



# FOREST LOSS MONITORING PROJECT

## NEWSLETTER

### ISSUE AUGUST 2024





## Project Started and MOU's and The meeting of Committee member

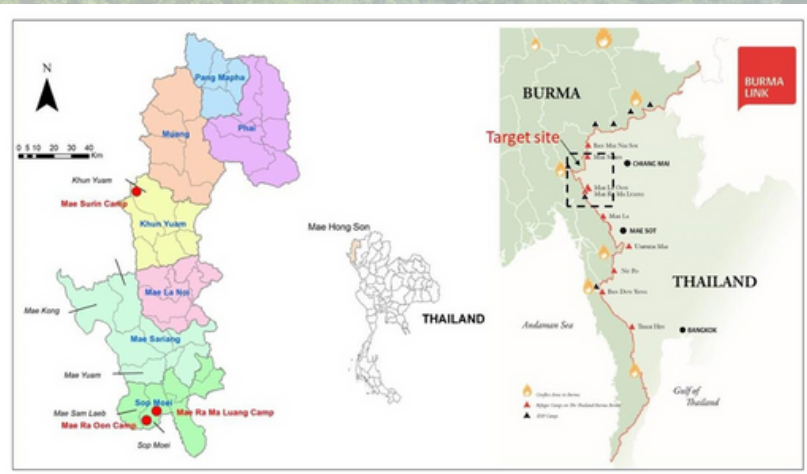
"Following the end of 2023, ITTO proposed that Kasetsart University and the Department of Forestry write a proposal for a grant from the Japanese government (Japan Emergency Budget). With the collaboration of Professor Dr. Yongyuth Trisurat and Dr. Precha Ongprasert, Thailand received approval for this funding in the amount of \$278,078.48 or approximately 10 million Thai Baht. In June 2024, an academic cooperation MOU was established between ITTO and Kasetsart University, with support from the Department of Forestry and other related agencies, under the project titled **"Strengthening Surveillance and Monitoring to Tackle the Surge in Forest Loss and Land Degradation, Induced by Intensifying Conflict in Thailand's Border Areas."**



On July 26, an inception meeting was held to clarify the project details for the project committee, including introducing the project team. Two sets of project committee members were appointed, namely:

- Project Steering Committee (PSC)
- and
- Project Technical Committee (PTC)

The project has selected four pilot areas to implement the project in community forests near the temporary shelters for refugees from the ongoing conflict in Myanmar, as well as one reserve forest area in Mae Hong Son Province.





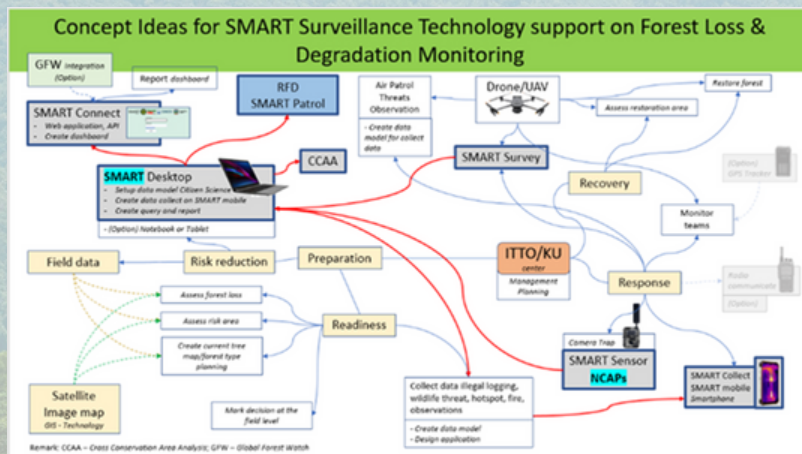
**Project Approach**

This project aims to address the ongoing issues of deforestation and degradation of forests while ensuring the security of livelihoods for people in the **Thai-Myanmar border area**.

**Guidelines for implementation**

**1. SMART technologies – earth observation, ground monitoring, real time report**

- Forest loss monitoring and drone monitoring NCAPs, and SMART PATROL



**2. Capacity Building (Training Sessions)**

- Cultivation, and commercialize bamboo and NTFPs
- Livelihood improvement handicraft products
- Study visit (e.g., Ubon Ratchathani)



Members of the Ubon Ratchathani community receive training on orchid production micro-techniques. Photo: Royal Forest Department/ITTO



## Field Survey (Mae Hong Son)

From August 3 to 5, 2024, the team traveled to Mae Hong Son Province. On August 4, they surveyed four community forests with the cooperation of the Soil and Water Conservation Office 1 in Mae Hong Son, which guided us to our target community forests:

1. Thung Pam Community Forest
2. Mae Thalu Community Forest
3. Lekoh Community Forest
4. Tor Pae Community Forest

The purpose of this visit was to introduce the project and meet with the leaders of the community forests before commencing project activities, which are expected to start in August. From the area surveys and discussions with community leaders in all four locations, there are very positive signs as the community leaders have expressed their readiness and potential for cooperation with the project.



Discuss with the officer (Khun Ton) before going to the field work.



The village headman of Ban Tung Pham took us to see the community forest and explained about its management.







# Field Survey (Mae Hong Son)



Mae Thalu Community Forest



Met with the village headman of Mae Thalu and discussed together.

Lekoh Community Forest



Met with the village headman of Lekoh and discussed together.







## Field Survey (Mae Hong Son)



### Tor Pae Community Forest



Meet the leaders of the Ban To Pae community forest.





## Field Survey (Mae Hong Son)

Then, on the morning of August 5, 2024, the team met with the Director of the Community Forest Management Division at the Forest Resource Management Office 1 in Mae Hong Son to discuss the project details and request various information from the office.

Later that morning, the team met with the Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC) in Mae Hong Son Province. During this meeting, the team discussed and clarified project details with ISOC and talked about the situation along the Thai-Myanmar border. The team also discussed the use of drones in the area, and initially, the ISOC approved the drone operations to take place between November and December 2024.



Met with the Director of the Community Forest Management Division at the Forest Resource Management Office 1 in Mae Hong Son.



Meet with representatives of the Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC) in Mae Hong Son Province.