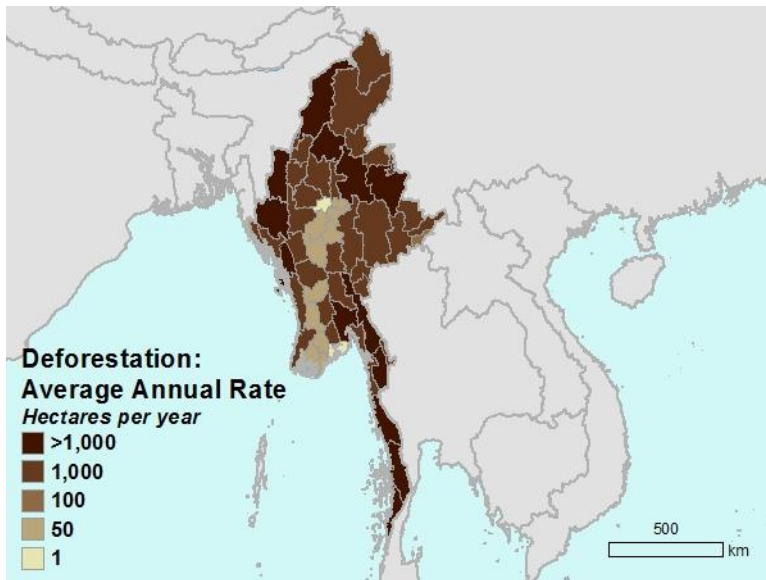


Myanmar



relatively coarse MODIS data

National deforestation estimates in percent per year and agricultural statistics are from FAO (2010).

Mapped sub-national estimates of the Deforestation Indicator in hectares are indicative only, given the resolution of the data source, and are from CI (2011), derived from the MODIS percent tree-cover change product for 2000 to 2005 (Hansen, et al 2009).

Deforestation¹

Forest area (2010): **48%**

Primary forest area (2010): **4.9%**

1990-2000: **-1.17 %y⁻¹**

2000-2005: **-0.90 %y⁻¹**

2005-2010: **-0.95 %y⁻¹**

Agriculture²

Agriculture as % of GDP (2010): **n.d.**

Agricultural land (2010): **19%**

Top 3 commodities, by footprint (2010):

Soybeans: 23.3m ha

Maize: 12.8m ha

Sugar cane: 9.1m ha

Employment in agriculture (2010): **n.d.**

*Rates at sub-national level are for indicative purposes only given use of

Sub-national Region	Hectares per Year (indicative)
Kawkareik	2,583
Hpa-an	2,447
Kawthoung	2,386
Dawei	2,384
Lasho	2,257

Context

Political Context

Myanmar has experienced civil war since 1948, and internal conflicts between several factions and the government continues to affect the socio-economic and environmental situation of the country.³ This ongoing strife has also negatively affected forest resources⁴. To mitigate diminishing forest cover, Myanmar's government has established a system of protected areas, prohibiting commercial or agricultural activities that lead to deforestation⁵. In 1995, the government issued the Community Forest Instruction (CFI) and in 2001⁶, the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (then Ministry of Forestry) issued the Forestry Master Plan for 2001–31. While Myanmar supports sustainable forestry management through many environmental laws and regulations, forests continue to be increasingly subject to depletion and degradation⁷.

Socio-economic Context

The total population of Myanmar is estimated at 55 million people, 25% in poverty. The country is considered the least developed country in Southeast Asia.⁸ Myanmar's rural population is around 65% of the total and most depend strongly on forest sources for livelihoods. The country's agricultural sector employs 64% of the labor force and is responsible for 48% of the GDP. Further encouraging forest clearing is Myanmar's timber industry, which has been a major component of the country's economy since 1990⁹.

Deforestation Drivers

Myanmar boasts the highest proportion of forest cover in mainland Southeast Asia and almost half of the country's territory is covered by forested land. The country's primary forest is considered to contain the most biodiversity in the Indo-Pacific region.¹⁰ The rate of deforestation, however, is one of the highest in the world¹¹. Myanmar's total forest area in 2010 was 31.7 million hectares but was destroyed at a rate of 310,000 hectares per year between 2005 and 2010¹². Main drivers of deforestation in Myanmar are agricultural conversion, fuel wood and charcoal consumption, and commercial logging. Additionally, population growth and high resource demand from neighboring countries, international demand for forest products for energy use and agricultural commodity exports have been contributors¹³. Myanmar holds 80% of the world's teak reserves as well, piquing international economic interest. At the local level, some of the highest rates of deforestation are occurring in the Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary¹⁴, the Popa Mountain Park, Central Myanmar¹⁵, and in the Bago Mountain area¹⁶.

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