

# 2019 KESAN Annual Report

Empowering Communities to Protect the Environment,  
while Securing their Lands, Livelihoods and Peace

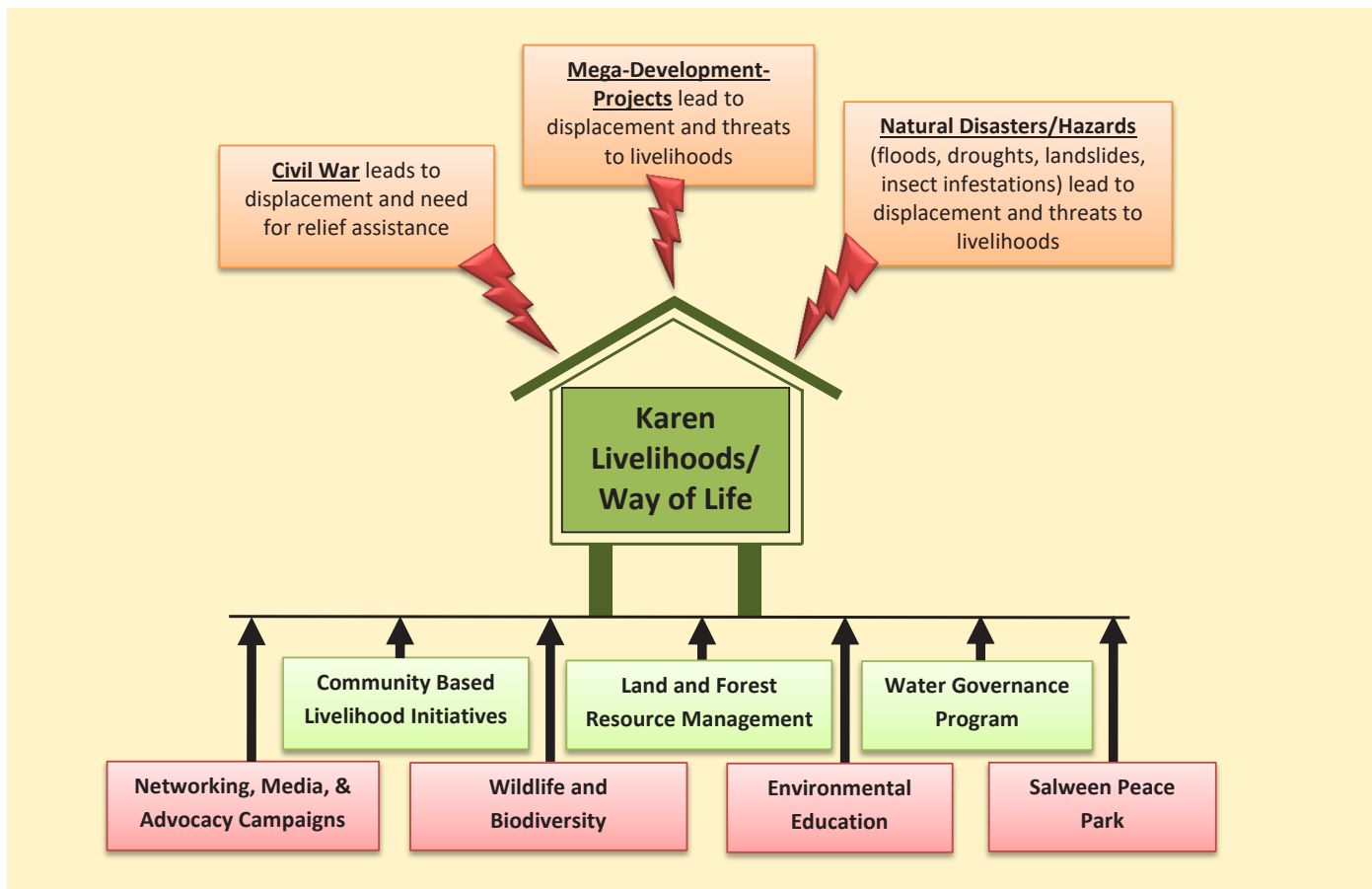


K E S A N

Karen Environmental & Social Action Network



**KESAN** is a community-based, non-governmental, non-profit organization that works to improve livelihood security and to gain respect for indigenous peoples’ knowledge and rights in Karen State, Burma, where the violence and inequities of over 60 years of civil war have created one of the most impoverished regions in the world. KESAN’s approach is based on the principles of democratization-from-below and “Free, Prior and Informed Consent” to support the development of sustainable rural livelihoods. We survey, carry out capacity building and facilitate dialogue to mobilize and empower local communities, leaders, organizations and policy makers who can then make better informed development decisions.



**Our mission is fourfold:**

- To assist in securing access to lands, water, forests, and the agricultural biodiversity that is the basis of Karen people’s lives;
- To support improved livelihood capabilities and resilience for displaced and local communities;
- To strengthen and inform civil society networks that advocate for good environmental governance;
- To advocate for local, state and national policies and practices that safeguard the environment and the rights of local people while protecting against unsustainable and harmful development.

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# Overview

During 2019, KESAN and Karen communities faced a number of challenges, especially due to the continuation of armed conflicts in Northern Karen State. Despite the formidable obstacles, each of KESAN's programs was able to achieve a large number of significant achievements during the past year. As this year was the third and final year of KESAN's 2017-2019 Strategic Plan, we are pleased that we have reached nearly all of our 3-year goals and objectives.

This year, KESAN has opted to use a more condensed Annual Report format after receiving feedback that our former layout was too detailed and lengthy for the readers to go through. With this new format, we will not be omitting any of our work or activities, but will not provide details for each activity like we had done in the past. However, we still maintain detailed records and reports for all of our activities for our own internal monitoring systems and are happy to share more information based upon requests we receive.

Following a summary of the major 2019 contextual changes, the rest of this report will provide information about the activities that were implemented during 2019 under each of KESAN's seven programmes- with case studies highlighting some of the most successful interventions- followed by a summary of KESAN's organizational development in 2019 and then looking ahead to 2020.



Photo - Saw Mort

Community Forest Committee members identifying species in the Lor Mu Doh CF, Taw Oo District



# 2019 Major Changes in Context

During 2019 there were a number of events that have either directly or indirectly impacted on KESAN's work.

After four years of being in office, the NLD's political promises have faded away, as we see an increase in restrictions of freedom of speech and organizing, along with the use of repressive laws to sue or jail political, social and environmental activists and journalists. Meanwhile, more farmers are losing their lands and being put in jail for trying to keep their lands, the peace negotiation process has stalled, and the armed conflict has intensified in the Western and Northeastern regions of the country. The continual awful treatment of Rohingya by the Burmese government has continued to be both a humanitarian crisis and a threat to the country's political transition.

Looking ahead, we see that Burma's political transition can take many paths. NLD won a landslide victory in the 2015 general election. This gave the NLD the majority of seats in parliament, the power to change or adopt new laws to improve or relax any restrictive laws and policies, the means to introduce a wide number of reforms (except laws and policies related to defense, border and home affairs, which are controlled by the Tatmadaw under the military adopted 2008 Constitution). At that time, the whole country looked to the new civilian NLD government to bring great improvements to the country.

Politically, there have not been any significant changes taking place during Burma's transition. The NLD government attempted to change the military-dominated 2008 Constitution and reduce the role of the military by bringing it under civilian control, decentralizing powers and control of resources, and recognizing equal rights for ethnic communities in the country through a federal system. However, as expected, these changes have not been achieved.

