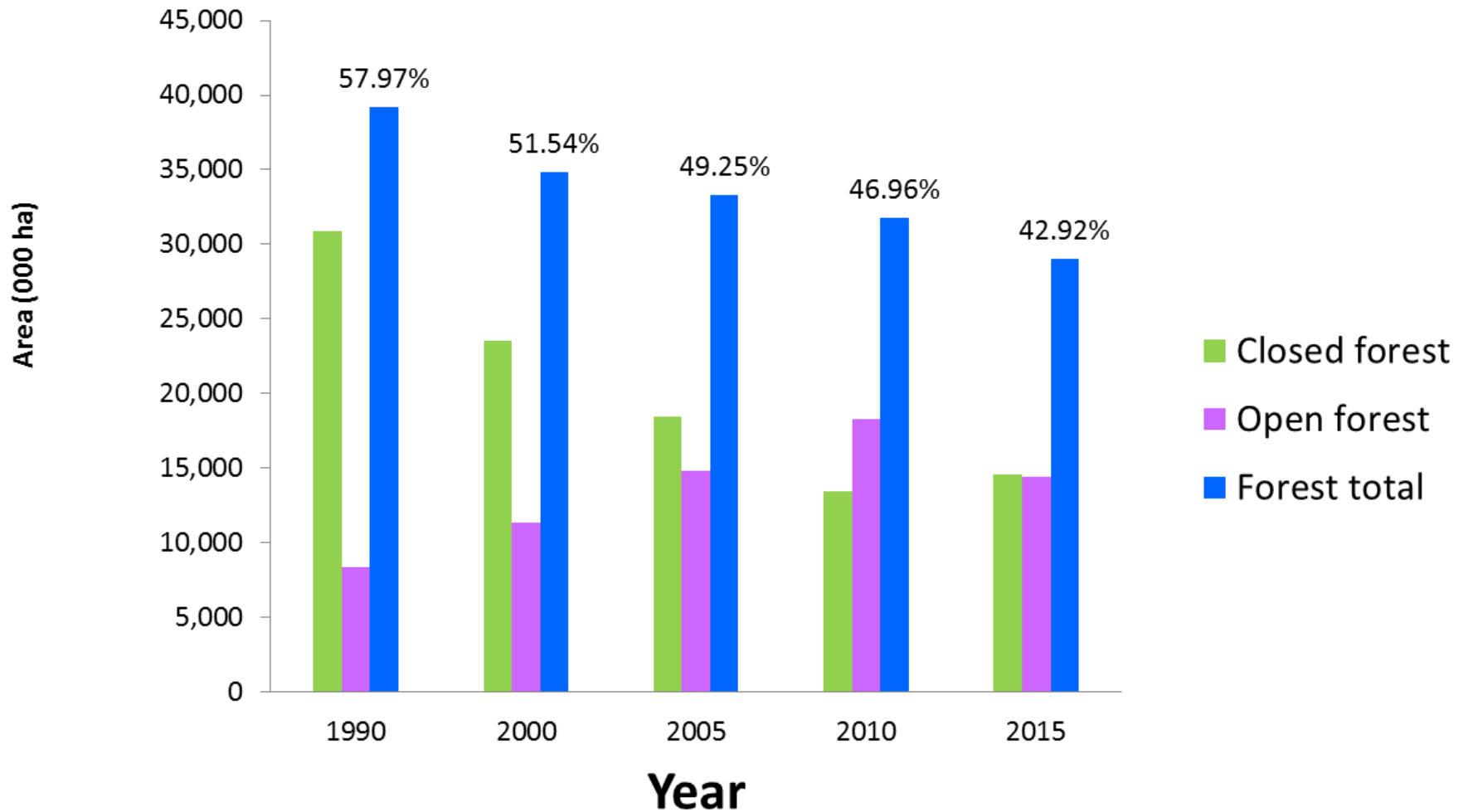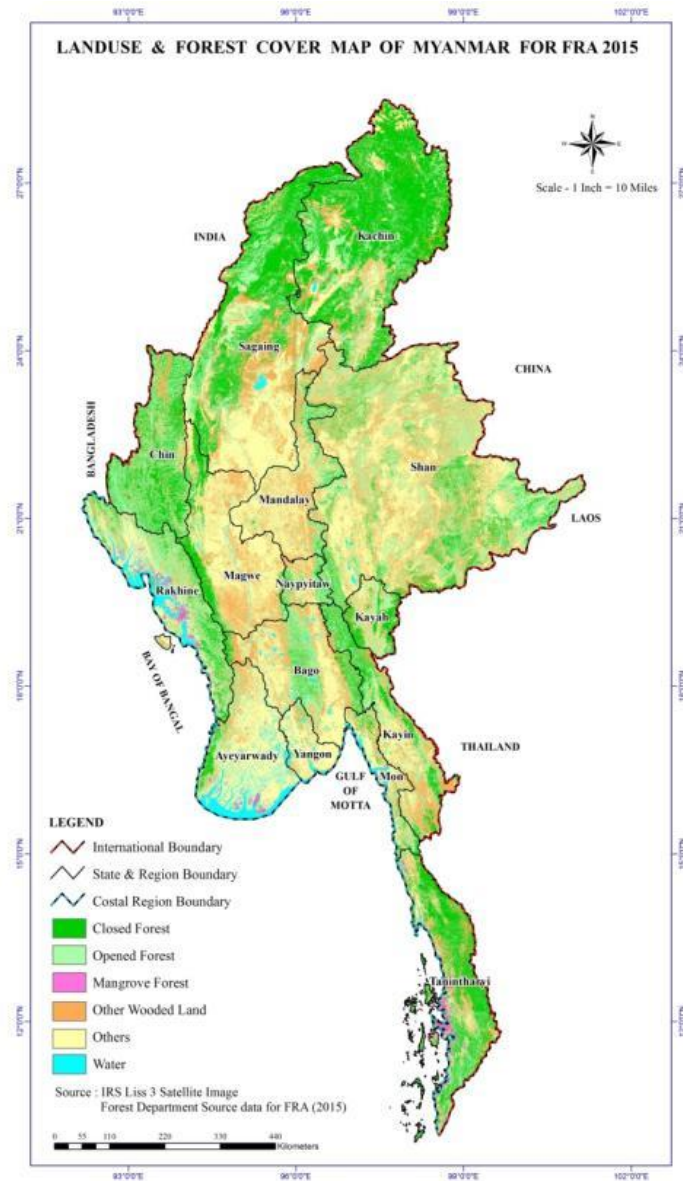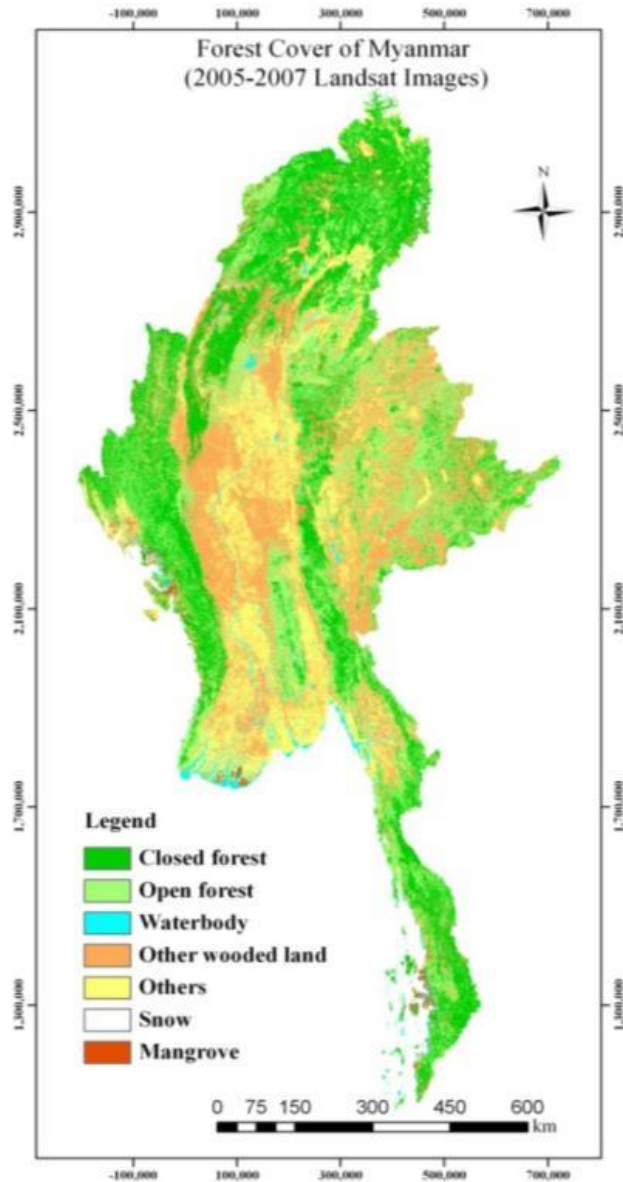# Myanmar's efforts towards the reduction of deforestation, forest degradation and restoration of forest ecosystem

