegal wildlife trade products, but have never seen anything like this, and everyone is just walking around like it's normal.

Q: How do we stop this?

Most of the animals here are being poached in Myanmar, so we need to increase law enforcement to protect them. Then we need to close these markets, starting on the Myanmar side and then hopefully clearing the whole of the Golden Triangle region.





MYANMAR'S HEROES

In response to an unprecedented increase in elephant skinning in Myanmar, we are collaborating with the government and other NGOs to provide funding for elephant anti-poaching teams to patrol the poaching hotspots.

Say hello to Myanmar's wildlife heroes.



Just outside the hectic city of Yangon, Myanmar's Forestry department sits in the middle of a lush teak plantation. Within the walls of its grand but aged colonial building, 45 men are strategizing an ambush on suspected poachers.

Today it's just a trial run. This week the men are on an intensive training programme to learn about law enforcement, intelligence gathering, and how to use surveillance equipment. When they're ready, the newly formed teams will return to the forest with an important purpose: to protect the country's most iconic and culturally revered species, elephants.

These men represent the first in a long line of Myanmar nationals who will dedicate themselves to the protection of the country's amazing natural heritage. Taking inspiration from the Southern Africa Wildlife College set up by WWF 20 years ago, the Myanmar government, supported by WWF and other partners, plan to establish a Myanmar wildlife ranger college where hundreds more men will receive all the tools they need to become safe, effective, and empowered wildlife conservation heroes.



A man with dark hair and a serious expression is looking off to the side. He is wearing a dark brown uniform with light blue patches on the shoulders. The background is a blurred green forest.

**“I will protect
Myanmar’s elephants.”**

[RETURN TO CONTENTS](#)

[READ ABOUT THE AYEYARWADY RIVER](#)

