

Trend in Landcover and driving factors of change

From 2000 to 2020, the area of evergreen broad-leaved forests and deciduous broad-leaved forests in Myanmar decreased, while the area of the rest of the land types increased, with the area of shrubland increasing the most

Specifically, in 2020 areas in Myanmar were dominated by forests (56.64% of the area) and cropland (25.59% of the area). The combined area of the two land types accounts for more than 82% of the total national land area

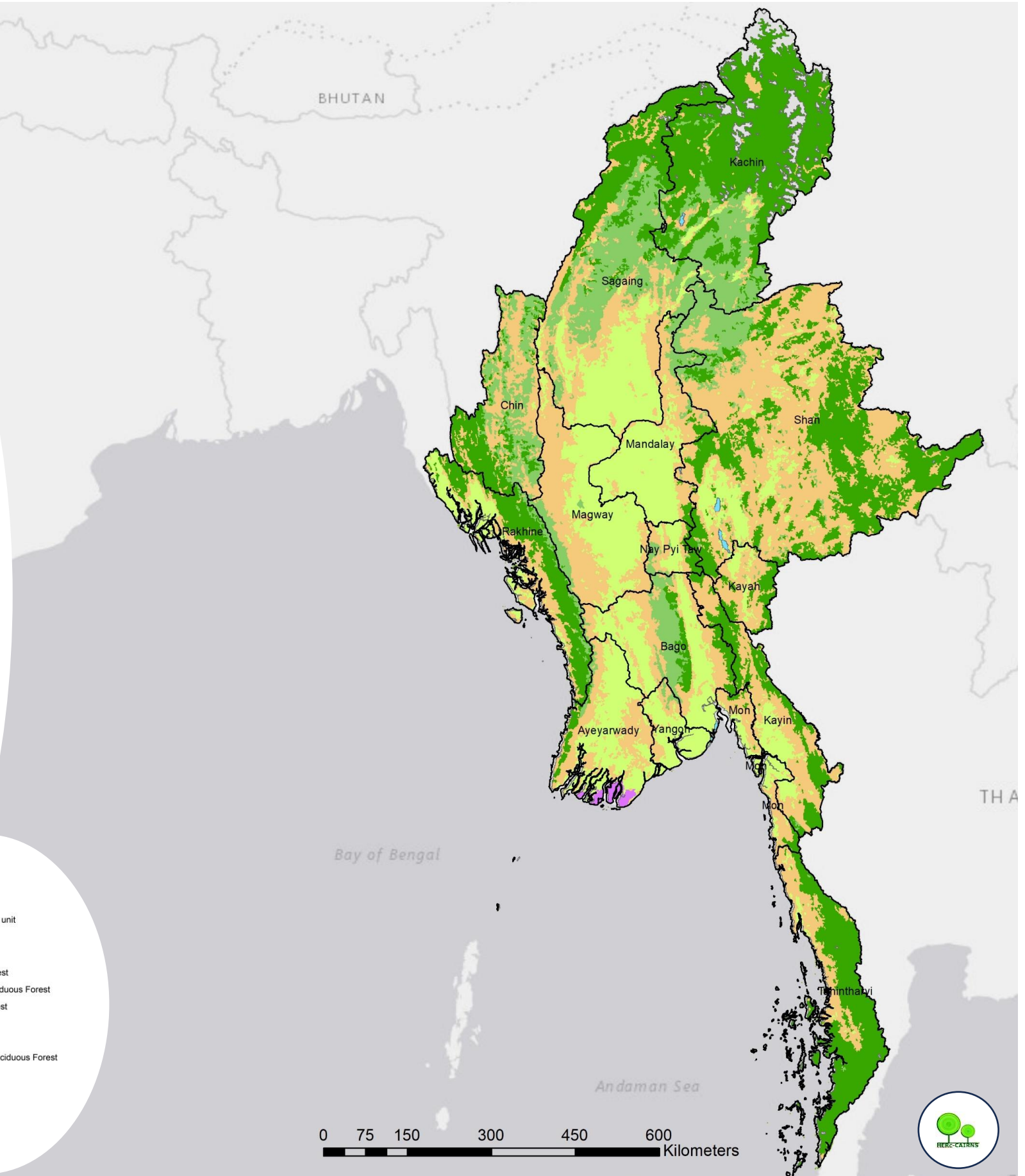
During 2000–2020, the area of forest in Myanmar has shrunk of -0.36%, and the area of other land types has expanded. Among them, deciduous broad-leaved forest and evergreen broad-leaved forest showed a decreasing trend. Cropland (+0.26%), wetlands and water bodies (+0.85%), and impervious surfaces (+0.91%) all showed a trend of area expansion with the most expanded area being shrubland (+1.00%) and the least expanded area is grassland (+1.19%)