Naing Zaw Htun

Forest Department

Myanmar

Trends of Forest Covers in Myanmar

Trends of Forest Covers in Myanmar

Indicators of forest loss

- Trends of Annual Allowable Cut (AAC), calculated from forest inventory, and estimated for ten years.

Species	AAC (no. of trees)	
	2006-07 to 2015-16	2016-17 to 2025-26
Teak	48,897	19,210
Other hardwoods	817,343	592,330

- Resource declination.
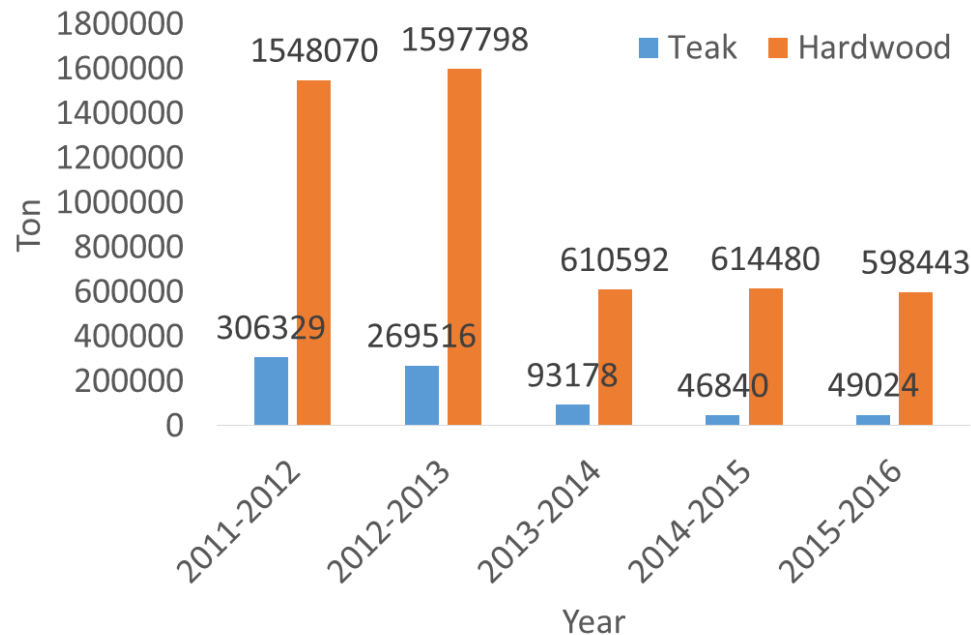
Indicators of forest loss

- Environmental degradation and natural disaster.

