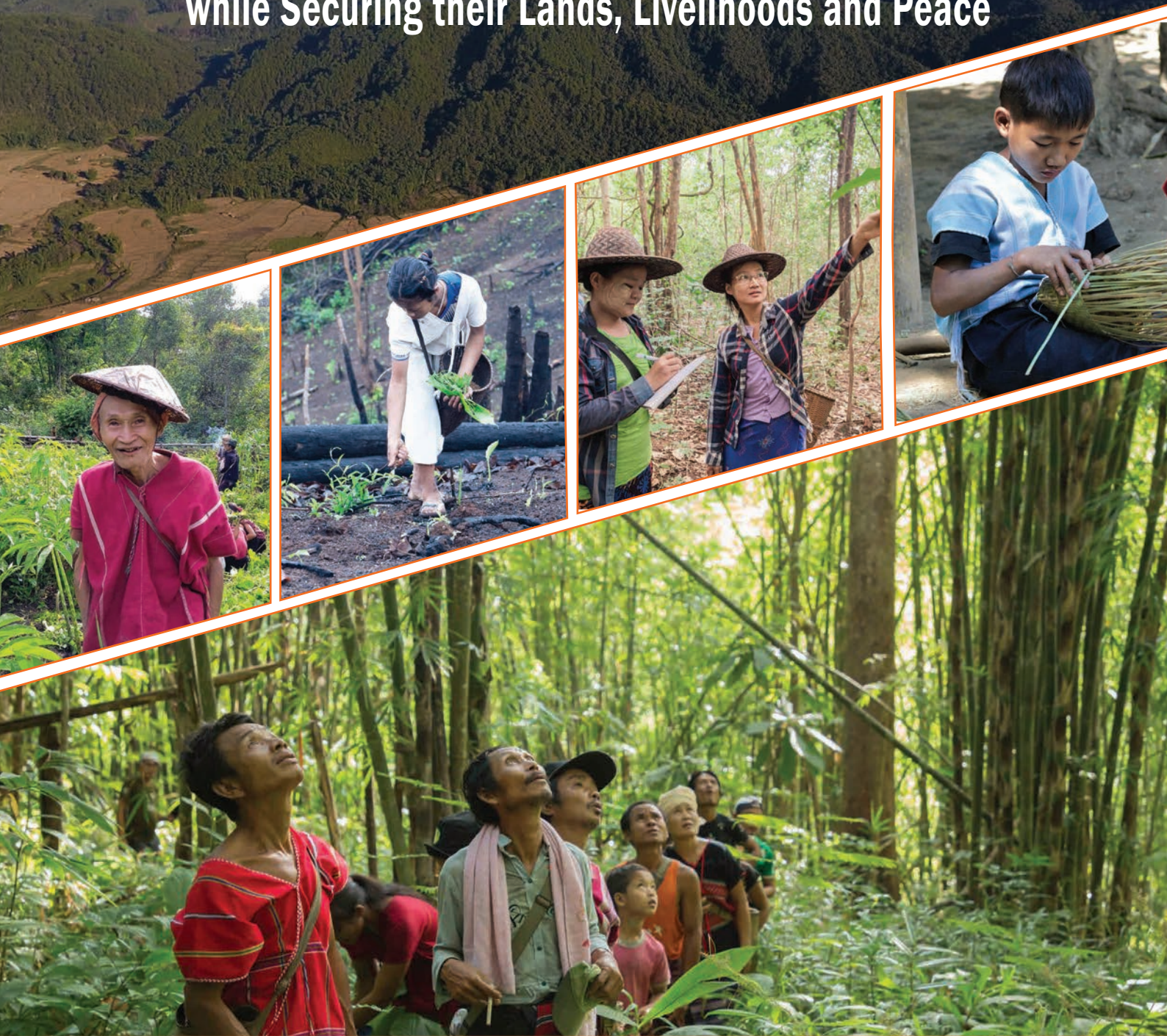


KESAN Annual Report 2021

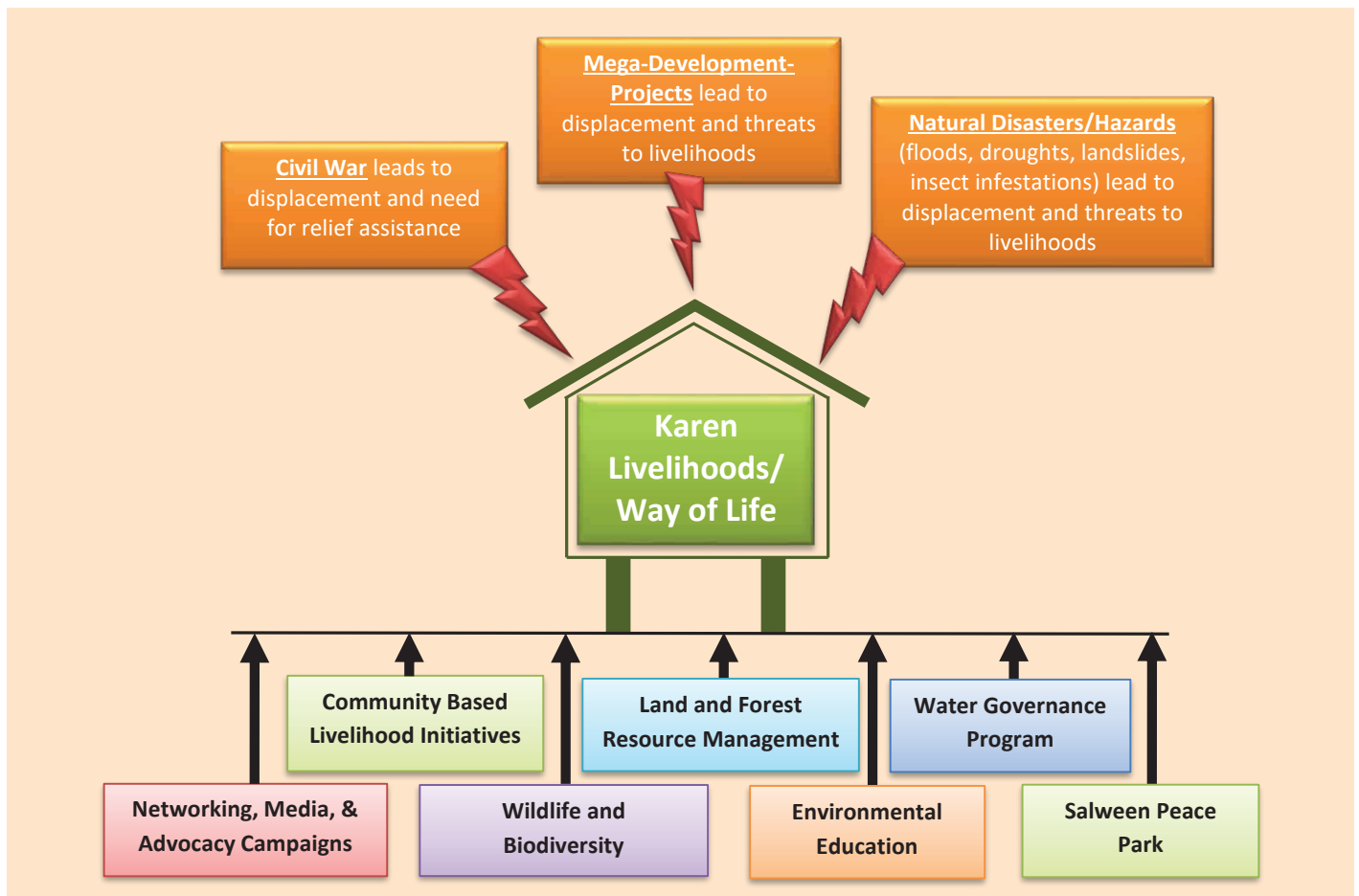
Empowering Communities to Protect the Environment,
while Securing their Lands, Livelihoods and Peace



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 70 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 dialogues to mobilize and empower local communities, leaders, organizations and policy makers who can then make better informed development decisions.



Mission

To strengthen Karen communities' ability to maintain sustainable livelihoods and ways of life, while protecting Kawthoolei's wildlife and biodiversity

Objectives

1. To assist in securing access to lands, water, forests, and the agricultural bio-diversity that is the basis of Karen peoples' lives
2. To support improved livelihood capabilities and resilience for displaced local communities
3. To strengthen and inform civil society networks that advocate for good environmental governance
4. 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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KESAN's 2021 Major Achievements Summary

Throughout 2021 KESAN has continued to support Karen communities despite challenging circumstances, not least the post-coup resumption of heavy fighting, our staff within the country going into hiding or fleeing to seek asylum from regime targeting, the COVID-19 pandemic and the intensified border restrictions imposed by Thai authorities. During this past difficult year each of KESAN's programs was able to make progress towards the goals outlined in our 2020-2022 Strategic Plan. A number of our 3-year goals and objectives have already been completed, in addition to other unplanned for but essential activities that arose over the course of this year, including humanitarian assistance for the newly displaced. KESAN has seen the resilience of Karen people during this time of crisis, and we have been able to see the successes of our community-led approaches in fostering resilience and self-reliance in Karen communities, including the community forests which have provided sustenance for IDPs, or the rice banks which the management committees and local leaders have coordinated to feed those in need. Led by the needs and motivation of local communities, we have been able to continue wildlife, biodiversity, forest and livelihood protection activities.

In the months following the military coup, many KESAN staff were occupied coordinating with people on the ground to get first-hand information documenting the unfolding conflict situation and supporting community-led responses. KESAN has worked with a network of cross-border civil society organizations to coordinate aid to refugees and IDPs. We have developed the community radio program and distributed hundreds of receivers to widen access to important news and updates about the how to stay safe. KESAN have consistently advocated for Indigenous peoples' rights and for cross border humanitarian aid regionally and internationally, and we have engaged with the NUG government on a number of issues including natural resource federalism.

In November KESAN celebrated 20 years since our establishment. During the past two decades, KESAN has become a model in demonstrating how communities, even in the most contested and difficult of circumstances, can work together to bring progress and understanding on vital issues of cultural, economic and ecological significance.