The formal peace negotiation process was suspended during 2019 and was not resumed until the end of the year. Trust between NCA signatories and government continue to be the key challenge as the Tatmadaw conducts military offensives and uses the NCA as a tool to increase its military presence through road construction, expansion of military outposts and increasing the Central Government's administrative office in EAO's strongholds. This has led to an increase of military tensions, especially in Karen State, where the Tatmadaw's aggressive road construction has led increased tensions between the KNU and the Tatmadaw's frontline troops.

The Tatmadaw continued to commit serious human rights violations, including war crimes, in Rakhine, Shan and Kachin States. In 2019, the numbers of IDPs increased, including 106,183 IDPs in Kachin and northern Shan States [\[1\]](#). The actual numbers of IDPs in Rakhine State is unknown, but it is estimated that due to the intensified conflict between Tatmadaw and Arakan Army (AA), there are 715,000 people with urgent needs, including 128,000 IDPs living in fear [\[2\]](#). The Tatmadaw reinforced its troops to implement military road construction in Karen State which led to hundreds of Karen villagers have fleeing their villages, and resulting in a total of about 10,000 Karen IDPs now in hiding [\[3\]](#). The cutting-off of the internet in Rakhine and Chin States has helped the Tatmadaw to hide ongoing human rights violations and crimes against ethnic civilians in conflict areas.

2019 was a dangerous year for many civil society organizations, political activists, journalists, right activists, and many other individuals involving in promoting social and environmental rights. The authorities used repressive laws- especially Section 66(b) of the Telecommunications Law and Section 505 of the Penal Code- to sue and jail environmental and human rights activists [\[4\]](#). Section 66(b) has been used against online critics, and Section 505 has been used to bring charges against anyone involved

with unauthorized public events, without allowing for pretrial release on bail for the person charged. During 2019, we witnessed government and military authorities repeatedly using these repressive laws to charge and jail many rights activists and journalists for merely expressing their opinions or helping farmers to protect their land from being grabbed. Meanwhile, a large number of news agencies are being harassed and threatened by local police, and several civil society organizations are being closely watched.

In summary, Burma's political transition has not been moving forward in a positive way. The next general election is planned for November 2020, and because government will be busy preparing for it, it most likely will not use any of the remaining time to address the issues mentioned above.

In Karen State, since the KNU signed a ceasefire agreement in 2012, we have seen many development projects begin, including the construction of Asian Highway and a new bridge connecting Burma and Thailand, the establishment of special economic zones, large scale mining projects and other destructive development projects. However, in 2019, we saw a new trend of development projects that was not what most people expected. These new projects included the creation of new cities, especially Shwe Ko Ko Town, with housing for Chinese persons, as well many casinos that are run by Chinese tycoons. This has led to an influx of Chinese workers and gamblers, which has created social problems for Karen communities.

Armed clashes returned to parts of Taw Oo and Mutraw Districts during 2019, when the Burma Army road expansion continued deeper into KNU territory. In 2018, these activities had resulted in several skirmishes with the KNLA, leading to the displacement of 3,088 civilians in the period between March and May. The road project was ultimately halted on 17 May 2018 following a meeting between the KNU chairman and the Tatmadaw chief. However, the project resumed again in late 2018, and in the first half of 2019 alone, locals documented at least 20 clashes between the Tatmadaw and Karen forces. The building of these further extensions to the Tatmadaw's road networks, will dispossess the Karen of their ancestral lands and intensify conflicts.

During the road expansion, artillery shells fell on fields and villages, killing livestock and injuring locals. Also, because of the road construction, farms faced water problems, since the road and bridges destroyed irrigation ditches that villagers used for watering, ploughing, and planting. Finally, due to fears of being harassed or attacked by the Tatmadaw, villagers are afraid to move around for regular activities like farming, hunting, fishing, and foraging for vegetables.

Although the Tatmadaw has maintained that their goal is regional development, local community members understand that their actual goal is to resupply and reinforce the Tatmadaw bases, strengthen military communications, and launch more rapid offensives and patrols. Moreover, the local people have explained that these roads act as barriers restricting people's movements, such as villagers accessing their farms, medics delivering health care, aid workers bringing food, and children going to school. Lastly, the military control of a road-widening project through ethnic Karen territory in Myanmar's southeast is in breach of the country's ceasefire agreement.

In response to the Burma Army aggressions more than a thousand villagers gathered together in Ler Mu Htu Hta Area and Pla Koh Hta Areas to demonstrate their opposition to the Burma Army road expansions near their village lands. The communities gathered out in the open where the Burma Army could see them and chanted slogans telling the Burma Army to withdraw their camps and halt the expansion/improvement of the road, and afterwards, the demonstrators release a statement. providing the reasons for their actions.

[1] <https://reliefweb.int/map/myanmar/myanmar-idp-sites-kachin-state-30-september-2019>

[2] [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2019%20Myanmar%20HNO\\_FINAL.PDF](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2019%20Myanmar%20HNO_FINAL.PDF)

[3] [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2019%20Myanmar%20HNO\\_FINAL.PDF](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2019%20Myanmar%20HNO_FINAL.PDF)

[4] <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/04/26/myanmar-surge-arrests-critical-speech>

# Community Based Livelihood Initiatives Program

KESAN's Community Based Livelihoods Initiatives (CBLI) Program assists conflict-affected communities in Karen State to rehabilitate and restore their livelihoods and improve local food security based on sustainable agricultural practices and development of local livelihood opportunities. The CBLI program staff includes a project coordinator, assistant project coordinator and field staff as well as local staff in project areas. To carry out the projects, we work closely together with cluster leaders, villagers and local leaders. The CBLI program's approach is to, first and foremost, respond to community needs, then ensure that community members take the lead during project planning, implementation and monitoring in order to foster a sense of community ownership of projects and make the CBLI interventions more sustainable. The livelihoods and food security of Karen communities were strengthened during 2019 due to a number of CBLI interventions, including irrigation canal construction, organic gardens, upland farming, and support for upland farming and rice banks. The Mo Po Mo Women's Group also provided an opportunity for local women to plan and implement projects to increase food security while utilizing local resources. Besides these interventions, villagers' health and well-being were improved with the installation of water supply systems.

## Key Outcomes:

- Increasing access to water and improving food security: in 2019 KESAN directly supported **3 upland farm support** projects, **8 irrigation canal restoration** projects, **3 animal husbandry** projects, and **2 mini-hydro** projects. These water and food security projects directly benefited 2,773 community members (1,235F: 1,538M).
- KESAN organized an **exposure trip** for 131 Karen farmers (43F: 88M) so they could exchange knowledge on sustainable agriculture and disaster preparedness.
- KESAN supported 4 local communities as they constructed **4 gravity flow water systems** and **2 toilet installation** projects to improve community Water Access Sanitation and Health (WASH). The WASH projects benefited 3,032 persons (1,494F: 1,538M).

## CBLI Activities completed during 2019

### Livelihood Activities

- 275 farmers in 3 communities were provided with **Upland Farming Tools and Technical Support**, including trainings on intercropping, disaster risk reduction and forming project committees, and eventually leading to the establishment of Rice Banks.
- **8 Irrigation Canals** were restored to increase food security in areas that used to contain the most productive lowland wet paddy rice farms, but they had been abandoned or destroyed due to the fighting with the Burma Army.
- The **Rice Bank Network/Association** strengthened its administrative capacities to support 21 rice banks in Mutraw District. A Management Committee (5 Officers, 21 community reps, 4 Advisors) adopted membership rules and regulations; while participating in financial trainings, sustainable livelihoods workshops, exposure trips, irrigation canal technical support, and seed sharing activities.