be part of something

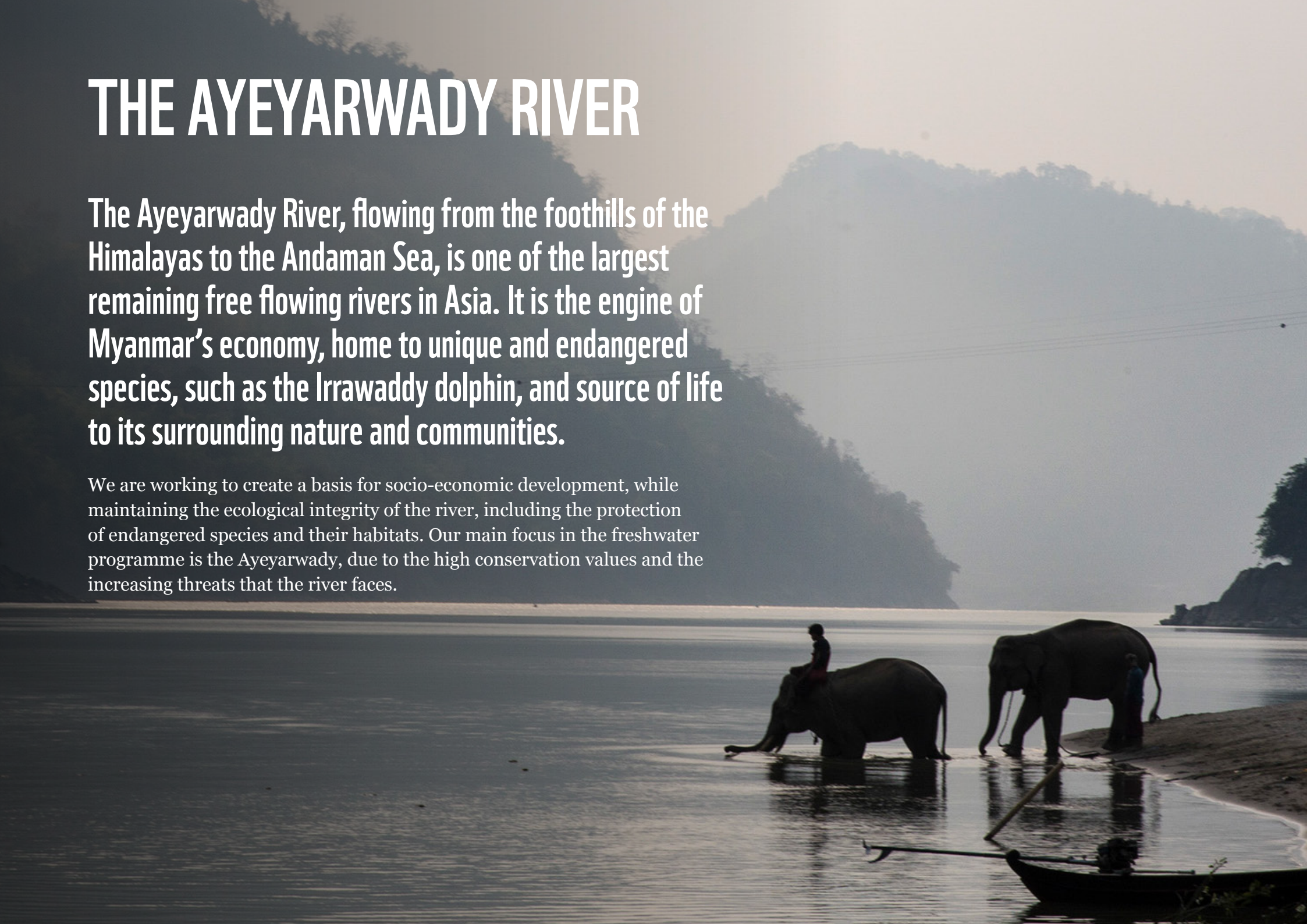
BIG



THE AYEYARWADY RIVER

The Ayeyarwady River, flowing from the foothills of the Himalayas to the Andaman Sea, is one of the largest remaining free flowing rivers in Asia. It is the engine of Myanmar's economy, home to unique and endangered species, such as the Irrawaddy dolphin, and source of life to its surrounding nature and communities.

We are working to create a basis for socio-economic development, while maintaining the ecological integrity of the river, including the protection of endangered species and their habitats. Our main focus in the freshwater programme is the Ayeyarwady, due to the high conservation values and the increasing threats that the river faces.





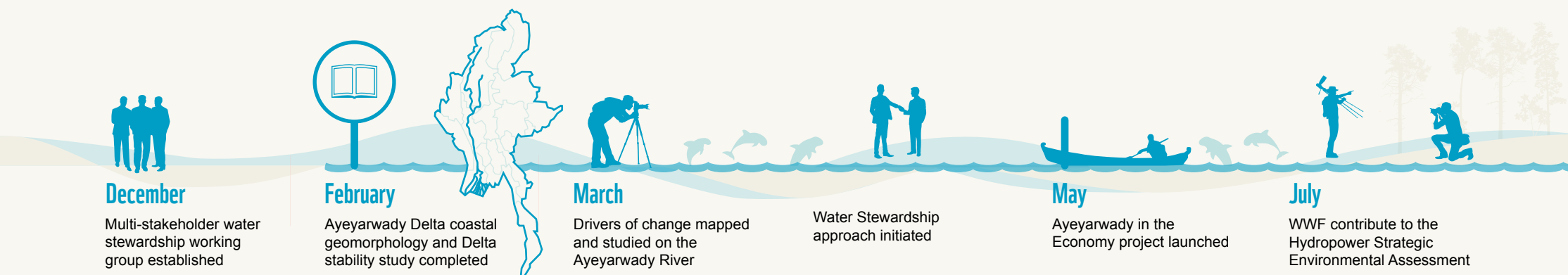
FRESHWATER



Myanmar's rivers feature freshwater ecosystems that are unique to our planet, and many of them still intact. Many of the rivers face threats from various forms of mining, hydropower development, extensive and illegal fishing and water pollution from increasing industrial activities.



Alongside with protecting species and important habitats in Myanmar's river systems, the freshwater programme works to mitigate impacts of hydropower development and reduce mining pressure and pollution. We engage the private sector to improve their practices, support the government in eradicating illegal activities and work with communities to ensure that their livelihoods are sustainable.



FRESHWATER

the next steps

- 2019** Support Myanmar in the development of a national sustainable hydropower development plan
- 2019** Map the country's free-flowing rivers and tributaries to protect the most ecologically important rivers
- 2019** Determine the role of ecosystems and green infrastructure in disaster risk reduction
- 2020** Ensure that key freshwater habitats in the delta and Ayeyarwady head waters are better protected and managed
- 2020** Secure the Irrawaddy dolphin population in the Ayeyarwady river

Join us in taking these next steps.
We can't do it alone



WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

The Ayeyarwady river is free-flowing with healthy populations of key species, including the Irrawaddy dolphin. Important habitats are protected and well-managed, supporting sustainable economic development in the Ayeyarwady basin.



THE RIVER THAT FEEDS A NATION

Every day, Bobo the fisherman throws his nets into the Ayeyarwady's waters, one of the last undammed major rivers in Asia and the river which feeds a nation.

Fish accounts for almost a third of protein intake for Myanmar, most of which originates from fisheries in the Ayeyarwady river. 80% of all Myanmar grown rice, a three-times-a-day staple for the country, is produced in the Ayeyarwady Basin, with the highest intensity in the low-lying Delta.

But the country's life-giving artery and the Delta it nourishes are under threat. WWF has travelled stretches of this river to survey its status and the threats it faces as Myanmar undergoes a dizzying period of development.