Planting rice seeds in an upland farm, in Ler Mu Plaw village tract

Changes in Context

In response to the military coup on February 1st, 2021, people took to the streets in their masses to peacefully protest the coup and demand freedom from dictatorship and a genuine federal democracy. A civil disobedience movement (CDM) arose in response to the military takeover and thousands of workers across the country withdrew their labor, especially in cities and in central Burma. In response, the military junta cracked down on civilians with shooting, assassinations, arrests, intimidation, torture, looting and stealing. Many people at risk of arrest, detention, and attacks have fled to seek safety in the jungles including in Kawthoolei, and in neighboring countries. Similarly, many teachers, lawyers, students, bank officers and government workers who joined the CDM had to hide or flee to a safe place.

Shortly after the coup, the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), a group of elected lawmakers and members of parliament ousted in the 2021 Myanmar coup formed a 'shadow' government called the National Unity Government (NUG). Along with the highly impactful CDM and continuous protests across the country, civilians took up arms to defend themselves against the tyranny of the regime in most areas. In May 2021, the NUG announced the formation of a People's Defense Force (PDF), and in September the launch of a "defensive war" and nation-wide revolution against the military junta.

The military has abandoned all pretense of peaceful intent as it tries to expand its presence in Karen territories, accelerating troop deployments to its bases and outposts and by pushing ahead aggressively with its military road building agenda in Mutraw. Artillery attacks have been an almost daily occurrence since December 2020 in some parts of Mutraw. From the end of March-April, the Myanmar military launched airstrikes by night throughout Karen areas, especially at the border and in Day Bu Noh area, forcing 70,000 people to flee their homes to try to find shelter across and along the border and in the forests and caves. The psychological effect of the airstrikes has been sustained and intensified through frequent nighttime and daytime overflights by drone, reconnaissance planes and jets. Following the March-April offensives, there were periods of intense bombings/ shellings at the beginning of May and in mid-December.

The resumption of armed conflict in Mutraw District has resulted in a steady increase in IDPs within and around the Salween Peace Park- although it was impossible to compile an exact figure, data from on-the-ground reports estimated the total number of displaced villagers as more than 100,000. Many communities found refuge within their ancestral Kaw territories, subsisting in the dense forests that they have stewarded for generations. Lowland communities, though, and those living in close proximity to Tatmadaw camps, have been forced to flee both to the banks for the Salween River, and to the ancestral territories of others. For those able to flee to the border, crossing into Thailand for safe refuge has not been allowed.



IDP communities are currently primarily dependent on humanitarian aid in the form of rice delivered by a consortium of Karen civil society and local government actors for their subsistence. Some villagers were able to temporarily return to their villages at different times throughout the past year, however most people feel neither safe or secure and frequently run to the jungle again when they hear drones or news of an impending attack.

In Kawthoolei, the KNU has been grappling with a new political landscape. Whilst some leaders in the KNU now see the NCA as invalid and wish to topple the regime, others contend this and claim there must be some level of openness to engagement with the SAC to achieve peace. The KNU planned to hold elections in 2021, however because of the conflict escalation with the military junta and the worsening COVID-19 pandemic, they elections were delayed and not conducted during 2021.

COVID-19 lockdowns, strict travel restrictions, and security concerns during 2021 have made it more challenging for KESAN staff to travel to project areas. Fortunately, project activities are designed to be self-sustaining, with community members designing and leading activities, while keeping communications open when KESAN staff could not reach the project areas via phone, radio and internet calls with KESAN's project coordinators. Despite the challenges of this year, KESAN has continued to implement projects in Karen communities, as always, led by the needs and active participation of communities.



Displaced people fleeing from fighting in Mutraw District

Community Based Livelihood Initiatives Program

In 2021, KESAN continued to strengthen community members' livelihoods and food security and develop more resilient agricultural, food, and livelihood systems through a number of activities, which is especially need during the current hardships.

Key outcomes

- 4 rice mills were provided to support communities' food security and self-sufficiency.
- 12 families benefitted from livestock-raising activities. Irrigation channels were restored and built in 5 communities
- 6 fish conservation zones were established supporting sustainable resource use and watershed management.
- Rice banks continued to develop and evolve, with regular meetings and the addition of a new cluster.
- A livelihoods forum was held that brought together communities to share knowledge, experiences, and plans for future livelihood activities.



Rice mill in Htee Lu Ber Hta village

Summary of achievements

Agriculture/ Livestock

KESAN supported 3 communities with grants for farming tools/ equipment to improve their upland farms and to maintain traditional livelihoods through techniques such as intercropping.

47 small irrigation channels and 2 larger reinforced irrigation canals were constructed in 5 villages. As a result, farmers have reported higher yields, and some have been able to extend their rice terraces.

12 families received a total of 4 buffalos and a livestock veterinary training was held in Yer Mu Plaw.

3 elephant yam gardens were established at Chaw Kwor, Wah Mi Kla and Si Poe Kee schools to provide extra income to students and teachers.



Upland farm in Tamaeder village

Organic gardens

Organic gardens were established at 4 schools in Mutraw to support the students and teachers with food and income. A coffee and cocoa agroforest garden pilot project was also set up in Kler Baw Hta, which will support the school and protect large trees in the forest which shade the crops. A total of 463 people in the communities benefit from these projects.

Rice Mills

In 2021 KESAN supported 4 rice mills in Ti Thu Der, Htee Lu Bler Hta, Na Poe Hta, and Ta Yu Kee villages. The rice mills reduce the time and labor needed to mill the rice, which is especially beneficial in times of conflict because communities can more quickly hide some rice stocks in surrounding jungle, which they can access if they have to flee from their homes.

Rice banks/Savings Funds

KESAN organized 8 Rice Bank Quarterly Meetings – 4 in Yer Mu Plaw and 4 in Pwa Lo Traw clusters.

2 Rice Bank Network Meetings were held - 1 in Yer Mu Plaw and 1 in Pwa Lo Traw

1 Rice Bank Management Training was completed for the Yer Mu Plaw rice bank network where committee members shared experiences, reviewed the rice bank loan policy and discussed the current situation.

1 new rice bank cluster was established.

A Rice Bank and Livelihoods Forum was held in Yer Mu Plaw.

5 small Saving Fund Groups and committees have been established in Yer Mu Plaw and community members have already started taking out loans.

Fish conservation zones

A total of 6 new fish conservation zones were established in Yer Mu Plaw and Luthaw Paw Day clusters. Since setting up the fish conservation zone villagers have seen an increase in fish in the rivers.

1 Fish Conservation Zone Network Meeting was held with local leaders to explore ideas about the establishment of this network and develop township level fish conservation regulations.

WASH infrastructure

KESAN supported the construction of toilets in three locations (Mae Nu Hta, Ta May Hta, and Day Bu Noh) in Mutraw district. At each public toilet station there are also sinks with hand washing facilities.

Household water supply systems were set up in 10 villages in Mutraw which have improved sanitation and access to water, especially benefiting the elderly, disabled, and women.

Women's empowerment

The Mo Po Mu Women's Group held one formal meeting and were also able to hold informal smaller meetings among themselves despite having to repeatedly flee from conflict. They were also able to continue their banana chip production during this year.

KESAN and KWO organized a Women's Summit in Ei Tu Hta IDP Camp on 18th December with 85 women and girls from surrounding villages. This forum allows space for women to share knowledge and skills needed to become more confident decision makers, small business leaders, as well as discuss and share their experiences and challenges in their communities.

KESAN facilitated one meeting with the Mo Po Mu Women's Group in November to evaluate their Savings Fund, and it was decided to continue this fund in the next year. In 2021, 10 women successfully borrowed from the Savings Fund to start some small dry-food enterprises.

Road construction

3 roads with a total length of 26km were built in Luthaw Township, Mutraw District, which increased connectivity and market access for rural and remote upland communities.

Mini hydropower

Mini-hydropower systems were constructed in 2 villages and all 64 households in these villages now have electricity benefitting a total of 455 villagers. Community members were also trained about the maintenance and management of these systems.



Law Ko Wah fish conservation zone opening ceremony



A grandmother in Ku Day village using the water supply system

Case Study: Luthaw Township Rice Banks

Rice banks have brought great benefits to communities in Luthaw township (Mutraw District). Local leaders have observed how quickly the rice bank stocks have grown from year to year and how their success has inspired other communities to establish their own. For example, in Yer Mu Plaw cluster, the number of rice banks increased from 20 in 2020 to 30 in 2021.

The rice banks in Luthaw operate under the following principles:

1. Households withdraw the rice they need from the bank, even if they have no money or anything to use as collateral.
2. Borrowers then pay back rice into the bank if they are able to, or if they don't have rice to pay back, they will assist/ provide labor to other members of the community based on the principle of 'sharing and caring'.

Rice bank committees' management skills and capacities have greatly increased since the rice bank initiative has begun, especially relating to accounting and record keeping. During the intensification of Burma military attacks in 2021 which led to a huge number of displaced people, rice bank communities have been able to provide humanitarian relief to the most vulnerable persons in the hardest to access areas, including the elderly and sick. In these cases, rice banks committees from various locations have effectively coordinated with township leaders. In one area they were able to distribute 100 tins of rice to IDPs.

Saw Bway Doh Htoo, a Yer Mu Plaw cluster leader and rice bank committee member for more than 3 years from Baw Lo Del Village, explained the benefits for his community: *"Some people need to clear their farms and have no time to travel to borrow or buy rice from other places. So, they come to rice bank which is nearer to them to borrow rice, which means they have more time to work in their fields. Another useful part of the rice bank system is that community members are welcome to get rice even if they have no money."*



Land and Forest Resource Management Program

The 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 in accordance with their traditional knowledge and the Kawthoolei Land and Forest Policies. In 2021, this program continued to collaborate with the Kawthoolei Agriculture Department (KAD) and Kawthoolei Forestry Department (KFD) to demarcate lands and secure land rights.