Ler Dah villagers construct the foundation for a Mini-hydro water wheel



- **Water Buffaloes raising** was supported in 3 communities, which included grants for the purchase of the animals, support for medicines, and trainings about veterinary care.
- **2 Mini-hydropower Systems** were installed to improve water management systems as well as to meet the basic electricity needs in target communities.

### Water Access Sanitation and Health

- **Gravity Flow Water Systems** were constructed and community-based management teams were established in 4 communities, in order to improve water quantity and quality for washing, cleaning, cooking and watering household gardens.
- **Latrines** were constructed and sanitation trainings were provided in 2 communities.

### Women's Empowerment

- The **Mo Po Mu Women's Group** was established in the Ei Tu Hta IDP Camp, after which they conducted a local marketing trainings and assessment. This assessment then led the **Mo Po Mu** Group to implement a Banana Chip production project (see Case Study below for details).



Ei Htu Ta water supply system installation



Rebuilt paddies after irrigation canall restoration following 2018 flood assistance in Yer Mu Plaw

### Case Study: Mo Po Mu Banana Chips

Located along the Salween River, Ei Tu Hta IDP has been an important refuge for Karen IDPs since its establishment in 2006. Unfortunately, life for the IDPs in Ei Tu Hta became more difficult after 2017, as explained by Naw Pree Htoo, who has lived there since 2012, "Here in Ei Tu Hta we used to get support from other NGOs, but sadly they stopped supporting us so we had a problem with getting enough rice. We had to find rice for ourselves, but there was no work to earn money."

At this time, opportunities for women were especially limited and during consultation meetings in Ei Tu Hta, IDPs expressed that they wanted to create jobs especially for women and began brainstorming about jobs that could be done locally. One suggestion was to produce banana chips, because bananas are plentiful in local gardens and the children always enjoy eating banana chips. However, since no one knew how to make them, the shops had to order them from Thailand. So, a decision was made during that consultation to form the *Mo Po Mu* [Mommy's Daughters] Women's Group, in order to empower women and to create jobs for women to produce, package and sell banana chips.

The women attended a training facilitated by Thai-Karen women who have been producing banana chips and other snacks for several years. Once they completed the training and obtained the materials needed for production, the women of *Mo Po Mu* were ready to start making banana chips themselves. The women involved with the production, as well as community members are very excited to produce the snack locally. Reflecting on their sales, Naw Pree Htoo said, "Even though we don't get a lot of money we are still pleased because we get to organize it ourselves. We believe the work will increase as we get more friends to support us."

Ei Htu Hta community members are excited to support a local business and many are drawn to this particular brand because of the charming name and the concept behind it. Although *Mo Po Mu* directly translates to "Mommy's Daughters" the phrase in Karen evokes a vision of women helping women and it is this powerful idea that has made *Mo Po Mu* banana chips such a success. Local women have benefitted by becoming more confident in their management skills and have branched out to also work to manage Ei Tu Hta's organic garden project and participate in village sports teams. The project has strengthened their sense of community and has also brought benefits to local shop owners and the farmers growing bananas.



# Land and Forest Resource Management Program

KESAN's Land and Forest Management Program empowers local community members to secure land rights, as well as effectively and sustainably manage their lands and natural resources across all seven districts of Kawthoolei in accordance with the Kawthoolei Land and Forest Policies. In 2019, this program continued to focus on land and natural resource management in collaboration with the Karen Agriculture Department (KAD) and Karen Forestry Department (KFD). This work has empowered local community members to demarcate lands, secure land rights and to effectively and sustainably manage their lands and natural resources.

Another exciting development for Land and Forest Governance work during 2019 has been the demarcation and governance strengthening of Indigenous territories in the Karen communities of Southern and Northern Kawthoolei (*Paw Klo Landscape Conservation Area* in Mergui-Tavoy District and *Thawthi Taw Oo Indigenous Park* in Taw Oo District). Linkages between the SPP and these communities have yielded benefits for both groups as they try to move forward for formal recognition under whatever formats are available, including *kaws* and Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs). The visions of both of these territories are for the Indigenous communities there to live harmoniously with nature, enjoy secure and sustainable livelihoods, maintain freedom to practice their traditions and culture, gain full realization of their customary land and natural resources governance rights, and work towards community-driven sustainable development.

*Kaw* (Karen customary lands) governance mechanisms and registration procedures continued to be developed by the KNU Central Land Committee through support for 2 pilot *Kaw* registrations. Besides the formal recognition and registration procedures mentioned above, Community Forest Committees continued to be strengthened through a number of trainings, so they could more effectively administer and conserve their forest resources. The Land and Forest Resource Management Program has also facilitated community members' inputs into the drafting of inclusive and just KNU Land and Forest Policies, and has been working to ensure that community members are aware of these policies and their rights under them. Finally, there were two memorable and productive gatherings during 2019 to share information and experiences about locally managed land and natural resource management experiences and to plan for future work: the *Kaw* Customary Lands Seminar and the Kawthoolei Community Forest Forum.

## Key Outcomes:

Activity	Location	Amount	Total Area (acres)	Beneficiaries		
				Female	Male	Total
Household Land Demarcation and Titling	Dooplaya, Doo The Htoo, Hpaan, Mutraw, Taw Oo	7,564	43,006	3,001	4,543	7,564
<i>Kaw</i> Demarcation	Butho + Luthaw T, Mutraw	44	150,905	5,218	5,042	10,260
<i>Kaw</i> Land Use Zoning/ PRA	Dwelo + Luthaw T, Mutraw	16	75,019	2,267	2,172	4,439
Reserved Forest Land Use Survey and Demarcation	Chaung Ma Ngyi RF	46	199.8	8	38	46



First Community Forest Forum, Dooplaya District



## Land and Forest Resource Management completed activities during 2019

### *Land Protection activities (not including the demarcation and registration activities listed in the above table)*

- The first ***Thawthi Taw Oo Indigenous Park consultative workshop*** was conducted in September, resulting in the establishment of a 29-person Steering Committee (local leaders, community members, and CSO representatives) to oversee and coordinate the ongoing work to establish and administer the Thawthi Taw Oo Indigenous Park.
- ***Kaw Application Workshop and Policy Dialogues*** were held among KNU representatives and Karen CSOs. During the workshop the *Kaw* Application process, land survey/demarcation processes and the issuance of *Kaw* Certificates were discussed.
- The ***Kaw Registration Pilot*** was completed in the Mae La Ah Kee Kaw, the final of 2 *kaws* identified to complete the steps needed to register their *kaw* with the KNU.
- Technical and financial support was provided to the ***Kawthoolei Land Data Management Office*** for the compilation of all KNU recognized land and forest titles, and the printing of land and forest certificates.
- An ***Online Land Data Management Capacity Training*** was held at the Land Data Management Center in September to further skills needed for staff to upload data online safely and organize the storage of the land data.

### *Forest Protection and Reforestation Activities*

The ***Kaw Customary Land Seminar (KCLS)*** was successfully convened during May. Participants included 519 representatives from 56 organizations and communities. This event allowed for a wide range of presentations and discussions – both during formal Q and A sessions as well as during breaks from the formal agenda sessions and at night in the shared accommodations. Over the course of the two days, there were also a number of side meetings between community members, CSOs, and KNU officials, which allowed for an open sharing of concerns and updates of the current situation from each side's perspective participated in this seminar.

