

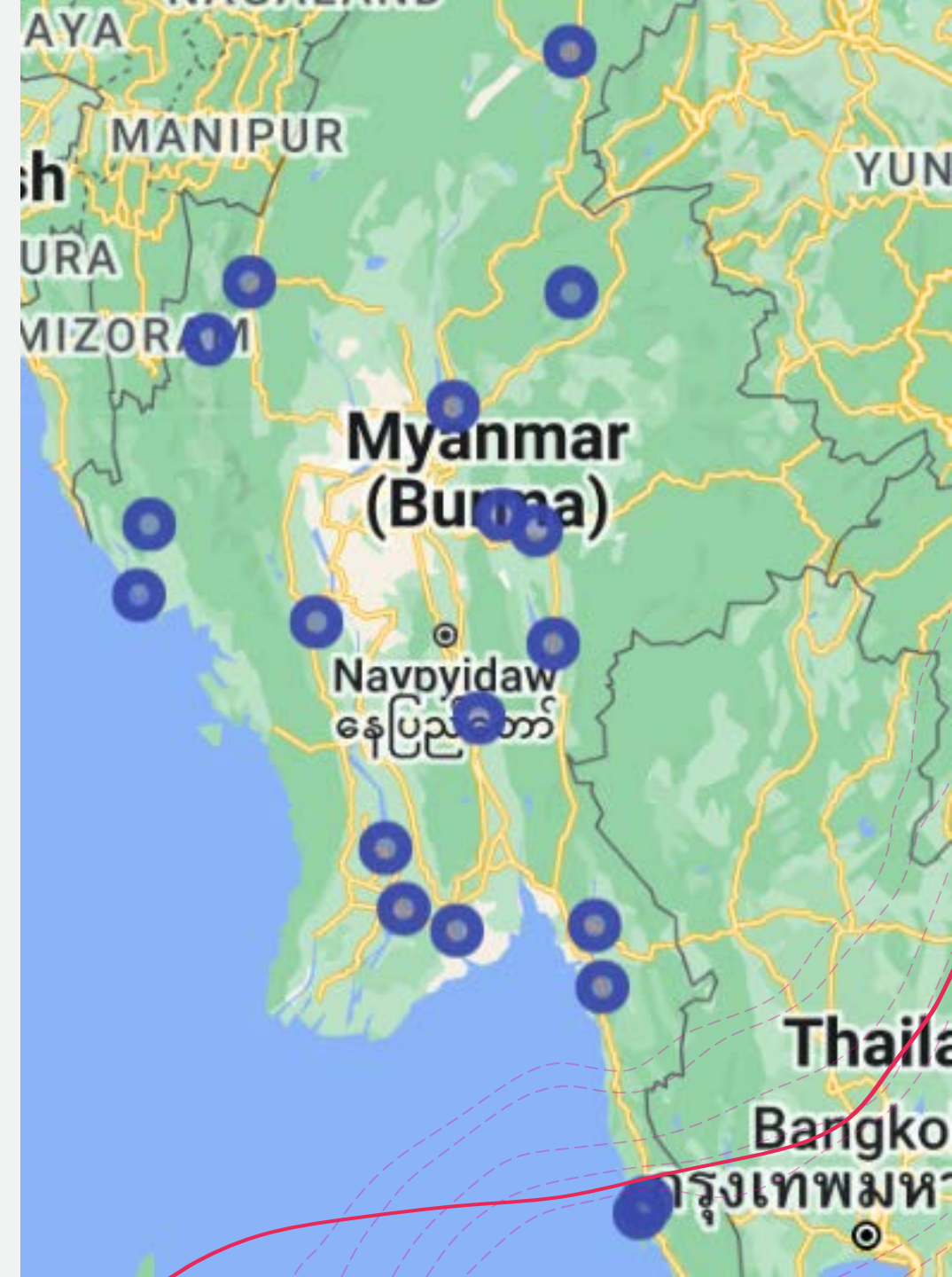


“Sharing Lessons Learned and Hopeful Wishes in Promoting Climate Actions in Southeast Asia”

Climate and Environmental Actions in
Myanmar in the Post 2021-Coup

Research Methodology

- + Community Researchers/Ethnographers
- + ၁၄ communities in all 14 States and Regions of Myanmar
- + Issues: Local Governance, Natural Resource Governance and Climate Change
- + Plus, key informant interviews with Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs) operating in Karen, Tanyintharyi and Kachin State
- + Literature Reviews (Reports produced by All Burma Indigenous People's Alliance-ABIPA)



Impacts of Climate Change

- + In the 2021 Global Climate Risk Index, Myanmar is ranked second out of 183 countries most affected by extreme weather events.
- + Reported Climate Change and Environmental Destruction
 - + Irregular rain falls (drought, heavy rain when it rains),
 - + Hotter; (the temperature increase year by year : Less cold in winter season. Eg: chin case)
 - + dried ponds, wells, creeks, river because of heat
 - + floods
 - + Thander storms more frequently
- + Experience since 10 to 20 years ago according to prior studies (Post-Nargis Social Impact Monitoring and Qualitative Social and Economic Monitoring-QSEM)