Key outcomes

- Continued demarcation and governance strengthening of Indigenous Karen territories communities in Southern and Northern ends of Kawthoolei (Paw Klo Landscape Area in Mergui-Tavoy District and the Thawthi Taw Oo Indigenous Park in Taw Oo District) as they move forward for more formalized recognition.
- 15 Kaw were demarcated and a Kaw certificate application form was drafted along with a Kaw application manual

Summary of achievements

Family plots demarcation and titling

Land surveys and demarcation for family plots and Kaw lands were carried out in 6 districts (Doo Tha Htoo, Mutraw, Dooplaya, Taw Oo, Kler Lwee Htoo, Mergui-T'voy) in collaboration with the KAD. This work aims to protect, prioritize and promote the tenure rights of Karen peoples and long-standing resident village communities, with emphasis on the occupation and use rights of the poor, marginalized and vulnerable and with special attention to the rights of women and youth.

Type of land	Number of plots/ areas	Total Acres	Location
Family plots	4,152	19,629	All districts except Hpa-An
Kaw	15	118,765	Mutraw (12) and Taw Oo (3)

Land grabbing Survey

The Central Land Committee Land Dispute Working Group consulted with community members, conducted interviews and collated land grabbing data collection forms in Doo Tha Htoo District. This work was done with close collaboration among township officials and the KFD, along with KESAN's support.

Community forests

3 Community Forests were demarcated and are in the process of being officially established in Lay Kaw Koh Der, Koh Lor Thee, and Yu Wah Der communities.

2 areas (Thee Ro Klo-Thee Kaw Hta and Joh Nya-Joh Loh Klo) were selected along the Salween River for a pilot Community Forest Enterprise Project that will begin in the upcoming years.



Taw Oo and Kler Lwee Htoo Districts boundary survey and demarcation

Strengthening Kaw governance

15 Kaw were demarcated and their land types/zones along with land and natural resource rules and regulations were discussed, clarified, and recorded in each Kaw.

A Kaw application manual was drafted in order to assist local community members understand the application process procedures.

The Kaw approval certificate was drafted and will be utilized when the Central KNU authorities approve Kaw applications.

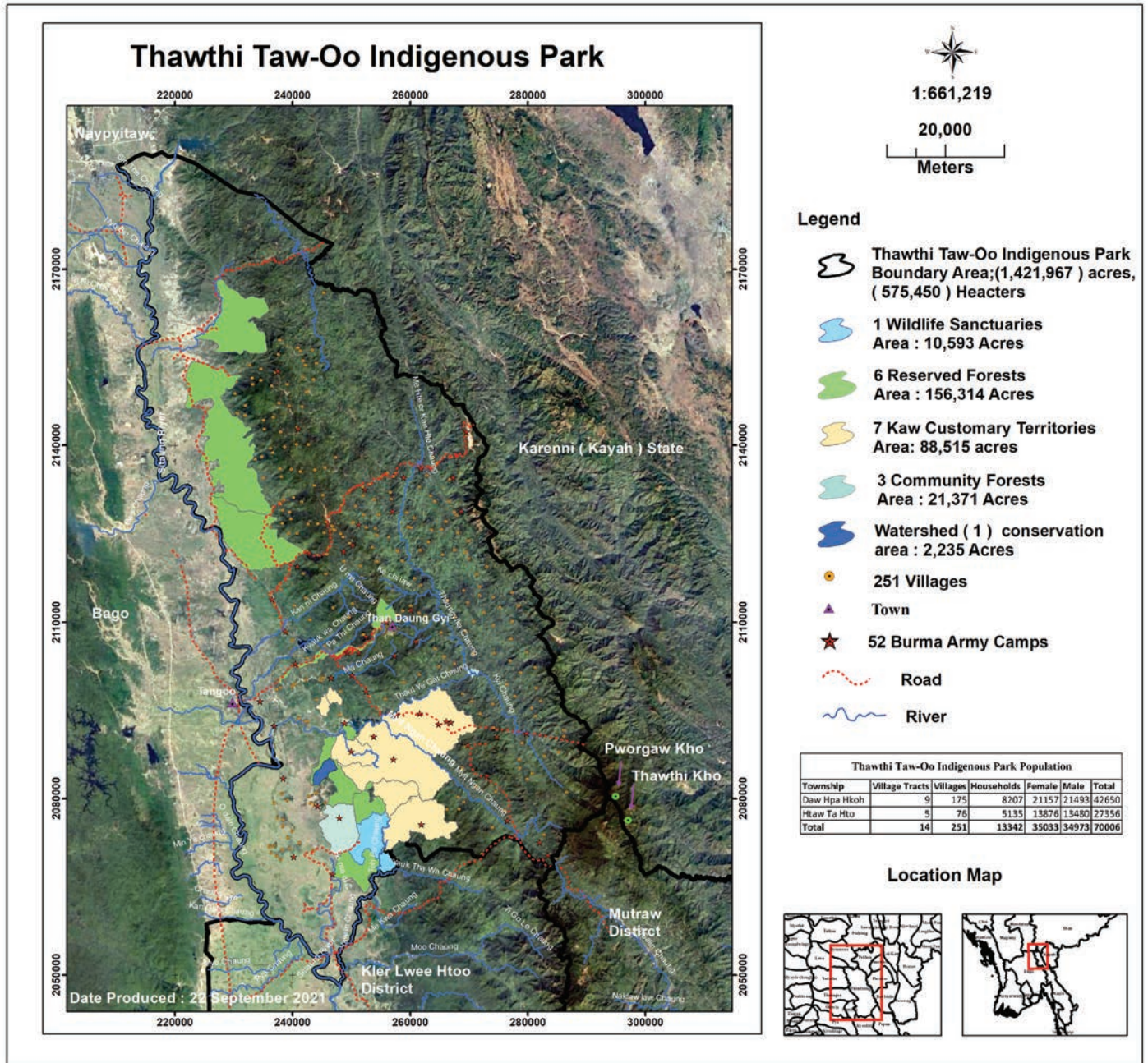
Thaw Thi Taw Oo Indigenous Park (TTIP)

In the Thawthi Taw-Oo Indigenous Park residents have maintained their traditional cultures while sustainably managing their land, natural, and biodiversity resources. Despite the challenges resulting from the coup this year, the TTIP initiative was still able to move forward to implement the TTIP vision. The TTIP is in the process of building up its structures and governance from the bottom-up, with the aim for a Charter referendum and subsequent formal establishment in the next few years. The following activities were conducted during 2021.

The TTIP boundaries between Taw Oo and Kler Lwee Htoo Districts were clarified and demarcated

2 Kaw were demarcated within Taw Oo district

3 TTIP Committee Capacity Building Workshops and Trainings



were conducted- a Training of Trainers, a Demarcation Training, and a Surveying Training. The information gathered from these surveys will support the drafting of TTIP charter/rules and regulations.

A Community Elders Knowledge Focus Group Discussion was held to help to gather information as part of the TTIP Charter drafting process, including the geography, livelihoods, forest history, cultural beliefs and traditional music, clothes, language, tribes, economics of the TTIP Indigenous people.

Public Awareness Raising Meetings were conducted to provide community members with background and updates about the TTIP, Indigenous people’s customary land and their rights, and the revitalization of Kaw lands.

A TTIP map and briefer were produced and distributed in Karen, Burmese, and English languages.

Paw Klo Landscape Area (PKLA)

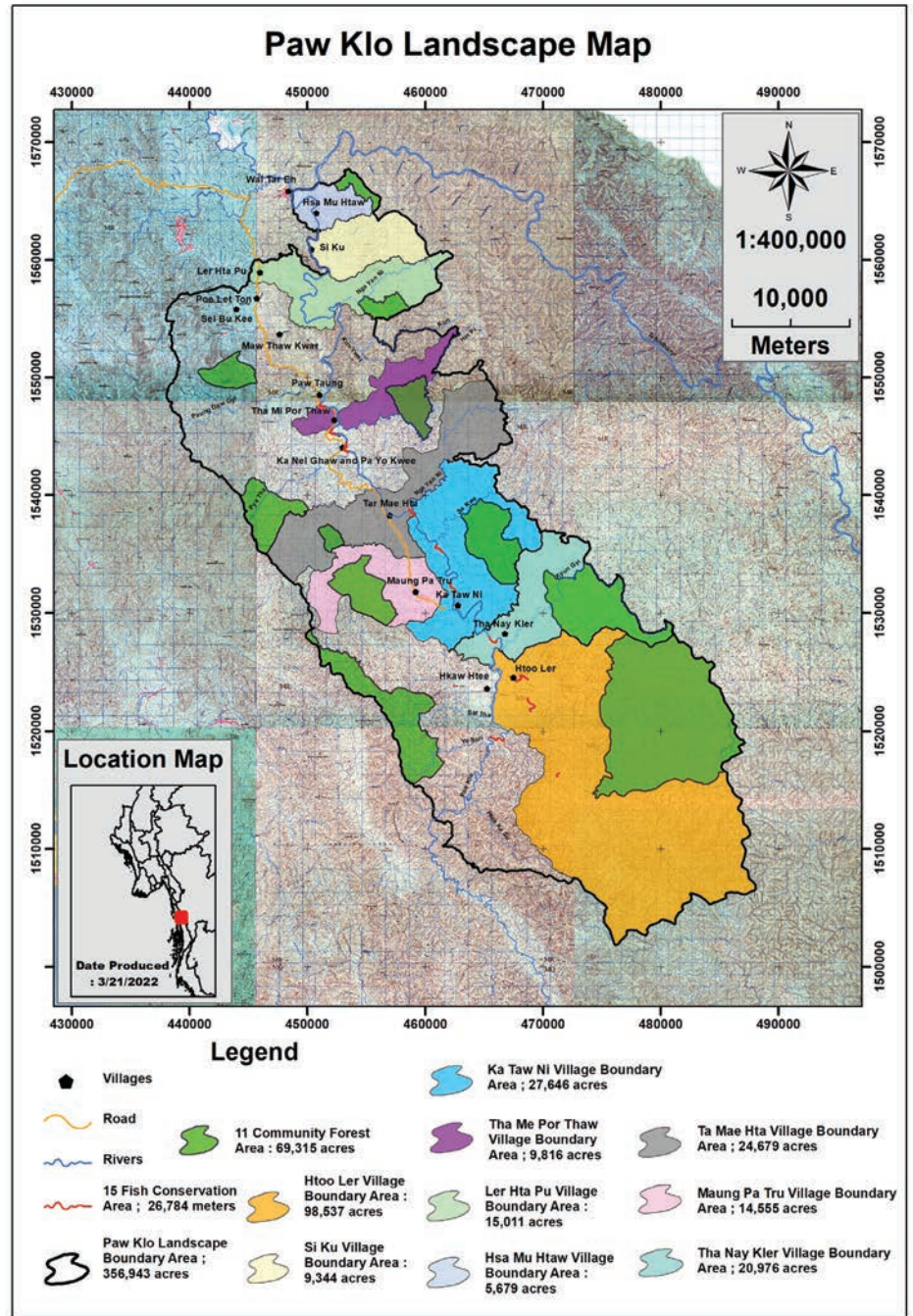
Regular PLKA Committee Meetings were held to continue strengthening community forest governance, and discuss the PKLA’s long-term vision and regulations.