In July, the ***Kawthoolei Community Forest Forum*** was held at Hpa-an District for 244 community forest committee members (33W: 211M) from all 7 districts of Kawthoolei, as well as other KFD township, district and central level, CBOs/CSOs and INGOs representatives. Participants reviewed the history of community forests and revisited the existing CF policy, communities' rules and regulations, local forestry management and governance systems, and indicative measures to the success of CFs in Kawthoolei.

- A ***Community Forest Committee Capacity Building and CF Manual Workshop*** was conducted among 72 KFD, CF Committee members, and local CSOs to review the progress made in community forests and to plan for the creation of a community forest manual.



Tree Planting Day in the Salween Peace Park



Paw Ghi Khee village land use mapping

- **7 Community Forest Awareness Raising and Capacity Building Workshops** were completed in Taw Oo and Dooplaya Districts among KFD and community representatives to raise awareness of basic environmental issues and discuss the situation in the local areas, as well as explaining the concepts of community, forests and community forests before focusing on impacts and causes of deforestation, and benefits of healthy forest.
- **16 Forest/Natural Resource Management signboards** were erected in public areas for villagers to learn and review about different forest/ natural resource issues that directly affect their lives
- A **Tree Nursery** was established in Hpa-An District to provide trees for community members and KFD staff to plant in the surrounding forests.
- The demarcation of **Chaung Ma Ngyi Reserved Forest** and 61 plots of local community members' gardens, orchards and plantations within the reserved forest were completed.
- **Community Forest Progress Review Case Study and Reflection Activities** were conducted.
- KESAN supported 3 Indigenous Land Rights experts to **review the Kawthoolei Forest Policy**, identify points for harmonization with other existing Karen National Union policies and to incorporate contemporary approaches to forest management and conservation.

### Paw Klo Landscape Conservation Area Activities

In Paw Klo (Mergui-Tavoy District), the communities have strengthened their landscape management capacities through active participation in forest management and environmental awareness raising trainings and have been working together to carry out conservation and land protection activities.

- **17 village meetings** were held to coordinate conservation and land protection activities, share information about land issues and the political situation, clarify community boundaries and raise awareness about Kaw revitalization and boundary demarcation.
- **GPS Capacity Building and Community Forest Committee Capacity Building Trainings** were conducted during February and August in Paw Klo communities.
- The **Paw Klo: Indigenous Karen Peoples' Livelihoods and Land Rights Movement Documentary** was launched to inspire communities, raise public awareness of community landscape management activities and mobilize the communities.
- **Boundary Walks and Conflict Resolution** were conducted in 5 communities. Groups of participants walked along the boundary of their village's customary lands according to their traditional knowledge while GPS waypoints were recorded.
- **Demarcation** of Paw Klo Landscape Areas/Village Lands/Land-Use Zone Boundaries were conducted in Paw Klo Villages.
- **Land Protection and Land Use Management Meetings** were held with key community members during February.



GPS/GIS training in the Paw Klo LA



Checking traditional boundary markings in Htoo Ler Village, Paw Klo



# Water Governance

KESAN has developed and designed a learning process that empowers Salween communities to have a greater voice in the water governance of the Salween River Basin. During 2019, the Water Governance Program has increased community members' knowledge of resource management and the impact of large-scale development projects. The community members have also gained a more comprehensive understanding of the concepts and best practices of sustainable development, community-centered development, renewable energy and community-led research.

Water Governance staff have developed strong relationships with local communities, often bringing different communities together to support stronger networks, collective action and knowledge sharing for common struggles. KESAN staff were also frequently contacted by donors, INGOs, foreign researchers, journalists, local CSOs and other local communities facing threats to their livelihoods and environment during the course of 2019.

To promote a different energy development paradigm, alternative energy surveys were piloted and followed up with in target communities. Once again, the annual International Day of Action for Rivers and Against Dams Event successfully brought together communities from around the Hatgyi Dam and Ei Tu Hta to express their opposition to dams on the Salween River.

## Key Outcomes:

- A total of 3 **community capacity building trainings**, 3 **governance strengthening trainings**, 2 **awareness raisings trainings**, a **Daw Lar Lake (DLL) Community Forum**, and **lake resource management research** in 5 locations were held to support communities in their advocacy to promote **community-based water governance** of DLL and halt destructive development projects in the local area.
- The **International Day of Action for Rivers and Against Dams Event** was a success as it brought together 300 community representatives and activists from all 14 states and regions in Burma to express their opposition to dams on the Salween River and other rivers in Burma.
- KESAN participated in 3 **river network events** and 2 **forums** to advocate for **community based water and energy governance** regionally and internationally. KESAN established important network connections to other organizations working on river and dam issues throughout ASEAN.
- KESAN staff participated in **energy advocacy activities with Tanintharyi Parliament**

## Water Governance activities during 2020

### Community Based Water Governance

- 3 **Daw Lar Lake Community Based Water Governance (CBWG) Process Capacity Building Trainings and Workshops** were conducted among 74 community members about Capacity Building for CLFs and DLL Management Committee, Environmental Mapping and Biodiversity, and Environmental Legal Training.
- The **Daw Lar Lake Governance System** was strengthened during forums covering a wide range of topics including Myanmar laws strengths and weaknesses from Indigenous Karen perspectives,



Villager discussing about the consequence of digging ponds beside Daw Lar Lake

collective conservation concepts, and challenges/opportunities for policy change.

- 2 **Daw Lar Lake Community Awareness Raising Workshops** were organized among 210 participants that focused on the importance of natural resources in young people and women's lives.
- The **Fourth Dar Law Lake Community Forum** was held in May, with participants from the local community, the Daw Lar Lake Management Committee, CSOs and members of the Environmental Conservation Department and Department of Mines. A public dialogue was organized to discuss the progress of the CBWG process, the creation of an environmental management plan and future work plans.
- Work continued about the **Daw Lar Lake Registration Process** and **Land Use Research**.

### Energy Advocacy

- In November, KESAN and local CSO staff **met with Tanintharyi Members of Parliament** to discuss energy issues, proposed dams in Tanintharyi and energy alternatives such as mini-hydros, solar power and wind power. The meeting was to encourage the MPs to get a better understanding of **decentralized alternative energy** as the region develops its energy policy.
- Representatives of KESAN participated in the **Decentralized Renewable Energy Capacity Building training** in Shan State during December to strengthen their partnership with other energy watch groups and gained awareness about mini-grid implementation.

### River Network Activities

- The Annual **International Day Of Action For Rivers Event** brought together attendees from all 14 states and regions to oppose the large hydropower projects.
- KESAN participated in the **Save the Salween Network's Workshop** in Yangon during September to discuss the Myanmar Government's energy plan and the connections between hydropower and the peace process.
- At the **Save the Salween Network Campaign Strategy Training** held in Yangon during November, attendees discussed different environmental issues on the Salween River, conducted a stakeholder/decision-maker analysis and learned more about

different river protection campaign strategies from Southeast Asia.

- During the **River Watch Network Capacity Building and Coordination Training** held during December in Thandaung Gyi, 25 participants shared about their strategies, river issues and the status of different hydropower projects that will impact the area. They then held a campaign strategy session to select different elements of campaign strategies for their specific situation.