Stories from rivers across the world tell a cautionary tale. When industries and communities compete for a river basin's invaluable benefits without managing the resources sustainably, the detrimental impacts are economic, social and environmental. We have a unique window of opportunity with the Ayeyarwady, and a chance to salvage this majestic national lifeline so it may continue to aid the country's transition into a developed future, whilst ensuring the survival of all the species that also depend upon this magnificent river.





Russell E. Train
Education for
Nature Program



AYEYARWADY IN THE ECONOMY

The Ayeyarwady river underpins the growth of the country both directly and indirectly, for example through the transport of imports and exports or the consumption of fish or rice grown in the Delta. To support sustained economic and social growth in Myanmar, we need to make development decisions that do not undermine the very river upon which that development depends.

Ayeyarwady river basin:

66%

of Myanmar's population

61%

of Myanmar's land

50%

of all hydropower dams

90%

of all mines

80%

of all dams



THREAT HYDROPOWER

From its very source, the Ayeyarwady river is congested. This is the site of one of the 28 proposed hydropower dams, and one of the most controversial proposed dam projects on the globe – the Myitsone Dam in Kachin state, northern Myanmar. If constructed, this massive piece of infrastructure would impact the millions of people downstream who depend on the Ayeyarwady for agriculture, fishing, and transportation. The Myitsone would destroy the river's confluence, one of the most significant cultural heritage sites for the Kachin people, and an important landmark for all of Myanmar. The project was halted in 2011, largely due to strong resistance from the civil society, and in 2016 a special commission was set up to provide guidance to the government to determine a way forward. WWF sent recommendations to this commission stating its objections to the dam and suggesting alternative energy solutions. We still await the decision of the commission.

THREAT SANDMINING

At the water's edge, children play on top of sludgy, brown sand. The sand has been mined from the river's basin and will be transported across the country for use in construction. Sand and gravel are basic essentials for the very foundations of a developing country, but over-mining can have negative consequences for the river's ecosystems. We have completed a survey to investigate the rates of sand and gravel extraction along the Ayeyarwady, taking the first steps toward safeguarding it from over-exploitation.

THREAT DELTA STRESS

The rice basket of Myanmar is at risk. A recent study on the Ayeyarwady Delta stability, supported by WWF, shows early signs of stress on the Delta, which indicates that more carefully planned action is required to protect the ecosystems and livelihoods, including the largest remaining area of floating rice cultivation in Southeast Asia.

THREAT POLLUTION

With so many competing to benefit from the river basin's resources, it is crucial that the Ayeyarwady is managed sustainably. But for those living along the river's banks in particular, the water must also be clean. We have visited Mandalay's Industrial Zone, where factories producing beer, textiles and leather are all discharging their chemical-ridden wastewater through a single narrow pipeline directly into the Ayeyarwady. To address this issue, we have set up a national level water stewardship working group with multi-nationals and local industries, and developed pilot investments for industrial waste water treatment.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS](#)

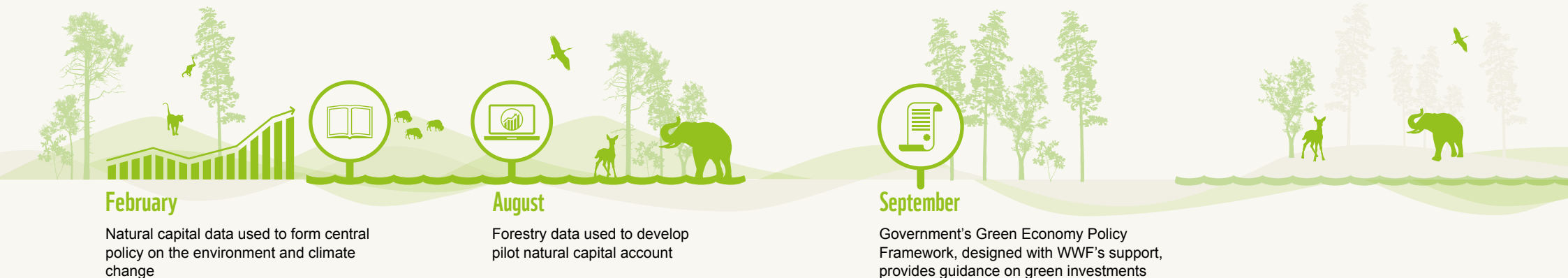
[READ ABOUT GREEN ECONOMY](#)



THE GREEN ECONOMY APPROACH

With WWF's support, Myanmar is taking its first steps towards a green economy that values nature and supports people. We work with the government, private sector and civil society to show the value of nature and the benefits it provides, and to promote policy and investment that support people, nature and the economy.

This process begins by showing the links between nature, people and the economy, and communicating the links to decision-makers and the wider public. By supporting policy and investment that accounts for these links, we encourage decisions that benefit conservation of Myanmar's natural wealth, improve human well-being and grow Myanmar's economy sustainably.