The Community Land Protection Process was completed in Ka Taw Ni, Ta Mae Hta, Tha Nay Kler, and Mon Pa Tru villages, including community baseline data collection, stakeholder consultations and workshops, community land use zoning, demarcation and mapping. Following these activities, workshops were conducted about how to fill out and submit village applications, as well as to clarify land-use rules and regulations within each community.

GPS Trainings were conducted for village representatives from Ta Mae Hta village, Ka Taw Ni village and Keh Hser Doh township KFD and KAD staff to strengthen their ability to demarcate and monitor forests.

Drivers of Deforestation and Land-Use and Land-Cover Change in Kawthoolei (1990-2020)

The *Drivers of Deforestation* report was published in August 2021 after research was conducted in 2020. This report analyzes the pressures on forests since the 1990s, such as war and development, and their impacts on the environment and livelihoods. Data analysis concluded that commercial logging, smallholder agricultural expansion, infrastructure development, and land tenure insecurity were significant drivers of deforestation and land-use/ land-cover change in Kawthoolei. The report also provides recommendations to the KFD on how to use these data findings to improve forest management and planning in Kawthoolei.



Land demarcation with community members in Keh Hser Doh



Villagers joining a consultation as part of the Community Land Protection Process

Case Study: The importance of land demarcation and titling for Karen communities

In Burma, the Central Government and successive military regimes have only provided land use certificates and have never recognized customary land tenure. Centrally administrated laws have even facilitated land grabbing in ethnic areas particularly during the so-called democratic transition. For Indigenous Karen, land and natural resources is fundamental to community wellbeing, livelihoods, culture, and food security. Demarcation and land titling under the KNU government are important because households and communities then have their land ownership rights formally recognized, and villagers who have received land titles feel more secure and protected. Furthermore, demarcation of land also strengthens community governance of their Indigenous ancestral domains. KESAN has been working alongside the KNU and local communities to facilitate the land demarcation and titling process. Public meetings are facilitated in each location prior to demarcation and registration to raise awareness of the process and explain the KNU's rules and regulations regarding household land tenure. This work has continued despite the military coup and conflict, so that our Indigenous people can have their rights realized and protected especially during this time when land rights are under greater threat from military/ crony invested projects.



Salween Peace Park Program

The Salween Peace Park covers 5,485 km² of the Salween River basin, a region of great importance to global biodiversity in South-Eastern Burma/Myanmar that hosts rare and endangered species. In an area that has suffered from over 70 years of civil war, the territory is now dedicated to generating peace and protecting and conserving a stronghold of biodiversity and Karen culture, customary land governance and management systems. The SPP was officially established in 2018, with the inaugural General Assembly meeting convened in 2019.

During 2021, KESAN continued to support activities to strengthen the governance and administration of the SPP, including the third General Assembly meeting and the demarcation of customary Kaw lands. 2021 also saw continued collaboration towards establishing another Indigenous conserved area along the SPP's western border - the Thawthi Taw Oo Indigenous Park in located in Taw Oo (Taungoo) District.

In addition to the activities listed above, a number of other cross-cutting activities were implemented in the Salween Peace Park in 2021. These activities are described in other sections of the report, those activities overlap across multiple KESAN program. They include activities to increase and protect environmental and Indigenous knowledge in the Salween Peace Park (Environmental Education Program); Kaw demarcation and registration (Land and Forest Resource Management Program); community development and livelihoods (CBLI Program); women empowerment (CBLI Program), and community-based rangers and wildlife surveys (Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Program).



Youth from The Nue Chet La school performing traditional music at the 3rd SPP Annual General Assembly

Key Outcomes

- The third SPP General Assembly meeting was successfully convened, even amidst the challenges of armed conflict and COVID outbreak.
- 13 Kaws (customary lands) covering an area of more than 100,000 acres were demarcated and land use zoning rules and regulations finalized during 2021.



A community leader speaking at the SPP General Assembly

Summary of achievements

The SPP administration was forced to respond to the political and humanitarian crises throughout 2021. Not only was the SPP able to use existing governance structures at the community and district level to respond to people's urgent needs resulting from conflict and displacement, the SPP has also been able to continue to implement a number of activities, including demarcation, livelihoods support, and cultural revitalization.

The Salween Peace Park Governance Meeting was conducted during May 2021. This meeting consisted of a review of previous GC meeting decisions, updates about each Working Groups' activities, and future plans, including finalizing the agenda for the next General Assembly were decided upon.

2 SPP IEC toolkits were produced to raise awareness about the SSP governance structure, as well as to strengthen the SPP governance management. The toolkit includes a guide on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Persons (UNDRIP) and a poster detailing SPP land use governance and management systems.

The 3rd Annual SPP General Assembly was held in December with 172 community, CSO and KNU representatives participating. Representatives were able to deliberate and discuss Peace Park-wide developments and changes, which was especially important this year given the military coup and intensification of conflict across the country including in Karen areas. 16 proposals were agreed upon, including the construction of a cultural exhibition hall, the creation and dissemination of an SPP calendar, and plans to improve waste management in SPP.

The *SPP Primer* was drafted, printed and distributed among local community members and Karen CSOs. The aim of the primer is to increase understanding about issues related to the SPP, including its history, geography and governance structure.



The 3rd Annual SPP General Assembly held in December 2021

Wildlife and Biodiversity Program

The Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Program works closely with Karen Wildlife Conservation Initiative (KWCI), and Kawthoolei Forestry Department officials along with local communities to conserve and manage the rich biodiversity in Kawthoolei which Indigenous Karen have been custodians of for generations, and which is a globally recognized biodiversity hotspot. During 2021, KESAN continued community-based conservation work through training of community forest rangers and carrying out camera trap surveys.

Key outcomes

- Wildlife camera trap surveys found evidence of endangered species residing in the SPP.
- 3 Community Forest Ranger patrols were conducted in Dagwin Reserved Forest.

Summary of achievements

Wildlife surveys

27 wildlife camera traps provided images of wildlife from December 2020 to March 2021, with footage of a variety of species in the survey areas such as the near threatened Marbled Cat, endangered Dhole, vulnerable Sambar Deer, and critically endangered Indochinese Leopard.

A wildlife camera trap assessment consultation was carried out in the lower Dagwin area.

Socioeconomic Survey

A socio-economic survey was conducted in 6 selected villages within the SPP to better understand how local community members sustain their livelihoods and gather knowledge about Indigenous Karen traditions related to hunting and natural resource management.



Mutraw KFD taking down a camera trap



Sun Bears are categorized as 'vulnerable' by IUCN



Leopards are vulnerable to extinction



Consultation at K'Wa Day Law Hta, Naw Then Der Kaw

Community-Based Forest Protection

A Community Forest Ranger station was constructed in the Dagwin area of the SPP, in order to allow local community members to more effectively monitor their forest resources.

A Community Forest Rangers Training was conducted in December, focusing on the monitoring of logging activities.

3 Community Forest Ranger patrols were conducted in Dagwin Reserved Forest. Whilst on patrol, community forest rangers renovated Fish Conservation Zones at the Ei Tu Khee Stream in order to preserve the fish population and more sustainably support local people's livelihoods, as well as ensuring that there will be fish for future generations.

Water Governance Program

With the shrinking of political and civic space in Myanmar and because of very real threats to staff and communities, KESAN's activities under the Water Governance Program were limited, especially at the ground level, and had to be adapted. During 2021, KESAN continued close communication with lake committee and villagers and were able amend our Community Based Water Governance (CBWG) strategy to the new political context.

Key outcomes

- The *Daw Lar Lake Biodiversity Research Report* was finalized and published.
- Youth capacity building trainings around CBWG were completed.
- More than 2,000 people participated in the March 14th protests against dams along the Salween River.
- The *Community Water Management Regulations* document (*Community Institution* document) was finalized.

Summary of achievements

Youth Capacity Building

2 online update meetings were conducted with Daw Lar Lake and Yaew Mae Klo youth to share information and updates about lake communities and discuss the structure and context of the 2020 *Daw Lar Lake Biodiversity Research Report* and its presentation. After final inputs were incorporated, the report was published and shared online.

A Youth Writing Workshop was conducted in February with 30 youth participants from both Daw Lar Lake and Yaew Mae Klo community.

Daw Lar Lake Community-Based Water Governance

Meetings and discussions were held between lake management committee and a legal consultant to finalize the *Community Water Management Regulations* (also known as *Community Institution Document*).

KESAN also collaborated with an artist to produce infographics and posters for awareness raising on community fishing regulations and lake management regulations.

Lake communities' conflict resolution mechanisms were strengthened about managing fishing with outsiders and fishing activities during the spawning season.

In June, KESAN organized a meeting with members of Daw Lar Lake's Management Committee on how to deal with the new local Myanmar Fishery Department officials as they were planning to release invasive fish species into the lake.