### Regional and International Advocacy and Networking

- KESAN's CBWG Coordinator and Mining Researcher attended the **International Women and Rivers Congress** in Nepal during March, where they shared and listened to different women working to protect community access to water resources. The participants came away with a better understanding of development issues related to rivers and feminism.
- KESAN's CBWG program created an **Exhibition on Environmental and Water Governance** with a photo exhibition about livelihoods, customary governance, resource management and Indigenous ecological knowledge related to the Salween River for Human Rights Day in Doo The Htoo Township.
- The **WWF-Vietnam CSO Partners Forum** was attended by one KESAN staff in order to learn about the energy advocacy in the Mekong Subregion, as well as how communities and CSOs in Vietnam implement decentralized energy projects.
- Two KESAN staff attended **TROSA's Annual Learning Forum** in New Delhi, India during August. The forum was an exchange between TROSA partners to share their successes and the processes they use for river protection and advocacy. KESAN shared about the CBWG process, CSO Energy Forum and about cross-basin collaborations with the gathered participants.



International Day of Action for Rivers along the Salween River on 14 March



# Environmental Education Program

KESAN's Environmental Education Program (KEEP) encourages informed participation in locally initiated environmental protection and adaptation measures, promotes and preserves Indigenous knowledge, and raises awareness of the environmental threats faced by Karen communities. The Environmental Education program develops and provides environmental education services and materials to raise awareness among youth, IDPs, villagers, community leaders and CBOs both inside Karen State and along the Thai-Burma border. This program aims to engage and empower local communities so they can effectively help protect, manage and conserve their environmental resources. During 2019, KEEP conducted outreach trainings and a youth exchange program, facilitated the development of an environmental education curriculum and vocational training program, and produced awareness raising materials.

## Key Outcomes:

- KEEP facilitated **6 environmental outreach trainings and presentations** attended by a total of 319 participants (99F: 220M).
- KEEP facilitated a **TOT workshop** for 60 educators (28F: 32M) about the **Environmental Subjects Curriculum** for Karen schools.
- A total of 53 students participated in the pilot of the **The Nue Chet Lah Cultural School vocational training program**.

## KEEP activities during 2019:

**Environmental Outreach Trainings and Presentations** were conducted multiple times providing information about a wide range of key environmental concepts such as basic understanding of the environment, global environmental crises, climate change, natural resources management and Indigenous Peoples rights. These included:

- A 7-day environmental training was conducted for **Youth Empowerment Program (YEP)** students in Mergui-Tavoy District during September- October.
- A 5-day basic environment training was given to 120 members of the **Young Men's Group** in July.
- A 2-day training was conducted for 23 multi-ethnic members of the **Myanmar Mining Network** during August at the Mae Tao Clinic in Mae Sot, Thailand.
- The **KSNG Environmental Outreach and Capacity Building Training** was held in August at in Mae Sot, Thailand for 19 participants.
- A one-day **Environmental Awareness Training** was organized during December at the Hto Lwe Wah Public High School in Taw Oo District for 81 students and youth.

- **Khershorter Environmental Outreach Trainings** were conducted with a women-led, community-based research team working in the Khershorter Community Forest communities during December in order to review past research activities (including orchid and mushroom research projects), update of current research innovations, and plan for future research topics.

## Other outreach activities

- Following the alarming changes to local water sources following a cement factory's recent switch from natural gas to coal power, two KESAN staff traveled to Hpa-An to conduct interviews and



KESAN Environmental Education conducting a Forest Walk with Youth Empowerment Program students



Ther Nue Chet La Cultural School's Committee Chair presenting about the vocational training program



Meeting with KECD's leaders for Cultural Curriculum Development

prepare an **environmental training on the impacts of coal pollution and freshwater ecosystems.**

- A three-day **Environmental Education TOT Training** was conducted in May for 60 KECD teachers. The training was part of the capacity building and professional development for KECD's TOTs and subject teachers.
- A three-day **Environmental and Cultural Knowledge Exchange Camp** program was co-organized by the Salween Peace Park Committee and KESAN at the SPP's Indigenous Eco-Learning Center in October 2019.

### **Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Curriculum Development**

- 2 consultations were conducted in April and November to develop and draft a **Cultural Curriculum**, with 13 community researchers taking the lead to collect data for the 13 learning areas that will be part of the Cultural Curriculum development.
- **Indigenous Karen knowledge and cultural preservation** was promoted among Karen youth through a Vocational Trainings at the The Nue Chet Lah Cultural School. (See Case Study box below for more details)

### **Case Study: The The Nue Chet Lah Cultural School**

The *The Nue Chet Lah Cultural School* in Luthaw Township, Mutraw District, is unique among all schools throughout Kawthoolei in its emphasis on teaching Indigenous Karen traditions and culture. The school has been open since 1991, and it aims to preserve and promote Karen traditional cultures and ways of life through its vocational training program.

A culture-based vocational training program, formally set up in 2018, holds classes on Saturdays for older students, teachers, and community leaders to mentor and learn from one another. Topics covered in the vocational training program include traditional handicrafts, customary tools, and household objects.

Naw Lay Lah Wah, a vocational trainer, believes that, "revitalizing our culture, traditional skills and practices has been very satisfying...our ancestors in the past could forge a knife, machete or weed cutter, could make bamboo strips, weave bamboo baskets and hats in order to carry out their livelihood activities each season. I think practicing these skills on a seasonal basis is crucial to preserving them".

Another critical component of traditional and cultural preservation is experiential learning where students at the *The Nue Chet Lah Cultural School* gain traditional knowledge by participating in livelihood activities (e.g. collective labor for sowing and harvesting crops) and environmental activities such as fish conservation, walking *Kaw* (Customary Land) boundaries, and monitoring community forests.

Saw Tha Hei, a male vocational student, reflected "I've noticed that the traditional handicrafts passed onto us by our ancestors are gradually disappearing. I want to learn and continue practice making these cultural and traditional handicrafts so that I can master these skills and so that the next generation of young people will be able to observe and maintain them".





# Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation

During 2019, KESAN has continued its work with Karen Forestry Department officials, local Karen communities, and conservation organizations to identify, enumerate, study, manage and conserve the extraordinary biodiversity of Karen State. This program has supported local community's methods of effective protection of forest biodiversity in combination with providing the resources to live their daily lives. KESAN encourages collaborative biodiversity protection by striving to combine scientific expertise with the local Indigenous knowledge that remains strong among Karen communities, who for generations have lived with and depended on the forest. Highlights from the 2019 included the setting-up and monitoring of camera traps in different areas to record wildlife, construction of salt licks to reduce human-elephant conflict in Lay Kay Kaw, and SMART training for Wildlife Protection Units from throughout Kawthoolei.

## Key Outcomes:

- A total of **32 paired camera trap stations** and **46 individual camera traps** were set up to survey wildlife and **46 camera traps stations analyzed**.
- **8 community participatory forest patrol volunteers** were recruited and trained in **basic patrolling skills, GPS skills, setting up camera traps, data collection and data management**.
- A **SMART refresher workshop** was conducted for WPU from 6 districts.
- Supported the communities around Lay Kay Kaw Area to create 40 new salt licks and set 9 camera traps to monitor elephants in an effort to **reduce human-elephant conflict** in Lay Kay Kaw.

## Wildlife and Biodiversity Program's activities during 2019

### Wildlife Sanctuary Activities

- **Wildlife Protection Units** were supported, including the establishment of one new unit- and refresher trainings were conducted. **Camera trap trainings and surveys** were completed, and camera traps were set up in Htee Ker Pler, Kler Lwee Htoo, Kweekoh, Makwee, Malawit, Megatha, Mutraw District and in the Dawna Range of Hpa-an District.