THE GREEN ECONOMY APPROACH

the next steps

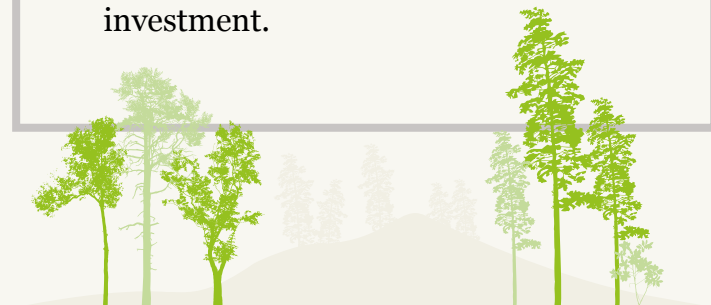
- 2018** National fund for environmental conservation created with WWF's technical support
- 2019** Natural capital assessments guide development planning - sustainable infrastructure, agriculture and energy - at national and regional levels
- 2020** Policy and economic incentives put in place for increasing investments in renewable energy, natural capital, sustainable infrastructure and sustainable agriculture

Join us in taking these next steps
We can't do it alone



WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

Myanmar is one of the region's leading green economies. A place where the true value of nature is represented in policy, development and commercial investments. Where incentives, support and best practice create a magnet for sustainable investment.



GREENING THE BELT & ROAD INITIATIVE IN MYANMAR

While China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Myanmar could potentially present significant development opportunities for the country, it may also result in substantial risks for its people and natural capital, including forests, rivers, land, biodiversity and oceans. WWF-Myanmar is working to help the country find a way to make the initiative green and sustainable, so as to avoid major environmental and social consequences.



We have asked our Green Economy Programme Manager to provide an overview of the BRI and explain how it is expected to impact Myanmar.

Q: What is the Belt Road Initiative (BRI)?

The BRI has been described as ‘probably the most ambitious Chinese international policy initiative in history’. It’s made up of two key proposals joined together – the ‘Silk Road Economic Belt’ and the ‘Maritime Silk Road’. Together these form the BRI which aim to connect and impact 60 countries. The purpose of the initiative is to promote economic development, partly through investment in regional infrastructure, with the objective to enhance policy dialogue, infrastructure connectivity, free trade, and people-to-people trade.

Q: Which parts of Myanmar will be impacted?

The BRI in Myanmar cuts through areas of the Ayeyarwady River Basin and surrounding mountainous areas which are home to around 24 million people. The people in these areas depend on rich natural assets to survive – the forests, rivers, land and ocean – for important benefits such as clean drinking water or shelter from natural disasters. The areas are also home to important species.

Q: What opportunities could the initiative bring to Myanmar?

Evidence from other countries suggests that BRI road projects can offer considerable economic opportunities, and this is also expected to be the case in Myanmar. A review by the World Bank in 2015 said that road infrastructure, for example, can result in a range of socio-economic benefits like increased productivity, reduction of trade costs and barriers, and increased employment.

Q: What are the risks?

There is a risk that the benefits of the BRI road project could be outweighed by substantial social, environmental and economic loss. If BRI road corridors and other infrastructure are constructed in ways that fragment ecosystems, endanger wildlife, contribute to deforestation and landslides and pollution – the natural treasure trove in Myanmar is at risk. We can avoid and mitigate these risks, but that requires good planning and design of the BRI road corridors.



Q: *What is WWF doing?*

China's president Xi Jinping has already highlighted the importance of working towards a 'green, healthy, intelligent and peaceful' Silk Road, and WWF-Myanmar is working for this to be achieved in Myanmar. We are assessing the risks to natural capital from the BRI in Myanmar, focusing on how the infrastructure could affect, and be affected by, natural capital assets – the very foundation of Myanmar's sustainable development. We will push for this information to be used in planning and decision-making related to the BRI to ensure that this infrastructure investment brings positive social, environmental and economic benefits without putting people and nature at risk.

Q: *What is WWF's ultimate goal?*

Our goal is to help make the BRI in Myanmar a sustainable investment, allowing for the country to harvest its economic opportunities without putting people and nature at risk.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS](#)

[READ ABOUT CLIMATE & ENERGY](#)

