

'Preparing a Model Management Plan for Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary'

Myitkyina, Kachin State, Myanmar

Workshop Report

December 12-14, 2000

Highlights of the Workshop

It was a successful training workshop that invited participation from people from the grass roots and it used local languages to address the objectives because the majority of people were from Myanmar. The 32 participants included village representatives and field staff of Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary — as requested by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). They also included officials from the Forest Department and local government and staff of Kachin University, Hkakaborazi National Park, and Indawkyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary. More detailed information about the participants is given in Appendix 1. The training workshop was held in Myitkyina, the capital of Kachin State, at the Forest Department; this venue was chosen to minimise costs of the workshop, which was planned as a low-cost, high-efficiency training activity. By reducing costs, more local people could be invited to participate.

The workshop was a joint venture of ICIMOD and the Forest Department of the Ministry of Forestry of Myanmar. It forms part of the ICIMOD project on 'Promotion of Regional Collaboration for Biodiversity Conservation and Management in the Eastern Himalayas' supported by the World Environment and Resources' Programme of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The overall goal of the project is to improve biodiversity conservation in the eastern Himalayan region. The project is working primarily with China, Myanmar, and Nepal.

It is important to initiate and enhance biodiversity conservation, based on public participation in natural resource management in Myanmar, especially in the northern part of the country. There is large area of natural primary forest with rich biodiversity. At the same time population pressure and illegal poaching are increasing. Traditional shifting agriculture (taungya), charcoal making, and slash-and-burn cultivation are the key driving forces threatening biodiversity. The workshop on 'Sub-regional Consultation on Conservation of Hkakaborazi Mountain Ecosystems in the Eastern Himalayas' was held on 25-29 October 1999, in Putao, Myanmar. 'Preparing a Model Management Plan for Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary' is a follow-up to this workshop.

As part of the workshop, a one-day field visit to Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary was organised to survey the present state of the ecosystems and the lifestyle of the local people. There are some tracts of good quality forest at watershed head areas, and people understand the importance of protecting them. Extensive farming is practised within Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary where the Lisu, Kachin, and Rawang people live together peacefully. Degraded forest and bush and tall grasses occupy the slopes and valleys. Some wetland has been converted into paddy land. The team also visited the confluence of Nmai Hka River and Mali Hka River along the road, from where it can be seen that good quality forest exists in some higher parts of the hills.

“what experiences can be learned from the management of Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary?”

Background

Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary has been selected for a case study; the experiences with Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary will provide experiences for other national parks. Some national parks of Myanmar may have been in the same situation as Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary 70 years ago, with a rich wildlife and low population pressure. Now many large mammals have declined in number, or disappeared, and there are difficulties in dealing with the conflict of interest between the parks and local communities. Why are rhinoceroses and elephants not found now? Can any measures be taken to change this? What experiences can be learned from the management of Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary? What suggestions can be made to improve the management of Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary? These were some of the questions that could be raised for open discussion at the workshop.

The objectives of establishing Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary were as follow.

- To protect and conserve the existing biodiversity in a systematic way, aiming at promoting the existing ecology of wild plants and animals
- To introduce extension activities related to environmental conservation that are intended to educate the local communities
- To strive for the participation of local communities in the programmes of environmental conservation and to assist in the social and economical progress of the communities

“measures have been taken, including evaluation of species for conservation, boundary demarcation for legal protection, the setting-up of signboards to display law, implementation of regulations”

There are also new issues that should be considered which relate to the present socioeconomic status of and population increase in this region. The encroachment of taungya (shifting agriculture) and the settlement of villages has destroyed many animal habitats. The Forest Department is still making efforts to conserve the existing wildlife and rehabilitate the degraded forest. Some measures have been taken, including evaluation of species for conservation, boundary demarcation for legal protection, the setting-up of signboards to display law, implementation of regulations, dissemination of knowledge of environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and the construction of three guard-posts. A buffer-zone area has been established in the southeast of the sanctuary and some technology transfer activities have been carried out here.