Setting up a camera trap for surveying wildlife



A sun bear's image captured on a camera trap



Community Participatory Forest Patrol Establishment Meeting

- Supporting the **Resolution of Human-Elephant Conflict** Lay Kay Kaw Area. A consultation meeting on human-elephant conflict was held in April with representatives from the KFD, township-level KNU and local community representatives. The community and KFD decided to renovate a salt lick 6km from the town in order to mitigate this problem.
- A **Forest Integrity Assessment Tool Training (FIAT)** was conducted in September among 13 participants including representatives from the Salween Peace Park, district-level KFD and KESAN. The training focused on theoretical information about forest quality, forest monitoring and the purpose of the FIAT, and practical hands-on uses of FIAT.

### Protection of Forest and Wildlife in Salween Peace Park

A number of activities were conducted to protect the biodiversity and wildlife in the SPP during 2019, including:

- Stakeholder Consultations
- Socio-Economic Surveys
- Wildlife Surveys
- Survey Validation and Land Use Meetings
- Community Participatory Forest Patrols



Explaining land-use zones during a community workshop



# Salween Peace Park

The Salween Peace Park's long-term aim is to demonstrate what truly good governance could be for the Salween River Basin, and provide a people-centered alternative to the top-down, militarized development that has been pushed in the region by previous regimes. By doing so, the project expands the conversation around "governance" beyond just mere management of resources to also address issues of militarization, conflict, displacement, resource capture, and destructive development. Rooted in Karen customary management systems, the Salween Peace Park expands the Indigenous Karen cultural ethic that integrates sustainable livelihoods, nature protection and democratic governance to the landscape level.

During 2019, KESAN's Salween Peace Park program continued to support the communities, local officials and CSOs involved in the collective realization of the Salween Peace Park. The inaugural convening of the Salween Peace Park (SPP) Assembly was conducted in April 2019, following which the Assembly will plan out the formal governance system of the SPP. Meanwhile, communities in the SPP continued to map and demarcate customarily governed lands and community forests, in order to clearly demonstrate that the lands inside the SPP boundary are already being utilized and looked after by the local communities.

## Key Outcomes:

- The **first Salween Peace Park Elections** were held during March and April to select 52 community representatives (26F:26M) for the SPP General Assembly.
- On April 3-5<sup>th</sup>, the **first Salween Peace Park General Assembly** was convened. Over the course of the Assembly, an inaugural SPP Work Plan was adopted and SPP Working Groups were established to administer the different aspects of the SPP management systems.
- **Indigenous Naga leaders visited** the Salween Peace Park to learn about the SPP governance systems and its establishment, as well as to share their experiences as an Indigenous movement.
- **Research about Customary Land and Natural Resource Governance** was conducted.



Explaining the SPP Election process in Mae Nyu



Voting for SPP Community Representatives in Kawh Pue

## Salween Peace Park activities during 2020

- After training facilitators and helping organize awareness raisings and voting meetings, **SPP Elections were conducted** in all 26 village tracts of the Salween Peace Park from February to March with 52 community representatives elected to the SPP General Assembly.
- In April, 146 members (37F: 109M) of the **Salween Peace Park General Assembly** gathered for the first time. They selected the members of the Governing Committee among the 106 members of the General Assembly and established 9 Working Groups.
- **SPP Governing Committee Quarterly Meetings** were conducted to develop action and financial plans related to the focus, administrative issues, future plans in the SPP, as well as to discuss what areas needed more awareness raising, and the progress made on cultural research and revitalization, basic infrastructure development, conflict and dispute resolution, and *kaw* demarcation and zoning
- **Community Outreach and Awareness Raising Training Workshops** were held to inform about the SPP structures and processes, so that communities could actively participate in the co-creation and governance of the SPP.
- An **Intensive Governance Workshop** was held for 8 SPP Governing Committee members in November to share information about global conservation frameworks, how and why to register as an ICCA, and the different methods of registration.
- 32 (8F:24M) representatives of **Nagaland and Southern Youth** in Mergui-Tavoy District **visited the SPP** to learn more about how it was established and how communities participate in the land and natural governance of the SPP, as well as to share their own experiences.
- SPP Assembly representatives **presented about the SPP model** at forums in Naypyitaw, Yangon and Myitkyina, Kachin State.
- **Customary Land and Natural Resource Governance Research** was conducted in December by 6 community-based researchers (2W:4M) in 4 *kaws* in the SPP. Results of the research are still being analyzed at the time of the publishing of this report, but results will be presented at the next SPP General Assembly in 2020.

In addition to the activities listed above, a number of other cross-cutting activities were implemented in the Salween Peace Park in 2019. These activities are described in other sections of the report even though they are related to more than a single KESAN program. They include activities to increase and protect environmental and Indigenous knowledge in the Salween Peace Park; Kaw demarcation and registration; community development facilitator trainings; Participatory Rural Appraisals, socio-economic surveys and wildlife surveys.



Naga representatives sharing experiences at the Salween Peace Park



The newly elected SPP Governing Committee



# Media

In 2019 KESAN's media team supported our diverse programs in addition to supporting advocacy on pressing issues in Karen State and around the region. This was accomplished by producing and disseminating news and features; networking with local, national and foreign journalists; attending conferences and workshops; and acting as news sources and resource persons. KESAN's environmental magazine, *Thu Le Kaw Wei*, continued to be an important outlet in Karen State for news and features about the environment. Other vehicles for dissemination included radio programs, videos, as well as KESAN's website and Facebook page.

KESAN's media team continues to work in and alongside local communities to raise awareness, share information, and provide a channel for communities to voice their concerns about the current and future impacts of unsustainable development projects in Karen State. We have coordinated with media groups to amplify the voices of local communities concerned with the impacts of development projects on their lives and livelihoods and gained greater media coverage of the Salween campaign by sharing our photos and reports.

## Key Outcomes:

- A total of **3,000 copies of *Thu Le Kaw Wei Magazine* were produced and distributed**, informing readers about environmental issues in Karen State, focusing especially on climate change, peace and a leader of the environmental and cultural preservation activities in the SPP.
- The media team produced **16 videos and documentaries** about Karen Indigenous culture, community forests, the Salween Peace Park election and other topics related to Indigenous conservation, governance and landscape management.
- **KESAN's radio program produced 50 stories** with KSNG and Mutraw Pweloh Radio to reach refugee camps and communities around Karen State with information about indigenous knowledge, the governance of the Salween Peace Park, protecting endangered species, community forests, climate change and community projects.
- KESAN's media team **engaged with journalists inside and outside Burma** amplifying the voices of IDPs, communities in the Salween Peace Park and from throughout Karen areas.



Distributing media materials during the Kaw Customary Land Seminar



KESAN's Media PC contributes to a panel discussion at the Myanmar Federalism Leadership Programme

## Media activities during 2019

### Trainings

- Radio Reporting Training

### Media Printed materials production

- *Thu Lei Kaw Wei Magazine*
- *Indigenous Rotational Farming*
- *Musical Instrument Handbook*
- *Kaw Policy Briefer*
- *KESAN Activities Overview Briefer*
- *Kaw Application Form Taw Oo*
- *Kaw: Land for Indigenous People*

Revised Versions or Reprints of Previous Publications	
Burma's Dead End Peace Process	Karen 1,000; Burmese 1,000
Update Salween Dam Briefer	Karen 200
Let's Learn From Nature	Karen 1,000
Water Access Sanitation and Health	Karen 1,000
Salween Peace Park Charter Briefer	Karen 1,000; Burmese 1,000
Land Policy Briefer	Karen 1,000