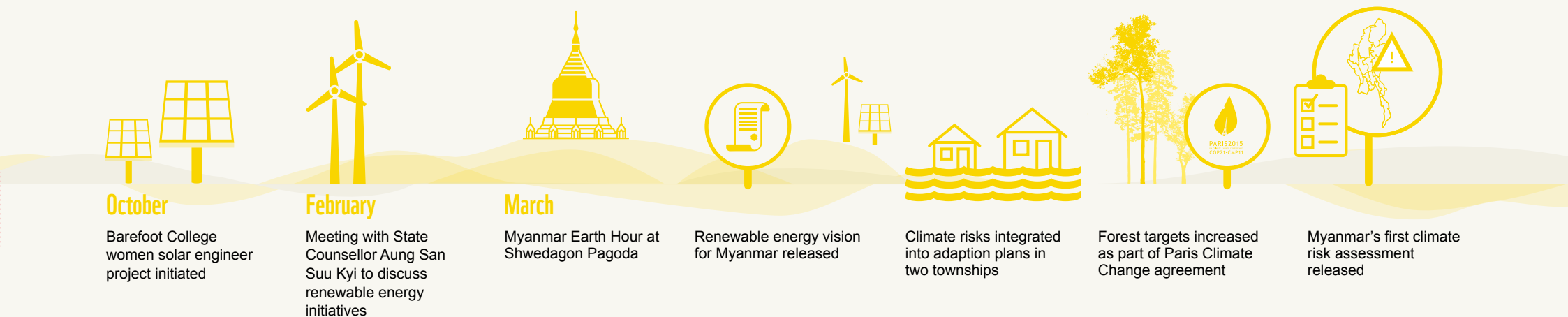


CLIMATE&ENERGY



Myanmar is the world's second most vulnerable country to climate change, which makes climate adaptation and mitigation, and ecosystem protection, a crucial part of its development agenda. A historic lack of dependence on fossil fuels places the country in a unique position to leapfrog into renewable energy practices to meet its acute energy deficit.

Together with the government, we are working towards a solution to provide electricity for the entire country, primarily based on renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.



CLIMATE&ENERGY the next steps



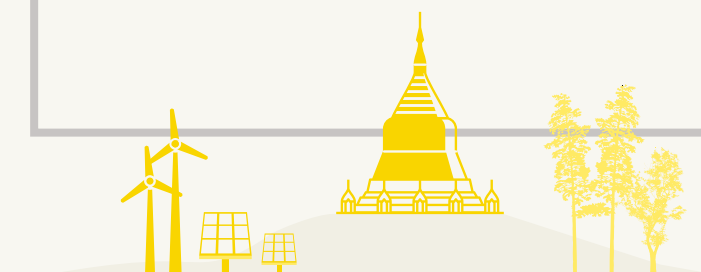
- 2018 Develop state and regional power development plans (Tanintharyi)
- 2018 Develop renewable energy projects based in the Yangon area
- 2018 Facilitate third round of Barefoot College training and village electrification
- 2018/9 Facilitate vocational trainings in renewable energy in Rakhine
- 2020 Host first Renewable Energy Investment Summit, together with the government

Join us in taking these next steps
We can't do it alone



WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

Myanmar utilises its full potential for renewable energy, and attracts renewable energy investment. Myanmar's ecosystems are resilient and enhanced to support adaptation to climate impacts.



EMPOWERING WOMEN & VILLAGES IN RURAL MYANMAR

Naw Yoe Lay makes a tentative first step onto the plane. Behind her are two other women from rural Myanmar villages laughing nervously, hands grasped firmly around the rail. It's the first time these women have ever flown, and the first time they're leaving Myanmar. Today they are flying to India, the beginning of a six-month journey from housewife to solar engineer.

“I am leaving my family for the first time in 30 years so that my village can have solar electricity. I feel so excited and I can't wait to see my village lit up at night”. – Naw Yoe Lay. Hin Ka Pi village



WWF is working together with the Barefoot College in India to train women from rural communities in the Dawna Tenasserim Landscape to become solar engineers. Access to grid electricity is very limited in this area, so communities must rely on a shared village generator that runs on expensive, hard to obtain, diesel.

Dusk comes early in the tropics and life without electricity brings many challenges and dangers. Without lights children can't read or complete their homework, limiting their studies. Outside, snakes are common and unnervingly difficult to spot in the dark, plus without a fridge there is no means of storing anti-venom to their bites. Communities are looking for more effective ways to produce and share electricity, to make their environment safer and broaden their lives and opportunities.

Once Naw Yoe Lay and her new colleagues return home, WWF and Barefoot will install the solar system units to provide electricity to 235 homes in three villages. The money the community would have spent on diesel will be used to pay the newly trained engineers salaries, to construct a workspace, and for maintenance costs of the panels that will last up to 25 years.

Myanmar has a massive electricity deficit, with just 32% of the population having access to reliable electricity. The choices the country makes today will impact generations to come. Myanmar is in a unique position to avoid the energy mistakes of its neighbours and harness its rich renewable resources: sun, wind, geothermal, biomass, and ocean energy.

Villages like Naw Yoe Lay's are leading the way as living examples of how we can power our villages, towns, and cities with sustainable, inclusive energy that supports sustainable, inclusive development.