Water Advocacy

Over 2,000 people attended the March 14th International Day of Action for Rivers and Against Dams Event in Ei Tu Hta. The event included speeches, rallies, drawing competitions, and public demands for the cessation of proposed dams and the ousting of the military dictatorship.

On June 5th, KESAN co-organized a Tree Planting Campaign with IDPs and youth groups as part of World Environment Day. This activity mobilized local CBOs and engaged the future generation in reforestation and watershed protection.

KESAN facilitated an online meeting in June for Shan, Mon, Karen and Karenni members of the Save the Salween Network to discuss responses to current challenges, land issues and joint responses to the proposed hydro-power dams.

KESAN participated at the TROSA Annual Learning Forum on April 22nd and participated in a panel on the role of civil society in increased inclusion and leadership of local communities.

KESAN participated in the TROSA panel discussion on *Promoting Inclusive Ecosystem Restoration: Experiences from the Mekong and GBM Regions* on June 10th.



During the March 14th event, community members demanding an end to all planned dams along the Salween River

Environmental Education Program

The 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. Although the conflict and the pandemic limited the extent to which KEEP staff could travel or organize training, KEEP continued to develop educational materials to distribute to IDP communities, refugees along the Thai-Burma border, and students and teachers across Karen state, as well as public information services to the wider communities. In 2021, KEEP supported KESAN's other programs with the creation of various IEC materials and continued to develop cultural curriculums and teaching pedagogies.

Key outcomes

- The Cultural Curriculum successfully rolled out in The Nu Chet La Cultural School
- Waste management trainings and 3 small community landfills were completed
- 2 climate change adaptation training workshops were conducted to promote indigenous knowledge as a means to improve disaster readiness.
- SPP, WASH, and UNDRIP information materials were produced and shared with communities and leaders.

Summary of achievements

Indigenous Rights Awareness Raising

A UNDRIP Handbook was developed and shared to empower communities through increased awareness about Indigenous rights.

2 SPP IEC toolkits were produced in order to ensure community members were more aware of their customary land rights.

Environmental and Cultural Curricula

The Karen Education and Culture Department (KECD) adopted the Environmental Curriculum, and rolled it out in grades 10-12 at schools in Karen areas.

The Cultural Curriculum was successfully rolled out in 2021 at The Nue Chet La Cultural School.



Cultural school students weaving baskets



Waste management training at Mutraw Junior College

In October, a two-day Cultural Curriculum Consultative Workshop was conducted in Ta May Hta among 54 people from the SPP Governing Committee, The Nue Chet La School's staff, students, parents in order to develop a culture-based pedagogical methodology for the cultural curriculum.

Students and teachers of The Nue Chet La Cultural School participated in a Community Learning Visit to Ler Mu Kho Community Forest to help students gain a deeper knowledge from the elders as well as bridge and strengthen cultural knowledge that has been gradually disappearing due to militarization.

WASH Education and Waste Management

3 small landfills were completed in October and the students and faculty at Ta May Hta high school have been using them and raising awareness about waste management in their school and neighboring communities.

WASH poster and pamphlet to inform and educate at the community level.

1 three-day waste management training with 82 participants from Mutraw Junior College covered different types of waste, waste management and sanitation, as well as COVID-19 awareness.

Climate Change Adaptation Awareness Raising

KESAN facilitated 2 Climate Change Adaptation Training Workshops for the SPP Kaw communities of Kler Baw Hta and Kler Baw Hta villages. Here, community members joined to revitalize Indigenous knowledge and discuss how indigenous Karen practices can contribute to climate change adaptation.



Climate change adaptation meeting in Hpa'an District

Case Study: Indigenous knowledge for climate change adaptation and mitigation

Karen State has seen an increase in climate change-induced natural disasters over the past few years. In 2018, KESAN and other Karen women and youth organizations provided emergency aid for people affected by historic flooding and landslides. Downstream areas of the Salween River such as Kyain and the Ar Htan Yan River were flooded for the first time in 50 years according to locals. Because Indigenous people are at key stakeholders in climate change mitigation, KESAN conducts climate change adaptation training with Karen communities at risk of climatic hazards with the aim to preserve and revitalize their traditional knowledge, skills and practices in coping with climatic hazards. During these trainings, participants document past disasters and coping strategies that have been practiced by the current generation as well as their ancestors. Many existing indigenous practices contribute to climate change resilience, for instance Kaw lands play an instrumental role in climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration from the atmosphere. The performance of ritual ceremonies appealing to spirits to protect cultivated lands and crop yields, traditional ways of weather forecasting, cultural taboos and protocols, and agroecological farming practices are key aspects of Karen people's resilience to climate change. Indigenous elders' traditional knowledge is also a resource for disaster preparedness, such as when elders make weather predictions based on a combination of natural phenomena and observations. An example of this is the traditional belief that when red ants build their nest on the top of a tree, this is a warning sign that there will be flooding, while when they make their nest on the ground or at the bottom of the tree, it is a sign that heavy storms will arrive soon.



Media and Advocacy Program

Throughout 2021 KESAN's Media and Advocacy Program supported all of KESAN's programs by producing media materials to advocate for environmental issues, climate change, Karen customary lands, conflict and other topics in Karen territories. The Media and Advocacy Program staff continued to work in and alongside local communities to raise awareness, share information, and provide channels for communities to voice their concerns about the ongoing armed conflicts in Karen State. Despite these challenges of 2021, the media team was able to accomplish much through communication with leaders and community members, researching, documenting, writing, editing, translating, producing films and magazines. Our media team also worked to share information among CBOs, local villagers, leaders, and national and international journalists, as well as on social media and on the KESAN website.

Key outcomes

- A public alert system was set up in Day Bu Noh following the first round of airstrikes.
- Radio and media trainings were carried out with KSNG, KYO, and KWO.
- 20 *Thulei Kawwei* radio programs were broadcast about issues effecting Karen people including culture, environment, and important news.
- 9 videos were released covering a range of topics including the conflict and humanitarian situation, Indigenous rights, and the work communities are doing to protect their lands and biodiversity.



Media training in collaboration with KWO

Summary of achievements

Training and Capacity Building

The Media Program coordinator facilitated a total of 6 media trainings: 2 trainings with Mutraw Community Radio, 2 with Karen Women's Organization (KWO) youth, 1 with the Karen Youth Organization (KYO), and 1 with the KNU.

KESAN collaborated with KSNG radio to organize the *Time For Nature* video competition, aimed to encourage young people in refugee camps along the border, as well as Karen students inside Burma and in the diaspora to develop their skills, and promote education about environmental issues in Karen areas.



Community radio volunteers recording a program

Community Radio and Public Alerts

A Public Alert System was constructed in Day Bu Noh village following aerial attacks in the first half of 2021.

A Relay Radio Station was established in Luthaw township (Mutraw District) to boost the signal of the main station in Day Bu Noh, allowing more communities to access this important service.

Over 200 radio receivers were distributed to vulnerable communities and local leaders.



Setting up the Public Alert System in Day Bu Noh

The KESAN media team assisted KSNR radio, and Mutraw radio volunteers to plan, research, and carry out interviews for their radio programming. In 2021 there were programs almost every day with topics ranging from news about the conflict to knowledge sharing from Indigenous elders.

20 *Thulei Kawwei* radio programs were broadcast from Mutraw Community Radio.

Briefers and Report Publications

A *Thulei Kawwei Environmental Magazine* issue was published in August, featuring articles on the current political situation and the impacts on Karen communities; the value of the forest; messages from communities to KNU leaders; traditional medicines; KESAN's livelihood support program activities; and many traditional poems (*Hta*).

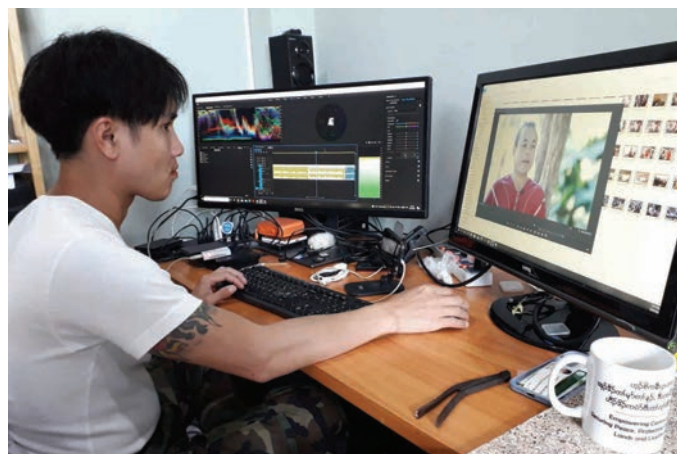
Briefer/ Report Titles	Content
<i>Salween Peace Park Under Attack</i>	Details of situation following the unprecedented first round of airstrikes in May 2021
<i>Terror From the Skies: Military regime's escalated offensives cause mass displacement across Mutraw.</i>	The mass displacement and the humanitarian crisis in Mutraw
<i>Shelling Out Punishment Across Mutraw</i>	The ongoing human rights abuses carried out in Mutraw by the SAC military
<i>Sustainable Forest Management: Reflections on Over a Decade of Indigenous Karen Community Forests</i>	A photo-essay book about three Indigenous Karen communities and their forests which includes traditional sustainable forest use
<i>Drivers of Deforestation and Land-Use and Land-Cover Change in Kawthoolei (1990-2020)</i>	How conflict and ceasefires have led to increased deforestation and land use transitions

Pamphlets and posters designed and published

Topic	# Printed
UNDRIP handbook	1,000
Waste management stickers	100
Tamar Gaw Kee CF management plan	20
Waste management poster no. 1	1,000
Waste management poster no. 2	1,000
Vinyl: Waste management training	1
Vinyl and poster for Luthaw protest	17
Vinyls: CBLI program	1
Vinyls and poster for March 14 th protest	17
SPP Land Use posters	2,000
<i>KESAN Annual Report (2020)</i>	50
Rice bank consultation meeting vinyl	1
WASH poster	1,500
WASH briefer	2,000
<i>SPP Primer</i>	2,000
Thulei Kawwei Vol 11 issue 3 and 4	8,000
<i>Drivers of Deforestation in Kawthoolei Report</i>	2,500
KWCI maps	3
A Gift From Salween Basin (KESAN +YG youth)	543
KESAN / SPP vinyls	14
Posters for KESAN activities	21
KESAN anniversary certificates	109
Rice bank records	20
Wildlife info briefers	250
<i>Shelling Out Punishment Across Mutraw briefer (E & B version)</i>	E-version
SPP seals	40
SPP member cards	5