Vinyls, Maps and Posters	
International Day of Action for Rivers	Vinyls x2
Traditional Livelihoods	Vinyls x2
SPP General Assembly	Vinyls x2
WISE Check Dam Event	Vinyl x1
Kaw Customary Land Seminar	Vinyls x20
Salween Peace Park	Map x1
Kaw Activities	Posters x21
No Dam	Metal Sign x20
Mo Po Mu Banana Chips	Stickers x10,850
Community Forest Dooplaya	Posters x14
KAD Capacity Building	Vinyl x1
Karen Wildlife Conservation Initiative	Badges x400
Wildlife Research Near Ei Tu Hta	Vinyls x4
Salween Peace Park	Stickers x3200
Wildlife Sanctuary, Community Forest	Posters x31
Livelihood, Wildlife Research, Meeting	Posters x7
Kher Hsaw Dee CF	Posters x7
WISE Day Por Htoo	Vinyl x1
Human Rights-Saw Oh Moo and Naw Ohn La	Vinyl x2
WISE Banner	Vinyl x1
Paw Gaw Kee Kaw	Map x2
School rules, river crossing, bike/car fees	Vinyls x2
KESAN Forest Activities in Doo Tha Htoo	Vinyls x16
Kaw and Landscape Maps	Maps x15
Boat and Car Rules	Vinyls x7
SPP General Assembly	Cards x106
Karen of Norway	Banner x1

### • Video productions

1. *Strengthening Our Environmental and Cultural Knowledge*
2. *Accessible Alternative Energy: Mini Hydropower*
3. *Realizing Community Representation*
4. *International Day of Action for Rivers 2019*
5. *Let the Rivers Flow Free*
6. *Community in Peace Park Governance: "Inclusiveness in Practice"*
7. *Introduction to "Kaw" the Indigenous Karen Customary Land Management System*
8. *"Kaw" Customary Land System and the Federal Burma Government*
9. *Pawklo: Indigenous Karen Peoples' Livelihoods and Land Rights Movement*
10. *Healing Forests and Forest Healers*
11. *Painting the Salween River Basin with Trees*
12. *Taungoo District - The Karen National Union (KNU) Says No to Burma Government's Thauk Yay Khat No.1 Hydropower Dam Plans*
13. *Elephants Have Rights Too*
14. *Lor Mu Doh Community Forest*
15. *Do Not Make Us Run Again: Burma Army Road is Not a Road to Peace*
16. *Naga and Southern Youth Visit Salween Peace Park*



Community Radio Training with KSNG in Mae Sot



Interviewing the head of Leh Kee Community Forest Committee



- 50 Environmental Radio Broadcast Programs were recorded and then sent for transmission along local radio channels inside Kawthoolei
- Regular updating and maintenance of KESAN's Website

**Additional Activities**

- Design, layout, and printing of research reports, hand books, advocacy vinyl posters, banners for KESAN's events and activities in Thailand and Burma
- Design of advocacy T-shirts and posters
- Edit and proofreading documents, papers or other publications as needed
- Design and layout edit of campaign materials as needed by KESAN, its networks or partners, including advocacy posters, brochures, booklets, etc.
- Organizing press conferences
- Translation of reports and documentaries into Karen, English and Burmese



KESAN's 2019 Publications



# Advocacy and Networking activities during 2019

## Local Advocacy Activities

- A **Land Reclamation and Demarcation meeting** was held in January for representatives of 16 villages in Tha Dong Area to discuss land grabbing, compensation, reclamation, the KNU and Burma Government Land Policies. Later, in November, a land policy discussion was held with 298 community members in Taw Oo from villages where land had been reclaimed from the Burma Government or from companies.
- In June, KESAN's Deputy Director facilitated a 1-day workshop with communities affected by the **Asia Highway Project**. Together they prepared a complaint letter to send to the ADB's headquarters. Later, in July, KESAN's deputy director conducted a 2-day strategic workshop with the Thwee Community Development Network for villagers who will be impacted by the construction of the Asia Highway Kawkareik-Hpa-An road link.
- A workshop was held in January with **Taw Oo District** representatives to discuss their **Community Development Plan**. Participants discussed different types of development, the benefits of bottom-up community based development and the vision for Taw Oo's future.
- In May, a consultation was held to gather more information of the situation **Ei Tu Hta IDPs** after international aid was cut to their IDP camp. They discussed ways to support livelihoods, sustainable natural resource management, and environmental and wildlife protection.
- **Environmental Social Protection Policy Development Consultations** were conducted in Mae Sot and Chiang Mai to further develop the draft ESPP with an expert to review the legal language in order to prepare the policy for consideration for adoption by the KNU Leadership.
- **The Karen Unity Consultation** was held in October in Lay Wah to coordinate between KCBOs and the KNU on advocacy, livelihood support, land protection and the peace negotiation process. The participants recommended that KCBOs develop a ceasefire code as well as an alternative to the Joint Monitoring Committee, due to the JMC's ineffectiveness.

## National Advocacy Activities

- The KESAN Media Coordinator attended the **Myanmar Federal Leadership Conference** in Naypyitaw during July to present about the Salween Peace Park as a model of a bottom-up approach to Governance for /more than one hundred participants.
- KESAN was invited to the **Indigenous Lands and Territories Workshop** in Myitkyina, Kachin State in November to share about their experiences supporting local indigenous movements to claim rights in the Salween Peace Park and in Southern Karen State.



KESAN ED at World Water Week in Stockholm during August 2019



KESAN DD at the Land Demarcation and Demarcation Meeting in January



## Landscape and Indigenous Territory Advocacy

- An international consultant familiar with the *Tenure Facility Organization* was hired to develop and draft a concept note for the Salween Peace Park (SPP), in order to secure long-term funding for this initiative.
- During the *Conservation Alliance of Tanawthari (CAT) Strategic Planning Meeting* held in November in Dawei, KESAN's ED joined with CAT member organizations to review the 2019 activities and plan advocacy surrounding the Ridge to Reef project and future activities.
- KESAN staff joined with more than a thousand villagers from Luthaw Township, Mutraw District, as they a *demonstration against the expansion of a Burma Army road* near their village lands during October.
- KESAN's Executive Director attended the *15th General Assembly meeting of the ICCA Consortium* during December in Rajasthan, India with 80 representatives from more than 30 countries.

## Regional/International Advocacy Activities

- The KESAN Media PC met with the *UN Special Rapporteur for her Fact Finding Mission* to share information about border-based KCBOs' roles in the peace building process and the situation of refugees and IDPs along the border.
- The KESAN Media PC went on an *advocacy trip to United Kingdom* where she worked with Advance Myanmar to influence UK policymakers' approach to Burma, especially the reestablishment of funds for IDPs and refugees along the border.
- During the KESAN ED's *advocacy trip to Sweden*, he shared about importance of preserving Indigenous knowledge, as well as providing updates about the current political and IDP situation.
- Meetings were held with *American Consulate representatives* to share views about the current political situation, peace process, KCBO's perspectives and the IDP situation.
- During *World Water Week* in Sweden, KESAN's ED spoke about the Salween Peace Park during a panel on biodiversity and inclusive development to stress the importance of moving away from top-down conservation and development activities to a more people-centered approach.
- KESAN's ED met with *World Bank representatives* to bring up Karen CBOs concerns with the WB's announced investment in the Myanmar Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry in Southeast Burma and explained how the investments would exacerbate problems with the peace process.
- Support was provided to help conduct a *Public Forum at Chiang Mai University* in October to bring to discuss the case of Karen activist Billy Porlajee, and to also raise awareness about the case of Naw Ohnla.
- In November, KESAN's Executive Director accompanied representatives of the KNU, KCBOs and Karen political parties to Sihanoukville, Cambodia for a learning trip about *Chinese investment* in casinos, karaoke bars and resorts, in order to be more prepared to raise issues about the Shwekoko project north of Myawaddy.