- Many other negative impacts to economic, social and cultural aspects behind the forest loss.
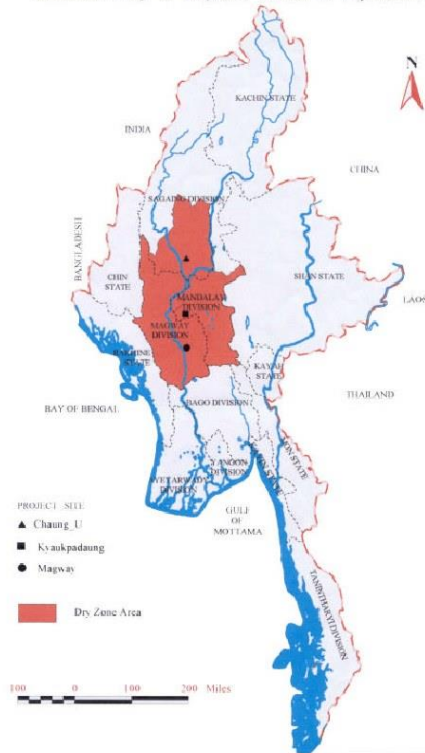
Reducing logging

- log export banned since 1st April 2014.

- reduction of Teak and Hardwood Harvesting.

- stopped logging for 2016-17 fiscal year.

- ceased timber extraction in Bago Mountain Range, home of Teak in Myanmar, for ten years (2016-2017 to 2025-2026).

Greening Operations in Central Dry Zone of Myanmar

Location Map of Dryzone Areas in Myanmar

Area   81,650 Km^2, 12% of the country total area

Climatic and Edaphic Condition

Rainfall   300mm – 750mm

Temperature   7 ° C – 45 ° C (Avg. 26.7 ° C)

Natural Vegetation

Open dry forest, Bushes

Desert like formations

Greening Operations in Central Dry Zone of Myanmar

- Reforestation started since 1953.

- In 1994, Nine District Greening Project was implemented.

- Dry Zone Greening Department (DZGD) was setup under MONREC in July 1997.

- Comprehensive master plan for 2001-02 to 2030-31.

- The targets are :

Sr.	Task	Target
1	Establishment of Forest Plantation	0.425 million ha
2	Protection of Remaining Natural Forest	0.728 million ha

Expectation of Forest Cover Change after 30-year Master Plan Period
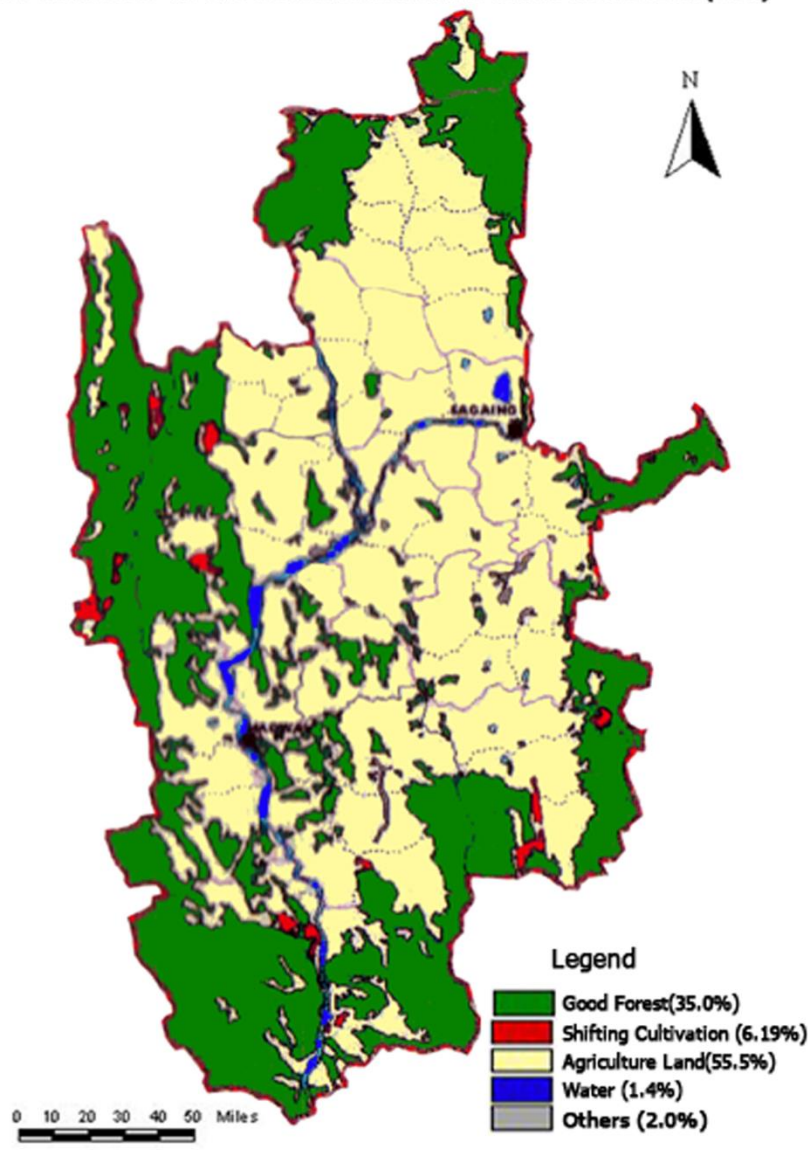