Distributing KESAN publications in Doo Tha Htoo District



Media team editing a video



The media team carrying out an interview during the March 14th event

Videos produced

Date	Topic/ Title
27 January	Comments from the Brigadier General of the KNLA on the current conflict in Karen State
8 February	<i>Strengthening Livelihoods and Protecting the Environment</i>
11 February	Lt Colonel Saw Eh Doh explains reasons for ongoing conflict between Burma Army and KNLA in Mutraw despite ceasefire agreement
7 March	<i>No Burma Army Dictatorship on Our Land!</i>
4 April	Update about displaced Karen people due to Burma Army's air bombing
12 May	Naw Zipporah Sein explains about the NCA, the formation of National Unity Government, and federalism
1 July	<i>Nowhere to Run: Karen villagers under attack from Airstrikes and Artillery (KPSN)</i>
1 November	<i>For a Healthy World, Indigenous People's Rights Matter</i>
6 November	<i>Protecting Myanmar's Forests</i>

Case Study: Community Radio

The conflict and displacement in Karen areas has created significant challenges for communication and the sharing of important information between local leaders and civilians. Radio is the most reliable and effective means of information sharing, and it is a vital source of important news and updates about the conflict, COVID-19, and other situations.

Community members and leaders have expressed that the radio program is useful for them especially in times of crisis and when people are fleeing. KESAN is working with the community volunteers to help them write programs and broadcast every evening even when the SAC is conducting airstrikes. Currently there is 1 radio station in Mutraw, with 2 relay stations. KESAN has been able to distribute over 200 radio receivers to community leaders and local people and has provided training for radio program volunteers. The radio broadcasts include news, Karen poems, songs, information about education, health, Indigenous knowledge, culture, environmental issues such as climate change, interviews, and more.

The feedback from local communities and leaders has been positive, with beneficiaries describing how essential radio has been for aiding information communication, and for the security and wellbeing of local people. The head of Mutraw-Department of Information, Saw Htoo Eh, reflected, *“Both radio programs and public announcements are very important for the villagers. In case of an emergency, we cannot reach each other easily so work through these channels”*

Saw Nya Ki Htoo, community leader from Lu Thaw Township commented, *“Community radio programs are really useful for us and I can see that many people are listening to this program. Because of this community radio program, we get to know about so many issues and get updated information that we need to know. I would like to thank the district leader for establishing this program so we are connected to current affairs.”*

Naw Paw Thar, a villager from Ler Mu Plaw explained *“I wanted a radio a long time ago but I couldn’t buy it. Now our leader organizes the radio broadcast and distributes radios so we can listen to the radio every evening. In difficult situations, we can hear our leader’s encouragement which helps us to stay strong. We also get informed updates and this program has educated us in many ways. We are entertained as well because we are not only listening to updates, but also music.”*



Advocacy and Networking

Humanitarian Support Advocacy

Many KESAN staff have been helping to fundraise and coordinate humanitarian response across Karen State and along the border. This has involved close collaboration with KNU humanitarian response teams, and Karen civil society coalitions such as the Karen Emergency Response Team (KERT) and the Border Emergency Response Team (BERT).

KESAN Executive Team members attended a number of meetings with international officials, including the British embassy, the EU's representative for Myanmar, UNHCR, UNOCHA, and former UN special rapporteur Yanghe Lee. In these meetings KESAN shared updates about the human rights abuses in Karen areas, and advocated for effective cross-border aid through existing civil society networks.

Engagement with the National Unity Government

KESAN's Deputy Director participated in monthly meetings with various ministries of the NUG- including the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management- as a representative of Karen civil society to help update information and coordinate humanitarian responses.

KESAN joined a series of meetings with NUG's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC), to assist and input in drafting land tenure rights policies for Indigenous and ethnic peoples. KESAN has also been advocating for resource federalism in this capacity.

Indigenous Peoples' Advocacy and Networking

National levels

KESAN worked with the All Burma Indigenous Peoples' Alliance to bring together organizations focusing on Indigenous land rights, through the monitoring of policies, political developments, and information sharing within the network. KESAN participated in regular meetings with this network, which included engagement with the NUG relating for federalism advocacy through this network.

KESAN continued to collaborate to develop statements, papers and positions with existing national networks, including the Burma Environmental Working Group (BEWG), the Karen Peace Support Network (KPSN,) and Land in our Hands (LIOH).

Regional levels

The ICCA Consortium's Southeast Asia (SEA) Regional Consortium continued to develop their network through monthly meetings and knowledge exchanges.

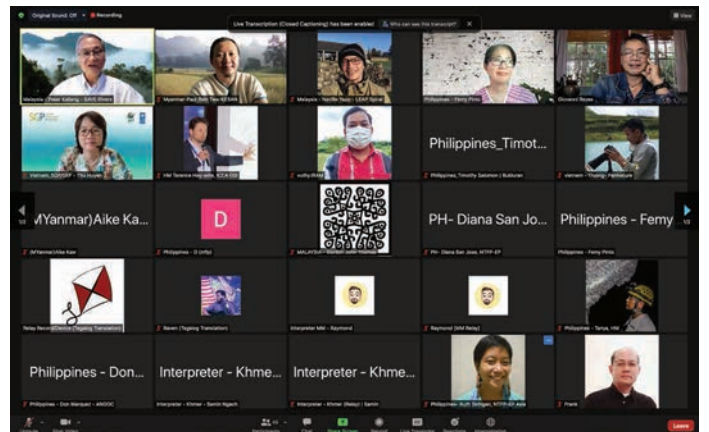
KESAN participated in the ICCA Regional Assembly from October 6-8th.

KESAN increased its coordination with regional alliances (Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines) in the Asia Pacific Network of Environment Defenders (APNED) due to the security limitations on our in-country work following the coup. Using APNED platforms, we were able to put forward our policy recommendations on displacement, human rights issues and other situational updates on military attacks in Karen areas.

In April, KESAN participated in the *Defend the Planet, Defend our Rights Workshop for Environmental Defenders* organized by the Regional Solidarity Campaign Network.



Meeting at the US Consulate to update on the humanitarian situation in Karen areas



ICCA Southeast Asia Regional Assembly, October 2021

KESAN contributed to APNED's report *Reclaiming the Narrative* which was released in April featuring Indigenous Karen leaders Saw Oo Moo & Saw Thet Mee, and activist Saw Tha Poe. It prompted a statement by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment on protecting environmental human rights defenders in this region.

International levels

The SPP and KESAN have continued to be active in the ICCA Consortium by participating in regular knowledge exchanges, and a webinar in August titled *Sustaining Territories of Life: A Solidarity Exchange on Indigenous Decolonization and Sustainable Self-determination*.

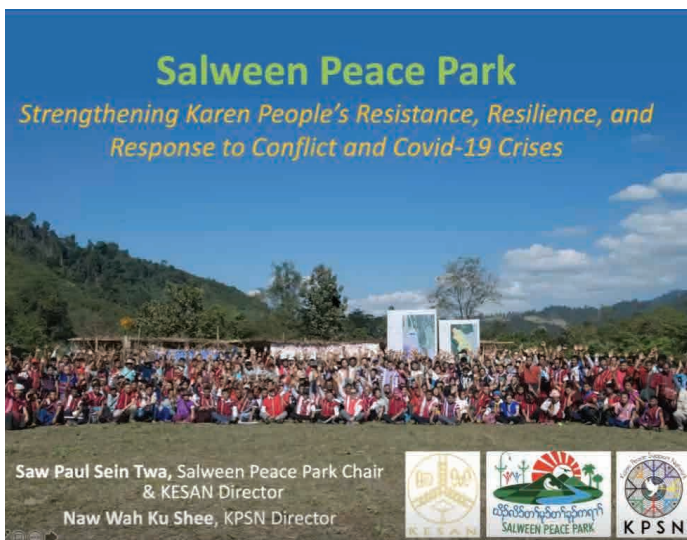
KESAN's Executive Director participated in a webinar series in August titled *Alternatives in Pandemic Times: Resistance, Recovery and Re-Existence*, as part of the Global Tapestry Of Alternatives Initiative.

The short film *Protecting Myanmar's Forests* was presented at the COP-26 Climate Conference (in the Indigenous Peoples Pavilion) on 5 November. It shows how Karen and Kachin Indigenous peoples protect Burma's forests against the military junta and other threats.

At COP-26 in November, KESAN participated in a workshop titled *From Grassroots Resistance towards Revolutionary Reconstruction: Visions from the Ground of the World We Want to Create*, which aimed to gather and promote radical and grassroots visions and demands of peoples in the frontlines of the world.

KNU Policy Development

KESAN's Deputy Director and Land and Forest Management Program Coordinator, worked with the KAD to develop a comprehensive people-centered *Kawthoolei Agricultural Policy* which is still in the process.



KESAN participated in a webinar about Indigenous peoples' resilience, organised by Global Tapestry of Alternatives



During the last year, KESAN continued to work with the relevant KNU Departments to finalize the draft *Development Project Review Policy* (also known as the *Environmental Protection Policy*).

Discussions continued throughout the year with the KFD about revisions to the existing *Kawthoolei Forest Policy*.

Engagement with Academic Institutions

The peer reviewed journal article *Scalar Politics, Power Struggles and Institutional Emergence in Daw Lar Lake, Myanmar* was published in *Journal of Rural Studies*. KESAN's Local Research Coordinator co-authored this article, and this effort was the result of KESAN's close work with regional academic and research institutions from Chulalongkorn University and Chiang Mai University, in cooperation with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) based in Laos. This and other academic engagements aim to co-produce knowledge and engage in regional policy platforms towards informed, transparent, and accountable water governance.