The constraints for biodiversity conservation of the sanctuary are lack of funds, lack of manpower, and increasing pressure of human activity and conflict between conservation and development.

Objectives of the Training Workshop

A strategy and practical action plan are required for Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary; this was addressed at the workshop with the following objectives.

- Review the experience and lessons of management of Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary with particular emphasis on management of nature reserves

and biodiversity conservation in areas with larger populations. The predicted future and alternatives for the sanctuary could be proposed and discussed.

- Discuss the management system and organisational development for Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary. Public participation and community-based management are important issues for improving the management of the sanctuary. Who are the practical and potential stakeholders? Is it possible to establish non-government organisations? Is it possible to form natural resource user groups (such as forest user groups and Water User Associations (WUAs))
- Enhance implementation of existing laws and regulations of environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, which must be listed in local agendas.
- Increase efforts towards technology transfer for local area development and poverty alleviation, including continuation of the current fruit-tree programme. A number of activities can be targeted, including improved cooking stoves, cash crops, biogas, and beekeeping.

The study and discussion of improved management of Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary should focus mainly on the management system, operation mechanisms, resource policy, and the relationship with the local community.

It is important that information is exchanged and experiences are learned from others in order to improve the management of Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary. There must be a shift from management controlled by the administration office to management by administration and all stakeholders. A number of successful ventures can be examples to Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary, including the ecotourism development of Jiuzhaguo Forest Park in west Sichuan, China, the programme of biodiversity collaboration and integrated management of mountain ecosystems in Hongqiang, Chuxiong, Yunnan, China, and the Parks and People Project (PPP) and community forestry in Nepal.

Workshop Programme (see Appendix 2)

The workshop agenda is shown in Appendix 2. On the second day of the workshop a discussion session took place, chaired by U. Kyaw Nyunt Lwin (Director, Forest Department) and coordinated by Professor Chen Guangwei, Division Head, Mountain Natural Resources, ICIMOD. The participants were divided into two groups, the first group discussed 'Development and Conservation of Biodiversity and Its Ecosystems in Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary' and the second group discussed 'Social and Economic Development of the Community and Other Interested Parties'

Workshop Recommendations for the Management Plan of Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary

An executive committee under the state nature and wildlife steering committee to be formed for Piduung Wildlife Sanctuary with the following members.

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council or nominee of Chairman | (Chairman) |
| Representative of Kachin State Peace and Development Council | (Vice-Chairman) |
| Representative of Northern Command | (Member) |
| Manager, Myanmar Timber Enterprise | (Member) |
| Manager, Myanmar Agriculture Enterprise | (Member) |
| Director, Livestock and Breeding Department | (Member) |
| Director, Land Record Department | (Member) |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Director, Representative (to be designated from the main government ministry) | (Member) |
| Head of Basic Education Department (Kachin State) | (Member) |
| Head of Police (Kachin State) | (Member) |
| Union Solidarity Development Association (Kachin State) | (Member) |
| Director, Forest Department (Kachin) | (Secretary) |

Under the State Nature and Wildlife Steering Committee, an Executive Committee will be formed for implementation of conservation in Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary. The membership will consist of the following personnel.

2. A model management plan for Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary will be prepared.

The Director of the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, Forest Department will take responsibility for planning the model management of Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary, with support from the Director of Kachin State Forest Department. The following factors will be considered

- by identifying the existing species of flora and fauna and their ecosystems, a classification of zones for wildlife conservation management according to protection measures required will be carried out; categories will include core zone, buffer zone, development zone, and settlement zone;
- education and public awareness; and
- clearly defined signposts related to the management of zones.

3. Restoration of Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary will be carried out and will include the following.

