

WHY KERBWA?

The forests of Kawthoolei are home to rich biodiversity and support the livelihoods, cultures, and identities of Indigenous Karen communities.

Yet these forests face growing threats of illegal activities and environmental degradation.

For generations, Karen communities have protected their territories through customary governance and traditional ecological knowledge.

KERBWA builds on these practices, combining local knowledge with digital monitoring to help communities document threats, protect biodiversity, and make informed decisions about forest management.



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KERBWA: The Kawthoolei Ecosystem Resilience and Biodiversity Watch Application

KERBWA is a digital forest monitoring tool used by Indigenous Karen communities across Kawthoolei, southeastern Myanmar to monitor and report illegal activities.



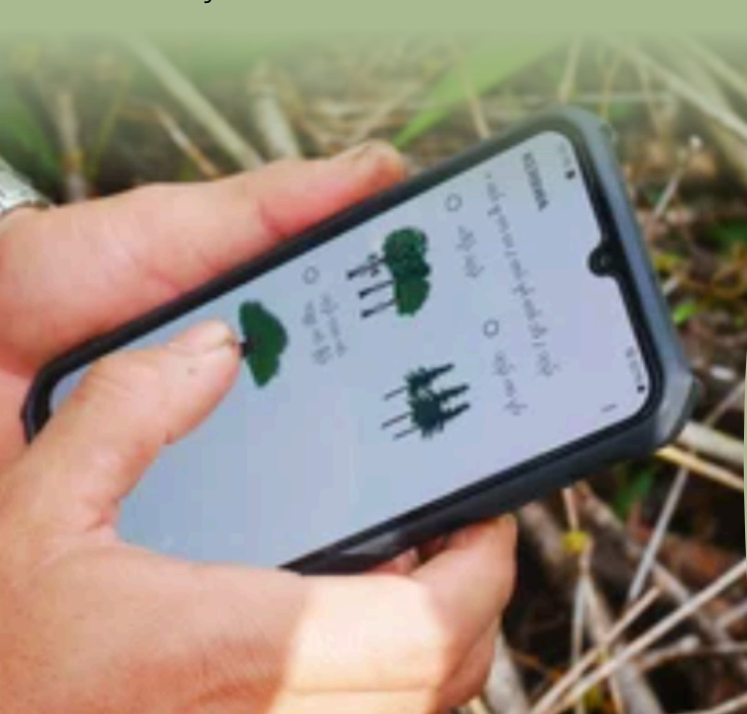
WHAT IS KERBWA?

KERBWA, meaning “stewards of the forest” in Karen, is a community-based forest monitoring platform developed through a participatory citizen science process.

Designed by Indigenous Karen communities, the app integrates local ecological knowledge, monitoring priorities, and customary forest management practices.

KERBWA works offline, enabling rangers to document forest threats and biodiversity in remote areas without internet access.

It supports community-led monitoring across protected forests, wildlife sanctuaries, and community forests in Kawthoolei.



WHAT DOES IT MONITOR?

ACTIVITY TYPE



Patrol



Monitoring Entry

CATEGORIES

Illegal Activities



Logging



Mining



Hunting

Forest Degradation



Fires



Landslides



Floods

Biodiversity



Wildlife Species



Plants



**Animal Trails
/Corridors**

FROM MONITORING TO COMMUNITY ACTION:

01 COLLECT

Karen rangers document biodiversity and forest threats, even without internet access.

02 MANAGE

Communities securely store and manage their environmental data through the KERBWA dashboard.

03 RESPOND

Community-generated evidence helps identify threats and guide local forest protection decisions.

PROTECT

Indigenous-led monitoring strengthens forest governance, biodiversity conservation, and long-term resilience.