Emergency Response and Humanitarian Aid

Since the 2021 military coup, rapid humanitarian interventions were needed after fighting intensified in KESAN project areas, with both ground attacks and unprecedented airstrikes from the Burmese Army. Over the course of 2021, the number of displaced people rose to over 100,000 in Mutraw District alone. Many CDM'ers from Central Burma also fled to the jungles of Kawthoolei, and some crossed the border over to Thailand when possible.

KESAN is not a humanitarian organization, but we are first and foremost guided by the needs of the communities in which we work. Therefore, when communities request humanitarian interventions, KESAN coordinates with a consortium of Karen civil society networks, such as the Border Emergency Relief Team (BERT) and Kawthoolei Emergency Relief Team (KERT), to coordinate and deliver aid. During 2021, KESAN received funding which we contributed through these networks from Christian Aid, Partners Asia, Advance Myanmar, Première Urgence Internationale, and Peace Winds Japan.

Using this support KESAN was able to distribute 1,000 sacks of rice for 2,490 IDPs, 12 walkie talkies that improved emergency response communication to benefit more than 600 villagers, and 40 light-weight portable Wateroam water filters for IDPs, via coordination across levels with local KNU officials and Karen CBOs.

In addition to providing support for local IDPs, KESAN also fundraised to support activists fleeing from the oppressive military regime. This included support for housing, utilities, and food for CDMs, recently released political prisoners who were forced to flee, and other people targeted by the Burmese military.



Displaced people fleeing airstrikes in Mutraw



Water filter provision for displaced and conflict-affected communities



Transporting rice and other essential items across the Salween River to people who have been displaced due to fighting

Organisational development

During 2021, the KESAN team was forced to adapt to new workplace and field work situations, due to security concerns after the Coup and the continuation of the COVID outbreak. Our field offices inside Burma were forced to shut down, with staff forced to work at home. However, even working at home was not a safe option for some staff who were forced to flee back to their home communities, or in some cases leave the country. By the end of 2021, all of our staff who used to be based at our two Myanmar offices were scattered, and we were drawing up contingency plans about how to best continue to implement their project activities in the new locations.

Meanwhile, KESAN continued to develop our organizational policies, plans and operational strategies. A review/ update of all KESAN organizational policies was conducted during 2021, as well as a review of our 2021-2023 Strategic Plan. During 2021, KESAN hired 3 new staff for our CBLI and L&F Resource Management programs who were able to assist with the ever-increasing amount of reporting and documentation needed from donors.

KESAN has continued to grow and strengthen our capacity as a grassroots indigenous organization. Our staff participated in a number of professional trainings during 2021 as listed below:

- Disability Inclusion
- Gender Mainstreaming in Forest Management
- Survivor and Community-Led Crisis Responses
- Financial Procedures
- Mentoring and Matchmaking Program on Intellectual Property for Women Entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
- Online Data Management
- Feminist Participatory Action Research

KESAN hosted 6 interns and volunteers in 2021, including 4 Karen undergraduates and 1 Karen Post-graduate student from Chiang Mai University who assisted the Media and Advocacy, Land and Forest Management, and CBLI programs. An undergraduate volunteer from Canada also spent a few months assisting KESAN, particularly the Land and Forest Management Program.



The 20th Anniversary

A Pathway to Social and Environmental Justice



In November 2021, KESAN celebrated the 20th year since we our formal establishment. To recognize two decades of successes, challenges, and lessons learnt, KESAN released a book of photo essays titled *A Pathway to Social and Environmental Justice*.

Looking ahead

In the upcoming year of 2022, KESAN anticipates that there will be many opportunities to build on our previous efforts, as well as some ongoing challenges that must be addressed.

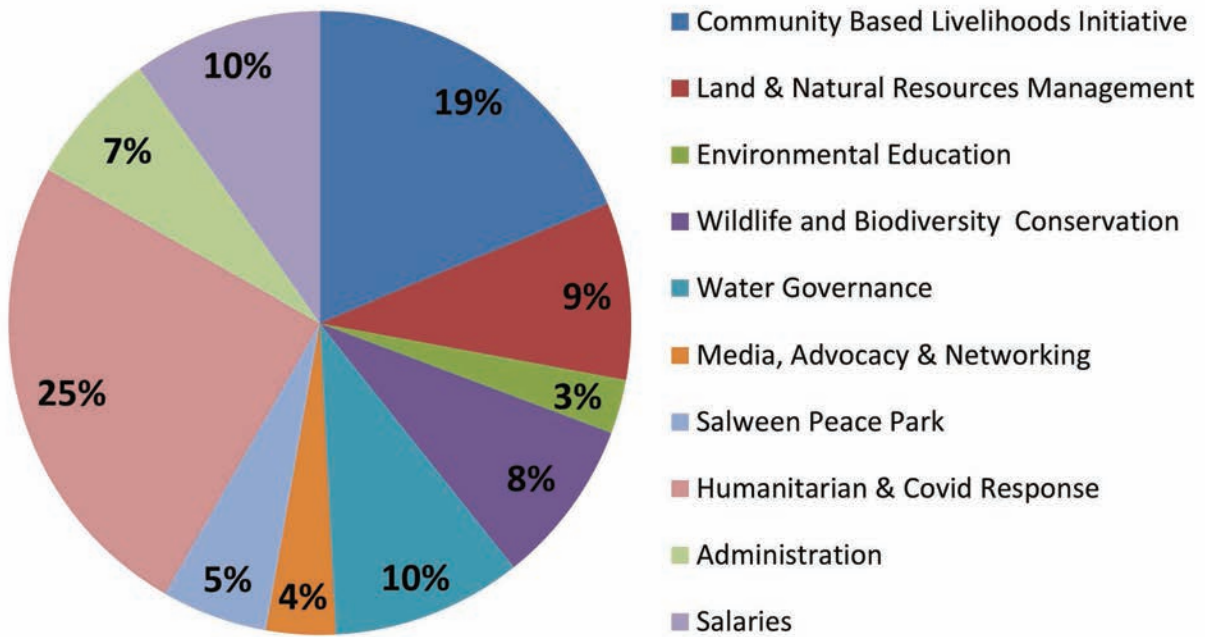
- Of course, the final outcome of the Feb 2021 Military Coup will have enormous effects on the lives and livelihoods of the residents of Kawthoolei, and the opportunities for KESAN to work with them to move forward with their lives. Until there is some resolution to the current political deadlock, however, KESAN will continue to listen to the voices from the communities to guide us about how we can best support them during this crisis. When requested, we will coordinate to provide humanitarian aid/ assistance, while at the same time providing support for livelihoods, land tenure security, environmental education and other community-based initiatives wherever/ whenever possible.
- The delayed KNU Elections still aim to be completed during 2022, which will offer everyone a chance to see if/ how the political situation is changing in Kawthoolei. KESAN may have to adjust its approaches and strategies based on the results of this election.
- In 2022, we plan to keep the momentum moving forward for the development of Indigenous governed areas/ landscapes throughout Kawthoolei. We expect the Salween Peace Park's governance and operations will continue to grow and move towards the full realization of the SPP's goals and objectives, while the SPP becomes firmly entrenched and recognized both within Burma and internationally. Also, we will continue to support efforts for the formal establishment and operation of Indigenous Conserved and Managed Areas in the Thawthi Taw Oo Indigenous Park and the Paw Klo Watershed/ other Indigenous Managed areas in the Mergui-Tavoy District.
- KESAN will continue our engagement the KNU to amend and/or draft policies which provide protection and ensure the rights of community members.
- KESAN will continue to focus on working with local community elders and knowledge holders to ensure that cultural practices and values are passed onto the new generation.
- KESAN will also be working with local community groups- especially women's groups- to support small scale income generation projects that sustainably utilize local resources that can be processed with minimal energy inputs for added value and assist to identify markets for these products.

Financial Overview

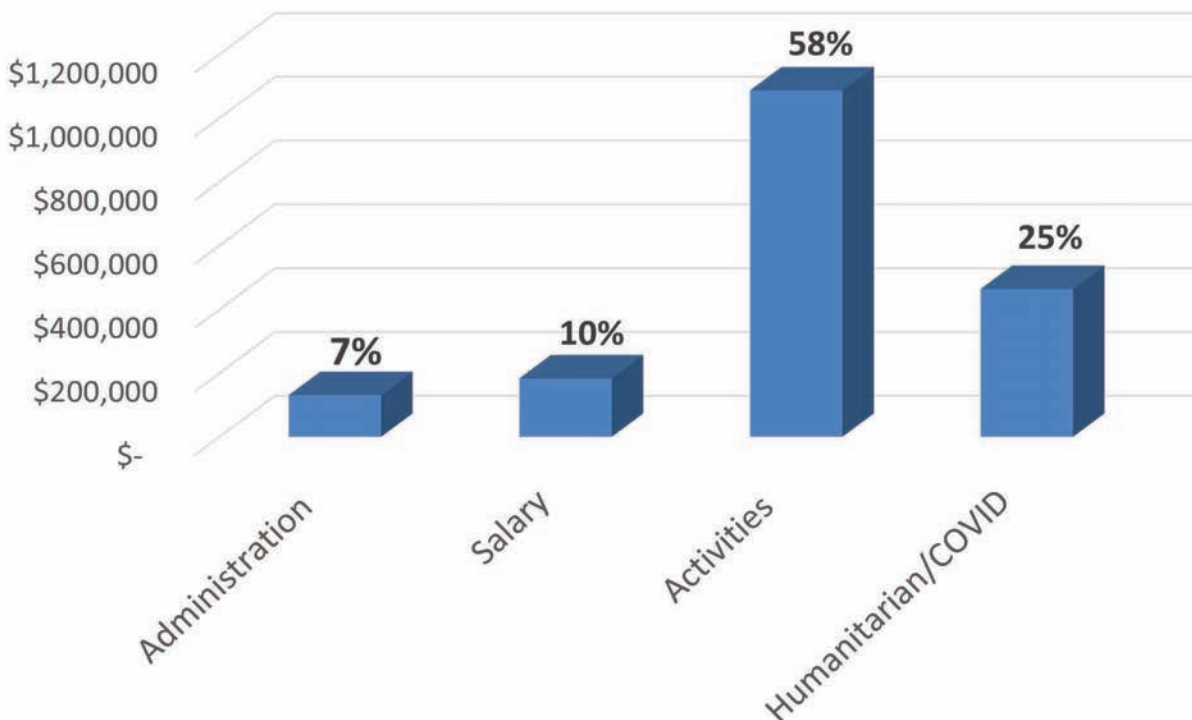
In 2021, KESAN received support from a range of donors whose objectives and principles align with our own. In total, 25 funding streams contributed a total budget of 57,782,868 THB (1,863,963 USD) used to support KESAN’s programs and office operating costs, as well as Humanitarian & Covid Responses (detailed in charts below and table on the next page). Most of these funds were for continuing projects and long-time donors who have been committed to supporting our work over a number of years and multiple project cycles. Besides these ‘old friends’, we also were able to establish new partnerships with 6 funding organizations, 3 of which provided emergency funding for displaced persons.