LAND COVER MAP OF DRY ZONE IN MYANMAR BEFORE 30 YEARS PLAN (2001)

Legend
- Good Forest(19.7%)
- Degraded Forest (8.4%)
- Shifting Cultivation (13%)
- Agriculture Land(55.5%)
- Water (1.4%)
- Others (2.0%)

0 10 20 30 40 50 Miles
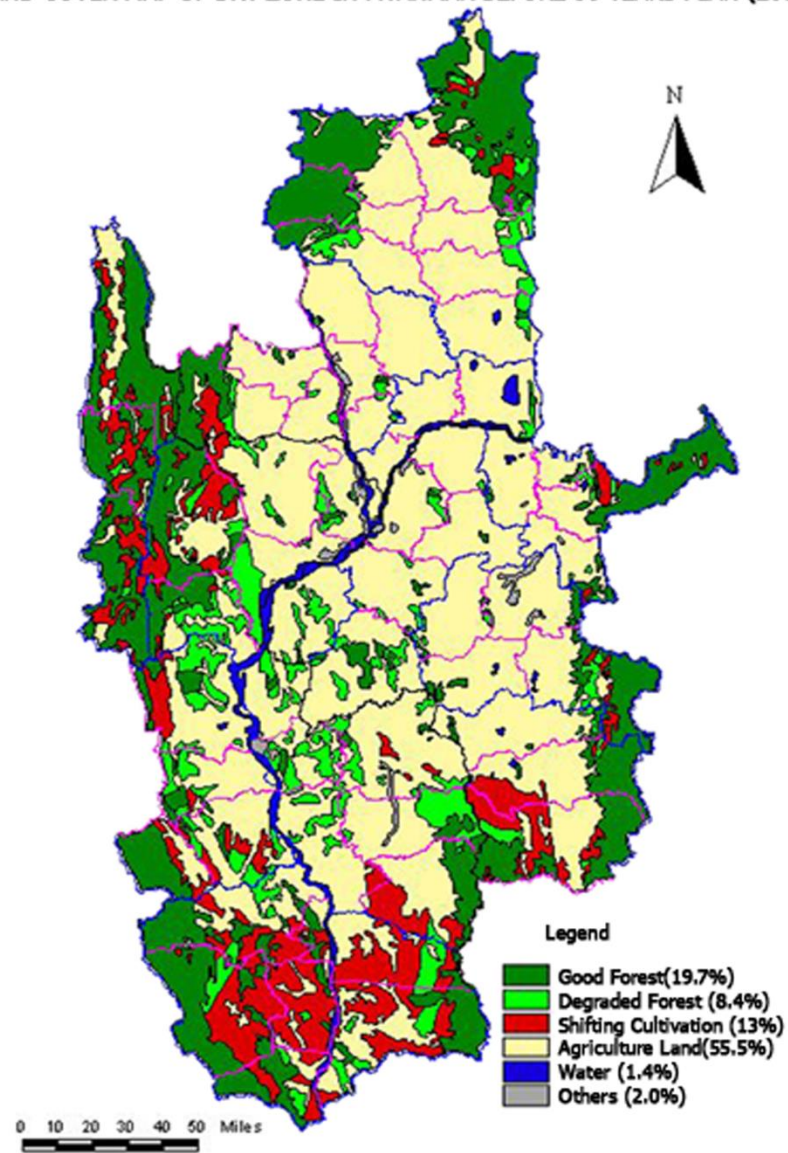
LAND COVER MAP OF DRY ZONE IN MYANMAR AFTER 30 YEARS PLAN (2030)