**“I can’t wait to see my
village lit up at night.”**

[◀ RETURN TO CONTENTS](#)

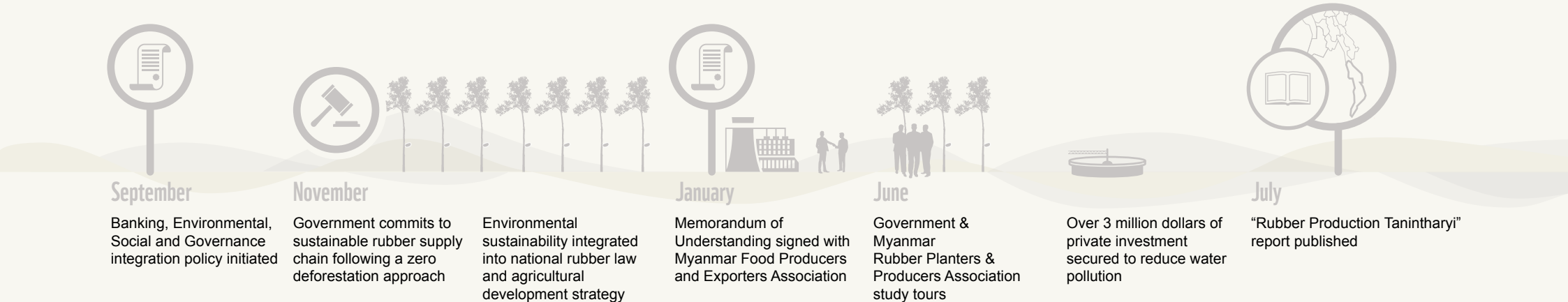
[READ ABOUT SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS ▶](#)



SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS

Myanmar is one of the world’s fastest growing economies and now is a critical time to ensure that the private sector understand and follow the business case for biodiversity conservation.

We are working with the water, rubber, and banking industries, to plan and support sustainable business practices, and to separate environmental footprints from economic growth.




SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS

the next steps




Join us in taking these next steps

We can’t do it alone



WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

The private sector has minimized its impact on critical habitats, and is contributing to preserving biodiversity and ecosystem health.



THE QUEST FOR SUSTAINABLE RUBBER

We're in a southern region of Thailand, standing amongst a sea of neatly aligned, white-spotted tree trunks. This is a rubber plantation, and just one of many in Southeast Asia – the largest producer and exporter of natural rubber in the world.



With us is Zaw Htun Myint, Deputy Director General of the Myanmar Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation. He is here with WWF to learn about the rubber production and supply chain in this area.

Thailand is the perfect classroom for learning about the do's and don'ts of rubber production. As it stands, there is no official standard in the world for sustainable rubber production, but with this research and opportunity to create a rubber market from scratch, Myanmar is in the running to become one of the world's first sustainable rubber producers.

Rubber is important to Myanmar's growing economy, and a warm, wet climate means this is prime rubber territory. Plantations can be seen cropping up more and more along some of the DTL's critical corridors, however with no existing market built around rubber, farmers are working independently and are faced with losing their livelihoods when the fluctuating market price drops suddenly. The resulting monocultures leave large chunks of forest unable to support the wildlife that once lived there, as well as the farmers who depend on the forest's natural resources.

The purpose of this trip to Thailand is to evaluate the types of markets that can be formed around rubber. We visit a plantation, a cooperative where latex is processed into sheets of rubber, a market where they are sold, an industrial complex where the sheets are converted into products, and a university conducting rubber research.

U Zaw Htun will return from the trip armed with the knowledge he needs to consider the next steps in creating a sustainable rubber industry in Myanmar, such as researching how to improve the technology available here to make tires and other products, and inspiration to produce furniture made from the wood of rubber trees. He will also return with ideas for how to improve rubber yields from trees instead of expanding acreage – growing the industry up, rather than out – one of his ministry's high priorities.