- A review of the effectiveness of the existing staff; if necessary, recruitment will be carried out.
- Training programmes will be developed (Professor Chen Guangwei).
- The illegal collection of forest products, charcoal making, illegal livestock grazing, and shifting cultivation practices will be strictly prohibited, according to existing laws and regulations.
- Forest fire protection programmes will be planned.
- Relevant technology and information sharing with international organisations will be introduced (Professor Chen Guangwei).
- A joint project proposal to raise funds to support actions in the sanctuary will be prepared (Professor Chen Guangwei).

4. Fuelwood plantation sites will be allocated inside and in the surrounding areas of the sanctuary, to fulfil the needs of the local community. The Forest Department will provide seeds, seedlings, technology, allotted budget funds, and other necessary assistance.
5. Use of fuelwood substitutes and effective, energy-saving stoves will be introduced.

6. A community forestry programme will be introduced and promoted to fulfil the basic needs of the community.
7. Shifting cultivation practices will be banned and permanent agricultural practices together with a tree-planting programme will be encouraged.
8. Under the guidance of the regional authority, the Kachin State Peace and Development Council, an agroforestry system will be implemented with cooperation of the departments concerned.
9. Domestic livestock breeding will be encouraged in order to reduce traditional poaching.
10. Poor and abandoned lands will be allocated as grazing areas for domestic animals under a rotation system.
11. To increase awareness about the value of wild flora and fauna and the environment and to encourage participation by local people, extension activities will be introduced, through schools and religious organisations.
12. Ways and means of achieving cash crop production and promoting family income will be explored.
13. A wide variety of activities aimed at increasing the living standards of local people and promoting knowledge about nature conservation will be encouraged.
14. Ecotourism will be introduced in accordance with the development of the sanctuary and the attraction of Kachin traditions.
15. Funding and technological assistance from local and international organisations will be sought for community development.

Appendix 1: List of Participants

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|--|---|
| U. Hla Aung Member Peace and Development Council, Gut-Shan-Yan Village | Lieutenant Colonel Mg Mg Latt No. (260) Light Infantry Regiment, Mayan Village, Myitkyina |
| U. Khin Aung Head State Peace and Development Council | U. Sein Htoon Linn Assistant Director Planning and Statistics Department, Ministry of Forestry |
| U. Thein Aung Park Warden Hkakaborazi National Park | Daw Kala Ya Lu Demonstrator Department of Botany, Myitkyina University |
| U. Zaw Aung Coordinator Union of Solidarity and Development Association, Myitkyina Township | U. Kyaw Nyunt Lwin Director Extension and Education Division |
| Professor Chen Guangwei Division Head Mountain Natural Resources, ICIMOD, Nepal | U. Dai Lyun Member Nan Kawe, Myitkyina |
| U. Khin Maung Hla Park Warden Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary, Myitkyina | U. Win Maung Staff Officer Forest Department , Myitkyina |
| U. Nyan Hlaing Staff Officer GIS Division, Forest Department | Lieutenant Colonel Hla Moe No. (7) Central Training Defence |
| U. Saw Tun Khaing Country Programme Coordinator Wildlife Conservation Society (Myanmar Program) | U. Mya Assistant Director Forest Department, Kachin State |
| | U. Hla Myint Professor Department of Geology, University of Myitkyina |

