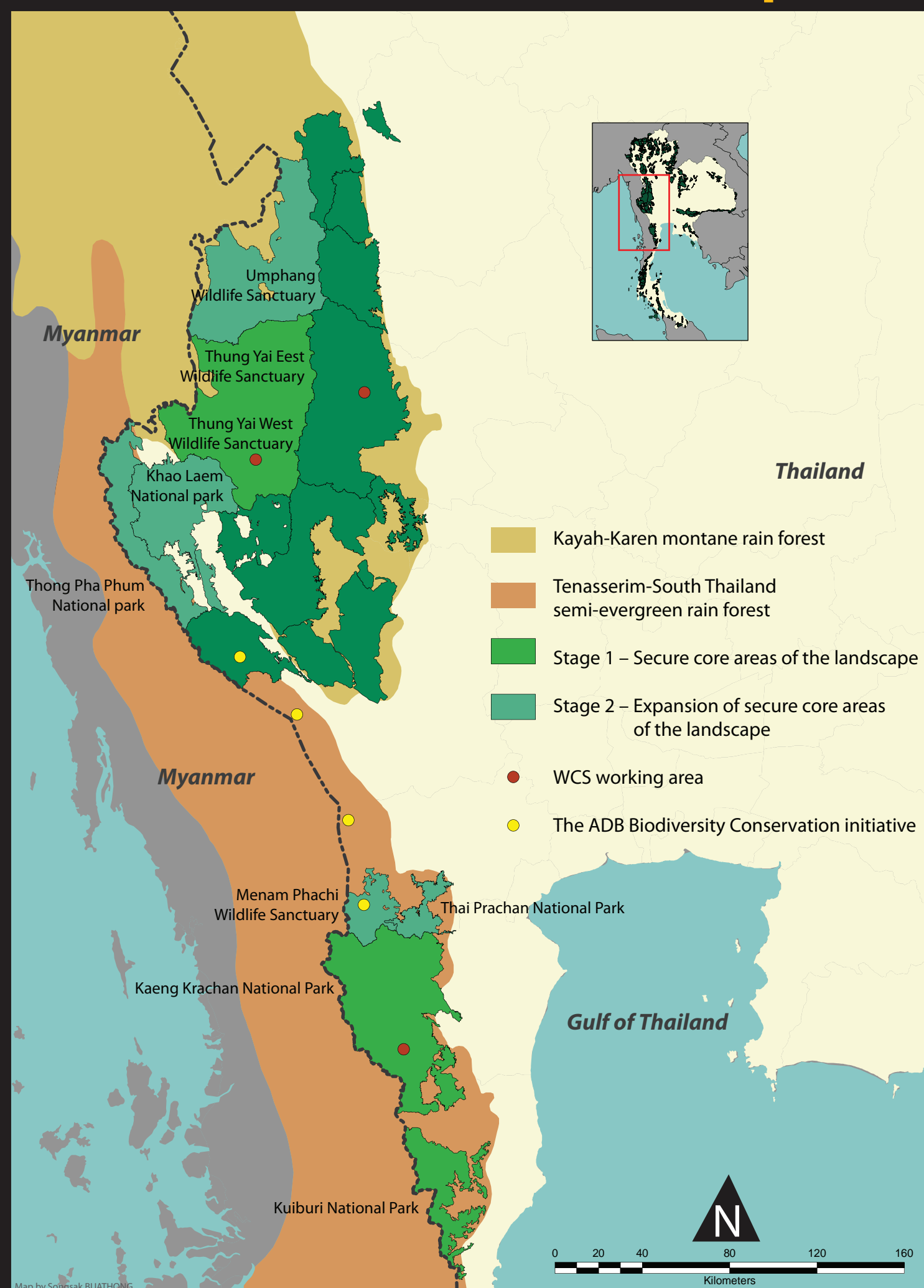




Tiger and elephant conservation in the Kayah Karen Tenasserim Ecoregion

Keang Krachan Forest Complex, Western Thailand within the Tiger Conservation Landscape # 19

Tiger Conservation Landscape # 19



Vision

Tiger, elephant, and tiger prey populations live in safety at higher numbers and with wider distribution than 2008, across the KKTE Tiger and Elephant Conservation Landscape

Goal 1

Tiger, elephant and prey populations increase by 30% in six core protected areas of the KKTE Tiger Conservation Landscape by 2015

Objective 1.1:

Capacity of three core protected areas (Kuiburi National Park, Kaeng Krachan National Park, Thung Yai West Wildlife Sanctuary) is enhanced such that tigers and elephants are secure from direct threats to their survival by 2015.