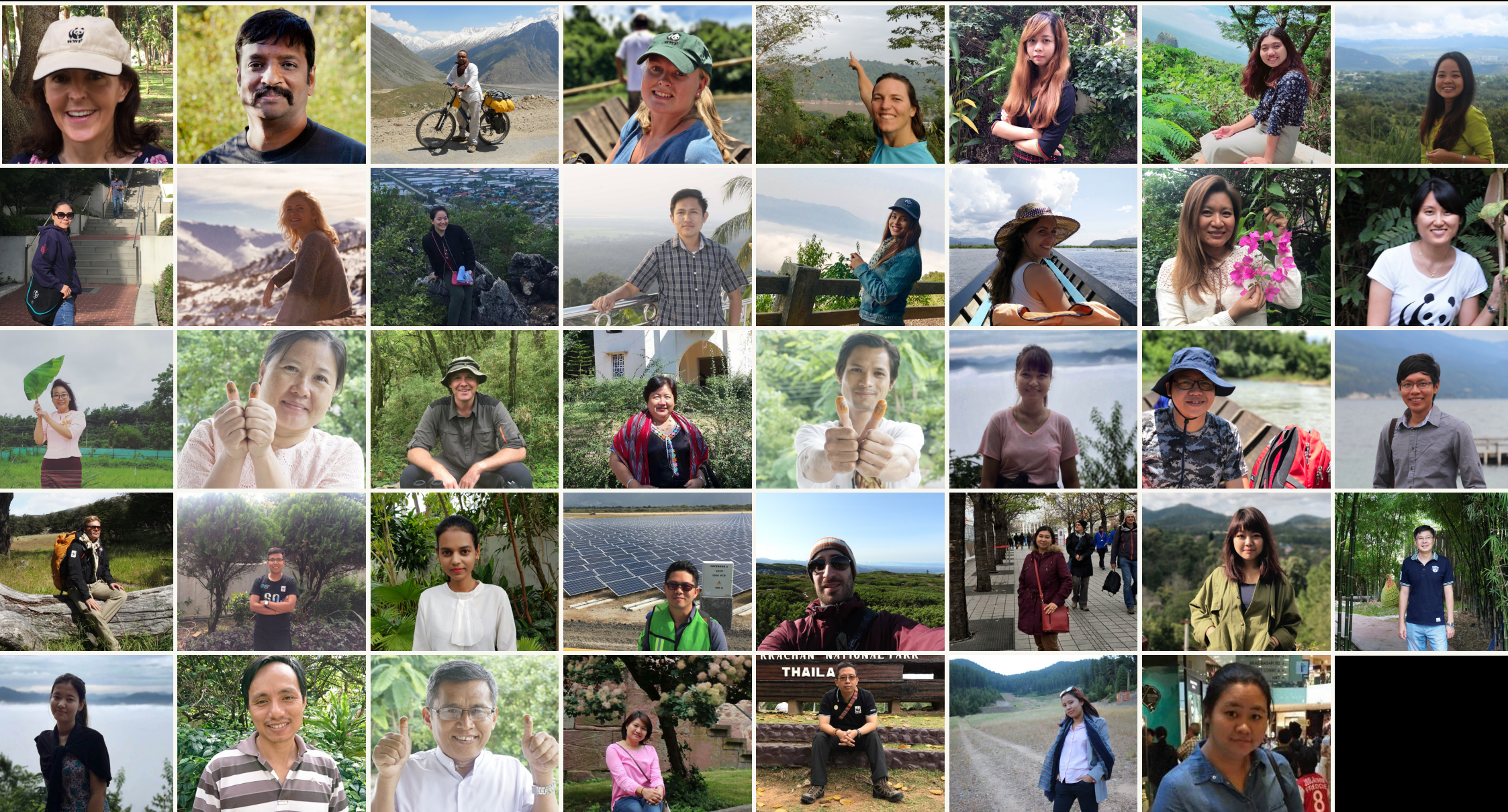
Our main aim is to prevent further deforestation.



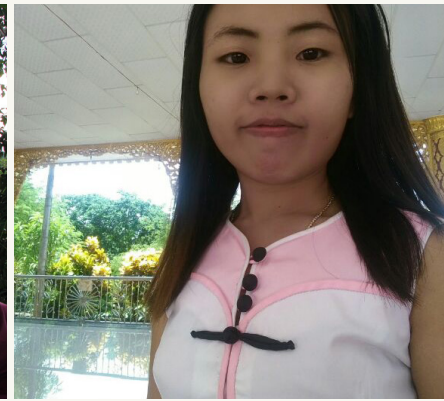
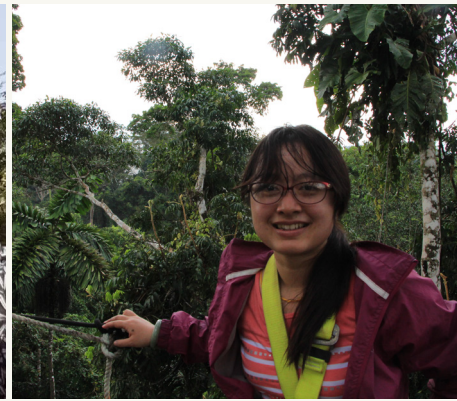
EARTH HOUR 2017