U. Bauk Naw
Member
Peace and Development Council, Gut-Shan-Yan Village

U. Man Dar Naw
Member
Peace and Development Council, Gut-Shan-Yan Village

U. Htun Nyo
Deputy Director
Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division,
Forest Department

U. Khin Maung Oo
Assistant Director
Forest Department, Kachin State

Daw Aye Than
Lecturer
Department of Botany, Myitkyina University

U. Hla Thaug
Chairman
Village Peace and Development Council, Gut-Shan-Yang Village

U. Sein Tun
Park Warden
Indawkyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary

U. Zaw Weik
Director
Forest Department, Kachin State

U. Htein Win
Manager
Myanmar Timber Enterprise, Kachin State

U. Htein Win
Ranger
Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary, Myitkyina

U. Tin Win
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Appendix 2: Workshop Agenda

12-12-2000

- 09:00 : Opening Ceremony
- 09:00-09:10 : Welcome Address by U. Kyaw Nyunt Lwin, Director of Forest Department, Myanmar
- 09:10-09:20 : Welcome Address by Administrative Authority (Kachin State)
- 09:20-09:30 : Welcome Address by Division Head of Mountain Natural Resources, ICIMOD
- 09:30-10:15 : Group Photo and Tea
- 10:15-11:00 : Presentation on 'The Mountain Ecosystem and Model Management Plan for Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary', by Resource Person, ICIMOD
- 11:00-11:10 : Discussion
- 11:10-11:35 : Presentation on 'The Assessment and Evaluation of Conservation Value for Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary' by U. Saw Htun Khaing, COordinator, WCS)
- 11:35-11:45 : Discussion
- 11:45-12:45 : Lunch
- 12:45-13:05 : Presentation on 'Suggestions Concerned with Land Use for Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary' by U. Zaw Weik, Director, Forest Department, Kachin State
- 13:05-13:15 : Discussion
- 13:15-13:35 : Presentation on 'The Technical Approaches to Model Management for Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary' by U. Htun Nyo, Deputy Director, NWCD and U. Sein Htoon Linn, Assistant Director, Planning and Statistics Department
- 13:35-13:45 : Discussion
- 13:45-14:15 : Tea
- 14:15- 14:35 : Presentation on 'The Finding of the Current Land Use Condition and Socioeconomic Pressure on

Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary Using Remote Sensing' by U. Nyan Hlaing,
Staff Officer, GIS Section

- 14:35- 14:45 : Discussion
- 14:45-15:05 : Presentation on 'Check List of Birds and Their Conservation in Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary' by U. Thein Aung, Park Warden, Hkakaborazi N.P.
- 15:05- 15:15 : Discussion
- 15:15- 15:35 : Presentation on 'The Current Status and Problems of Wildlife Conservation in Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary' by U. Khin Maung Hla, Park Warden, Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary
- 15:35- 15:45 : Discussion
- 15:45- 16:05 : Presentation on 'List of Rare Valuable and Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna Endemic in Kachin State' by D. Kala Ya Lu, Demonstrator, Botany Department, Myitkyina University
- 16:05- 16:15 : Discussion
- 16:15 : Closing
- 13-12-2000
- 09:00-12:00 : Group Discussion
- 12:00- 13:00 : Lunch
- 13:00-14:00 : Group Presentation and Deliberations on the 'Model Management Plan for Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary'
- 14:00-16:00 : Recommendations and Plenary Discussion

14-12-2000 (Field Trip)