KESAN would like to thank its donors and individuals for their generous contributions and support they have provided to KESAN and the Karen communities.

2021 KESAN Total Operational Costs (1,863,963 USD)



Costs Breakdown



2021 Funding Sources

No	Donor (Back Donor)	Project Supported in 2021
1	American Jewish World Service- AJWS	Core Organization Operating Expenses
2	The Border Consortium- TBC (LIFT)	CBLI/ Land & Forest Resources Management Program
3	The Border Consortium- TBC (FCDO)	Media, Advocacy and Networking Program
4	DanChurchAid (Danida)	CBLI Program
5	DanChurchAid (HARP)	CBLI/ Environmental Education/ Media, Advocacy and Networking Program
6	DanChurchAid (EU)	CBLI/ Environmental Education/Covid Emergency Response
7	Rainforest Foundation Norway - RFN	Salween Peace Park Program
8	Oxfam-GB	Water Governance Program
9	Burma Relief Centre- BRC	Core Organization Operating Expenses/ Media, Advocacy & Networking Program
10	World Wildlife Fund- WWF (SIDA)	Core Organization Operating Expenses and Indigenous Rights
11	Sone Sei (FCDO)	Land & Forest Resource Management Program
12	Advance Myanmar	Media, Advocacy and Networking Program
13	Forests Trends (LIFT)	Land & Forest Resource Management Program
14	Partner Asia	Humanitarian Aid & Covid Response
15	Premiere Urgence Internationale- PUI	Humanitarian Aid & Covid Response
16	Full Circle Foundation- FCF	Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Program
17	Wildlife Asia (IUCN)	Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Program
18	Wildlife Asia (FCF)	Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Program
19	Wildlife Asia (WWF)	KFD Support
20	Transnational Institute (TNI)	Land & Forest Resource Management Program
21	Siemenpuu Foundation	Land & Forest Resource Management Program Support
22	Christian Aid- CA	Humanitarian & Covid Response
23	Copenhagen University	Organizational Operating Expenses
24	Freedom House	Humanitarian Aid & Covid Response
25	Peace Winds Japan- PWJ	Humanitarian Aid & Covid Response



Villagers enjoying the increased number of fish in their conservation zone, Kler Baw Hta village

2021 Progress Against Strategic Plan

3-Year Target	Y1 (2020)	Y2 (2021) progress
Community Based Livelihoods Initiative Program (CBLI)		
Construct and maintain 30 irrigation systems (27 small-scale and 3 larger systems)	8	47 small channels, 2 larger canals under construction
Construct and maintain 6 Gravity-fed water supply systems for drinking and household consumption	1	5
Train communities about organic farming techniques		
Provision of upland farming tools and equipment in 9 communities	2	3
Organic Gardens for school/ boarding houses in 9 locations	7	7
Compost production and natural pest control trainings in 15 communities	2	2
3 Farmer Knowledge exchanges	-	-
Rice Bank Union		
2 rice bank unions will be established and supported in Luthaw Paw Day and Yer Mu Plaw Clusters in Mutraw District	1	1 new rice bank cluster set up. Rice bank saving fund set up which provides loans.
Support IDP livelihoods in Oo Wei Klo and Ei Tu Hta areas		
6 Workshops conducted for the Oo Wei Klo Agriculture Working Group	-	0
6 Seed Sharing and agricultural equipment distributions for OWK and ETH	-	0
2 Gravity fed water systems will be established in OWK and ETH	1	Water supply system set up in 5 villages
Continued support and development of the Mo Po Mu Women's group in Ei Tu Hta		
Support for further production and marketing of banana chips	X	The women's group run this self-sufficiently using the savings fund
Establish and support a micro-finance fund	X	Set up and already providing loans to 9 women
Conduct 3 Annual <i>Blaw</i> Meetings	-	X
Land and Forest Management Program		
Inform, encourage, and empower local community members in securing rights to manage and develop their lands and natural resources	X	Consultations with Paw Klo Landscape area communities about community land protection process
Assist Land and Natural Resource Policies and the administrative regulations and structures		
47 Land and Forest Policy trainings will be conducted at local and regional levels	5	0
Community Land Protection		
500 village boundaries are surveyed and demarcated	13	0
18 Customary Kaw lands are surveyed, demarcated and revitalized	12	17
15 Community Forests are established	2	0
15 previously established Community Forests have developed CF Management Systems, including Forest Monitoring, Zoning and Small-scale livelihoods	5	0
Conduct Community Forest exposure trips and committee training	-	0

Family Lands Protection		
15,000 Individual Land Titles are surveyed and demarcated	7,822	4,152
70% Karen community members are made aware of KNU Land policy	not measured	Not measured yet
Land Data and Land Dispute Resolution		
7 Land dispute surveys are conducted and used to write a Karen State land dispute report	1	1 (Doo Tha Htoo)
Land Data Management Center data collection and retrieval systems are further developed and supported	X	Online data management training with Cadasta
Water Governance Program		
Continue to reinforce community natural resource governance	X	
Build community capacity to assess, reinforce and adapt their own governance mechanisms	Dawla Lake Committee work	Dawla Lake Committee work - monitoring
Build community capacity to advocate for their right to govern their own resources	Dawla Lake CBWG Advocacy	Limited due to political situation
Use community based natural resource governance models to advocate for recognition of customary rights and community-led development	Dawla Lake CBWG Advocacy	Not possible due to political situation
Through our national, regional and international network of experts, in both civil society and academia, explore the [cumulative] impacts of large-scale investment in the Salween basin to inform national-level advocacy and community-led campaigns	Continuing engagement with relevant authorities re. Hpa-An water pollution issues	Limited due to political situation
Advocate and mobilize for a dam-free Salween River by producing campaign materials, strategically engaging with media and the general public, and lobbying government representatives and the private sector	March 14 Day of Protests against Dams	March 14 Day of Protests against Dams
Developing civil society platforms for state and national level engagement on core issues which includes:		
Customary rights, community-led development, government policy and practice, and large-scale investment (including but not limited to extractive industries and infrastructure)	Continuing engagement with relevant authorities re. Hpa-An water pollution issues	Not possible due to political situation
Media Program		
Support and participate in numerous networks through lobbying, public events, and media engagement	YGN Photo exhibition, Goldman and Equator Prize Coordination; Youth Media trainings	Media interviews, sharing information and updates about the conflict situation with network organisations, media, and international decision makers.
Advocate for just environmental, peace building, and natural resource governance policies.	Regular visits/ meetings with Ethnic Gov't, Embassy, Consulate and INGO staff	Regular visits/ meetings with Ethnic Gov't, Embassy, Consulate and INGO staff
Coordinate media activities and facilitate communication channels for the Salween Peace Park	Equator and Goldman Prize coordination; 2,000 SPP brochures	-
Assist other KESAN Programs with documentation of their work.	11 videos, more than 13,000 total brochures and pamphlets, 2019 Annual report; more than 30 vinyl posters; 2,200	9 videos produced. KESAN media team has supported all 7 programs with designing IEC materials.

Food Sovereignty, Community Forest Best Practices	Thuleikawei Environment Magazine copies	Thuleikawei Environment Magazine copies
Keep the public informed		
Ei Htu Hta PA system installation and maintenance	-	Establishing early warning system in Day Bu Noh area
Continue with the Mutraw District community radio station and establish a Karen community radio station in Taw Oo District	18 programs	20 radio programs and 1 extra relay station set up in Mutraw. Another relay station in the process of construction
Produce 6 editions of the <i>Thuleikawei</i> environmental magazine	1	1
Produce and distribute 2 documentaries: 'SPP journey' and 'Kaw customary lands'	-	9 videos produced
Increase social media presence	More than 200K views of videos	X
Maintain updated information on KESAN's website	Website, FB and YouTube continuously updated	Website design and content updated
Develop a secure online data system for KESAN staff to access and use	Cyber and Physical Security trainings	X
Environmental Education Program		
Conduct 12 Environmental Outreach trainings	2	2 climate change awareness workshops
Facilitate 3 Intergenerational Dialogues	-	
Produce and distribute 3 Environmental Education Toolkits	1	3 (WASH, SPP, and UNDRIP IEC materials)
Conduct 3 World Indigenous Day events	-	0
Produce and distribute 3 Environmental Training manuals	-	X
Finalize the 3-Year Environmental Curriculum for Karen schools	X	Environmental curriculum is being rolled out in the schools
Wildlife Conservation and Biodiversity Program		
Identify, study, manage and conserve the bio-diverse plants and animals	X	
Identify high-value wildlife areas and demarcate wildlife sanctuaries	X	
Train local forest stewards and protection units	Continuing coordinate forest ranger trainings with KFD and KWCI	Continuing coordinate forest ranger trainings with KFD and KWCI
Conduct participatory research that combines scientific expertise with local indigenous knowledge	Community based mushroom research, Camera traps installation and collection of data; Coordination with WWF/ Cadasta for forest coverage research mapping	camera trap survey, and livelihoods survey



Karen Environmental & Social Action Network



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