KESAN ED at ICCA meeting in Bali during January

# Organizational Development

In order to implement/support a growing number of activities in an increasing number of target areas, as well as an increase of reporting and documentation from donors, KESAN added 3 staff during 2019.

During 2019, 3 KESAN staff continued their further education, in order to build their skills and gain a wider understanding of the issues they are engaged with. We are looking forward to them returning with increased knowledge and enthusiasm for their work when they complete their programs.

Throughout 2019, KESAN was contacted by a number of students- ranging from undergraduate to Doctoral candidates- from a number of different countries- including Burma, Thailand, Singapore, Europe, Australia, Canada and the U.S.A.- regarding research and internship/ volunteer opportunities. For research topics, many were interested in the Salween Peace Park as an alternative governance system, but there were also other diverse topics such as elephant/ human interactions in Karen communities and ethnic women's roles in community development.

Also during 2019, 3 External Evaluations were conducted of the KESAN program. These evaluations provided useful perspectives on both KESAN's strong points, as well as areas that we can improve our work.

- Danish Church Aid (DCA) supported an evaluation of the DCA-supported CBLI projects that was conducted during November-December.
- DCA/ WWF-SIDA supported an evaluation of the entire KESAN program which was conducted during October- December.
- Oxfam TROSA supported an evaluation of the KESAN Water Governance program that was conducted during January.

## Looking ahead

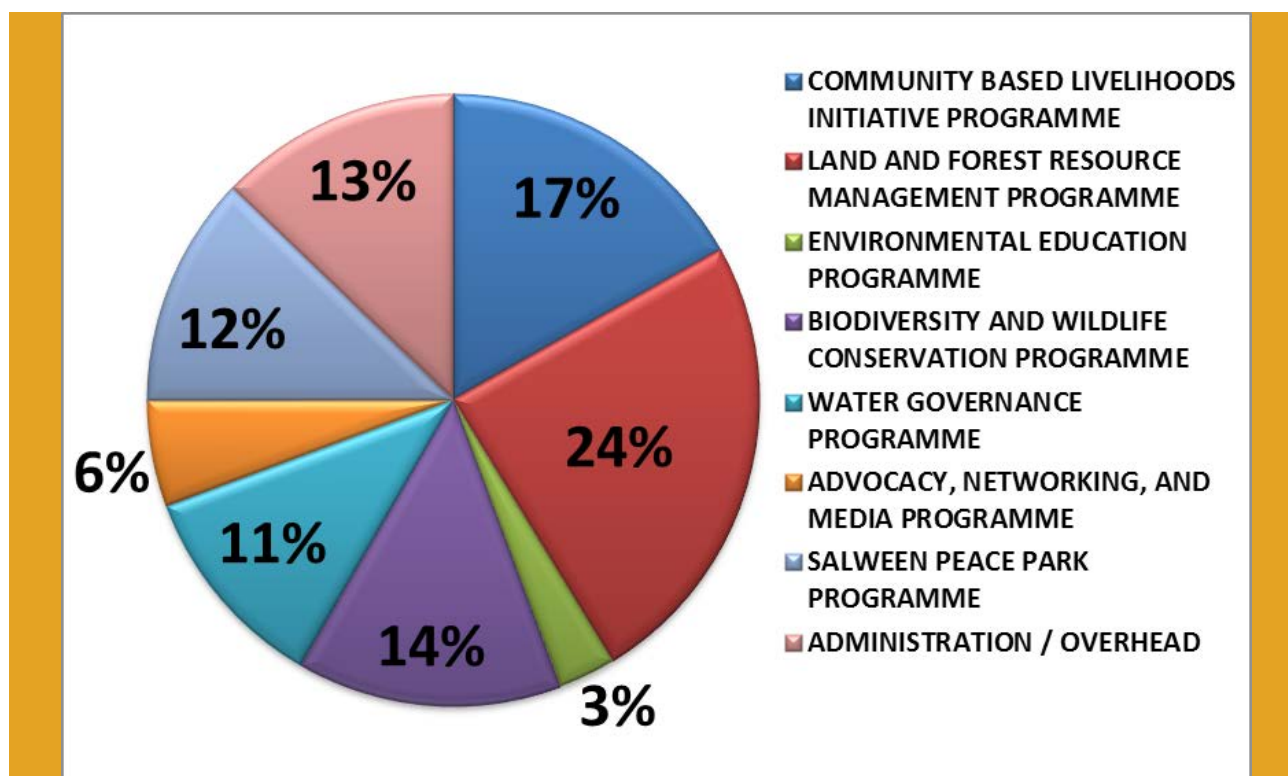
In the upcoming year of 2020, KESAN anticipates that there will be many opportunities to build on our previous efforts, as well as some ongoing challenges that must be addressed.

- Elections are due to take place for both the KNU and the Central Myanmar Government during 2020, which will offer everyone a chance to see if/ how the political situation is changing in Kawthoolei and in Burma. KESAN will need to adjust its approaches and strategies based on the results of these elections.
- The ongoing Burma Army road construction in Mutraw and Taw Oo continues to create uncertainty and, in some cases, deaths for local communities. Hopefully, 2020 will bring about a way to resolve this issue, so that community members can feel safe to conduct their livelihoods in these areas.
- KESAN plans to continue to move forward with all its current programs in order to address the most pressing issues that face Karen communities. We also will continue to plan for a greater role with alternative energy issues.
- KESAN will adopt and implement a new 3-year (2020-2022) Strategic Plan that will build on previous Strategic Plans while incorporating some new facets to deal with current and future issues.
- In 2020, we expect the Salween Peace Park's governance and operations to continue to grow and move towards the realization of the SPP's goals and objectives, while the SPP becomes firmly entrenched and recognized both within Burma and internationally.
- Also in 2020, KESAN will continue to provide support for the establishment and administration of Indigenous Conserved and Managed Areas- especially in the Thawthi Taw Oo Indigenous Park and the Paw Klo Watershed/ other Indigenous Managed areas in the Mergui-Tavoy District.



# Financial Overview

**2019 KESAN Total Operational Costs = 1,232,707 USD**



	Donor	Project Name/ Area of Support
1	American Jewish World Service- AJWS	Core Organization Operating Expenses
2	The Border Consortium-TBC/ LIFT	Sustainable Transformation for Agriculture, Nutrition and Development in Uplands (STAND-UP)
3	Dan Church Aid-DCA	Disaster Response and Livelihood & Food Security
4	Rainforest Norway-RFN	Salween Peace Park - Participatory Design and Governance of Karen Indigenous Conserved Area
5	Oxfam -GB	Strengthening Community - Based Water Governance Mechanisms and Models in the Salween River Basin
6	Our Rivers Our Life/ BMZ	Our Rivers Our Life Campaign Project
7	Wildlife Asia	Wildlife Survey and Biodiversity Conservation
8	Burma Relief Centre- BRC	Core Organization Operating Expenses
9	WWF/ BMZ	Community Land and Natural Resources Protection (Ban Chaung area, Megui-Tvoy)
10	WWF/ SIDA	Advocacy and Capacity Building
11	WWF/ DANIDA	Forest Integrity Assessment Tool (FIAT) Trainings
12	Sone Sei	Promoting Inclusion in Natural Resource Government in Karen Area





Karen Environmental & Social Action Network



KESAN is a community-based, non-governmental, non-profit organisation that works to improve livelihood security and to gain respect for indigenous people's knowledge and rights in Karen State of Burma.

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Burma Relief Center



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