Keynote I: Mangroves in Myanmar

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Outlines of the Presentation

1) Overview and Status of Mangroves in Myanmar
2) Major Issues and threats to Mangroves
3) Current Measures and Efforts
4) Celebrating “International Day for the Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems” in Myanmar
5) Take-home message
1) **Overview and Status of Mangroves in Myanmar**

- Eighth largest extent of mangroves worldwide
  - 448,000 hectares (FAO, Forest Resource Assessment 2020)
  - 34 true mangrove species
  - 114 associate mangrove species

*Mangrove Hot Spots in Asia*  
Source: The world’s mangroves, FAO, 2007 and World Mangrove Atlas 2010
Trends of mangroves in three main tracts of Myanmar

Myanmar coast: 2832 km

Area (acres in thousands)

- Ayeyarwady (Delta)
- Rakhine (Western Coast)
- Tanintharyi (Myeik Archipelagos)

1980
Current

Myanmar coast: 2832 km
2) Major Issues and threats to Mangroves

- Land use changes due to Human Settlement, Rice Field Encroachment, and Shrimp Farming
- Charcoal Production
- Fuel wood cutting
Green Belt Project in the Mottama Gulf of Yangon Region

- No mangroves reserved and protected until 2015 in Yangon coast
- Young mangroves on the newly-accrued lands protected since 2015
- Land-use conflicts with shrimp pond owners solved
- Supports from high political-levels and communities received
- 6089 acres of mangroves already under protection, and 36999 acres proposed in progress
Mass Mangrove Protection Measures in Myeik/Mergui Archipelagos

- 635,300 acres of mangrove cover in Tanintharyi
- 15 Reserved/Protected Public Mangrove Forests (RF/PPF) with 228,740 acres conserved and managed
- 23 RF/PPFs with 187,900 acres proposed in progress
- 66% of the mangrove cover in the region to be protected including the proposed areas

- In progress of more marine national parks of mangroves including UNESCO Mangrove MAB
- Need technical and financial support
Community Participation Strengthened

Over 40-year of good practices of community-managed mangroves (Kanyin Chaung CF in Tanintharyi Coast)

Community Forestry in Mangroves
- FD grants CF for 30 years
- Total Mangrove CF 15436 acres over the Myanmar Coasts
- Total Mangrove CF 4912 acres in Tanintharyi Coast
- Reserved/Protected Public Mangrove Forests are granted to CF

Kanyin Chaung CF
- Karen Ethnic Communities
- Total area of 508 acres
- Locally conserved since 1978
- Transition to CF since 2001
- Officially granted certification in 2019 for their own management
- Largely cover food security and daily incomes that benefit from these community-managed mangroves over four decades
4. Celebrating International Mangrove Day (July 26)

- Five Mangrove Districts by Forest Department (Kyauk Phyu, Sittwe and Thandwe in Rakhine State, and Myeik and Kawthaung in Tanintharyi Region) by 350 participants from all relevant stakeholders
- A total of 10,850 seedlings planted with mangrove species, *Rhizophora*, *Bruguiera*, *Ceriops* and *Avicennia* spp
- Local CSOs celebrated as well, observed on social media
- Published in forestry journal of Forest Department
Community Forestry is an enabling mechanism for community participation in mangrove conservation and management. Local communities are well aware of the value and role of mangroves, but need to be managed wisely. Mangrove Man and Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO MAB), one of the best options to align with mangrove community forestry in balancing conservation and community development.
Thank you very much for your kind attention...

Local people’s Livelihoods in harmony with Natural Mangroves