Environmental Deterioration reported by Community Researchers

- + Sitting river and changing water ways
- + Disappearance of hills
- + Landslides
- + Soil erosion because of rubbers and gold mining
- + Soil degradation
 - + soil salination because of the deforestation of Mangrove forest
 - + Soil damaging because of overuse of fertilizers

Communities' perceived factors of changing climate and environmental destruction

- + Logging
 - + Logging by the cronies and businesses linking with/backed by the Sit Tat and EAOs)
 - + Logging by household fuel and
 - + Charcole production
- + RESOURCE EXTRACTION
 - + Gold mining, Lava mining, Gravel/crushed stoned production
- + Development Projects
 - + port building, building industrial plants
- + Individual livelihood activities
 - + Slashed and burned farming, chicken raising
- + Monocropping and Cash Cropping
 - + Rubber plantation, China-exported crops _ cardamom, turmeric and corn
- + Carbon fuel emission
 - + Airpolution from plants, car and air-conditioning

Climate Action before the 2021 Coup: Actions reported by community researchers

Activities	Areas Studied
Environmental education (As per school curriculum)	Kachin and Karen
Public awareness giving program	Kachin, Karenni, Karen, Mon, Rakhihne, Shan, Magwe, Bago, Tahnintharyi, Ayeyarwaddy
Establishing forest-preservation areas	Shan, Karen,
Anti-logging movements	Rakhine
Trash and waste Management program	Tahintharyi, Karen, Mandalay, Ayeyarwaddy, Mon
Research on Environmental degradation Actions against resource extraction and logging	Magwe

Vote for Environmental Policy Campaign in 2020 Election

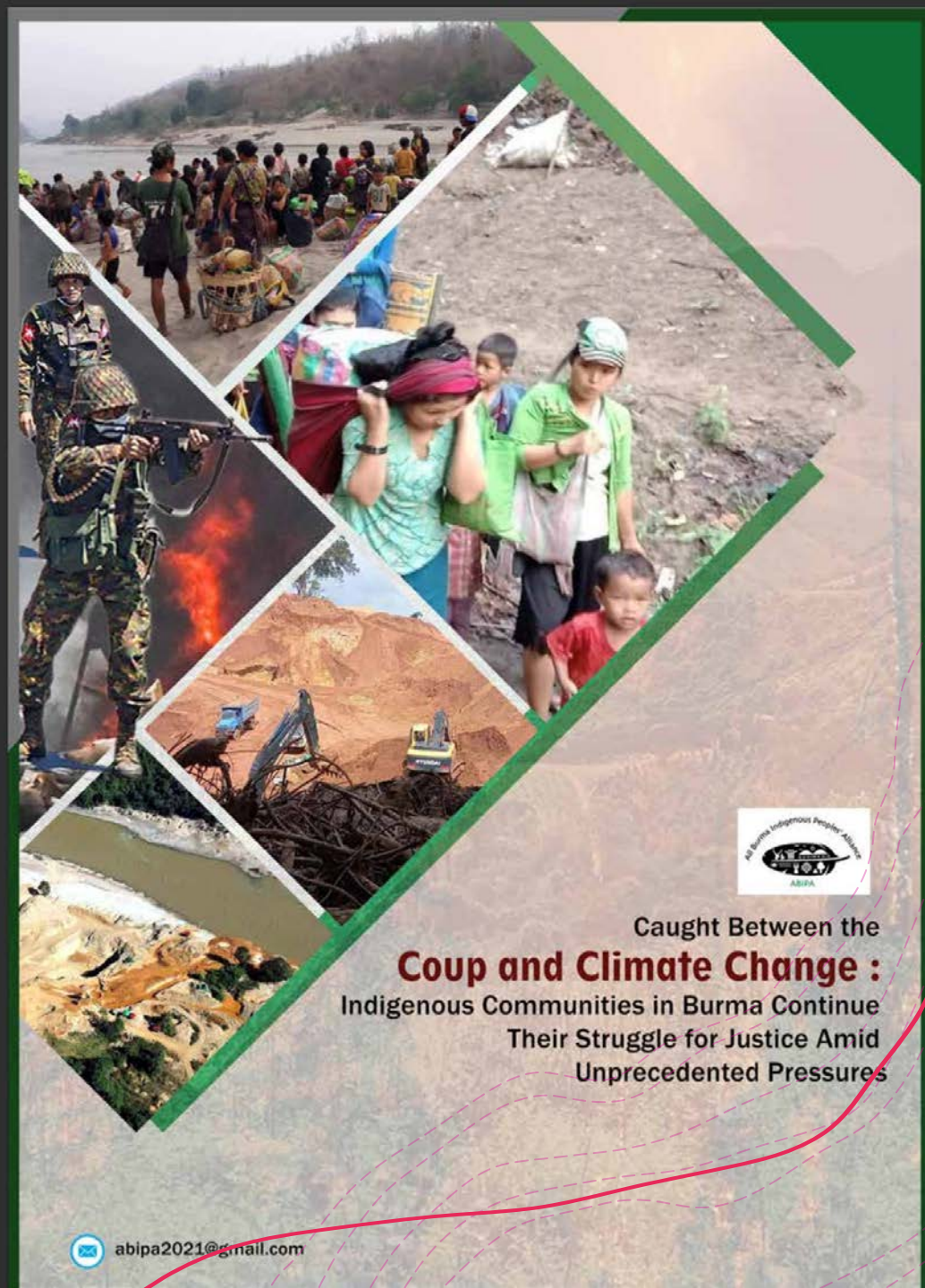


Government cooperation in climate action

- + Different layers of government
- + Hluttaw (Parliament)
- + Municipal
- + Executive
- + Media also have significant freedom