In terms of the spatial distribution of land use dynamic degree, the main changes in the first ten years (2000–2010) occurred in the central region, while in the next ten years the changes were most concentrated in the western and southern regions, and then in the eastern region

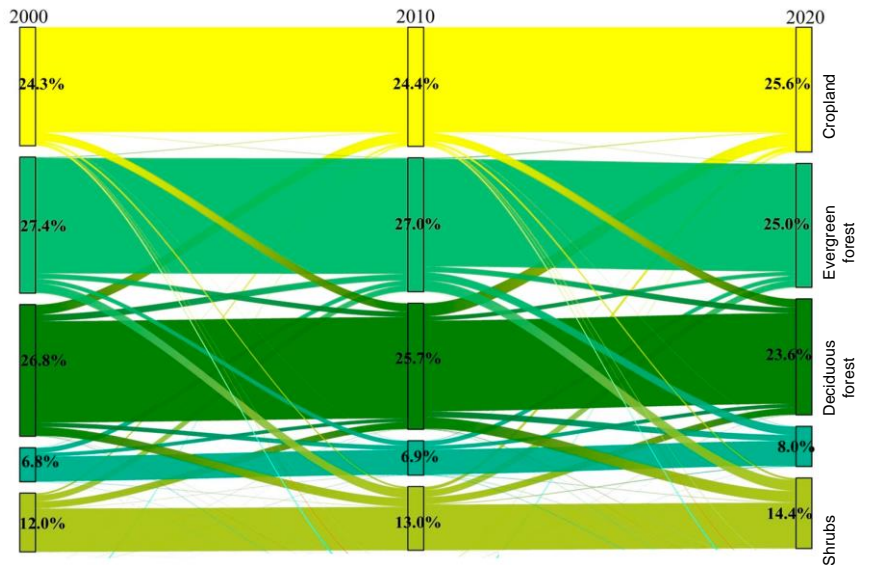
Studies (ref. <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/20/3/2409>) have shown that 60% of the changes is related to direct human activities, and approximately the remaining 40% is indirectly related to climate change. Among the factors that have a more pronounced impact are GDP, population, and urbanization rates

Infrastructure development and logging for commercial purposes have had a significant impact on the country's forest resources. Since the 1990s, the Myanmar government has promulgated laws and regulations such as "Standards and Indicators for Sustainable Forestry Management", "Forest Law of the Union of Myanmar", "Forestry Regulations of the Union of Myanmar", "Regulations for the Implementation of National Forest Logging" and from April 1 in 2014, a total ban on the export of logs

Laws and regulations can be effective to achieve sustainable development only in combination with improved conditions for livelihoods, farmers and establishing a sustainable forest industry chain. Untap the potential of the local value chains and combine them with a modern forest industry with scientific afforestation, nurturing, logging and high value-added forest products is still a challenge in Myanmar land management



Land area change between different main types 2000 to 2020



- Legend**
- Administrative unit
 - Landcover**
 - Agriculture
 - Deciduous Forest
 - Dry Mixed Deciduous Forest
 - Evergreen Forest
 - Forest
 - Mangrove
 - Moist Mixed Deciduous Forest
 - No data
 - Shrubland
 - Waterbody

Disclaimer

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