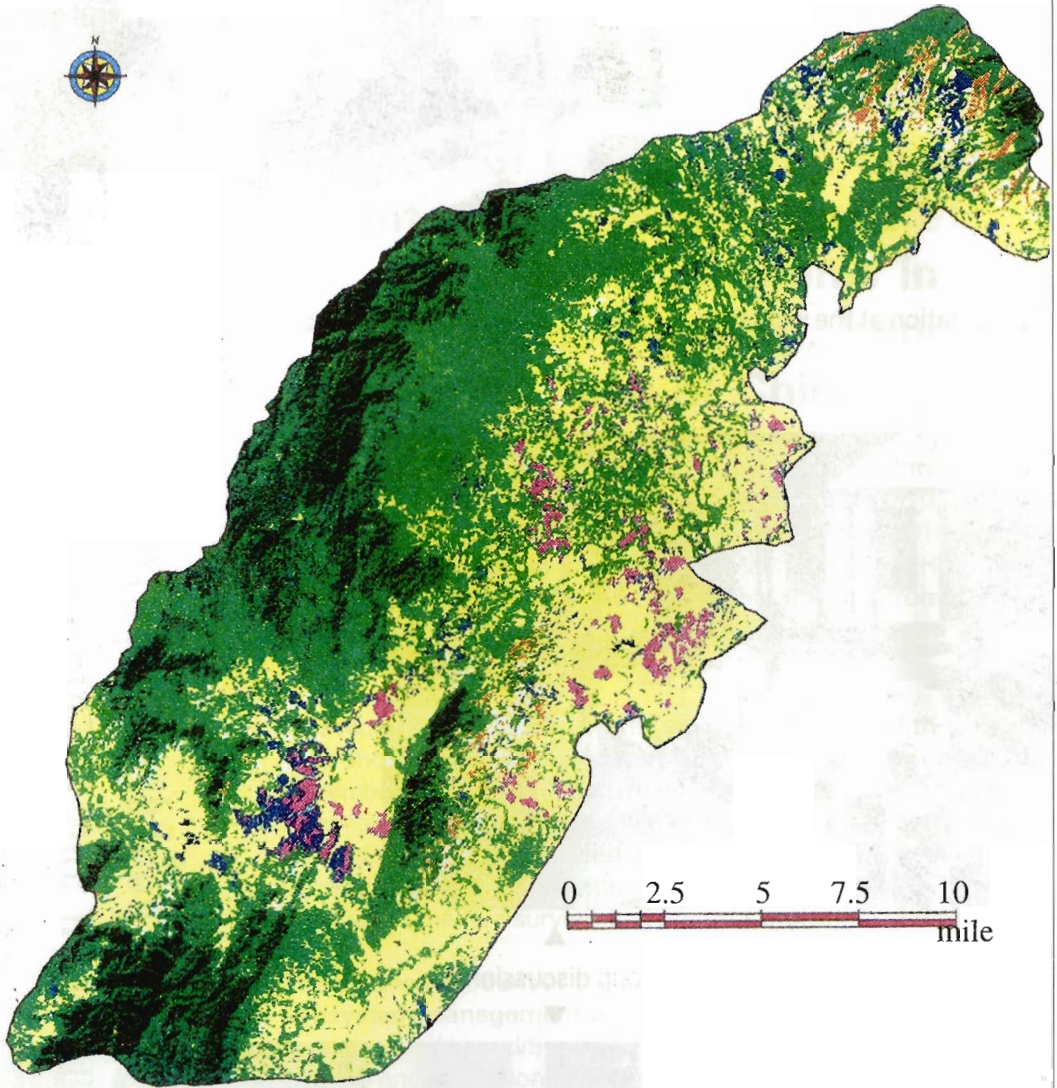
- 08:00 : Breakfast
- 08:30 : Departure for Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary (about 29 km from Myitkyina)
- : Excursion on Agroforestry and Community Development
- 09:30 : Departure from Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary to Gut-Shan-Yang Village (about 6 km)
- : Discussions with the Local Community
- 10:15 : Departure from Gut-Shan-Yang Village
- 11:45 : Arrival at Myitsone (starting point of the Ayarwaddy River) (about 45 km)
- 12:00 : Lunch
- 13:00 : Study of 'Biodiversity of the Mountain Ecosystem and Land Use'
- : Back to Myitkyina

Forest are a protected by villagers, Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary



The area at the foot of the hill was cleared by local people practising taungya

Digitally Classified Land-Use Map of the Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary Area



| | (Acres) | (Sq.m) | (Per Cent) |
|---|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Good Forest | 18107.88 | 16557.83 | 10.49 |
| Degraded Forest / Scrub Land/Shifting Cultivation | 67934.64 | 62119.38 | 39.38 |
| Bamboo Breaks | 2150.61 | 1966.52 | 1.24 |
| Swamp | 4250.82 | 3886.95 | 2.46 |
| Water Body | 7159.57 | 6546.71 | 4.15 |
| Agriculture/Grass Land | 72890.85 | 66651.33 | 42.25 |
| Grand Total | 172494.37 | 157728.71 | 100.00 |

Scale 1:230,000

Source: Landsat 7TM Satellite Image (March 2000)

Produce by: Forest Department RS & GIS Section



Presentation at the workshop



▲
Group discussion
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