Climate Actions after 2021 Coup:

- + Significantly relegated, but continued.
- + Intense armed conflict across the country
- + Civil society members are highly scrutinized by SAC
- + Demonstrations against the gold and rare earth mining are responded by threats and arrest
- + Climate action fundings significantly reduced (75% reduced)
- + Some civil society organizations working on environment received fundings. But few local organizations received fundings



Caught Between the
Coup and Climate Change :
Indigenous Communities in Burma Continue
Their Struggle for Justice Amid
Unprecedented Pressures

Natural Resource Extractions Significantly Increased!

- + Kachin (Rare Earth and Gold)
- + Eastern Shan (Magnesium Dioxide, Gold and Platinum)
- + Tanintharyi Region (Gold mining)
- + Karen (logging)
- + Karenni (Tin and Tungsten Mines in Mawchi and Logging)
- + In many cases, it is both Myanmar Army and EAOs that give licenses and concessions to business companies
- + Armed Revolutions become good excuses for EAS which before strongly cooperated with EHRDs



Climate and Environmental Actions

- + Public Fore fronted-Civil Society (including Churches) Supported Actions/Campaigns
- + Stopped Rare-earth and Gold Mining Campaign (demonstrations, statement issues)
- + Community Engagement
- + Demarcation of Community Conservation Areas
- + Land Use Zoning
- + Camera Tracking
- + Environmental Education integrated to revolutionary people's led schools



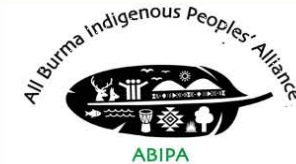
Climate and Environmental Actions In the Post- 2021 Coup

- + Public Fore fronted-Civil Society (including Churches) Supported Actions/Campaigns (CSOs taking low profile while supporting and organizing the public)
- + Stopped Rare-earth and Gold Mining Campaign (demonstrations, statement issues)
- + Community Engagement and awareness giving
 - + Consultation meetings
 - + Campaigns for Free Flowing Rivers in Karen and Kachin
 - + Documentation of extraction
- + Activities relating to Conservations:
 - + Demarcation of Community Conservation Areas
 - + Land Use Zoning
 - + Camera Tracking



**NO FREEDOM TO DEFEND:
Myanmar's Environmental Defenders Continue to Fight for
Environmental and Social Justice In the Face of
Authoritarian Junta Control**

THE ALL BURMA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ALLIANCE



About the All Burma Indigenous Peoples' Alliance (ABIPA)

The All Burma Indigenous Peoples Alliance is a national network of Indigenous civil society and community based organisations. The alliance was formed after the coup in response to intensifying attacks and threats on the lives, lands and biodiversity of indigenous peoples in Burma.

Action in the Post-2021 Coup Cont.

- + Environmental education:
 - + Environmental Education integrated to revolutionary people's led schools particularly in jungle schools
 - + Online environmental education



Degrees of Actions Different Depending on the will and cooperation of EAOs

- + Despite the intense fighting including airstrikes activities of Environmental Conservations as per master plans are sustained in Thawthi Taw-Oo Indigenous Park and Salween Peace Park because of the will and cooperation of the EAOs (KNU Brigade 2 and 5)
 - + Large scale stakeholder meetings
 - + Demarcation of Community Conservation area
 - + Camera tracking
- + In the areas with the lack of/the weak EAOs cooperation and will
 - + Small scale stakeholder meetings
 - + Forest monitoring
 - + Herbal medicines production and promotions
 - + Documentation in a low profile ways by local CSOs
 - + The EAOs/EROs with the lack of/weak cooperation and will are in fact many. Sometime those are the divisions or some leaders of EAO/EROs which as a whole organizations has developed good environmental and land use policies for example Brigade 4 of KNU and some leaders of KIO.

Ways forward

In the current political context, there is an urgent need to find alternative ways to engage with climate change programming and environmental protection in Myanmar:

1. Embed Conflict Analysis into Programme Design.
2. People centered and local community centered approach of climate change actions are to be significantly supported
 - + There are opportunities of low profile climate and environmental actions to be taken locally by the local community based organizations given that SAC do not pay attention to climate change and environmental issues
3. Support to learn climate actions implemented in collaborative ways between the people and the ERO (KNU's Brigade 5 and 2) which have sound environmental and land used policies which continued to be implemented despite the armed conflicts
4. Environmental policies are included in drafting and amending of national and sub-national level constitutions to be compatible to policies of the true federal democratic union. To support those policies could be effectively realized in the areas controlled by resistance armed groups.



Thank you!