Legend
- Good Forest(35.0%)
- Shifting Cultivation (6.19%)
- Agriculture Land(55.5%)
- Water (1.4%)
- Others (2.0%)

0 10 20 30 40 50 Miles

Shinmataung Hill 1995

Shinmataung Hill 2015

Able to provide basic needs of local communities

2005

2011

Shwe Bon Hill , Chauk Township, Magway Region

Satellite based land monitoring/Forest Cover Assessment

- Myanmar is regularly reporting forest cover assessment (FRA) to FAO at five-year interval, such as FRA 2005, 2010, 2015.

- FRA reports mainly based on projected data, for example for 2010 and 2015 FRA, forest cover assessment were based on 2006-07 satellite data and 2010 satellite data, respectively.

- Forest Department is now preparing "**real time forest cover assessments**".

- Forest Cover Assessment for 2015 (Landsat 8 imageries, acquired during October 2014 to March 2015).

- Forest Cover Assessment for years 2005 (2005-2006 Landsat ETM) and 2010 (2010 IRS Liss III).

- The final products will be available by the end of August 2016, and used for FREL.

National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)

- FD and FAO are implementing "*Strengthening Myanmar's National Forest Monitoring System - Land Use Assessment and Capacity Building*" project.

- Under the project, National Forest Inventory (NFI) design is being revised to be compliance with UNFCCC and MRV for REDD+.

- The new NFI will cover to collect data of timber resources, non-timber forest products, wildlife, soil, land uses, water, forest fire and others including historical, religious, cultural values.

National Reforestation Programme

- Ten-year National Reforestation Programme is under preparation with consultation process.

- The draft programme will be available by the end of June 2016.

- It will be implemented by Forest Department and Dry Zone Greening Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

- It is implementation of Myanmar's NBSAP (2015-2020), as well as fulfilling the national commitments such as INDC, SDG, New York Declaration on Forests etc.

Aichi Target 15
National Target 15.2: By 2018, guidelines for a national forest restoration programme that incorporates best international practice formally adopted by government and pilot project initiated
15.2.1 Draft and adopt a national forest restoration strategy
15.2.2 Implement pilot forest restoration project
15.2.4 Prepare guidelines for national forest restoration programme taking into consideration economic, including the value of ecosystem services, and ecological aspects

National Reforestation Programme

Key activities

- development of forest plantation policy

- identifying drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation

- restoring degraded forest, 8,100 ha, annually

- state owned forest plantation, 12,150 ha, annually

- private owned forest plantation, 8,100 ha, annually

- community forestry, 0.5 million ha

- maintenance of old forest plantation, 20,000 ha, annually

Conclusion

- Such the efforts would make Myanmar to

    reduce deforestation and forest degradation

    restore forest ecosystems and associated services

    contribute to implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2020)

    stable environment

    support Bonn Challenge and the New York Declaration on Forests

    improve livelihoods of forest dependent community, and support SDG

Thank you very much for kind attention