YANGON TEAM

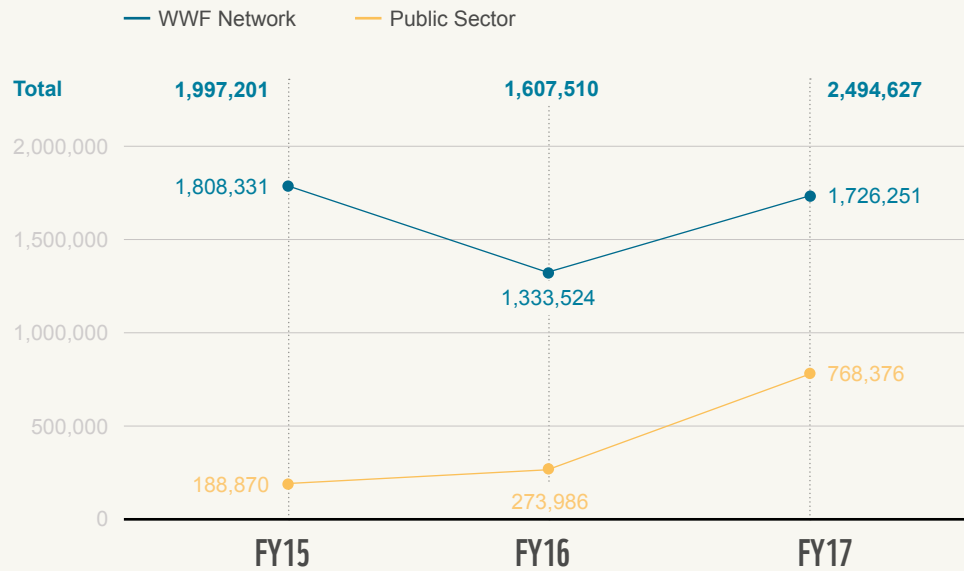


DAWEI TEAM

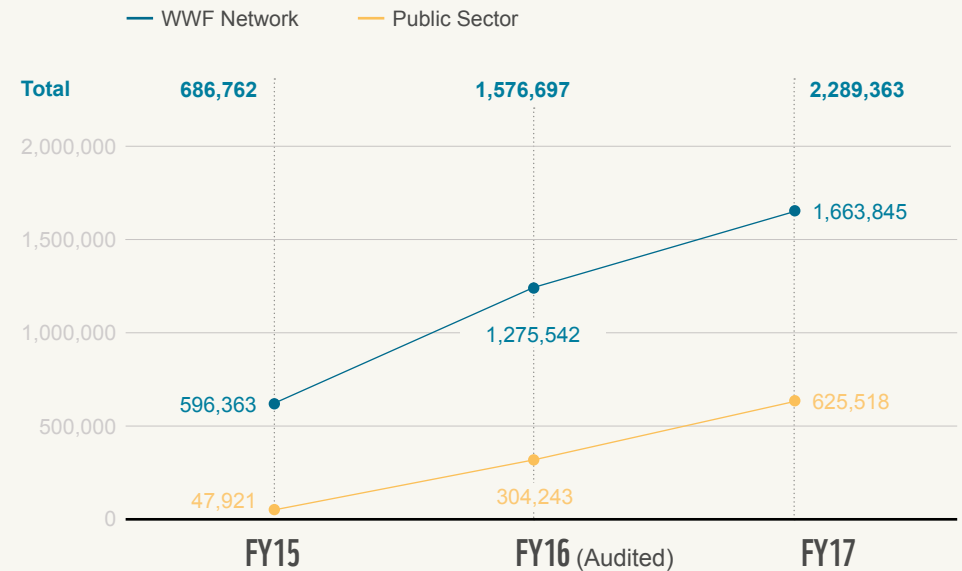


FINANCIALS

Income for WWF-MYANMAR (3 years)



Expenses for WWF-MYANMAR (3 years)



PRACTICES

WWF-Myanmar's work focuses on **four** of WWF's six global goals and the **three** key drivers of environmental problems.

GLOBAL GOALS

FORESTS



A world enriched by extensive, resilient forest and landscapes, benefiting biodiversity, people and climate.

WILDLIFE



The world's most threatened and ecologically, economically and culturally important species are secure in the wild.

CLIMATE & ENERGY



By 2030, an equitable and just transition is underway that limits warming to 1.5°C, protects people and biodiversity and builds a climate resilient future.

FRESHWATER



Freshwater ecosystems and their services sustain people and nature

DRIVER OUTCOMES

GOVERNANCE



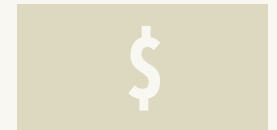
Progress is made on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and robust, transparent governance and policy mechanisms are in place

FINANCE



Increase in public and private financial flows towards sustainable development. Public and private financial institutions catalyze change in government and business policies and practices to reduce threats to nature

MARKETS



Effective market-based change mechanisms to measurably shift local, regional, and global markets towards sustainable production and consumption

NETWORK CHAMPIONS



THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



1400-2000

Official estimate of wild
Asian elephants in
Myanmar

40-50,000

Estimated population of
wild Asian elephants

1

Number of elephants
poached in Myanmar **every**
week

20

Years before Myanmar's
wild elephant population
disappears without urgent
action