- Focused patrolling to prevent commercial poaching within core PAs is increased 50%
- Protected area management databases are installed and used by PA managers
- Community engagement in wildlife and habitat conservation increased 100%
- Human-elephant conflict reduced by 50 %
- Agriculture land use around core protected areas is stabilized (no encroachment)

Objective 1.2:

Tiger, tiger prey and elephant monitoring protocols are established and implemented at the local and landscape levels, covering both the Thailand and Myanmar sections of the landscape, by 2014.

- Tiger and elephant occupancy across the landscape increases by 30%
- Tiger densities in core protected areas increases by 30%

Objective 1.3:

The illegal wildlife trade is reduced to sustainable levels in the Thai side of the landscape including a removal of wildlife restaurants by 2014.

- Demand for wildlife meat is reduced by 50% in three focal provinces
- 90% of wildlife meat restaurants removed in 3 focal provinces
- Multi-agency enforcement units are established in three focal provinces

Objective 1.4:

Capacity of six core protected areas (Umphang Wildlife Sanctuary, Thong Pha Phum National park, Thung Yai-East, within the Western Forest Complex; and Menam Phachi Wildlife Sanctuary and Thai Prachan National Park within the Kaeng Krachan Complex) is enhanced such that tigers and elephants are secure from direct threats to their survival by 2015.

- Law enforcement effort within core PAs is increased by 50%
- Protected area management databases are installed and being actively used by PA managers
- Community engagement in tiger, elephant and biodiversity conservation increased 100%



One of the world's largest populations of Asian Elephants and Tigers survives in the forests along the Tenasserim Range on the border between Thailand and Myanmar. On the Thai side, there are two large protected area complexes; the Kaeng Krachan-Kuiburi Forest Complex, in the south, which includes Kaeng Krachan National Park (2,915 sq. km.), Kuiburi National Park (969 sq. km.), Mae Nam Phachi Wildlife Sanctuary (490 sq. km.) and Thai Prajan National Park (326 sq. km.), and the Western Forest Complex (WEFCOM) in the north, composed of 17 protected areas totaling 18,000 sq. km.

Principal issues hindering tiger and elephant conservation

Potential external blockages to achieving the project's objectives include:

- Political instability continuing in Thailand
- Unwillingness of involved key partners to share and exchange information and data
- Unwillingness by private sector for engagement
- Changes in or refocusing of partner/stakeholder priorities
- Lack of sufficient political will to take the strategy forward
- Aggressive implementation ADB's unsustainable development plans in the region

Potential internal blockages to taking the project forward include:

- Lack of effective and sustainable financial and other support to the project or the WWF Thailand office
- Lack of effective integration across WWF expertise and programmes (science, field work, B&I, trade, species, forests, etc.).

Goal 2

The integrity of the core portions of the KKTE Tiger Conservation Landscape is maintained

Objective 2.1: Landscape connectivity is researched and maintained on the Myanmar side of the landscape by 2010.

- Forest cover mapping identifies the forest landscape boundary and the core portion of the landscape
- Threats to the forest cover in Myanmar are identified and mapped

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Outstanding Universal Value

The KKFC that is located in the Tenasserim Tiger Conservation Landscape (TCL #19) is ranked as a highest priority TCL and is thought to be the third most important TCL globally for the survival of tigers. The area is also one of WWF's AREAS priority landscapes meaning it is of global importance for the conservation of the Asian elephant.

Moreover, KKFC is located in the Indo-Malayan ecoregion. At the macro scale the complex is rich in biological diversity as a result of being a meeting place of four zoogeographical subregions and four floristic provinces (Indo-Burmese or Himalayan, Indo-Malaysian, Annamatic, and Andamanese)

In addition, symptomatic of the high biodiversity in the area is the presence of important populations of globally the critically endangered, Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*), one of only three known locations where it still exists in the wild. There are also important populations of other endangered species such as Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*), tiger (*Panthera tigris*), banteng (*Bos javanicus*), Asiatic wild dog (*Cuon alpinus*), Asian giant tortoise (*Manouria emys*); and vulnerable species such as Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), Asian tapir (*Tapirus indicus*), southern serow (*Capricornis sumatranensis*) and stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*). A complete suite of top carnivores has been identified in the area including six species of wild cats.



Key threats

- **Poaching**
Wildlife numbers have been depleted by past hunting and poaching activities.
- **Fragmentation & Encroachment**
Increased habitat fragmentation as a result of agricultural activities
- **Settlements inside and around the park**
These lead to increased population, encroachment, pollution and wildlife impacts
- **Non-timber forest products collection**
NTFPs are being extracted from the forests, with, as yet, little attention to impacts and sustainability
- **Human-elephant conflict**
There has been a significant history of human-elephant conflict at KuiBuri NP and Kaeng Krachan NP.